



www.brides.com

BRIDES

The Luxury Issue

It's all about
you!

158 New ways
to customize your

Dress
Flowers
Favors
Everything

Faraway Weddings
Pretty, packable
dresses...
and places to
marry, free!

**NEWEST
HAIR
TRENDS**
Super-short
to ultra-long

10
Last-minute
details that
make all the
difference

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2004
U.S.A. \$5.99 CANADA/FOREIGN \$6.99
DISPLAY UNTIL NOVEMBER 16, 2004



FROM THE PUBLISHERS
OF VOGUE & GLAMOUR

Million-Dollar Weddings

Unbelievable plans and parties
(plus ideas you can steal)

DESTINATION WEDDINGS

(Continued from page 483)

WEDDING Q&A

Q What do we do about the people we don't invite or who can't attend?

A Throw a party for the stay-at-homes when you return. That way, they'll have a chance to participate in the festivities, and you—cue diabolical laughter here—will get a captive audience for your digital wedding video. A hometown reception is also a great excuse to bust out your bridal gown for an encore performance. (If it's got a train, bustle it.) As for the shindig itself, give the people what they want: a destination-themed fête, styled as a backyard luau, reggae dance party, or whatever best captures the spirit of your nuptials.

Q If we have our ceremony abroad, will the marriage be legal in the United States?

A Yes. Any official marriage certificate, whether issued in a foreign land or in the U.S., is valid stateside. The only catch: In some countries, getting hold of said certificate can be a bit tricky. Red-tape havens like Italy and Mexico may require you to jump through

some hoops before giving you the nuptial go-ahead (a problem easily remedied by hiring a destination-savvy planner). Other nations, such as France and England, require engaged couples to arrive two weeks or more before the wedding to be legally hitched. (See "Where to Wed," below, for a list of places with reasonable waiting times.) But there is some good news: With the increasing popularity of faraway vows, a number of countries are streamlining the application process. Aruba loosened its rules a couple of years ago, and rumor has it that Tahiti may soon break with French tradition and allow Yanks to tie the knot on its isles as well.

Q What kind of dress should I bring?

A "Consider your environment," says BRIDE'S fashion director and resident gown guru Rachel Leonard. "For instance, if you're going to an island, avoid a big ball gown and go with something lightweight and airy, like chiffon, charmeuse, silk organza, georgette, silk tulle, or light Chantilly lace." She also suggests incorporating accessories with local flavor. "In Hawaii, wear leis around your necks. In the Caribbean, put seashells in your hair." Finally, make sure he wears something that mixes well with your look. "Don't go for anything you'd see on

the red carpet unless you're in a super-formal setting," says Leonard. Pare down his tux with a white dinner jacket, or, for that glam-in-the-tropics look, consider suits in breathable fabrics like linen, seersucker, or poplin, paired with a pastel or khaki tie. J.Crew carries a line of destination-wedding-compatible ensembles for men—none of which involve cummerbunds or (hallelujah) surf shorts.

Q Must we hang out with the guests the day after? Will we be rude if we choose not to?

A It's likely that many of your loved ones will stay on, but whether you spend time with them or go into postnuptial seclusion is your decision entirely. Patti Metzger of Weddings on the Move says most of her clients party with their guests for a few days before the wedding, then honeymoon as a duo someplace else. But since you'll already be in paradise, that doesn't have to mean making a great escape. In Jamaica, for example, just-marrieds often take advantage of the free ground transfers between Couples Negril and Couples Ocho Rios by checking out of one and into the other. (SuperClubs and Sandals properties offer similar deals.) Or, for a really short commute, you could simply move down the beach and into a posh private villa built for two. ♦

WHERE TO WED

(Continued from page 481)

The destinations below all have short residency requirements—as well as a plethora of dreamy ceremony sites.

Editor's note: Wedding rates include ceremony, cake, champagne, photographer, bouquet, boutonniere, legal fees, and officiant; more bare-boned packages may cost less. Bonus room-rate tip: You can often get a better deal on your digs than the prices listed below. Start by surfing the web, consulting a travel agent, or calling the hotel directly.

Caribbean Classics

Even if your families have their differences, everyone can agree on this—nothing sets off a white dress like this tropical region's legendary turquoise waters. **Editor's note:** Unless otherwise stated, quoted room rates are for high season, mid-December through mid-April. Expect lower prices off-season.

