



- Destination Wedding Guide -



Planning a destination wedding

What's the secret to a wonderful destination wedding?

It's about the location and the incredible scenery, but it's also in the planning. Destination wedding planning is trickier, but you'll get so much back. A wedding, a holiday and a set of unique memories to cherish.

Places make memories. That first family holiday you went on as a kid. The time you had the best hot chocolate of your life in Paris. Or, that time you got engaged watching an Ibiza sunset!

Destination weddings bring an amazing location together with the friends and family closest to you.

Want to plan the wedding of a lifetime? We've photographed many destination weddings, picking up lots of tips, so here's our guide to planning yours.





Start with the basics

You and your guests are coming a long way, so getting these details right make a difference. When you have them all sorted put all of these details in your wedding invites so people can make their arrangements easily.

- Check the flights. Where are people coming from, and are there enough flights? Some airlines only fly to Greek islands once a week, for example.
- What's transport at your destination like? How will guests get to the venue from the airport? How will they get around while there?
- Which hotel suits you? It's good to have the majority of guests in the same hotel, it's easier to organise a get together, and it's more fun! Large AirBnBs are also a good option to give guests more home comforts. Is there a better area away from the wedding for guests to stay so they'll be occupied at other times? You can always coach them in to the wedding on the big day.
- Will your wedding be in peak season? This is a good choice as the weather is better and the area livelier. Be mindful of demand and cost, give your guests time to secure flights and hotels before they're booked up.





The Venue

Guess what? It's time for a mini-break!

Planning a destination wedding is really fun because the first thing you'll do is jet off to find your dream venue.

What do you want from your venue?

Before you visit, discuss between the two of you what you want from a venue, this stops you getting overwhelmed with venues shiny brochures and packages. This includes everything from the food to the decorations, the ceremony location to the staff.

When you're viewing venues ask about:

- Ceremony times
- Access - when can you set up?
- Suppliers, especially food and drink
- Decor - do the venue supply any of it?
- Local laws - how late can you party?
- Recommendations for hotels and restaurants

For example, on Santorini you have a lot of choice, so it's best to know what you want first. For dramatic sunsets and perfect sunbathing, choose the 'caldera' side - towns like Thira, Imerovigli and Oia. However, if you want a beachside ceremony and lively bars Kamari is the place to be.





Pre and Post Wedding

A pre-wedding get together gets everyone into the swing of things. Scope out where you can have this; either at the venue, a local bar or restaurant, and what's special about the location. When our couple Sam and Nick got married in Ibiza they chose Cafe del Mar for pre-wedding drinks, famous for its sunset views and chilled beats.

They also had a post-wedding photoshoot to wind down afterwards, in the historic Ibiza Old Town. We knew it was particularly perfect at Golden Hour, so we worked this into the plan. We'll always arrive a few days before the wedding, to scope out different locations and make plans so you don't have to. The Post-Wedding Shoot is the perfect way to explore and enjoy your chosen destination further away from the confines of the wedding timelines and prying guest eyes.





A legal ceremony or a blessing?

Are you planning a legal ceremony or a blessing?

If you're going for a legal ceremony you need the help of the venue or a planner to apply for the right forms. Remember to ask if a church ceremony will be in the local language or english. We can assure you that beautiful Tuscan church might not feel so beautiful if you're over an hour into a two hour Catholic ceremony in Italian and you don't speak it!

Translating your wedding certificates into English can cost extra too so remember to budget for the legal assistance. Most local planners can help you with this service. It usually means a visit to the local town hall a day or two after the wedding, so check if this applies when booking your leaving date. And don't forget your ID!

A blessing can be wonderful if you can't do an official ceremony, you'll be able to choose your own words and maybe even have a family member officiate. When you're back home you can tie the knot legally with the people who couldn't make it.





