

Destination Weddings

**FROM FOX TRAVEL
AN AMERICAN EXPRESS REPRESENTATIVE**

LET US MAKE YOUR DREAM WEDDING COME TRUE!



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INTRODUCTION

Did you know that the average cost of a wedding is between \$20,000 and \$40,000? Did you know that the average cost of a destination wedding is just \$1,000? That is a huge saving.

Destination Weddings have been on the rise, but people are still hesitant to do a one. Are you one of these people? Here are some of the reasons people don't consider a destination wedding:

- ⦿ They don't know where to begin
- ⦿ With so many different destinations to choose from, how do you pick the right location for your dream wedding and budget?
- ⦿ The locations you like are in a different time zone, or there is a language barrier
- ⦿ You think it is too expensive for you and your guests

But, what are the benefits of doing a destination wedding?

By downloading this eBook you have taken your first step to answering these important questions and maybe planning the wedding of your dreams.

Just as a side note, this eBook can also help with planning a destination vow renewal, milestone anniversary or honeymoon!

In this eBook we will discuss many different topics from the benefits of having a destination wedding to tips and tricks to make your wedding perfect. I will discuss:

- ⦿ Many different locations to choose from and what makes each location special
- ⦿ Getting married in the winter, but want warm weather for your big day
- ⦿ Maybe you live in hot climate and you want to escape the heat
- ⦿ Is a winter wonderland wedding your dream?
- ⦿ Is an ancient castle fit for a princess is more your style?
- ⦿ How about a sultry, exotic location that is incredibly unique just like you.

Don't worry! By the end of this eBook you will have a much better idea of what you are looking to do and how working with a Destination Wedding Travel Expert can save you time, money and ensure you take advantage of specials and perks.

CHAPTER 1 : 15 REASONS TO DO A DESTINATION WEDDING

With destination weddings becoming more and more popular you may be wondering if a destination wedding is right for you. Continue reading, if you agree with any of these points, then a destination wedding is right for you!

1. SAY “I DO” ANYWHERE

The definition of a Destination Wedding is the bride and groom getting married within 100 miles of where they currently live. That means the possibilities for locations for your dream wedding are endless, which brings us to our next point...

2. WE HAVE EXPERIENCE IN DESTINATION WEDDINGS

People hire Wedding travel planners because they have the knowledge and experience in this industry. With over 30 years of experience, [Fox Travel](#), have sent couples all over the world to get married. We have helped plan hundreds of dream weddings in location ranging from snow to beach, land to sea, on several continents. Fox Travel also has a certified wedding planner on staff to help you plan your dream destination wedding from start to finish.

3. MAKE IT EASY

The hardest part of a destination wedding is deciding where to go. Once you have that down, it is smooth sailing. The resorts handle everything from your ceremony to reception. No need to contact several different vendors to set up your catering, linens, cake, music, etc., it's all ready for you. If you ask for something special, they have hand picked vendors so that you don't need to find your own.

4. NO STRESS WEDDING

I know what you are thinking. How can planning a destination wedding several hours away, out of state, or out of the country not be stressful? Between our staff and the resort staff, you will just need to give us your dates, desires and budget and sit back, counting the days to your special day. Of course, you can be as involved in the planning as you want but you don't even need to handle arrangements for your guests, just direct them our way and we will take care of them, too! We'll even make a special page on our website for your big day with all the info guests need to be there with bells on!

5. CUT YOUR GUEST LIST IN HALF (OR MORE!)

The average guest list for a wedding is 140 people, many of whom are people you feel obligated to invite. The average guest list of a destination wedding is 48. When traveling, it is more acceptable to only invite closer friends and family.

6. SAVE MONEY

Now this is a big one! The average cost of a wedding is \$26,645 and can range on average between \$20,000 and \$40,000. The average cost of a destination wedding is \$1000.00. That is a HUGE saving! Of course, not all destination weddings will cost \$1000.00, different factors and the number of guests will play a part in the final cost. [Here is a handy Wedding Cost Calculator.](#)

7. SAVE ON DECOR

With majestic mountains, spectacular beaches, exotic jungles, or historical castles as your background, you don't need to spend money on decor, let the location be your decorations.

8. SAVE TIME

When planning a local wedding, you have to make appointments for everything, and usually, those appointments are going to be within normal business hours. This means taking time off work to plan your wedding, possibly spending vacation time that could be used for your wedding or honeymoon. When planning a destination wedding with Fox Travel, if you can't take time off work, no problem. We can plan everything over the phone or even email.

9. SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

When friends and family come in for a wedding you don't get to spend much time with them. Sometimes only seeing them during the reception, then you are off on your honeymoon. When everyone can get together at a destination, you will get to spend quality time with your guests. Does your wedding include little ones or adults only? There are resorts that cater multi-generations or just adults. We can also help plan excursions, beach bonfire parties, wine tasting events, and more!