Anguilla

Not many properties use flatware adorned with silver-plated seashells. But things are done a little differently

at **Altamer Resort**, where ultramodern villas with private butlers compete with sweeping ocean views. You can say "I do" on the Russian Amethyst villa's rooftop terrace, beside the private waterfall at African Sapphire, or on a long skywalk above the silky sands. Wish you could take those teaspoons home with you? Just ask—most of the custom-made pieces you see on the reception table are for sale. Weddings from \$2,000; five-bedroom villa from \$5,000, including breakfast; 888-652-6888 or altamer.com. (Continued on page 512)

DESTINATION WEDDINGS

(Continued from page 510)

Antigua

Dickenson Bay is one of the loveliest strands in the world. **Sandals Antigua Resort & Spa** is one of the most romantic resorts on Antigua. Put them together and you have a seriously sexy ceremony. Say "yes" in one of the white gazebos, among the gardens of bougainvillea, or smack on that renowned strip of sand. Eloping? End your big day with a surfside candlelit dinner; your private waiter will pamper you silly while other staff members decorate your boudoir with flowers. Weddings from \$1,250, or free with a five-night stay; doubles from \$1,400 for two nights, the minimum stay; 800-726-3257 or sandals.com.

Aruba

Nine out of 10 vows at **Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino** happen on Palm Beach. Yet somehow the expert coordinators make every celebration feel as special as the couple. (Recent scenarios include a Persian ceremony held on a satin-draped, lily-garlanded stage, and a Jewish service that featured four barefoot attendants holding the huppah.) Hungry for Sunday brunch? Take your guests to Ruinas del Mar restaurant, where black swans float past sparkling cascades and the chef seasons his filet mignon to perfection. Weddings from \$600; doubles from \$440, January through March; 800-554-9288 or hyatt.com.

The Bahamas

This dulcet archipelago has the extreme luck of being sprinkled over the most gorgeous waters of the Atlantic, which makes brides-to-be at the **Four Seasons Resort Great Exuma** very lucky indeed. After all, the 14th hole of its fairway, site of several ceremonies, overlooks the shimmering waters of Emerald Bay. Linen-festooned golf carts will transport you and your at-

tendants to the greens, then back to the cocktail terrace for celebratory Bikini Bellinis and Bahama Mamas. Weddings from \$1,600; doubles from \$550; 800-332-3442 or fourseasons.com.

Barbados

The House, a 31-room boutique retreat, mixes minimalism with a tangle of jungle foliage. Simplicity is the rule for weddings, too—couples here know that the natural surroundings provide ample spectacle. (The coordinator has yet to see a bride wearing a dress with a train.) Sunset vows on the sand are followed with a five-course candlelit dinner under a gauze-draped shelter. Bonus: The property takes service so seriously that every visitor, marrying or not, is assigned two personal "ambassadors" for his or her stay. Weddings from \$1,225; doubles from \$1,100, including breakfast; 800-326-6898 or elegant-hotels.com.

Bermuda

In search of a full-tilt Bermudian fantasy? At the **Fairmont Southampton**, you can alight from a horse-drawn carriage onto a pink-sand beach, then wed under a cabana draped in pink chiffon. Savor another slice of island tradition—the silver-leaf bride's cake adorned with a tiny cedar sapling. Plant it on the grounds, then return on your golden anniversary to watch your grandchildren get married under its branches. Weddings from \$1,425; doubles from \$419, May through October; 800-441-1414 or fairmont.com.

The British Virgin Islands

The exquisite beachscapes that encircle **Peter Island Resort**, a 1,300-acre private isle, make gazebos and archways superfluous. With views of Tortola and Virgin Gorda on one side and St. John-framed sunsets on the other, all you'll need is a man, a woman, and a few witnesses. (The resort prefers that you keep the guest list under 20.) Once the deal is sealed, sail into the sunset for champagne and hors d'oeuvres, or kick off married life on a private yacht.

Back on land, make sure to visit diminutive Honeymoon Beach, where there's just enough room for a couple of chaises and the two of you. Weddings from \$1,535; doubles from \$885, including meals and activities; 800-346-4451 or peterisland.com.

The Cayman Islands

Opening on Seven Mile Beach this December (make your nuptial bookings now), the **Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman** promises to have a photo album's worth of picture-perfect settings. There's the legendary strand; the majestic staircase leading to the Great Lawn; the grove of silver-thatch palms; and the winding waterways that lace

TRIP TIP

Looking for a bargain? Schedule your nuptials for midweek, when availability is greater—and prices are lower.

through the 144-acre property toward the sea. Let the wedding concierge arrange a day for you and your bridesmaids at La Prairie spa (the first outpost to open in the Caribbean). As you're trying the Cellular Facial, the guys will be playing a round on Blue Tip, Greg Norman's new golf course. Weddings from \$1,900; doubles from \$375; 800-241-3333 or ritzcarlton.com.

