

# BRIDES

ABROAD

Issue 17

Wedding & Honeymoon Inspiration

## Cool white weddings in **Winter Wonderland**

- ♥ Snowy mountain peaks
- ♥ Ice hotels
- ♥ Northern light displays

Celebrities say "I do"

## Italian Style

George & Amal, Rod & Penny,  
Justin & Jessica, Kim & Kanye,  
Wayne & Coleen and more!

## Why fly to **Majorca**

when you can  
take a romantic road trip  
through stunning rural Spain!

## 136 Amazing 'I do's'

- In sunshine destinations
- ♥ Dream venues
  - ♥ Magical receptions
  - ♥ Stunning gowns and accessories

## Two in one **HONEYMOONS**

In Sri Lanka and  
The Maldives

## **REAL WEDDINGS**

Zanzibar, Florida,  
Canaries, Zante,  
The Alps

## Wedding planning!

Legal advice, worldwide wedding,  
wedding planning, Honeymoon tips

**Honeymoon Savings**  
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# HEARTS AND FLOWERS IN GRAN CANARIA

After visiting the island many times since childhood, Rachel Malkin from Armitage, Staffordshire, admits she has a love affair with Gran Canaria. No surprise then, that when husband-to-be Warren Gilbert proposed, they both knew that Gran Canaria was the idyllic place to say: "I do!"

## Finding 'the one'

I met my husband Warren at work. He actually interviewed me for my job! I think there was always a spark between us and I definitely felt something for him immediately, but with him being my boss nothing was ever mentioned.



## The proposal

Warren proposed to me at our house on Christmas Day. There were four presents all wrapped up for me. I opened them in order – lingerie, jewellery from my mother and finally a blue garter. It was then that he got down on one knee and asked me to marry him. The presents were Something Old; Something New; Something Borrowed and Something Blue! I had no idea that he was going to propose! We had been on holiday to Gran Canaria and I thought he was going to propose then, but when he didn't I decided it was best not to get my hopes up again.

## Location, location

We always wanted to get married abroad – the climate, culture and price





Rachel and Warren tie-the-knot  
in the Canaries





## REAL WEDDINGS

were huge factors. I have been going to Gran Canaria ever since I was 5-years-old, I've been around 18 times so I know the island very well and couldn't think of a more beautiful place to get married!

### The planning

We used a wedding planner called The Perfect Wedding Company. They were really professional and attentive. Bernadette and her team made us all feel so special and looked after. I would definitely recommend them to anyone looking to get married! We made all the travel arrangements separately ourselves as it worked out cheaper that way. The team at The Perfect Wedding Company took care of everything so we could relax and enjoy our day. Everything was planned before we went, which was great as it meant that we could have a stress-free and relaxing holiday.

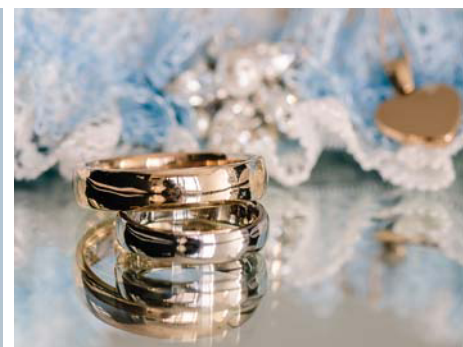
### The guests

We had 29 guests at our wedding. For 19 of us we hired a huge private villa, Villa Azul Puerto Rico, which was incredible. Everyone else stayed close by. We invited around 100 guests but we knew that there were many people who would not be able to travel for the wedding.

### Getting the look

My wedding dress was beautiful. The moment I saw it I knew that it would be the one. I had gone to three shops before the final one and every time I tried the dresses on I thought they were nice but not me. My dress was all lace, no beading or bling, just very simple and beautifully cut. It was from a shop called Silk Bridal in Staffordshire and was by Pronovias.

I accessorised with a long veil – a simple veil with just the added crystals scattered around, which looked beautiful when they caught the sunlight. My earrings were Swarovski – I had brought them before I brought my dress. My bracelet was a 21st birthday present and was very special to me as very close family friends brought it for me. I was so grateful that they travelled all that way to the wedding. I had my hair and make-up done professionally at an incredible salon called Martinica. I was going to do my own make-up but decided I didn't want the stress on the morning of the wedding, and I wanted to try a different look.







