



Destination Weddings

Sonya Yeung

An ancient temple in Cambodia, a white sandy beach in the Maldives, a cliff-top villa in Bali, a castle in Italy...the options for your destination wedding are endless. With some careful thought and planning, you can have your dream wedding in a beautiful location almost anywhere in the world.

Couples often choose a destination wedding for many reasons, from reduced costs and a more intimate guest list to a complete holiday package or merely because they have always dreamed of getting married on a beach. Whatever your reasons, there are countless choices to be made and you may be required to compromise some of your ideas or leave decisions in the hands of others, so from the start you need to be flexible.

Destination weddings can take a considerable amount of planning and research. Travel, accommodation and legal requirements need to be investigated and booked well in advance, so allow at least eight months to a year of planning time. Visiting your destination once before the wedding day is ideal. If this is not possible, request pictures and floor plans to help you envision the event and make you feel more at ease.

Weather is an important factor, as every couple would like the sun to shine brightly on their special day. While monsoon rains hit Asia in July and August, these are the best months for Europe. Shoulder seasons often result in lower accommodation costs, as well as better weather, but regardless of the forecast for the entire month, consider a rain contingency. Parasols or marquees can serve the dual purpose of a sunshade or staying dry during that unexpected shower.

Now that you have found the perfect destination and the best time of year to have your wedding, you are going to need help. Even though there are a significant amount of resources available these days, a professional planner who has experience dealing with couples, no matter where they reside and local knowledge of the location, will not only take care of all the details and provide the best people for your wedding such as photographers and celebrants, but will also ensure you are informed and comfortable while planning this faraway occasion. Your wedding planner is invaluable, a person able to give you peace of mind and ensure the destination wedding of your dreams.

Another consideration is how you show your appreciation for your guests' attendance. Family and friends have booked time off, travelled



為婚禮選擇最佳地點

只要有點創意，舉行婚禮的地點可以無窮無盡，例如柬埔寨的古老廟宇；馬爾代夫的細白沙灘；巴峇島懸崖上的別墅；意大利的堡壘等等，只要你小心思考，細心策劃，幾乎在地球上的任何角落，你都可以找到一個合乎心意的地點來舉行一個夢幻婚禮。

新人選擇某一個特定地點來舉行婚禮，通常都有自己特別的理由；可能是為了節省成本，也可能為了遷就某些賓客，或者旅行套餐已經包括了一切，又或者純粹因為二人一直希望婚禮可以在沙灘上舉行之類。不論你的理由是甚麼，供你挑選的地點總是數之不盡，問題是你可能需要作出一些妥協，或者請專業人士為你提供意見，所以從一開始，在這問題上你便要保持彈性。

在外地舉行婚禮，需要花不少時間和精神去策劃及搜集資料。交通、住宿和法律問題等，都需要查證及提早預訂，所以籌備的工作要在婚禮舉行八個月至一年前便要展開。如果能夠在婚禮舉行前先到訪該地一次就最理想不過了，但辦不到的話，就要找當地的相片和場地的平面圖來作參考，感受一下現場的環境和氣氛，讓自己更為安心。

每對新人都希望在陽光燦爛的一天結婚，所以天氣也是個重要因素。在亞洲地區，七月和八月都會受到季候風影響，經常傾盆大雨，不過在歐洲這時候卻風光明媚，氣候宜人。淡季時當然住宿也會相應便宜一些，天氣也好些，不過除了留意整個月的天氣預測之外，還應該準備在下雨時的應變措施。太陽傘或遮篷除了可以遮擋猛烈陽光之外，還可以在驟雨突如其來的時候，讓人躲避，避免了狼狽的場面出現。

當時間和地點都選好之後，若要婚禮辦得成功圓滿，你還需要別人的協助。雖然今天要找到相關資料並不困難，但專業的婚禮策劃人因為具有相當經驗，還是可以幫得上忙的。無論他們是甚麼地方的人，或對當地了解的程度如何，他們都總可以照顧到你婚禮的每個細節，他們還會為你的婚禮安排攝影師和司禮神父等，讓你安心放心，不用為了因為婚禮在遠方舉行而忐忑不安。聘用婚禮策劃人是值得的，他們可以確保你的婚禮順利進行，讓你安寢無憂。

此外，你還要考慮怎樣向出席的賓客表達謝意。親朋好友為了出席你的婚禮需要而大費周章，除了需要告假之外，還要長途跋涉。若婚禮在外地舉行，一般在禮節上，你需要為受邀的賓客支付旅費和住宿，為了令他們賓至如歸，你有責任為他們計劃好一套完整的活動安排。他們到達酒店登記時，最好能收到一張你親手寫上歡迎字句的便條，接下來幾天的活動安排，包括當地的一張地圖，如果還送上一份小禮物以表示你的心意就更好了，你的客人不但會覺得自己受到重視，還會減少他們剛抵達一處陌生地方時的疑慮。

時差會造成生理節奏失調，使得身體疲憊，心情煩躁，所以婚禮舉行之前的兩至三天，便應到達當地以適應時差，而親戚朋友亦會有足夠時間安頓下來，在當地遊玩一下。你不妨為所有賓客安排一頓晚宴或其他性質的集體活動，讓賓客一起歡度時光。婚禮之後的一天也可以搞一些活動，讓賓客輕鬆一下並藉此機會大家互相話別。

婚禮由始至終的整個過程對於每一個人，尤其是一對新人，都應該是一個開心愉快的經驗。挑選一個令你足堪回味一生的地點，不過最重要的還是你享受這個過程的一切。婚禮是開心地慶祝兩人愛情開花結果的大事，對於兩人及賓客都是一個又刺激又獨特的經驗。■

from afar and have made extra effort to be with you on your special day. The etiquette of a destination wedding generally calls for invited guests to pay their own airfare and accommodation so a welcome package upon check-in with a personalised welcome note, an itinerary for the following days, a map of the area or a small gift will not only make your guests feel special but will eliminate any questions they may have upon arrival.

Schedule your wedding at least two or three days after your arrival to accommodate for jet-lag and to allow your family and friends to settle in and enjoy the wonderful location. Provide a nice welcome dinner or optional activities that bring everyone together so that your guests get to spend time with you. Planning another event the day after the wedding is another idea. Your guests can come and say goodbye or simply recover from the fun and excitement of the past few days.

The entire experience from start to finish should be enjoyable and relaxing for everyone, especially for you. Pick a destination that you will enjoy and remember for the rest of your life, and above all, have fun! It is a celebration of love and should be a fun, exciting and a unique experience for you and your guests to remember.■