Curaçao

Bobbing blooms. Floating candles. Underwater lighting. Live jazz. Vows alongside the **Floris Suite Hotel's** free-form pool are decidedly swanky affairs. As the waiters pass around trays of Bon Bini cocktails (made from green Curaçao, rum, and fruit juice) and mahimahi bouillabaisse, you'll swear you've landed in a posh European capital—which just happens to be a stroll away from an unspoiled tropical beach. Weddings from \$1,200; doubles from \$205; 800-781-1011 or florissuitehotel.com. (Continued on page 514)

DESTINATION WEDDINGS

(Continued from page 512)

The Dominican Republic

As of yet, no nuptials have taken place on the ice-skating rink or the flying trapeze at **Breezes Punta Cana**. But at least one bride has celebrated by turning flips on the trampoline—and recently, a couple marrying on the beach had two surprise visitors: a pair of whales gliding offshore. Coordinators hand-braid wedding arches from palm fronds, make sure the guitar trio knows your song, and practice a particularly DR version of damage control: Should a clueless hotel guest swipe a piece of your cake while it's on display in the lobby (true story!), they'll have a replacement baked by the time you say "I do." Weddings from \$450, or free with a three-night stay; all-inclusive doubles from \$446 for two nights, the minimum stay; 800-467-8737 or superclubs.com.

Jamaica

The vibe at the **Villas on Bluefields Bay**? Definitely "royals at the seashore"—especially if said royals like jamming to reggae under a beach pavilion. Sunset over the bay is nature's gift to the decor, though the five one-of-a-kind waterfront estates don't need much help. From the family-friendly seven-bedroom manse to the cliffside honeymoon cottage, each abode has its own swimming pool, fabulous staff, and museum-quality furnishings. (Think Jamaican antiques mixed with Balinese art.) Weddings from \$950; all-inclusive villas from \$4,550 per couple, for seven nights, the minimum stay; 202-232-4010 or bluefieldsvillas.com.

Nevis

Champagne simply tastes bubblier during a horse-drawn carriage ride around the hilly grounds of **Montpelier Plantation**. Most brides and grooms make it official under the inn's giant ficus tree, while receptions can happen

at the old sugar mill, the private beach, or the porch that overlooks the evening lights of Charlestown and St. Kitts. No matter where you feast, you'll do so with the knowledge that this 17-room Great House has been making nuptial history for years: British naval hero Horatio Nelson married local Fanny Nesbit here in 1787. Weddings from \$750; doubles from \$260; 869-469-3462 or montpeliernevis.com.

TRIP TIP

Transport your dress in a garment bag, just as you received it from the salon. Carry it on the plane and ask the flight attendant to hang it in a closet near your seat, so you can keep an eye on it during your voyage.

Puerto Rico

Couples who want the commonwealth's convenience but can do without its hustle and bustle flock to Vieques, a sleepy isle eight miles off the coast. A good bet for transporting vows: the **Wyndham Martineau Bay Resort & Spa**, a pretty property with giant palms, verdant nature trails, and awesome wild horses. Whether your party is two or 200, über-casual or *muy elegante*, the hotel's planner will help set the ceremony location—wraparound Great House veranda or glistening Atlantic beach?—and a menu that mixes familiar faves like filet mignon with local specialties like mashed plantains. Weddings from \$1,500; doubles from \$400; 800-658-7762 or wyndhammartineaubay.com.

St. Lucia

Perched atop a cliff in the middle of the sparkling blue-and-green nowhere, **Ti Kaye Village** offers just-marrieds the

chance to get busy in one of 33 bungalows while their guests keep busy with deep-sea fishing, rain forest hiking, Jeep safari touring, and scuba diving. Didn't bring a group? After your vows-for-two, the staff will arrange for a sensual French-Creole dinner to be served on your moonlit balcony. Weddings from \$820; doubles from \$150; 758-456-8101 or tikaye.com.

The Turks and Caicos

Toast your wedding party on a catamaran sail, have Dad grill steaks by the pool, and invite the girls for a salt glow treatment at the spa: Nuptials at the **Ocean Club** tend to be weeklong fêtes, so you'll have time for it all. Your family will never forget the sight of you floating down a sandy aisle to a torchlit arch to say your vows, then grooving to the rhythms of a steel band. Dealing with divorced parents? They can each have their own resort: Ocean Club West, sibling to the original, is only a 15-minute stroll away. Weddings from \$1,295; doubles from \$225; 800-457-8787 or oceanclubresorts.com.

The U.S. Virgin Islands

Stress-free weddings are de rigueur at **Marriott Frenchman's Reef Resort**, in St. Thomas. All 150 of your guests require tee times and hair appointments? The five coordinators will ensure that their needs are taken care of, freeing you up to ponder the big decisions: Clifftop gazebo or sugar-sand beach? Harpist or sax player? Lilies or roses? All you have to do is show up and let the magic unfold. Weddings from \$1,650; doubles from \$319; 800-223-6388 or marriottfrenchmansreef.com.