## Something Old, Something New?

My Something Old was my underwear – I didn't want to be uncomfortable on my big day! Something New was my bracelet; Something Borrowed was the only thing I didn't have, I got too excited and brought everything new; Something Blue was my garter.

## Groom & bridesmaids

Warren wore a dark blue suit, simple white shirt and brown shoes. There was no tie or anything formal as it was a very relaxed wedding and it would have been too hot for him! The bridesmaids wore a short, strapless tiffany blue coloured dress with cream sandals. It was very lightweight and relaxed, perfect for a wedding abroad.

## The details

The colour Tiffany blue was chosen by our little girl, who was in love with the film *Frozen* and wanted to look like Queen Elsa on our wedding day. Apart from that we just wanted to make sure we had a very relaxed day. My bouquet was in shades of creams and blues. I had a lot of gypsophila, which I think is beautiful and very simple. For our cake we had a single tiered cake. Our family don't eat much cake, so it was more symbolic.

## The ceremony

Our wedding ceremony took place on Anfi Del Mar's beautiful Heart Shaped Island in Gran Canaria. It's nestled between a white Caribbean-style sandy beach and a quaint harbour. It's just the most amazing setting. The ceremony lasted around 15 minutes; it wasn't a religious ceremony so we wanted

something short and sweet. Reverend Rock married us, and my wonderful father gave me away.

## The reception

We had our wedding reception in an amazing setting on the Heart Shaped Island at Anfi Del Mar. The wedding dinner and the evening party all took place looking out over the Atlantic Ocean. We had a cocktail reception first, which included five different canapés. We then chose a BBQ option for our seated wedding dinner, which was the perfect choice as it came with a selection of meats, salads, potatoes, topped off with the most amazing mini desserts! There was something for everyone and nobody went hungry. The meal included free flowing wine, beer and soft drinks, so our guests were well looked after. We had beautiful centrepieces with long vases and fresh flowers. We also had seashells for place names and postcards for a guest book to keep with the wedding abroad theme. We hired our own music system and danced the night away to our song choices.

## Photographic memories

We had the perfect photographer, Mette Brandt, who took beautiful photographs. We did feel a bit uncomfortable around the camera at first but Mette soon made us relaxed. The backdrops of the ocean and the island were stunning. Our favourite photo is the one where we are walking, hand-in-hand and looking into each other's eyes. We both look so happy and natural.

## Magic moments

The whole day was incredible but my best

memory is walking down the aisle, just looking at Warren and knowing that I am going to be his wife, and with him for the rest of my life. It made me realise that the whole planning process had been worth it. One of the funniest memories was when the children got so hot that they stripped down to their underwear and played in the sand!

## The honeymoon

After the wedding, we stayed on at the resort for our honeymoon. Our family and friends stayed with us and shared our honeymoon; it was so lovely to have everyone around!

## On budget?

Our whole wedding, including our honeymoon cost £11,000. Our budget was £10,000 so, although we were slightly over budget, I think we did well!

### Further information

#### WEDDING PLANNER

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#### VENUE

Anfi Del Mar, Gran Canaria

#### PHOTOGRAPHERS

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# *Beach vows in the* **CANARY ISLANDS**



With a perfect climate, stunning coastlines, breathtaking lunar landscapes and amazing sunsets, the Canary Islands are the perfect choice for gorgeous beach weddings and dream honeymoons whatever time of year you choose to say: “I do”



The Canary Islands are made up of seven islands, Tenerife, Lanzarote, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria and the lesser known La Gomera, La Palmer and El Hierro. All boast idyllic beaches and crystal clear water, and this year, there's great news for couples! Due to new legislation, the Canary Islands can host wedding ceremonies on the island's picture-perfect beaches – making wedding days an extra special experience.

Looming volcanoes, prehistoric sites, lush pine forests, sandy coves and miles of Sahara-style dunes are all begging to be explored beyond the Canaries seafront resorts. Wedding parties and honeymooners will find plenty to see and do throughout their stay. The islands offer a variety of quality accommodation and leisure activities that keep visitors coming back year upon year.