10. EVERYONE GETS A VACATION!

I often hear that couples don't think their guests will want to spend money required to travel for a destination wedding. But they may surprise you and jump at the opportunity to go to your wedding *and* get an amazing vacation at the same time! Plus, by doing your planning as a group, often room rates are better. Some resorts add extras for the bride and groom for booking a group of rooms.

11. GET COMFY

Beach weddings are less formal than traditional weddings as a rule. That means you and your guests can go shoe-free. Dig those toes into the sand!

12. NEUTRAL GROUND

Many couple's families are scattered around the country. Most people try to plan your wedding where they live and have your family come to you. Alternatively, you can plan your wedding where the majority of people are. Either way, there is travel involved. So why not have everyone travel to a special location?

13. GET MARRIED YEAR ROUND

Do you want a winter wonderland wedding? Then late fall to early spring might be the best time to travel up north to get a truly white wedding. Want the beach? There are beautiful beaches all over the world, some even a short flight, where you can go any time of the year.

14. PICTURE PERFECT

Your wedding pictures will have a spectacular backdrop no matter what beach you choose!

15. EXTEND YOUR HONEYMOON

Did you know that a majority of couples that do a destination wedding still do a honeymoon? They sometimes couple extra days at the resort they got married (after everyone leaves), or they jet off to a new destination. So you can have it all with the money you saved doing a destination wedding.



CHAPTER 2 : DESTINATION WEDDING PLANNER AND TRAVEL COUNSELORS AT FOX TRAVEL

Did we mention that Fox Travel has been in business for over 30 years? Between the owners, Donna and Jim, and all the travel counselors on staff, we have over 100 years of travel experience and have been to over 100 different countries in the world. In other words, we've been there!

Each agent brings their unique expertise and ideas to Fox Travel. We all have different outlooks on our favorite destinations that we have been to, but we know a lot about resorts of all levels, many of which are all-inclusive.

Fox Travel also has something that many other travel agencies don't have! A resident certified wedding planner.

I have worked in the travel industry for over six years and before that had my own wedding and event company. I also interned with top wedding planners to the stars in Southern California

While working with brides and grooms, I realized that there was a big element missing from most wedding coordinators. It was that an all-inclusive experience for brides and grooms was not available. That realization led me to take an important step and follow in the footsteps of my Grandmother and become a travel agent. I wanted to be able to help brides and grooms from start to finish, including the all important honeymoon. I am well traveled so it was a natural fit to enter the travel industry and fell in love. It's incredibly gratifying to helping clients realize their dream day! Talk about have my cake and eating it! I get to help brides and grooms plan their dream destination weddings and use my skills as a former event planner to make the process much easier on them!

One of the things that distinguishes Fox Travel from other agencies is we offer more than other agents. Most of the time, when you plan a destination wedding with a travel counselor, once the wedding contract is signed, you work with the resort to plan your wedding.

That's great if you want to and have the time, but planning often means spending long hours, calling long distance, trying to get a hold of the resorts wedding planner. Their staff is planning easily 25 or more weddings in the same month as yours - hundreds each year in popular destinations. Not to mention getting in touch with the photographer, florist, DJ, etc.!

Most of the time when you are planning a destination wedding the location is out of your time zone making it difficult to be able to get a hold of the onsite wedding planner at times. We know from experience with frustrated brides that they end up playing phone tag or send emails to avoid missed calls only to have something mistranslated because English may not be their first language.

For an affordable fee, I will take over all the phone calls and the planning and be your point of contact for all the details. Let me deal with trying to get a hold of the resort so you don't have to pause your life, or take time off work just to handle this! I have done destination planning, so you can rest assured your wedding is in good hands.

Also included in the additional fee are two other services. 1. Fox Travel will make you your own wedding page on our site where you can send your guests for up to date travel information on your wedding and their vacation! 2. You'll receive ideas, suggestions and offers that will make your special day even more special. I promise it will be well worth the investment in time savings and frustration.

So, with so many different destinations to get married at, how do you choose the right one? Are you a beachy couple? Do the mountains hold your heart? Do you love the romance that a European destination brings?

Over the next few chapters we will talk about different destinations all over the world to give you an idea of what location best fits your personalities.

Already have a location in mind? Check out to see if your destination made our list and see what we had to say about it! Or maybe one of our other spots will change your mind. Read on to find out!

And we'd like our readers to know, that every destination in this eBook, yes every, the owners or staff of Fox Travel has visited, stayed at or inspected!