Hall-of-Famers Hawaii

Last year, nearly 2,000 mainland duos tied the knot here. Many of them incorporated aloha flavor into their ceremonies, with island traditions like having a conch shell blown to invite all absent loved ones to join in spirit; exchanging leis after exchanging rings; or saying their (Continued on page 516)

DESTINATION WEDDINGS

(Continued from page 514)

vows in the center of a fragrant circle of flowers or vines—a symbol of the continuous cycle of love. **Editor's note:** *Unless otherwise stated, quoted room rates are year-round. You can often find better rates by checking hotel and travel web sites, calling the property directly, or consulting a travel agent.*

Oahu Your family will love browsing the glittering cornucopia of surf shops and tiki bars that is Waikiki Beach. But when it's time to wed, show them Honolulu's more urbane side at **Halekulani**. The perfect counterpoint to the frenetic energy that surrounds it, the resort radiates serenity, from the swank suites to the mosaic-tiled pool to the Hau Terrace lanai, a coveted reception space boasting panoramas of Diamond Head Crater. Weddings from \$3,000; doubles from \$415; 800-367-2343 or halekulani.com.

Maui The **Westin Maui Resort & Spa's** coordinator was dubbed "Director of Romance" for good reason. She'll plan every step of your moonlit reception at the beachside Aloha Pavilion, from hashing out the menu (firecracker spring rolls and wok-charred ahi, perhaps?) to making sure that locally loved musicians Benny and Mitch have cleared their calendar for you. Weddings from \$3,375; doubles from \$350; 800-937-8461 or westinmaui.com.

Kauai There are few wedding sites more enchanting than the **Princeville Resort's** Makana Terrace. For one thing, the views of the eponymous, palm-carpeted mountain—a stand-in for Bali Hai during the filming of *South Pacific*—are incomparable. For another, the place oozes nuptial tradition: It's hosted countless stunning ceremonies, not the least of which will be yours. Weddings from \$2,850; doubles from \$450; 800-325-3589 or princeville.com.

The Big Island Dreaming of a luau reception? The **Kona Village Resort** specializes in the feasts; in fact, its weekly Friday gathering is so popular (roast pig and fire-eaters!) that ticket holders line up early to get good seats. Weddings from \$1,395; doubles from \$515, including meals and luau; 800-367-5290 or konavillagehoney**moon**.com.

Lanai Greeting each attendee with a lei is nice, but for total flower power, follow the lead of one couple at the **Lodge at Koele** and have thousands of rose petals dropped from a helicopter. From

TRIP TIP

"Some couples send out their save-the-date notices figuring only a small portion of their guests will be able to attend," says Patti Metzger of Weddings on the Move. "But don't be surprised if more people than you think respond with a resounding 'Yes!'"

the lavish afternoon tea to the garden suites' hand-painted headboards, nothing at this Anglo-inspired resort is done halfheartedly. Weddings from \$2,800; doubles from \$400; 800-450-3704 or islandoflanai.com.

Molokai Get married at the chilled-out **Molokai Ranch & Lodge** and you'll want to engrave those invites with the words "No shoes allowed." Toast your new husband at the bonfire, then dig into a feast of grilled ahi and barbecued ribs. When it's time to turn in, your grandma will love her cozy-luxe room up at the lodge, while your nieces and nephews will be thrilled with their canvas "tentalsows" on the beach. Weddings from \$1,600; doubles from \$285; 888-627-8082 or molokairanch.com.

Mexico

Some south-of-the-border soirées are heavy on feasting, family, and flamenco; others are Corona casual. Whatever your choice, requirements vary widely from region to region, making it essential to employ a coordinator to help you slice through the red tape. **Editor's note:** *High-season rates are listed below; prices drop off-season.*

Cancún When you find yourself walking down a path of petals leading to an arch of white flowers, you know you've arrived at **Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach**, a lively resort situated right on the main hotel strip. Want to pledge your troth in front of a priest? The can-do staff will fill a nearby church with flowers. Prefer a Mayan-style affair? They'll decorate the grand ballroom with replica pyramids and bring in a bevy of feather-bedecked dancers. Weddings from \$2,515; doubles from \$359, December through April; 800-343-7821 or fiestaamericana.com.

The Riviera Maya Every evening, as many as 1,000 candles are lit on the winding pathways and spiral staircases of **Maroma Resort & Spa**, a sensuous property rising above the grounds of a former coconut plantation. But that's nothing compared to the fiery torches that will light up the sugar-spun Caribbean sands on your nuptial night. From signature margaritas made with Mayan honey liqueur to moonlit Yucatán fiestas serenaded by mariachis, Maroma beckons couples who want to be utterly spoiled all the way down the aisle. Weddings from \$1,600; doubles from \$400, January through May; 866-454-9351 or maromahotel.com.

