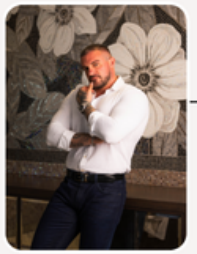


Destination Wedding Planning Guide 2026–2027

For North-American couples dreaming of Mexico, Caribbean or Italian weddings



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Welcome to Your Comprehensive Guide

Welcome to your comprehensive guide to planning a destination wedding in 2026/2027. Whether you're envisioning a five-star all-inclusive resort in Mexico, an eco-chic Caribbean villa or an Italian palazzo overlooking the Mediterranean, this guide will inspire and inform you. The market is constantly evolving; couples are prioritising intimate experiences, sustainability, personalised entertainment and high-quality food and drink. This guide combines the latest trends and statistics with decades of travel expertise so you can plan with confidence — and recognise when it's time to hand the reins to specialists like Voyages La Para Travel Inc.

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Welcome Letter

> Congratulations on your engagement! You're about to embark on an extraordinary journey — planning a celebration that combines travel, culture and romance.

Destination weddings are growing in popularity because they offer more intimate celebrations, unique backdrops and built-in getaways for you and your guests. In fact, industry reports show that couples are increasingly opting for smaller guest lists and longer stays that blend wedding events with group excursions and wellness experiences.

This guide is designed to provide structure without stifling your creativity. Use it to brainstorm, take notes and prepare for conversations with your planner. With the right partner, your wedding will be as joyful to plan as it is to attend.



Getting Started & Vision

Identify Your Priorities

Meaningful location

Decide whether your heart is set on a white-sand beach, a lush tropical jungle, a European cultural hub or a rustic countryside villa. Our clients often choose Mexico or the Caribbean for all-inclusive convenience or Italy for old-world charm and gourmet cuisine.

Guest experience

Think about how you want your guests to feel — relaxed, adventurous, pampered, culturally enriched. Destination weddings allow you to curate experiences like welcome dinners, group excursions and farewell brunches.

Personal values

Sustainability is becoming a cornerstone of modern weddings. Couples are incorporating local florals, seasonal foods and eco-friendly décor, and many support local artisans and communities.

Cultural and family traditions

Consider which rituals, religious elements or cultural touches you'd like to include. Destination weddings can be deeply personal when they integrate your heritage into the location.

Create a Vision Board

Collect images and notes that capture colours, textures and moods. Bold colour palettes are trending for 2026/2027 (think burnt orange, mustard yellow and emerald green) while jewel-tones and Italian tile patterns are popular in Italy.

Include photos of architecture, table settings, attire and natural elements. A vision board helps your planner and vendors understand your aesthetic.



Define Your Guest List

Decide early whether you're hosting a micro-wedding (10–30 guests), a medium-sized celebration (50 guests) or a larger event. The trend toward intimate weddings means more personalised experiences and more quality time with each guest.

Planning Timeline

While every couple is unique, the following timeline offers a general structure for planning a destination wedding. Adjust according to your availability, the complexity of your event and the lead times at your chosen destination.



12–18 Months Before

Research destinations & set budget

Explore Mexico, the Caribbean and Italy; consider travel restrictions and climate. Mexico and Caribbean resorts are popular because they offer luxury packages at lower average costs (many all-inclusive wedding packages cost about US$6,500 for 30–50 guests).

Engage a planner or travel agent

Enlist a specialist familiar with your destination. They'll handle contracts, negotiate perks and coordinate logistics — saving you time and stress.

Confirm your guest list & send save-the-dates

Creative save-the-dates like passport-style cards and custom maps are trending.



9–12 Months Before

1

Choose a venue & secure a date

Popular resorts and villas book up quickly. Consider weather patterns (e.g., hurricane season in the Caribbean) and local events.

2

Design your ceremony & reception

Decide on layouts (curved aisles, round seating, lounge areas) and altars using local flora.