CHAPTER 3 : TOP 7 BEACH WEDDING LOCATIONS IN MEXICO AND THE CARIBBEAN

After deciding that a destination wedding is right for you, the next question you're going to ask is, where should I get married? Fox Travel has you covered! Below is a list of our favorite beach wedding locations in the Caribbean and Mexico to help you decide which location would be perfect for you to say "I Do"!

1. CANCUN AND RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO

Just a 2-hour flight from Houston, 3.5 hours from Chicago and New York [Cancun](#) and [Riviera Maya](#) are some of the most popular destination wedding locations, and for good reasons. With plenty of hotels to choose from, you can decide if you want an all inclusive destination or a boutique resort experience. You can get married with your toes in the sand, or in the midst of a thick rain forest. If you and your guests love the nightlife, then Cancun will be perfect for you, while if you love beautiful scenery and a slower pace, Playa del Carmen/Riviera Maya is your spot. Many of the resorts in these locations have amazing wedding packages to choose from that start from a simple ceremony all the way up to a completely customized, 3-course reception. Many locations will also allow you to have a fireworks celebration on the beach! Such a fun way to end the night!

2. CABO BAJA SUR, MEXICO

Located on the Pacific side and the Sea of Cortez, at the southern tip of Baja Sur, Cabo has a completely different feel than that of its Gulf rival, Cancun. With low mountains and rocky terrain, dramatic beaches, desert plants and palms, Cabo makes for a striking setting for your wedding pictures. There are two main cities with resorts dotting the coastline between them. [Cabo San Lucas](#) is on the Pacific side, has harbor, lots of nightlife and is home to famous arches you see in all the pictures. [San Jose del Cabo](#), on the Sea of Cortez side, has a more laid back elegance that comes from traditional Mexican architecture and calm, strikingly blue water. Like Cancun, there are plenty of resorts to choose from with many wedding packages. Welcome your guests with a bonfire beach party, complete with tacos, fresh seafood and a tequila tasting or create a romantic sunset setting for tapas and margaritas.

3. JAMAICA

With beautiful white sand beaches and a laid back vibe, [Jamaica](#) has always been one of the most popular wedding destination locations in the world. Choose to get married where the beach meets the rainforest, on a cliff overlooking the beautiful blue ocean at sunset, or with a stunning waterfall as your background. Recently added overwater bungalows like you see in Bali, make for a special honeymoon. Jamaica truly has it all. Dance the night away at your reception to the beat of the steel drums and the waves of the Caribbean Sea. How does a welcome party for your guests with a private rum tasting sound?

4. BAHAMAS

At just a 50 minute flight from Florida, [Bahamas](#) is an ideal location to get married. With 700 different islands, 30 of which are inhabited, the most popular are Grand Bahama and Nassau. The Bahamas is host to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. There is so much you can do from snorkeling and scuba diving to swimming with the sharks or even with the pigs ([yes, I said pigs!](#)). You and your guests will have a blast here. Having a beach wedding in the Bahamas is easy breezy, just like their islands!

5. TURKS AND CAICOS

[Turks and Caicos](#) is a great choice for anyone wanting a quieter location for a beach wedding. Its picturesque beaches and upscale resorts make for a spectacular scene for you to say "I Do". Take a horseback ride on the beach for some wonderful and unique wedding pictures. Don't let the quiet atmosphere fool you, there is still a ton to do on this island from some of the best snorkeling and scuba diving in the world, to ATV rides and a rowdy booze cruise as fun guest activities.

6. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The [Dominican Republic](#) is an island in the Caribbean that has it all. Quiet resorts, perfect for a romantic beach wedding at sunset or lively resorts that will turn your celebration into a fun filled party for everyone with lovely beaches, rainforest, and mountains as your backdrop. The Dominican Republic has come into its own over the last several years and you have a great selection of resorts with a plethora of wedding packages.

7. CRUISE

Why pick just one location for your wedding celebration when you can have several? With Mexico and Caribbean [cruises](#), your wedding party can board a cruise and spend 4 – 12 days having a relaxing vacation of their own, visiting several different countries, islands or cities. The best part is, you get to choose which destination you want to get married! You can pick one of the locations you will be visiting or have a nautical themed wedding on board while you float on the ocean. Another great option for those that live near a departure port, like us lucky ones in Houston, you could even get married at the port so that guests that cannot travel with you are still able to come to your wedding. The possibilities are endless when it comes to a destination cruise wedding!

WHEN TO TRAVEL

With all Mexico and Caribbean islands, winter is the best time to travel, with comfortable temperatures and low humidity. But it's also the busiest time to travel which means prices will be higher. If you can, avoid Spring Break crowds from late February through March. April and May are great times to get married since tourism slows down between Spring Break and Summer. *Be aware, hurricane season starts in June and ends in November.*

Love the beach but don't want to hassle with leaving the country? Not a problem! The next chapter is all about US and Canada wedding destinations!