Zihuatanejo Though **Villa del Sol** ranks as one of the chicest resorts in Mexico, it's not unheard-of for a bride to get hitched in a bikini, or, for that matter, for attendants to show up in red two-pieces (the 'maids) and matching trunks (the men). It's all part of the fishing-village charm of Zihua (SEE-wa), as it's (Continued on page 518)

DESTINATION WEDDINGS

(Continued from page 516)

affectionately known. But there's nothing casual about the meticulous staff, who'll rake the sands of Playa la Ropa into elaborate patterns, snag fresh catches from local fishermen for your entrée, and add floating flames to your suite's private plunge pool. Weddings from \$1,850; doubles from \$1,320 for four nights, the minimum stay, December through March; 888-389-2645 or hotelvilladelsol.com.

Los Cabos Last year, one bride rented all 237 rooms of the **Marquis Los Cabos**, an exclusive hotel on the Pacific coast (and site of the gorgeously set reality show *The Ultimate Love Test*). The planners are still talking about how they imported orchids and white roses from Holland and Costa Rica, lit the infinity pool terrace like a Hollywood production set, and gussied up the tables with yards of silk tablecloths and Tiffany dinnerware. Want a more modest bash? You'll still get top-notch service, from your first sip of complimentary bubbly on arrival, to the Frette sheets revealed at turn-down. Weddings from \$3,495, including minimum four-night stay; doubles from \$445, January through May; 877-238-9399 or marquisloscabos.com.

Cruz de Loreto Desperately seeking an eco-friendly celebration? Meditate on this marital miracle: **Hotelito Desconocido**, located 60 miles south of Puerto Vallarta, is lit only by solar energy and candles. Prepare for nuptial bliss with a purifying session in the sweat lodge, then let a local shaman or civil celebrant unite you on a 40-mile stretch of deserted beach. The finale: light, and lots of it, in the form of dinner by tiki torch, dancing by the bonfire, and fireworks blazing across the Mexican sky. Weddings from \$2,275; doubles from \$350, January through April; 800-851-1143 or hotelito.com.

Cruises

Shipboard weddings—they're exciting and cool. Especially on **Princess Cruises**, the only line licensed to perform ceremonies at sea. A string quartet and Dom on ice are two hallmarks of the elegant celebrations, as is Princess's WeddingCam, which allows friends at home to log on and watch—though they have to provide their own bubbly. Weddings from \$2,200; seven-night Caribbean sailings from \$1,798 per couple; 800-774-6237 or princess.com.

TRIP TIP

Many intimate properties can easily accommodate 20, 50, 100 or more guests—so why not consider booking an entire resort? Other all-to-yourself options include reserving a cluster of private villas, chartering a yacht, taking over a private island, or, if you wed in Dunton Hot Springs, Colorado, renting out an entire town.

Don't mind marrying in port? That opens your options to practically any ship. Get information on the major cruise lines' marital offerings in the "Interests" section of cruisecritic.com. Baffled by the array of ships and destinations? Consult an independent company like the **Wedding Experience**, which plans dozens of nautical nuptials every year; 877-580-3556 or theweddingexperience.com.

Up-and-Comers Scotland

When only towers and turrets will do, call wedding planners George and Kimmie Brown of **Litú**. They'll arrange

an affair in a 14th-century castle or baronial mansion, complete with pipers in full regalia, groomsmen in kilts, and lots of Scottish cheer. Call for wedding rates; 011-44-1333-439340 or litu.com.

If you wed at the **Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa** at St. Andrews, your guests can swap bits of golf trivia, like the fact that the glass-walled conservatory they're standing in overlooks the famously feared Road Hole. Even prettier is the view of the 1854 Royal and Ancient Clubhouse and the swirls of the North Sea beyond. Weddings from \$185, without photography; doubles from \$434, including breakfast, year-round; 011-44-1334-474371 or oldcoursehotel.co.uk.

Greece

The oft-photographed isle of Santorini, with its whitewashed, dome-capped structures perched high above the lapis lazuli Aegean Sea, offers many sites for ouzo-soaked nuptials. Whether you choose an outdoor terrace, a cathedral, or a winery, you'll be backed by breathtaking sweeps of sparkling white and brilliant blue. Many couples arrive by cruise ship, and several of the **Wedding Experience** coordinators specialize in planning affairs on this mystical isle. Weddings from \$3,450; 877-580-3556 or theweddingexperience.com.

For your own big, phat Greek wedding, head skyward to the lovely **Astra Apartments & Suites**, perched on the rim of a sleeping volcano's caldera, in the tiny town of Imerovigli. During your ceremony, you'll look down over the ruins of a Venetian castle. And as the Greek fiddler begins to play a sprightly tune, fireworks will explode over the sea below. Weddings from \$1,360; doubles from \$284, including breakfast, May through September; 011-30-22860-23641 or astra.gr.