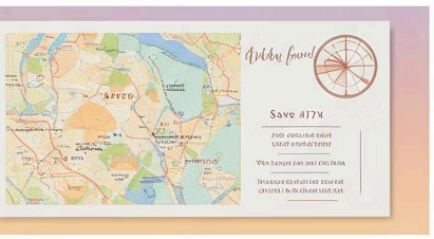
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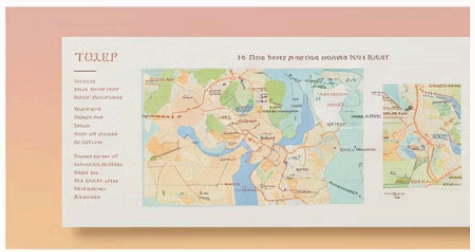
Book key vendors

Photographer (film photography is making a comeback), videographer, celebrant, musicians, décor and florist.













6–9 Months Before

Travel arrangements

Block rooms and flights for guests. Ask your planner to negotiate group rates and free night perks.

Send formal invitations

Include itinerary, packing list and dress code. Couples now share mood boards or dress codes with guests to set expectations.

Plan pre- and post-wedding events

Welcome yacht trips, scuba diving, beach Olympics and farewell brunches are trending. Consider a minimoon — a brief getaway after the wedding before a longer honeymoon.

3–6 Months Before

Choose attire

Functional dresses and unique suits are trending; think breathable fabrics for tropical climates. Encourage guests to wear colourful outfits that complement your palette.

Arrange transportation & excursions

Plan group excursions like wine tastings in Tuscany or cenote swims in Mexico.

0–3 Months Before

Prepare welcome bags & turndown gifts

Including local snacks, sunscreen, itinerary and philanthropic donations is on trend.

Confirm timeline with vendors

Ensure everyone knows when to arrive, set up and break down.



Budget & Costs

Destination weddings can be more affordable than traditional weddings if planned wisely. Here are average costs and money-saving tips based on recent research:

Item	Typical Cost Range*	Notes
Overall destination wedding	US$30,000–42,000	Many couples choose smaller events and upscale experiences; costs include travel and events.
All-inclusive wedding package (Mexico/Caribbean)	Around US$6,500 for 30–50 guests	Packages often include ceremony, reception and basic décor; upgrades available.
Small wedding (~30 guests)	US$4,000	Ideal for micro-weddings.
Airfare	US$200–2,000 per person	Varies by season and departure city.
Hotel accommodations	US$150–1,500 per night	All-inclusive resorts simplify budgeting by bundling meals and activities.

*These figures are averages and can vary widely based on location, season and group size. Italian weddings tend to be higher due to premium venues and cuisine. Working with a planner can uncover group discounts and complimentary upgrades.

Tips for Managing Your Budget

Prioritise experiences

Allocate more funds to what matters most (e.g., exclusive excursions, gourmet meals) and trim where it matters less.

Travel off-peak

Shoulder seasons (late spring and early fall) in the Caribbean and Italy often have better rates and milder weather.

Bundle services

Choose packages that include photography, flowers and entertainment; some resorts offer free events based on guest counts.

Consider philanthropic gifts

Instead of traditional favours, donate to a local charity; couples are embracing this trend.



Destinations & Resorts

Mexico & Caribbean

North-American couples often gravitate toward Mexico and the Caribbean for their warm climates, direct flights and all-inclusive luxury. Here are some highlights:



Riviera Maya & Cancun

Five-star resorts like Secrets Maroma and Grand Velas offer private beaches, oceanfront ceremony venues and gourmet dining. Consider adding an eco-adventure to a cenote or visiting Tulum's ruins.



Los Cabos

Perfect for dramatic sunsets and whale-watching. Resorts here often feature cliffside chapels and desert-meets-sea landscapes.



Jamaica & Dominican Republic

Known for reggae vibes and white-sand beaches. Montego Bay and Punta Cana boast sprawling all-inclusive resorts with vibrant nightlife.



St. Lucia & Turks and Caicos

Smaller islands with luxury villas and calm turquoise waters. Ideal for intimate celebrations.

