

Planning A Stress Free Wedding Far From Home

A Paradise Dream Wedding's experienced staff is dedicated to helping you create a delightful, stress-free Maui wedding day. We are proud of our work with hundreds of happy couples over the six years we've been in business and invite you to contact anyone listed on our extensive "Testimonials" page for a personal reference.

Getting married on Maui can actually be simpler and more relaxed than marrying close to home, mainly because everything is taken care of by telephone and email beforehand. As soon as your Maui-bound plane takes to the air you can relax and snuggle into your seat with your beloved and dream your tropical wedding and honeymoon dreams.

Selecting a Coordinator -- Research the Facts and Trust Your Intuition

The single most important aspect of planning your Maui wedding is selecting the right wedding company for you. Here are some guidelines.

You have chosen the right company and wedding planner for you if...

- ... you can communicate easily, frankly and joyfully
- ... your calls and emails are promptly returned and your questions and concerns respectfully and completely addressed
- ... the people you communicate with seem knowledgeable and want to be helpful
- ... your coordinator seems to care about what you want and will plan the wedding of your dreams, not hers
- ... when you contact couples who have already used the company's services you get good reports
- ... the company's business credentials meet with your approval
- ... you love the photography you saw on our web site!
- ... you just feel good about the company and the people

Your Maui Wedding Planning Checklist

If you are looking for a clear and simple wedding planning experience, we think you will enjoy our wedding planning checklist. Set aside some quiet time alone, or sit down together as a couple, and just browse through the whole list to get the "big picture." Then go through it again to formulate questions for the coordinator and make your decisions.

Using the checklist this way will help you see what tasks need to be completed and you will find that you are actually planning your wedding gracefully and painlessly. If you have questions or situations that need resolution, feel free to call your wedding coordinator, who will be happy to help.

Six to twelve months before the wedding:

- Select the wedding date. (When can you and others involved travel?)
- As a couple, discuss the style of the wedding (simple or elaborate, small or large, beach,

church, estate or resort, formal or informal, dress, etc.) and the budget with all parents. (Consider cost of airfare, hotel, meals, and activities, in addition to wedding attire, flowers, photographer, reception costs, etc.)

- Determine the approximate size of your guest list.
- Use our online Order Form to plan and book your wedding or call our wedding coordinator to discuss your options. Here are some topics to think about
 - Is A Paradise Dream Wedding available on the date you have chosen?
 - Which ceremony site is for you? (public beach or garden, private estate, church, resort, etc.)
 - Marriage license requirements and procedures (our coordinator will schedule licensing appointment and send you directions)
 - Minister preferences (female or male, Hawaiian or not)
 - Ceremony types (traditional or contemporary, religious or non-religious, Hawaiian or not)
 - Do you want a traditional Hawaiian Wedding Lei exchange as part of your ceremony?
 - Photography packages (numbers of photos, numbers of locations, reception coverage, all day or half day coverage, add black and white and/or sepia tone prints, etc.)
 - Video and DVD options (slide shows, include childhood photos, choose your music, etc.)
 - Wedding web sites and web streaming
 - Receptions and catering (see Reception Planning Checklist link)
 - Flowers for your wedding (bouquets, leis, and floral decoration selections)
 - Do you want to honor your guests with guest leis?
 - What do you want to wear? Formalwear (tux and bridal apparel rental), aloha wear, other?
 - Musicians (Hawaiian or other guitarist/singers, violin, harp or other musicians, or duos or trios, rent CD player and play your special music)
 - Beachside cakes and open air cider toasts
 - On the wings of love dove and butterfly releases
 - Unique entertainment (Hula dancers, conch shell blowers, other entertainers)
 - Wedding transportation (stretch limos, antique white Rolls, outrigger canoe, etc.)
 - Bride and groom pampering (pre- and post-ceremony hair, makeup, manicures, pedicures, etc., pre- and post ceremony massages and spa treatments)
- Online or by phone – you are ready to book your wedding!

Four months before:

- Mail your wedding invitations along with either your preplanned guest itinerary or list of possible activities

Three months before:

- Confirm guest list
- Finalize all travel plans to Maui
- Make all travel and room reservations
- Arrange fun activities -- luau, romantic dinner, sunset cruise, snorkeling, surfing lessons, etc.

Two months before:

- Finalize flower order with wedding coordinator
- Select travel wardrobe
- Re-confirm all arrangements with all those attending

One month before:

- Re-confirm all travel and room reservations for you and your party
- Confirm all arrangements and contracts with wedding coordinator
- Send tux measurements to coordinator, if applicable
- Send balance of fees to coordinator, if applicable
- Prepare your Wedding Day Schedule (see form below)
- Finalize Reception arrangements

Two weeks before:

- Gather all necessary travel documents, such as airline tickets, automobile reservation documents, and accommodation reservations paperwork, and place in a memorable, safe place that is easily accessible for travel
- Make transportation arrangements to airport for the day you leave
- Give reception caterer final guest count
- Re-confirm all arrangements with those attending

The week before:

- Early in the week reconfirm all travel, activity, and reservations and arrangements with vendors
- On the first day of the week before departure begin packing your suitcases
- Put your wedding rings in a safe place where they will be remembered for travel
- Confirm directions, housing, and timetables with all those attending
- Arrange transportation to airport

The Day You Leave for Maui:

- Make sure all your luggage is in the car before you pull away
- Make sure you have with you the rings and necessary papers and phone numbers

When You Arrive on Maui

- Very Important: When you arrive, please call us to let us know you have arrived safely and tell us where you are staying and your room number, and your local Maui phone number and/or cell number.
- Obtain marriage license per appointment made earlier by wedding coordinator
- Phone your wedding coordinator and review in detail all final plans including flower colors and all items ordered
- Phone your wedding coordinator and review in detail your final bill
- Prepare wedding day fees, if any

- Give completed wedding day schedule (see below) to all attending, bride and groom should each have their own copies
- Use sunscreen lavishly -- SPF 50!

Your Wedding Day:

- Have a relaxed morning and be sure to eat a good breakfast
- Keep Wedding Day Schedule handy and use it!
- Pre-ceremony hair and make up, massage and spa sessions
- Make sure you bring the rings with you to the ceremony
- Make sure you bring the marriage license with you to the ceremony
- Be at wedding site on time!

A Final Note

We at A Paradise Dream Wedding are dedicated to making your Paradise Dream Wedding come true. As a matter of courtesy to the minister and other vendors and to ensure good photography, we ask that you arrive on time.