Italy

The Italy experts who plan trips for **Weddings International** love a challenge; in fact, they specialize in parties for 30 people or more. They recently pulled off a (Continued on page 520)

DESTINATION WEDDINGS

(Continued from page 518)

ceremony in a roofless 13th-century Tuscan cathedral, complete with a Gregorian choir and thousands of red petals strewn all over the floor. Another couple dazzled their guests by sailing to the Ligurian coast at sunset and marrying in a medieval cloister. But not all of the affairs these planners have encountered have come straight out of a storybook: One offbeat pair of Harley-Davidson devotees had a country church ceremony, then took their party on a motorcycle tour of Chianti vineyards. Weddings from \$5,000; 888-482-5950 or italianwedding.com.

Are you a fan of Gregorian chants? Have we got the wedding site for you. **San Clemente Palace**, a former monastery, looms regally over Venice's magical canals. If the fab food at Ca' dei Frati doesn't get you in the mood for a long-

term commitment, the chapel, which dates to 1131, will. Fun fact: Monasteries stay quiet because monks built really thick walls—making nuptial-night soundproofing a non-issue. Weddings from \$4,000; doubles from \$600, including breakfast, March through October; 800-323-7500 or sanclemente.thi.it.

Thailand

A beach wedding at the **Amanpuri** resort in Phuket has the elements of pure Southeast Asian fantasy: jasmine and orchids in your hair, floating lotuses in a torch-lit pool, and a Thai feast of curries and coconut milk on the reception table. You can even choose to don traditional Thai clothing and be wed by Buddhist monks, who will confer their blessings on your union by linking your heads with loops of string. And now for the really good part—a honeymoon on the *Maha Bhetra*, the hotel's 90-foot luxury yacht. Weddings from \$1,255; villas from \$675, year-round; 800-477-9180 or amanresorts.com.

South Africa

Marriage is an adventure; kick off yours at **The Outpost**, Africa's newest designer safari camp. The 12 rooms have retractable sliding walls that reveal a 180-degree view of the plains below, allowing you to scope out buffalo, Nyala antelope, leopards, and lions as

TRIP TIP

Feeling guilty about your guests' travel expenses? Spread the word that the two of you aren't expecting wedding gifts—your loved ones' presence will be present enough.

you graze on breakfast in bed. Ask, and a *sangoma* (traditional healer) will be happy to give a native blessing. But your sweetest (Continued on page 532)



THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME FOR THE CARIBBEAN

With more than 30 Caribbean countries, you can find the perfect haven just for you.

Whether you're seeking serenity, activity or both, the Caribbean has it.

And to help you find it, we now offer an Interactive Trip Planner™ on our website.

This is your personalized interactive guide to the Caribbean with all the information you'll need to help plan and enjoy your trip. Now, you can even book your accommodation right on our website.

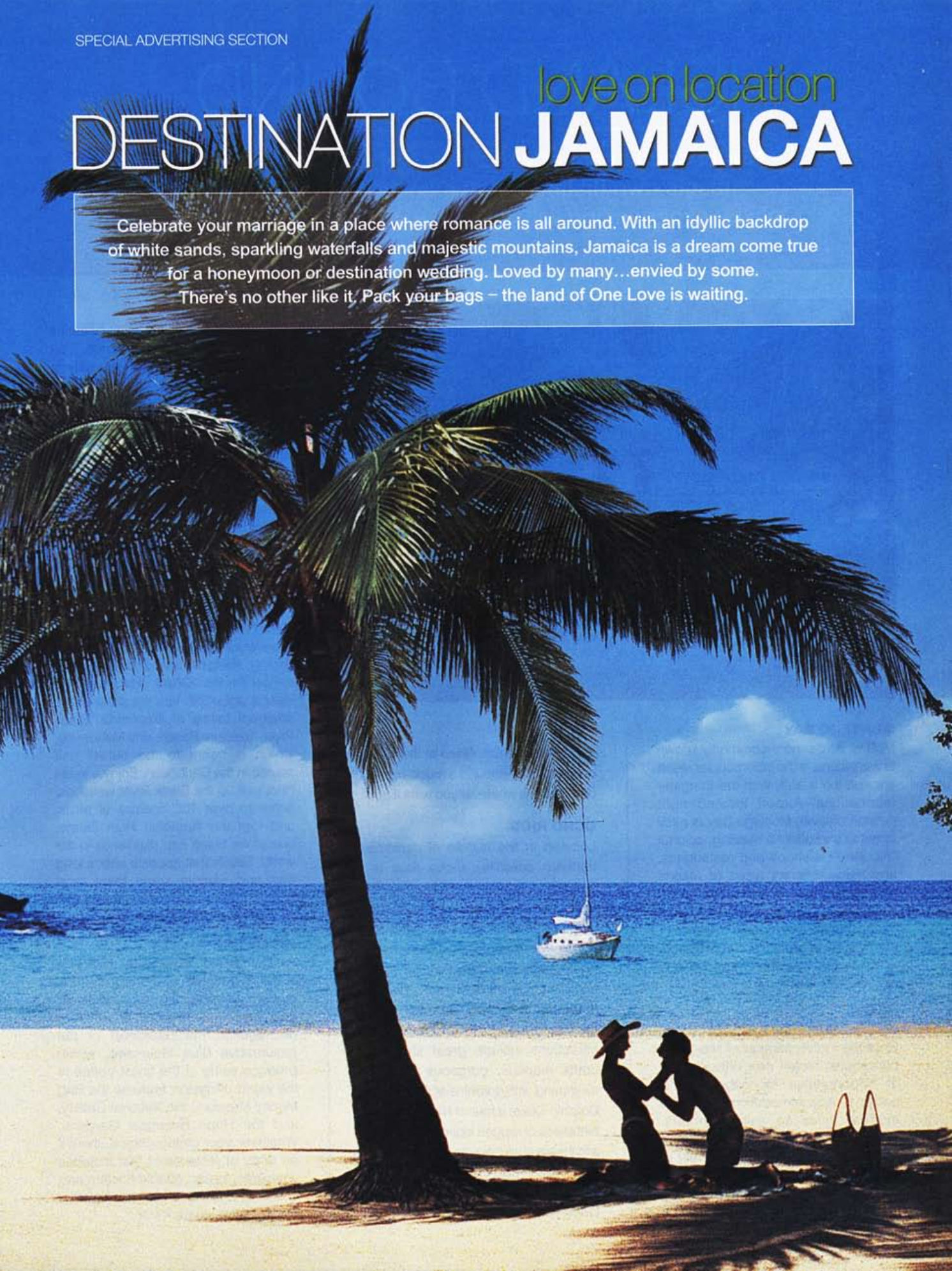
For more information, call your travel agent or visit us at doitcaribbean.com

