



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Destination Wedding 101

Booking a Destination Wedding is easier than you think, especially when working with a professional and certified expert like Romantic Planet Vacations, who has been planning destination weddings for Canadians since 2004. Follow these easy steps and you will be on your way to planning a most enjoyable and successful group all-inclusive destination wedding.

1

DETERMINE YOUR BUDGET – and be realistic. The average all-inclusive package from Canada with air, transfers and all-inclusive accommodations is \$1750 per person. Anything under \$1500 will probably be 3.5 stars or lower and anything \$2000 or above, will probably be luxury 5-star and/or a unique destination. Telling your guests that it's under \$2000 will leave the door open to many incredible resort options for your destination wedding. Your wedding on top of that (ceremony, décor, cake, set-up, photographer, dinner etc) can range from \$5,000 - \$15,000.

2

DETERMINE YOUR DATE – The most expensive time to travel is Christmas and Easter. The second most expensive time is January – March. The shoulder season is October/November and April/May. The great value months are June and September and summer months are great for teachers. Keep in mind that hurricane season in the Caribbean is July – November but is *extremely* rare. Sometimes traveling mid-week instead of the weekend can save you \$50 - \$150 per person. Not often can you have a legal wedding ceremony on Sunday (but not impossible).

3

HAVE THE FAMILY TALK – Talk to only those family and friends that are critical to have at your wedding. We find it best to advise only general information such as it will be in the Caribbean/Mexico for under \$2000 per person and approximate dates. Opening options up to everyone can often leave wedding couples more confused and in a difficult position of trying to please everybody. It's imperative to know that not everybody can attend a destination wedding. Our average group size is 28. If you're happy with the outcome of the tally, then move on to step #4. You only require a minimum of 10 passengers from Canada to qualify for a discounted group rate.

4

RESEARCH – This is usually the most difficult of all tasks but working with and trusting one of our certified experts will relieve much stress. See the enclosed list of recommended resorts as a basic guideline. The top all-inclusive destinations are Mexico, Jamaica, Cuba and Dominican Republic. All can be found for under \$2,000. More unique places are St. Lucia, Barbados, Bahamas, Antigua, Aruba, Costa Rica, Panama and more. Other places like Hawaii, Las Vegas, Greece, and Italy are certainly possible, but there are no all-inclusive resorts here. When determining the resort, have a check list of must-haves and note those resorts that check them all.

5

OBTAIN A DISCOUNTED GROUP RATE – Once you've narrowed down your choices to up to 3 resorts, contact Romantic Planet Vacations and we will begin the quoting process. It is our policy to shop around to all of the suppliers, so you don't have to. The process of finding you the best rate can take 2-5 business days. Once complete, we will send you a discounted group quote to include the price and all group benefits. Rates are generally valid for 7 days. Don't worry about individual guests' travel needs at this stage. Our job is to look after you and your wedding guests for the duration of the process. For now, focus on the main group. If you love what you see, there's no reason to delay, you're ready to move onto Step #5! If it's not working for you, no problem, simply repeat steps 1, 2, and 4.

6

GROUP DEPOSIT / GROUP SPACE – In most cases, a deposit of \$200 is required per bride and groom (plus any children age 2-12), plus a group deposit of \$500 = \$900. This deposit is applied towards your trip. With this deposit, we will hold and guarantee 30 seats for 90 days. This is usually enough time to send out invitations and have your guests apply their own deposit to secure their seat/room further. Any un-deposited seats after 90 days are simply returned back to the tour operator. Guests can still book thereafter but their rates/availability is subject to change. Rule of thumb – choose a deposit deadline within the 90 days and advise guests to book by this date.

7

GROUP BENEFITS – With the above group deposit, you will also be granted a complimentary state-of-the-art exclusive wedding website with online guest booking technology, a complimentary Save-the-Date E-flyer, the complimentary service of securing your wedding date and time with the onsite wedding coordinator and all of the group benefits as quoted detailed in a wedding couple contract. The rest is smooth sailing! Let your guests inquire and book.

8

WEDDING PLANNING, FINAL PAYMENT AND DOCUMENTS – You will be working with your assigned onsite wedding planner at the resort directly to plan all of the details of the wedding from now until you arrive. At final payment time, we will send out friendly final payment reminders to everyone in the group in advance. This deadline will be detailed in your quote and contract. Once everyone has paid in full, we will receive the e-documents from the tour operator about 2-3 weeks before departure, at which time, we will email them to everybody. **THEN IT'S TRAVEL AND ENJOY!**