

# Destination Weddings

## 13 Top Tips



**Organizing a destination wedding, blessing or renewal of vows ceremony can be much more complicated than organizing an event in your local area. Here are a few tips that can help you along to ensure your day runs as smoothly as possible.**

### 1 - Get Help

If you haven't already, check out the local wedding planners to see what services and packages they offer.

Organizing a wedding in your local area can be daunting enough but in a different country can be a minefield.

A Wedding Planner will shoulder the burden of researching, interviewing, and securing local suppliers especially if the said suppliers do not speak your language. They are also the behind-the-scenes fairy godmother, vetting special requests such as hair and beauty, dry cleaners, and so on. They also get everyone where they need to be on time and ensure that you have a "go to" person to send your guests when all the itinerary queries get a little too much.

### 2 - Itinerary

Unlike a wedding in your local area, guests are dependent on you once they reach the destination. Create an itinerary of pre and post wedding events along

with an itinerary of the day, important contact numbers and addresses. This will avoid them asking you when & where they need to be and will help them in the event they get lost or delayed.

### 3 - Pre-wedding visit

You'll need to take a trip to the destination to visit local venues and suppliers such as the church, reception venue, hotels for you and your guests, rehearsal dinner venue and local suppliers such as florists, photographers and hair and beauty salons.

Food tastings and hair and beauty trials can be organized in this trip or a second trip may need to be made depending on the size and complexity of the wedding and the arrangements. You can also take advantage of organizing activities (golf, spas and excursions) for everyone while they are in the destination.

### 4 - Supplier checks

If you're hiring a supplier without any experience of their work, ask for a portfolio of pictures and references from previous clients who held a similar event as yours.

5 - Build up a relationship with your suppliers

Building a relationship with your suppliers is paramount. They are not local businesses that you can pop in and see whenever you wish, so stay in contact with them as

much as possible with updates and thank you emails or calls.

A little goes a long way; the level of service they offer you can make or break your wedding day so building a rapport can help you deal easier with any issues that may occur or even help you negotiate little extras.

### 6 - Bring your own professionals

Don't be afraid to fly in your own pros for important aspects of your day such as hair, makeup and photography.

### 7 - Inform guests of the destination

Before you invite your guests to join you on your very special day, give them a well informed explanation of your destination of choice to enable them to politely decline should finances be tight.

Gran Canaria is great destination for your wedding, blessing or renewal of vows. Flights and accommodation are available to accommodate all budgets and tastes. It's a great holiday destination, enabling your guests to combine your wedding with a fantastic holiday for all the family. It's only 4 hours from most European countries and it's known for its all year round sunshine, making it the perfect winter and summer wedding

destination.

### 8 - Be realistic

Try not to be too upset if some of your closest friends or family cannot attend. Although you are footing the bill for the wedding, the cost of travel, accommodation and car rental costs can mount up. Your chosen destination might be the perfect holiday for you; but it may not be the type of holiday that they want to take.

### 9 - Dress to impress not stress!

Take into account the climate when choosing that perfect wedding dress. Choosing a satin ball gown to get married in the summer sun may have you more stressed than impressed.

Check out the average temperature and weather conditions for the chosen month in the local town where you plan to get married. Remember, temperatures can vary from resort to resort so don't just take the temperature rating for the capital of the country if you're to marry in a totally different area.

### 10 - Relax & enjoy!

One advantage of marrying on an island or in a tropical destination is its relaxed and laid back atmosphere. Keep an open mind on slight punctuality differences and minor mishaps; they can even

make for some of the best memories.

Also take into account that supplies available on islands can be limited so slight differences in the products you order may occur. Flowers are a great example of this; their availability differs from season to season.

### 11 - Packing your suitcase!

Be sure to pack lots of strapless tops if you're wearing a strapless dress or wedding gown and slap on the suntan cream. You would be surprised how much you can catch the sun by just walking to the local supermarket in the morning. You don't want noticeable strap marks or post sun burnt peeling skin on your wedding pictures.

Also don't forget to leave ample room for your wedding gown and contact your airline to get advice as to how your gown will be transported so you can pack it accordingly. It's very disappointing to get to the check in desk carrying your perfect wedding dress only to find that it needs to be checked in with your suitcases or will be thrown in the overhead compartment with other passengers bags.

Always pre arrange for your wedding dress to be steam when arriving at your resort, 9 times out of 10 it will get slightly creased in transit no matter how much care you take.

### 12 - Wedding gifts

Organize for all wedding gifts are sent directly to your home address. If you do happen to have some gifts brought to the destination, arrange for family and friends to take them home with them to keep until you come back from your honeymoon. Alternatively pack an extra bag to bring them home yourself just in case.

### 13 - Welcome Your Guests

It can be customary to leave a wedding basket of destination essentials for your guests that have travelled a long way to share your special day with you. It can include samples of local cuisine or artisan goods, sun cream, local wines or spirits and can be adapted to your own budget. Coupled with a thank you note, it's a lovely way to show your appreciation to your guests for taking the time and effort to come and stand alongside you on such a memorable day in your life.

If you're interested in Gran Canaria for your perfect destination wedding, blessing or renewal of vows ceremony, contact me on the following email, I'm more than happy to answer any questions or queries no matter how large or small.

Bernadette Garside