DoItCaribbean.com



love on location
DESTINATION JAMAICA

Celebrate your marriage in a place where romance is all around. With an idyllic backdrop of white sands, sparkling waterfalls and majestic mountains, Jamaica is a dream come true for a honeymoon or destination wedding. Loved by many...envied by some. There's no other like it. Pack your bags - the land of One Love is waiting.



ISLAND BOUND

North, south, east or west? Each of Jamaica's regions has its own distinctive vibe and is sure to please. Only by experiencing will you know. Here's a sneak preview:



MONTEGO BAY

MoBay, as it's more commonly known to Jamaicans, is the most popular resort area on the island. With the Sangster International Airport located right outside of town, Montego Bay is easy to get to and offers a bustling, colorful "hip strip" of shops and restaurants, and many different types of resorts and hotels. Relax on the beach, go river rafting, enjoy one of MoBay's five major championship golf courses, or pay a visit to Doctor's Cave Beach, which is fed by mineral springs and said to have medicinal benefits.

NEGRIL

Without a doubt, the capital of casual. Once the mellow hangout of sea-loving bohemians, Negril now offers plenty of opportunities for dancing and partying. Accommodations run from modest villas to deluxe hotels. Go snorkeling (or cliff diving!) in the morning hours and spend the rest of your day sunbathing, walking, dining, and listening to live music along the white sands of Negril's famous

seven mile beach. Gaze at the sunset or spend happy hour at a music-hopping bar. Negril is whatever you want it to be.

OCHO RIOS

Located in the middle of Jamaica's northern coastline, Ocho Rios is a major port for cruise ships and offers many beautiful resorts and beaches. Often referred to as Ochi, Ocho Rios is home to one of the island's much-photographed and best known natural attractions: Dunn's River Falls, a dramatic 600-foot cascading waterfall which can be climbed by foot. Other special attractions include great shopping, crafts markets, gorgeous gardens, swimming with dolphins at the exciting Dolphin Cove, a tour of Nine Miles, the birthplace of reggae legend Bob Marley, and the site of his mausoleum. Adventurous travelers can also experience a canopy tour, where you explore the forests of Ocho Rios via traverse lines.

PORT ANTONIO

Considered one of the most beautiful and tranquil towns in Jamaica, Port Antonio rests on the northeast side of the island. Because of its secluded location, Port Antonio has attracted celebrities for many years. Take a hiking expedition to glistening waterfalls and hidden caves, go rafting down the Rio Grande River, which winds through hillside valleys and unspoiled nature, or take an excursion to the historic Maroon settlement of Moore Town. And amidst the serenity, don't forget to treat your palate to a dish of jerk chicken and pork, a classic Jamaican dish that originated here.

SOUTH COAST

Wander off the beaten track and tour fishing villages, miles of beaches, centuries-old Great Houses and natural waterfalls. Visit the picturesque southern towns of Bluefields, Black River, Treasure Beach, and Mandeville, which is home to the oldest golf course in the Caribbean. Enjoy a safari boat tour up the Black River wetlands, home to over 100 species of birds, and visit the Appleton Rum Estate, one of the finest rum distilleries in the world. Satisfy that appetite after a long day and sample some tasty local seafood including escovitched fish and spicy peppered shrimp.