CHAPTER 4 : TOP 15 USA AND CANADA WEDDING LOCATIONS

The benefits of staying in the USA to get married are pretty significant. The US has a wide variety of spectacular destinations from beaches to mountains, rocky cliffs to open planes. Plus, there are no passports required!

1. HAWAII

[Hawaii](#) is a lush tropical paradise right in our own backyard. The main islands to visit would be Oahu, [Kauai](#), [Maui](#), Hawaii, and [Molokai](#), each having their own draw and personality. Oahu is the most populated island and has that “city feel” while still relaxing on the beach. Kauai is for the outdoor adventurer with tons of hiking and biking in the lush rainforest. Maui is a great combination of both with tropical rainforest, but some great cities with a lot to do. Hawaii AKA the “Big Island” has plenty of world-class resorts and golf courses. Molokai is the least commercialized island, so if you are looking for unspoiled beaches, this is your island. No matter what island you choose if you are looking for a tropical beach wedding without the hassle of a passport, you can't go wrong with any island in Hawaii.

2. NAPA VALLEY

Are you a wine connoisseur or just like wine? [Napa Valley](#) is a great destination wedding location with its rolling hills, vineyards and wine caves that make for a unique theme for your pictures. There are a ton of wineries, bed and breakfasts, ranch settings, and upscale hotels that can host events big or small. It's a great location to have guests come for a winery tour with your group. Plus you'll get some great wine at your wedding!

3. FLORIDA

[Florida](#) is a great destination wedding location because of a number of possibilities. You can get married with crystal blue waters along the Florida Keys or one of the most popular cities in the world, Miami. There's also Disney World where you can have a wedding fit for a Princess. Florida is where that dream of a tropical wedding can happen!

4. COLORADO

Whether you are looking for a beautiful snowy wedding or a rustic mountain wedding with the Rockies in the background, [Colorado](#) is the place for you. If you get married in the winter there are many ski resorts that can host your event while allowing your guests to have a fun filled ski or snowboarding weekend. If you get married in the spring or summer, you will have beautiful flowering fields and lush green forests that are perfect for the newest “woodlands” themed wedding.

5. SEDONA, AZ

With the beautiful red and orange rocks and canyons as your backdrop, a wedding at sunset would be a truly unique and beautiful experience. [Sedona Arizona](#) is a vibrant community known for its artsy vibe and local artists. It's a great location for the free spirit bride and groom that love the beautiful desert colors. Photographers say the light in Sedona is most incredible of any place in the world. With a ton to do from rock climbing, walking their famous energy vortexes, to taking a jeep tour, this location can be a great destination for your adventurous guests.

6. NEW ORLEANS, LA

With its southern vibe, blues music, incredible food, and southern gothic architecture, [New Orleans](#) makes for a one-of-a-kind wedding for you and your guests. With endless things to do and hotels for every budget, you and your guests can party the night away in true New Orleans style. Avoid the crowds during Mardi Gras and the summer unless you plan on having your wedding indoors due to the humidity.

7. LAS VEGAS

[Vegas](#) isn't just for impromptu weddings; the city has a great wedding scene. Get married on the rooftop or sky rise balcony looking over the city at night for a modern, lit up affair. Get married in Paris, Venice, Rome, or NYC all in Vegas! Want to get married with a bang? How about a midnight New Years Eve wedding in Vegas while every hotel on the strip shoot up fireworks! This is another location where a wedding of any budget can work because of the numerous options for hotels and resorts.

8. NEW YORK CITY, NY

Are you a modern bride? Do you want city skyscrapers as your backdrop? [NYC](#) is the place to be! There are so many locations to get married in NYC, from the famous Plaza Hotel where every bride dreams of, to the Museum of Modern Art and Design, to riding into your wedding on a horse-drawn carriage in Central Park. Get married in the Spring and the flowers in Central Park will be blooming, the Fall for the riot of colors as the trees change, or the winter to have a truly white wedding complete with your white fur capelet. Plus, guests can see a Broadway show or enjoy the famous NY nightlife. You could even do your rehearsal dinner on a ferry boat that takes you around the Statue of Liberty.

9. ALASKA

If you are looking for an authentic rustic wedding, [Alaska](#) is your place. Alaska is one of the most naturally beautiful places on earth which makes for a great backdrop. Take your guests on a whale watching adventure or a scenic train ride through the mountains. You can even get married on one of the major cruise lines that visit Alaska!