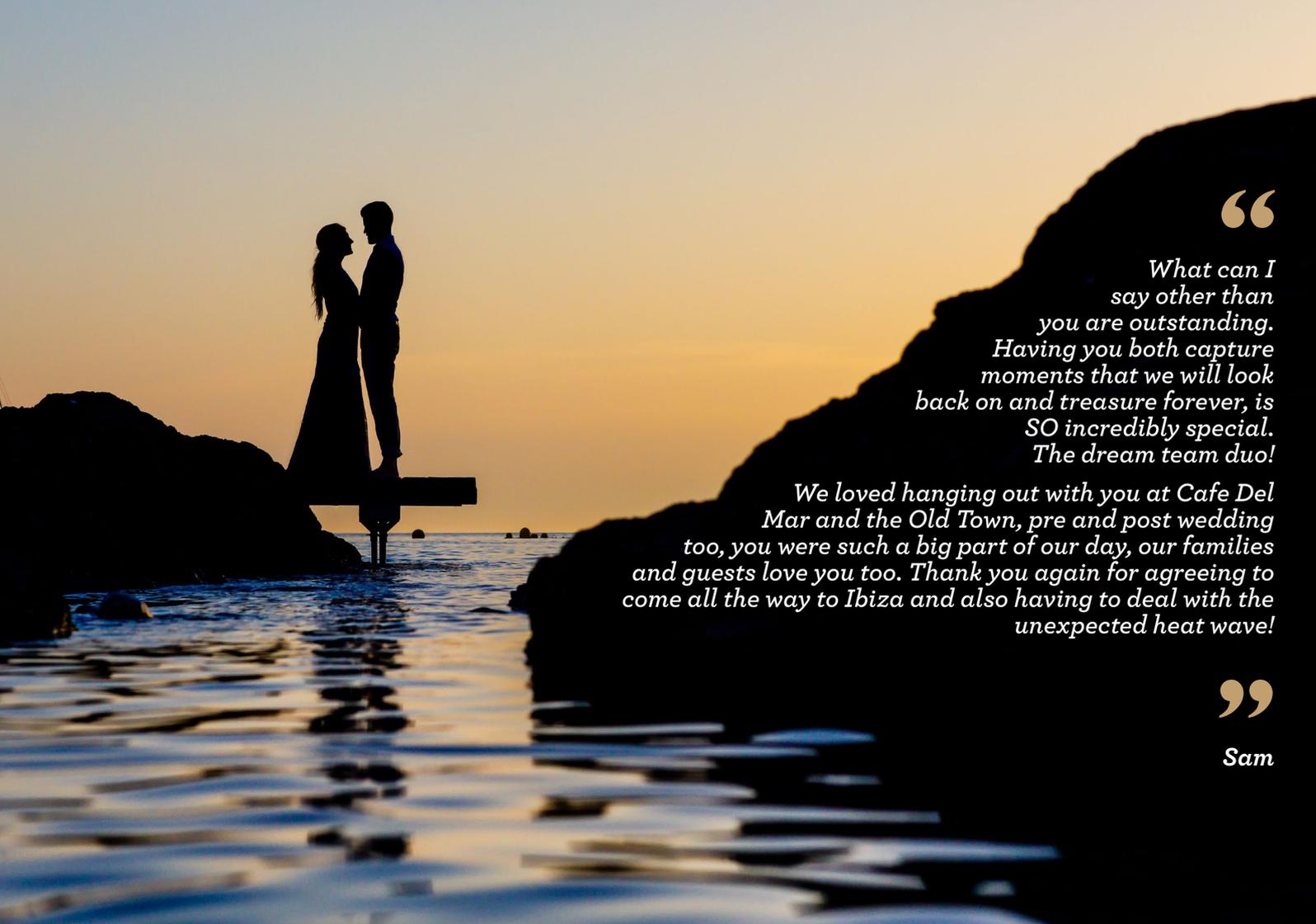
Real wedding: Sam and Nick in Ibiza

Sam and Nick were married overlooking the Mediterranean sea and Es Vedra, an island steeped in myths and legends. They started their destination wedding with pre-drinks at Cafe del Mar the night before, with an outdoor wedding ceremony at Elixir in Cala Codalar the following day. Sam chose a floaty, breathable wedding dress, perfect for the heatwave temperatures, and Nick a relaxed summer suit.

They created a super relaxed week, with a small selection of guests and a focus on spending as much time with everyone. The reception was a simple barbecue with cocktails on the terrace, followed by a cracking party at night.

We also provided a post-wedding shoot, so they could explore the Old Town at their own pace. It was so relaxed and the perfect way to round off this laidback island escape.





“

What can I say other than you are outstanding. Having you both capture moments that we will look back on and treasure forever, is SO incredibly special. The dream team duo!

We loved hanging out with you at Cafe Del Mar and the Old Town, pre and post wedding too, you were such a big part of our day, our families and guests love you too. Thank you again for agreeing to come all the way to Ibiza and also having to deal with the unexpected heat wave!

”

Sam

Planning checklist

- ☑ Visit in advance
- ☑ Check travel and accommodation
- ☑ SAVE THE DATE early
- ☑ Check the legalities
- ☑ Find a wedding planner
- ☑ Book wedding photographer at home
- ☑ Enjoy your amazing destination!



Save the Date

You're back and you've found your venue!

Give your guests time to save up and book their holiday
by sending your save the date invites now.

It's never too early, they should have at least 12-18 months notice.

We're getting hitched!





Wedding planning

One of the best pieces of advice we can give you is to hire a wedding planner, either at the venue or an indie. They're an encyclopedia of local knowledge and if you go local, they'll speak the language. If this is something that concerns you.

The venue's wedding planner can be helpful, although if they are more of a manager they are sometimes only concerned with the food and drink. If you have the budget, a local wedding planner can organise this plus decor, flowers, transport, legalities and more.

Tip: Don't be afraid to say no!