KINGSTON

As the capital of Jamaica, Kingston is the "heartbeat" of the island. It's a modern, bustling city, which mixes old and new, culture and commerce. Set against the backdrop of the picturesque Blue Mountains, which produce some of the finest coffee in the world, Kingston features the Bob Marley Museum, the National Gallery, and the Hope Botanical Gardens. Whatever your dining choice, there's an array of restaurants that includes Jamaican, Indian, Middle Eastern and Chinese. And with a very hip nightlife, the capital is where it's at.

JAMAICAN WEDDINGS

Charm, elegance, and pure fun rolled into one.

It's no surprise that Jamaica is the top hot spot in the Caribbean for destination weddings. A Jamaican wedding is not only uniquely beautiful — it's so easy to plan. By working closely with a wedding coordinator at your hotel, you can create the nuptials of your dreams. Visit the Jamaican Tourist Board's web site at www.visitjamaica.com for more details on planning your Big Day!

Choices abound: Get married in an all-inclusive resort, a former plantation great house, a cozy bed and breakfast, or a private villa overlooking the Caribbean Sea. Many couples exchange vows over the Blue Lagoon in Port Antonio; at Lovers Leap near the South Coast's rugged edge; or on Negril's cliffs at sunset. Other popular choices include saying, "I do" in a lush garden in Ocho Rios, a stately church in Kingston, or at an elegant Great House in Montego Bay. Best of all, when you get married in Jamaica, your honeymoon is literally waiting at your feet. With so many fascinating options, how do you choose where to tie the knot?

Here's a list of things to consider.

Location — Learn about the different towns of Jamaica and the resorts and activities they offer. Keep in mind the size and ages of your group if you're considering complicated travel arrangements.

Interview the Planner — Inquire about past weddings that have taken place at the resort. Ascertain the experience level of the wedding planner. Is she or he someone who is easy to communicate with? Do they act professionally? Do they seem organized?

Understand the Process — Ask the wedding coordinator how you go about reserving a date. How much of a deposit is necessary? What kind of contract do you sign? Are there any additional costs you should be aware of?

Collect Information — Create an organized binder filled with brochures, menus, and pricing guidelines.

Other Weddings — Find out how many other weddings will take place on a given weekend. If you want to be the only bride, consider a smaller hotel or inn.

Complete wedding packages with ceremony, reception, and accommodations are available through many hotels.

You can get married 24 hours after arriving in Jamaica and no blood test is required—you just need to apply for a marriage license before you arrive. Depending on your religious interests, a Christian, Jewish, or non-denominational service can be performed. Arrangements to apply for a license can be made through your hotel or travel agent, or through a marriage registrar or the Ministry of National Security and Justice. That contact information is below:

The Ministry of National Security
Mutual Life Building
2 Oxford Road, Kingston 5.
Office Hours: Monday to Thursday
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
876 906-4909

DOCUMENTATION NEEDED

If you want to get married in Jamaica, you'll need the following paperwork:

Proof of citizenship, such as a copy of your birth certificate, which includes your father's name. Parent's written consent if you're under 18. If applicable, proof of divorce, such as the original divorce certificate, or a certified copy of a death certificate if you're a widow or widower.

JAMAICAN WEDDING COUNTDOWN

Unless it's just going to be the two of you, you'll need to create a planning schedule.

6 TO 12 MONTHS AHEAD

Consult travel books or browse online to research a variety of hotels or inns that meet your taste and budget.

Consider planning a trip down to Jamaica to see the hotel in person.

Contact a wedding coordinator through a wedding planning company or through a resort and book a date.

Ask your coordinator to reserve a block of hotel rooms (which are often offered at a discounted rate).

Send a save-the-date notice to potential guests.

Ask your wedding planner to give you the names of bands, musicians, florists, photographers, a wedding official, and hairstylist. Contact them yourself or have your planner reserve their services.

Start shopping for your dress (remember that lightweight fabrics are more comfortable in the tropics).

4 TO 5 MONTHS BEFORE

Confirm your choices for flowers, food, photographer and music.

Make sure all paperwork regarding your wedding is signed.

Distribute a newsletter or build a website that will outline travel and accommodation information and all parties for your guests.

Purchase your plane tickets and make sure your family purchases theirs.

8 TO 10 WEEKS AHEAD

Send out your wedding invitations.

Purchase items for guest gift bags.

Research plans for special group activities like snorkeling or golf.

2 WEEKS AHEAD

Finalize your guest count and confirm special group activities.

Make sure all alterations for your dress—and his suit—are almost complete.

2 TO 7 DAYS AHEAD

Arrive at the resort and go over details with the coordinator.

Tour the grounds and decide where your various get-togethers will take place.

Use lots of sunscreen to avoid a peeling sunburn on your wedding day.

Relax and get ready for the time of your life.