Italy

Italy's historical cities, rolling countryside and sparkling coastlines offer romance at every turn. Whether you're drawn to Tuscany's vineyards, the Amalfi Coast's cliffside towns or Lake Como's villas, Italy promises artistry and gastronomy.

Current trends include using bold jewel-toned colour palettes, overgrown floral installations with olive branches, bougainvillea and herbs, curved aisles and arches, and Italian tile patterns integrated into décor.

Evening celebrations under string lights and film photography capture the timelessness. Many venues offer exclusive buy-outs to ensure privacy and flexibility.



2026/2027 Trends & Inspiration

Understanding emerging trends can help you shape a wedding that feels modern yet personal. Here are key insights for 2026/2027:

Mocktails & zero-proof menus

With more guests sober-curious, curated non-alcoholic cocktails offer inclusivity.

Minimoons & phased honeymoons

Couples take a short getaway immediately after the wedding and plan a longer honeymoon later.

Philanthropic registries

Many couples encourage donations to charity instead of material gifts.

Travel & Guest Management

One of the greatest advantages of working with a destination wedding specialist is the ability to offload administrative tasks and provide concierge service to your guests. Here's what we handle:

Group travel logistics

We coordinate flights, resort transfers and room blocks, ensuring guests arrive smoothly and often securing discounted rates.

Guest communications

From managing RSVPs to sending payment reminders and travel tips, we maintain clear communication so you don't have to.

Accessibility & inclusivity

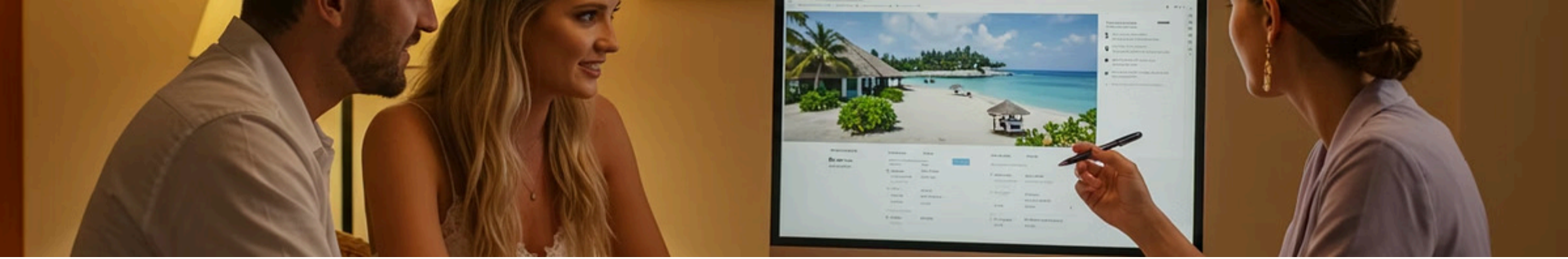
We arrange mobility accommodations, kid-friendly activities or sober-friendly events depending on your guest profile.

Legal requirements

We advise on documents needed for abroad weddings and whether a symbolic or legal ceremony is most practical.

Emergency support

Unexpected travel disruptions or weather changes can occur; having a professional advocate ensures quick resolutions.



Next Steps & Resources

You're now equipped with the knowledge to begin planning your dream destination wedding. The next steps are to:

Complete the Discovery Questionnaire

Our questionnaire (click here) captures your story, vision and priorities. Fill it in, save it and email it back.

The form is attached to this PDF. Click the link above, or open the attachments panel in your PDF reader to save it.

Schedule your consultation

During our complimentary call we'll review your questionnaire, discuss budget and recommend destinations and resorts.

Begin planning

Once you choose your venue and dates, we'll handle contracts, timelines and guest management.

Stay inspired

Follow us on social media for more tips, real weddings and trend reports.

Thank You

Thank you for entrusting Voyages La Para Travel Inc. with your dream. We look forward to crafting an unforgettable celebration that reflects your love story.

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