10. CALIFORNIA

We talked a little bit about Napa Valley earlier which is in Northern California, but there is a ton of places in the entire state where you could get married. With beautiful rocky and sandy coastlines, you can get married up and down the [California](#) coast. San Diego is an particularly popular destination due to the climate, beauty, number of activities and laid back surfer vibe. Hollywood is a good choice if you are going for the glam, movie star bride. Santa Barbara is a charming beach community about 2 hours north of LA with luxurious resorts, an artsy feel and historic Spanish architecture. Then there is Northern California with Napa Valley and San Francisco which has the active, young city vibe. No matter where you get married in California, you will be happy with your choice!

11. SOUTH CAROLINA/ GEORGIA

If you are looking for a dreamy, romantic destination consider [South Carolina](#) or [Georgia](#). With the weeping willows or large oaks with the hanging Spanish moss as your backdrop, your wedding will be dripping with southern charm. You could also get married in one of the beach communities as well! There are a ton of options to choose from that will all have unusual activities for your guests.

12. VANCOUVER, CANADA

[Vancouver](#) is a unique and striking city. It's considered the Hollywood to the north due to all the movies and shows filmed there. You'll find beautiful rocky beaches and inlets that meet lush forest with the city lights in the background! Vancouver is a great mix of natural beauty and urban activity. Like Alaska there are great opportunities to take your guests on a whale watching adventure and enjoy the lively nightlife. If you are wanting a winter wedding, Whistler is a short jaunt away.

13. TORONTO, CANADA

Getting married at [Niagara Falls](#), a short distance from [Toronto](#), is a classic. If you or your soon to be husband is a hockey fan, what better place to get married than near the Hockey Hall of Fame? The city of Toronto is like Canada's NYC – it's modern and classic, diverse, has a happening nightlife that adds a cool, sexy, vibe to your wedding.

14. LAKE LOUISE, CANADA

If you want to talk about stunning, unspoiled destinations, [Lake Louise](#) is at the top of the list. Consistently ranked as one of the most beautiful places on earth, Lake Louise is a great location to tie the knot. With its luxurious resorts, crystal clear, icy blue lake, mountains and forests, Lake Louise is like something out of a fairytale. Take a train ride through the Rockies or ride horseback along the lake, this is a great location to give your guests a once in a lifetime experience.

15. CRUISE

[Cruising](#) is a great way to see a lot of places without having to unpack. If you do a roundtrip from a US city you don't need a passport (although when leaving the country it is always recommended), but there are also great US and Canada based cruises as well. You can do a California Coast cruise or a Fall Foliage cruise that does the East Coast of the US and Canada, a Hawaii cruise where you can see all the islands, or the most popular of US cruises, a cruise to Alaska.

But maybe you want to get married in an Irish Castle? Or in Paris, "the city of love"? Keep reading for more destinations!

CHAPTER 5 : THE TOP 7 EUROPEAN WEDDING DESTINATIONS



European cities bring that old world elegance and that romantic feel with all the modern amenities needed to have a fantastic wedding. Whether in a medieval castle, on a rocky cliff, or an Italian vineyard [Fox Travel](#) will help you plan your dream European wedding.

1. ITALY

With such romantic cities like [Rome](#), [Florence](#), and [Venice](#) it's no wonder why Italy is on high on our list. The Tuscan region with its rolling hills, beautiful vineyards, sunflower and lavender fields, and its many impressive walled cities makes for an old world, romantic, rustic location. The stunning [Amalfi Coast](#) with its steep cliffs dropping off into the blue ocean makes for a true Mediterranean flair wedding. Get married in one of the most romantic cities on earth, Venice. Imagine your wedding photos floating on the canals in a traditional gondola. Or maybe you would like to get married in some of the most beautiful churches in Rome with the Spanish Steps as your backdrop? *Pictured above*

If you love that rustic wedding trend, Italy is the place for you!

2. GREECE

Continuing with the Mediterranean theme, but with a very different feel from Italy is [Greece](#). With many different islands to choose from, all with their own unique personality, plus the mainland, you will have a ton of options. In [Athens](#), you can get married with the ancient ruins of the [Acropolis](#) as your backdrop. Or have an all white wedding with the white buildings of [Santorini](#). Head to [Mykonos](#) to party till dawn, or head to the largest island of [Crete](#) for a more rustic feel.

No matter which location you pick in Greece, your wedding will be filled with happiness and ancient backdrops. OPA!

3. FRANCE

We all know that [Paris](#) is the city of love and with such romantic settings scattered around the city. Get married with the Eiffel Tower in the background or take a dinner river cruise on the Seine. Have your wedding in the glamorous city of [Cannes](#), where the famous film festival takes place. Or go to the Bordeaux wine region for some of the world's best vineyards and wine.

Your wedding will be a romantic affair to remember no matter which city in France you choose.