While a wedding planner can be a lifesaver, be choosy about their recommendations. If you don't like the supplier they choose, say so. They can find someone else for you or source your own. This is particularly important as wedding planners often add on commission, so you want to be happy.

Bringing your own suppliers

It makes sense to use local suppliers for your cake and flowers, but for some areas it's best to use your own:

- **Make-up artists and hair stylists.** You'll be able to have a trial run at home, rather than leaving it to the last minute. Trends also vary in different countries so be sure about the style of the make-up artist if you do go local.
- **Favours and decor.** Got enough room in your suitcase? Think about bringing these with you, it's cheaper and easier. Sometimes your amazing location won't need lots of decor either!
- **Photographer and videographers.** They're the supplier you'll spend the most time with, and you should get to know them beforehand.





Choosing a destination wedding photographer

Destination weddings create amazing memories. Having an experienced photographer you trust is important, so every moment is cherished. Here's some points for you to consider:

- **Choose a photographer in your country.** Someone local to you, or from your home country is often the better choice. You'll be able to meet or chat to them beforehand, learn about their work, their style and their experience of destination weddings.
- **Be wary of venue package photographers.** The package they offer can be cheap and easy but offers limited coverage. Normally the ceremony, some group photos and the cutting of the cake is faked. No pre-wedding, getting ready, party (boo!) and certainly not a post-wedding shoot unless you pay a lot more. As the packages usually include a small number of prints, they are unlikely to shoot in a documentary style and just go for set images rather than moments.
- **Like your photographer!** They should be people you can relax in front of. Spend time choosing a photographer, make sure you have that spark and it will feel like you just have a couple of extra friends with cameras.



When the big day arrives

- **Give your photographer time.** We usually arrive 2 days before the wedding, in case of flight delays and to give us time to get to know your destination. Then you should consider timings for photos - a sunset ceremony may sound great but when will you have your couples photos? Even better, plan the day with your photographer.
- **Book pre-wedding coverage.** Many destination weddings start with pre-wedding drinks or a rehearsal, as everyone lands and starts to get excited. Why not have your photographer there too? Of course, this is included as standard with us!
- **Don't forget a post-wedding shoot!** Ceremonies in hot countries usually take place at 5pm, so time is tight. A post-wedding shoot allows you to get more couples photos the next day as well as giving you time to explore your destination.



“

“We chose to fly Lina and Tom with us to capture our big day in Santorini, which was one of the best decisions we made! We knew that posing all day wasn’t for us and we were keen for our photos to really capture who WE are.

After meeting Lina and Tom at a family wedding we knew they were for us, they shot our guests the day before, during and after. It truly wouldn’t have been the same without them.”

”

Tori





Real wedding: Blanca and Elliot in Mexico

We spent all day and night on the beach for Blanca and Elliot's wedding, would that be amazing for your wedding? Drinks at a Playa del Carmen beach bar, a ceremony on the bright white sand and a big fat Mexican fiesta at night.

Blanca and Elliot kept their wedding to one venue, a large resort where all guests stayed, to keep everyone together to make the most of the amazing scenery and service.

After a lot of tequila, we went back to the beach the next day for a post-wedding shoot. Blanca wasn't afraid of getting her dress wet, so our newlyweds played in the sand and went into the sea to grab some incredible photos. Totally up for anything!

This wedding was based in one area but beachside location made it so you didn't want to be anywhere else. A wonderful, romantic day and a crazy party!





“

Lina and Tom: I want to thank you for the wonderful job you did, I couldn't have dreamed of better photos! You were so dedicated to make sure we got exactly what we wanted and so much more. Also, we appreciate you traveling so far to be there with us. You made us the happiest couple on earth and all my friends and family loved how you captured our special day. I'll be forever grateful that you were able to make it all the way to Mexico.

Blanca

”

Turn your wedding into a holiday

We know from many couples that they don't want their wedding day to end. A destination wedding goes on for a few days, before and after - a perfect solution!

To keep that vibe going even longer we'd definitely recommend a mini-moon! Spend a few more days with your friends and family, or just the two of you, soaking up the amazing place you've chosen to get married. Destination weddings are a whirlwind for the first few days, and it's great to relax afterwards, especially if it then becomes just the two of you.







Start planning your destination wedding

Ready to get started on planning your destination wedding?

Once you've chosen your destination and venue we're here to help with wedding photography for your day and so much more.

Get in touch to chat with us about your plans. Not only are we photographers, but destination wedding experts with over ten years of experience shooting together and experienced travellers, we've shot in -10 and 40 degrees.

So ask us anything and let's have an adventure!

LinaandTom.com | Lina@LinaandTom.com | [@linaandtom](https://www.instagram.com/linaandtom) [f](https://www.facebook.com/linaandtom) [i](https://www.instagram.com/linaandtom) [t](https://www.twitter.com/linaandtom)

