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Packing for Your Destination Wedding

By Paris Permenter & John Bigley

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by: **Paris Permenter & John Bigley**

Are you planning a destination wedding? Congratulations! Before you head off to your dream wedding and honeymoon, don't forget the packing for the wedding itself. Much will depend on where you're having your wedding and your own personal style.

If you're getting married in a formal wedding dress, be sure to carry it with you – don't trust your dress to checked luggage. Most airplanes have coat closets and will allow travelers to hang garment bags. Check with your airline.

Grooms should also carry the clothing needed for the ceremony. If you're getting married in the Caribbean, you won't find many tuxedo rental shops in the islands. It is easiest to bring clothes with you. We recently saw a panicked groom in the Bahamas wearing a tuxedo shirt, coat, cummerbund — and a pair of jeans. The stressed-out groom was racing for the lobby door to meet a clothier who had located a pair of tuxedo pants after the groom's were lost in his luggage. Don't let this happen to you!

Also, carry all original documents—including birth certificates and divorce papers, if applicable—in your hand luggage. Don't pack these in checked luggage!

Many resorts have on-site beauty salons, so you can make sure your hair is perfect for your wedding day. (If you plan to do your own hair, be sure to check first on the electrical current and plugs at your destination. You may need to bring converters for hot rollers and other appliances.) Many resorts also have on-site spas which can pamper the two of you with a massage to work out the kinks from your flight.

For the wedding, you'll want to pack some of these items, depending on your plans:

wedding dress

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special hosiery or undergarments

shoes (if you're planning a tropical wedding, remember that high temperatures and humidity, coupled with a long flight, can make feet puffy)

guest book

wedding rings

groom's tux or suit

groom's shoes

address book

thank you cards if you'd like to write them on the way home

special decorations, wedding music

Husband and wife team Paris Permenter and John Bigley edit the award-winning

(
) , a romantic travel magazine and resource featuring honeymoons, destination
weddings, and romantic getaways worldwide.

Destination Weddings

By Kirsten Hawkins

No matter where you and your future groom are wed, your wedding will have the same meaning and give you the same new start to a beautiful beginning together, however destination weddings can add a little extra touch to the wedding of your dreams.

When planning a destination wedding talk about different places where you would like to be united. An advantage to having a destination wedding is being able to have your ceremony and honeymoon in the same location. One way to get some ideas about where to hold your destination wedding is to check out some of the different resort locations on the internet. Most resorts offer wedding packages that have everything included, even a wedding planner. All you need to do is provide the bride and groom! If you want more control over your big day use these tips and ideas for planning one of the biggest days in your life.

As with every wedding, prepare a wedding planner or organizer. This will keep tasks organized and

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remind you of dates that certain tasks need to be accomplished by. Remember that by having a destination wedding, you will be planning your event long distance, so it will be important to have a list of things that need to be done before you arrive.

When inviting guests to your destination wedding, send out announcements early, letting them know which hotel to call to reserve rooms, as well as dates and times for plane tickets so they can be purchased in advance. You may also think about having a large reception when you return home for those who cannot attend your wedding. Send out separate announcements for this and let them know they will have a chance to congratulate you at a later date.

For destination weddings it is important to check on regulations and laws. If you are being married outside of the United States, be sure to have passports, blood tests, a U.S. marriage license, if needed, and any other paperwork that will need to be completed. Stay ahead of the game so when you arrive at your destination everything is in order.

Also consider how you will get your attire to your destination wedding. Rather than trying to check everything in at the airport on the day you fly out, ship everything separately two weeks in advance. Call the destination and confirm that everything arrived in a peaceful state. This will also give you two weeks extra time in the event that something is damaged in travel.

Do not forget to hire a photographer, clergy, wedding planner and bakery to complete your wedding. For information on different services offered, you can contact the destination's Visitor Bureau.

A few of the more popular destination wedding spots include Jamaica in the Caribbean, the Florida Keys, the blue waters of Hawaii, and Las Vegas, with its hundreds of wedding chapels.

As long as you plan ahead and expect a few challenges, your destination wedding is sure to be day to remember.

Kirsten Hawkins is an event planner from Nashville, TN. Visit

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event planning tips, strategies, and resources.

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