4. ENGLAND

[London](#) is a wonderful mixture of old and new. With its cobblestone streets, pubs at every corner, and vintage double decker buses to take your guests to your venue, it makes for a very cool location for your destination wedding. Old churches and castles are all around in London and England with the new built all around them. London, is a great place to host your destination wedding with plenty of places to go and see for you and your guests. Want something a little more quaint? Take your pick of any of the smaller towns up and down the English countryside.

Have a wedding fit for a Queen, because they know a thing or two on how to throw royal weddings, in this amazing country.

5. SCOTLAND

Is Tartan Plaid in your heart? [Scotland](#) is a magical country with rolling hills of heather dotted with ancient castles. Like most other European countries it is a mixture of old and new, but there is something special about Scotland. Get married in the heart of cities of [Edinburgh](#) or [Glasgow](#), on the beach in [Inverness](#), in the countryside, a castle, or even a working farm.

If you are looking for a sweep you off your feet romantic wedding complete with kilts and bagpipes, Scotland is your destination.

6. IRELAND

[Ireland](#) is a dreamy country with lush green countryside, charming castles, steep cliffs, and stunning views. Stay and get married in an old Irish castle, the famous [Cliffs of Moher](#), in the heart of [Dublin](#), or in a charming seaside village. Have a fun night out with your wedding party and visit the oldest pub in Europe, [Sean's Bar](#), dating all the way back to 900 A.D. or even the 4th oldest bar in Europe, [The Brazen Head](#), located in the heart of Dublin. With so much to do and see Ireland is an incredibly romantic and fun place for your European wedding.

Is Ireland your European wedding destination? Then let the "luck of the Irish" be with you.

7. CRUISE

Why just see one city or country in Europe? Why not take a fabulous [cruise](#) and visit multiple locations? You can get married at one of the ports or even on board. Cruising allows you and your guests to visit the destinations they all want to see at each port while getting to spend quality time together on board.

With so many different cruising options, like the Mediterranean, the Baltic, Scandinavian, and river cruises, you can see Europe in a whole different way.

While romantic European cities are great, maybe you are looking for something more unique and steamy?



CHAPTER 6 : THE TOP 6 EXOTIC DESTINATION WEDDINGS

Choosing an exotic location farther away might make for a more expensive destination wedding with some exceptions. This might be a great option for those Brides and Grooms that want to take a luxurious vacation to get married in a truly unique spot on their own, or with a smaller group.

1. THAILAND

You don't get much more exotic than Thailand. With its picturesque beaches and rich culture, it makes for a fun destination wedding with lots of color and flair! One of the best things about Thailand is the most expensive part of the trip is getting there. Once there, the pricing is pretty inexpensive which means you can have the exotic wedding of your dreams. Have your wedding in Thailand and you might have an elephant as your guest!

2. AUSTRALIA

Get married in the land down-under! A wedding in Sydney, Australia is going to be for that chic couple that wants a unique location to get married. There is much to do from great shopping to scuba diving, lounging on the beach, or checking out a show at the famous Sydney Opera House. Get married on the beach, in a posh hotel, or on a harbor cruise! Visit the Great Barrier Reef, cage dive with the great whites or shake hands with a kangaroo! With so many different options you might be overwhelmed with the possibilities, but don't worry, we can help you narrow it down!

3. SOUTH AFRICA

What could be more exotic than getting married surrounded by African wildlife? South Africa also makes for a spectacular backdrop for your wedding photos. Visit the local wine country, take an African Safari, or visit the famous South African beaches for a wide range of photo ops that will make your wedding album incredibly memorable!

Stay at a romantic safari lodge where Giraffes will say hello or the hotel where elephants walk through the lobby on their way to their favorite feeding place! South Africa makes for a great destination wedding location for the animal loving couple!

4. BALI, INDONESIA

If you've ever seen the movie "Eat, Pray, Love" then you know the beauty of Bali. With lush jungles landscape flowing up to the beach it makes for a beautiful and romantic setting. Get married in a giant glass "diamond" or on a glass bottom deck over the ocean where it looks like you are walking on water. For you eco-friendly folks, they even have an eco-friendly resort tucked into the jungle!

5. TAHITI

Turquoise waters? Check. Romantic landscape? Check. Secluded overwater bungalows? Check. If you've ever seen a photo of an overwater bungalow you have probably seen one in Tahiti. That's because French Polynesia is the birthplace of the overwater bungalow concept! With many different islands to stay at, Moorea, Bora Bora, Tahiti, and more there is no shortage of beautiful islands with a Polynesian flair to get married!