## Active honeymoons

Sporty and adventurous couples will discover plenty of outdoor activities: On land you can hike along signposted footpaths that criss-cross the islands, from easy trails to mountain treks, or hire mountain bikes to explore the beautiful scenery. The sea promises a host of water-based activities: Go scuba diving and marvel at more than 350 species of fish and the odd shipwreck or two; or pump up the adrenalin by kite surfing, windsurfing and surfing – all are big attractions in the Canary Islands. Or take a more leisurely pace with a camel or horse ride, or round of golf. Be sure to take a whale-watching excursion and be amazed as families of whales swim alongside your boat.

## Time to relax

Those who simply want to fly and flop will find plenty of opportunities to relax and unwind in the Canary Islands, and of course, the most relaxing spot is down on the beach. From the soft rolling dunes in Fuerteventura and Gran Canaria to the wide arcs of golden sand in Tenerife and the black volcanic beaches – the shores here take some beating. You can also enjoy Thalassotherapy and spa pampering at a choice of Thalassotherapy Centres and hotel spas on all the islands.



## Marry in the Canary Islands

One of the best reasons for marrying in the Canary Islands is the fantastic climate, considered to be one of the best in the world, with an average year-round temperature of 18-24°C and cloudless skies almost guaranteed. Few countries around the world can offer such perfect weather. You will be spoiled for choice at the long list of stunning, unforgettable and romantic wedding locations the islands have to offer – from the grounds of beautiful hotels, or set against the amazing landscapes to ceremonies down on those breathtaking beaches.

## Legals

A wedding ceremony in the Canary Islands is guaranteed to be a beautiful occasion. However, because the Canary Islands follow Spanish law, marriage of foreigners, including UK citizens, is not currently legal. But don't let that put you off. You can still take advantage of having a beautiful blessing ceremony, without having to worry about applying for a Marriage License, having the correct documents and getting them translated. We recommend that you apply to marry in the UK with a civil wedding at your local registry office before you leave for your blessing. You are then free to travel to the Canary Islands and enjoy a totally romantic symbolic wedding ceremony.

In the case of Catholic ceremonies, the wedding ceremony in the Canary Islands is legally binding regardless of the nationality of the parties. Once the church in the Islands has been chosen, and a date set with the priest, the only thing left to do is ask the corresponding diocese for the parties' documents, a process, which takes about a month.

## Wedding planning

It is a good idea to hire the service of a professional wedding planner to take care of every detail. Log on to: [idocanaryislands.com](http://idocanaryislands.com), a website designed to give couples all the information they need to arrange the most important day of their lives. It offers plenty of advice, including the best wedding planners to organise your ceremony in the most romantic spots. The website provides a great variety of ideas and shows examples of real couples getting married in the Canary Islands to inspire your own dream wedding.

# Top 5 Things to do

1

### Spot whales and dolphins

Be amazed by dolphins and whales swimming up close when you take a whale watching boat excursion in the Canary Islands. The strait dividing Tenerife and La Gomera is populated with one of the most important colonies of pilot whales on the planet.



2

### Visit Teide National Park

On an awesome up-hill road trip you will climb high above the cloud layer to Teide National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which encompasses a remarkable volcanic landscape with close-up views of the dormant volcano Mount Teide.



3

### Go Stargazing

With low light pollution and high altitude, the Canary Islands offer some of the best locations for stargazing in the night sky. The Teide National Park in Tenerife boasts one of the most important solar observatories on the planet, or visit the modern observatory in the mountains of the Roque de los Muchachos in La Palma.



4

### Walk in the Dunes

Visit the spectacular Dunes of Maspalomas in Gran Canaria – a Natural Reserve since 1897, which is an important landmark of Gran Canaria. Gaze in awe at the amazing formation of sand dunes as far as the eye can see, then take a stroll with sand between your toes.

5

### Admire the savin Junipers

Be sure to take a trip to El Sabinar on the island of El Hierro to see the stunning sight of the savin juniper trees, which the strong and constant north-easterly winds have moulded into incredible shapes.