6. CRUISE

Want to have it all? You can! When you take a cruise you can visit many of these exotic locals and only unpack once! With many cruise lines visiting these ports from Celebrity cruises that go to Thailand, Indonesia, and Australia or Royal Caribbean that visits the Caribbean, Australia and New Zealand, or Paul Gauguin Cruises that specializes in French Polynesian and Bali cruises, Waterway Cruises that meander the rivers of Europe - there is something for every budget!

CHAPTER 7 : THE TOP 10 BEACH WEDDING DESTINATIONS

Beach weddings are the most popular when choosing a location for a destination wedding. With azure waters and a casual elegance beach weddings provide, it is no surprise. Beach weddings can be as casual or as extravagant as you want. Regardless of what type of wedding you choose; the ocean makes for a wonderful backdrop for your photos. Keep reading for the most popular beaches to get married. We've covered some of these locations in other chapters, but they are so popular they bare repeating.

1. HAWAII

There are 5 major islands to visit in Hawaii with beautiful resorts and dramatic beaches. You can have that tropical feel without needing a passport. You can even get that Polynesian ambiance with a luau as your reception but spend half the time on air travel! Hawaii is a magical place in our own backyard. That's the reason why getting married in Hawaii is in high demand.

2. RIVIERA MAYA/ CANCUN MEXICO

A large number of calls we get for destination weddings ask about going to Mexico and Riviera Maya is the most sought out Mexico location. With just a 2-hour flight from Houston, 3.5 hours from Chicago and New York, and many nonstop flights, Cancun/Riviera Maya makes for an easily accessible tropical paradise. There are a big range of all-inclusive resorts to choose from with wedding packages. They vary from modest to luxury with as little or as many amenities you want.

3. JAMAICA

Lush jungle meets gorgeous beaches in this tropical paradise. Choose a rocky coastline or powder-fine sand beach as your backdrop. With some of the world's best resorts to choose from, you can't go wrong. There is also a ton of activities for your guests to do from sunbathing on the beach or by the pool, snorkeling, cave tubing, or jumping off waterfalls. Your guests will not only be gushing about your wedding, but about their amazing vacation.

4. KEY WEST/ MIAMI, FLORIDA

For the super chic couple that still wants a beach wedding, Miami is your town. You have the cityscape behind you and the sea in front, plus all the nightlife that Miami is famous for. Key West is more laid back but still has that chic beach vibe. Both locations are great for tons of reasons, but the best is no passports and location.

5. BAHAMAS

The Bahamas is another one of the Caribbean's gems. Beautiful crystal clear waters and pink and white sand beaches make the Bahamas an in-demand location for destination weddings. While most of the beaches have white sands, you can also get married on Harbour Island with its pink sand beach, talk about unique and beautiful!

6. CABO BAJA SUR, MEXICO

The second most in-demand location in Mexico would be Cabo. The rocky coastline and dramatic beaches make for stunning backdrop for your photos. Cabo San Lucas is on the Pacific side of Baja and it has a different feel than San Jose Del Cabo on the Sea of Cortez. Baja Sur has low mountains, desert plants and imported palm trees instead of the lush jungle landscape of eastern Mexico. Because you are on the west side, you will also have a dry climate which helps your hair and makeup stay in place. Can I get an Amen?

7. SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

A thousand miles north of Cabo is beautiful San Diego, California, right across the Mexico border. You will find a pleasant semi-arid climate and beaches galore. No hassles about passports and out of the country wedding requirements. San Diego has an upbeat, cool small town surf community feeling, in a large city. There are endless things to do for guests of all ages with their world famous San Diego the famous Gas Lamp District for great restaurants and nightlife. Don't miss Old Town for that Mexican flair.

8. GRAND CAYMAN

The Cayman Islands are known for having some of the most picturesque beaches in the world. This luxurious island is home to some of the most high-end jewelry stores in the Caribbean. Getting married here is as easy breezy as the island is, with marriage licenses able to be obtained in a day. If you are looking for a sophisticated soiree then Grand Cayman is the right beach destination for you!

9. PHUKET, THAILAND

This exotic local has gorgeous beaches and beautiful resorts but with one of the longer flights on this list, this might make for a good location for an intimate wedding or small group. Once you are there though you won't be disappointed and may not want to return to reality. Thailand is also one of the most affordable destinations for exotic weddings.

10. CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS

What a wedding with that East Coast feel? With beautiful New England coastline dotted with lighthouses, Cape Cod is as American as apple pie! Cape Cod beaches are unique because their windswept beauty is distinct from the tropical locations on this list. But don't let that fool you, Cape Cod has a traditional beauty that can rival the most tropical locals. Another location where you don't need a passport, this location delight sights and things to do. You can take a day trip into Boston or even NYC, or just lounge on the beautiful beaches! If you're a traditional gal, this place is for you!

CHAPTER 8 : FOX'S FAVORITES!

At Fox Travel, we have been doing destination weddings for over 30 years, and helped hundreds of brides and grooms have the wedding of their dreams. We know a thing or two about destination weddings, and with the addition of our very own wedding planner. Our wedding services are more inclusive, more personal and dedicated to your big day. *Remember, resort wedding planners, even the great ones, your wedding is one of many they are coordinating.*

With all this knowledge, the owners of Fox and the staff realized they had much to share about the extensive locations they have experience visiting and booking. These resorts are the best of the best! They have the most complete, all-inclusive wedding packages *and* best reviews from our clients.

1. KARISMA RESORTS

It is no secret that Fox Travel loves Karisma resorts! These 5-star gourmet all-inclusive resorts focus on one thing and one thing only, catering to their guests every need. With resorts in Mexico, Dominican Republic, and Jamaica, ranging from adult only to family friendly, there is no shortage of options. Their wedding packages are outstanding and they always have excellent promotions and extra touches that help you and your guests save money and make your stay even more memorable!

Karisma resorts have 6 different wedding packages* to choose from ranging from subtle elegance to fun and flirty. You can pick one of these packages and add-on and personal touches, or you can do a complete a la carte option where you can design your own wedding from start to finish.

Karisma also has a great Wedding Rehearsal package where you can take a trip before you get married to visit the resorts and see the locations in Cancun/ Riviera Maya. See samples and setups of all the different wedding packages they offer, meet the photographers, florists and on-site wedding team, and sample different menu options, cake, signature drinks and wine all for \$699* for 2 adults for 3 nights! Dates for these events are pre-set so please contact Fox Travel to find out the schedule.

Karisma Resorts offers same-sex weddings.

2. SANDALS AND BEACHES RESORTS

Sandals and Beaches Resorts are extremely popular and rightly so, they are known for their impeccable service and a wide availability in resorts to choose from.

Sister companies, Sandals has 15 adult only resorts in Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Bahamas, Antigua, Grenada, and Barbados, and Beaches has 3 family-friendly resorts in Jamaica and Turks and Caicos.

Sandals and Beaches Resorts have a great program where you can pick and choose your favorite colors, then it gives you options to choose from based on your selection with the pricing right there, so you know what you're spending and where. It would then give you a package price and you can add or delete things as you wish.

Sandals also offer a "test drive" for your Weddingmoon for \$500 for 2 nights; you can experience what your wedding will look like and do a meet and greet with the Sandals wedding team.

3. ATLANTIS RESORT

The Atlantis Resort located in Nassau, Bahamas, is such a fun resort to have a wedding at. With 20 different ceremony and receptions sites, you can customize your day right down to the perfect beach or garden location.

Atlantis, while not an all-inclusive property, does offer meal plans and is family friendly. The amount of activities in one resort for you and your guests is unbeatable and kids are in heaven.

4. IBEROSTAR RESORTS

Iberostar Resorts are all over Mexico, Jamaica, Dominican Republic and Brazil. They have a mix of family-friendly and adult only. What makes Iberostar extremely popular is their great price point. You can have a fabulous, yet affordable wedding. They do one wedding a day, so you are sure to be given their full attention. It is a win-win!

Choose from one of their wedding packages, add on to one of their wedding packages, or have a completely customizable dream wedding!

5. BARCELO RESORTS

With over 50 resorts in Latin America and the Caribbean and over 75 in Europe Barcelo takes the cake on the sheer number of resorts to choose from. Like many others, Barcelo resorts only do one wedding per day, so it's best to pick your date and reserve it quickly.

Like Iberostar resorts, Barcelos price for both wedding packages and guest rooms are on point!

No matter if you decide to pick your destination wedding with a resort from this list, or a different one, Fox Travel will make sure that you have your perfect dream destination wedding!

Just for Fox Travel Clients

An additional benefit we offer our clients is that we are an American Express Travel Representative. That means we can redeem your AMEX points for travel. We can also offer:

- **American Express Card holders** - Cabin credits, resort packages, preferred vendors, tour operators, cruise companies and much more
- **Benefits for all other card holders** - Visa, Master Card, Diners Club because Fox Travel is affiliated with American Express, many cruise and tour companies offer special amenities because we are an American Express agency

Conclusion

We hope that this has been informative and helped you narrow down your decision to do a destination wedding and where to have it.

For more information about destination weddings, honeymoons, vow renewals and anniversary celebrations, contact Tahnee at 281-363-0808 or email at tahnee@foxtravel.net.

Did we miss a destination or wedding idea you would like to know more about? Drop us an email and we'll add it to the book.

And thanks for reading Fox Travel's Destination Wedding eBook!