THE Bride's Guide





LET'S Celebrate TOGETHER

Love is a journey and you're about to embark on the greatest adventure of all. What an exciting time! And what better way to kick it all off than with the destination wedding and honeymoon of your dreams? In this edition of The Bride's Guide, you'll find all the info and inspiration you need to choose the perfect location to say, "I do." Let's celebrate this moment together. Ready to make memories that'll last a lifetime?

> ⁴⁴ Travel is like love, mostly because it's a heightened state of awareness, in which we are mindful, receptive, undimmed by familiarity, and ready to be transformed.

> > That is why the best trips, like the best love affairs, never really end."

- Pico lyer

9 Places For Couples TO VISIT IN 2019

Whether you're looking to experience the Aurora Borealis, bask on a beautiful beach, or discover world culture together, these nine places for couples to visit in 2019 offer a range of experiences that appeal to diverse travel styles. From the otherworldly landscapes of Iceland and Scotland, to the cultural treasures of Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Bangkok, or beyond to the remote islands of the Maldives, these destinations prove that romance can really be found anywhere you go.

Vietnam

Vietnam has undergone a renaissance, opening new luxury resorts and boasting several recent additions to the UNESCO World Heritage list. Natural treasures on the list include the islands of Halong Bay and the stunning biodiversity of Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park. Sites of cultural significance include the Imperial Citadel in Hanoi, the Citadel of the Ho Dynasty, Hue, Hoi An Ancient Town, and the My Son Sanctuary. This country really has a little bit of everything for every adventurous couple.

Bangkok

Travel together to Thailand for the world-class cuisine and discover Bangkok's sacred temples. Admire Wat Arun's intricate spire made of Chinese porcelain and colored glass. Enter Wat Traimit to admire the magnificent Golden Buddha. Then, visit Wat Phra Kaew, known for its Emerald Buddha, crafted from a single block of jade. Find a delicious snack at the floating market, where vendors drift by in boats selling their wares.

Iceland

Visit Reykjavík to experience Iceland's version of hygge (the trending Danish concept of indoor winter leisure), discovering cozy eco cafés fueled by geo-thermal heat where you can curl up with your sweetie, or soak in the ever-popular steamy waters of the Blue Lagoon. Travel the northern coastal roads across lunar volcanic landscapes illuminated by the Aurora Borealis, or take the Golden Circle route to see the breathtaking Gullfoss Waterfall. Explore the haunting caves at Vatnajökull Glacier, known for their blue roofs of ice, formed by frozen meltwater-naturally-sculpted works of art.











Sri Lanka

From wild experiences to cultural treasures, Sri Lanka offers a little of both. At Yala National Park you and your partner can take a safari in search of wild elephants and leopards, and end your ride at a 2,000-year-old Rock Temple of ancient pagodas and shrines. Combine your vacation with service by volunteering together at an elephant sanctuary, giving back to these magnificent creatures and the people who work to conserve them. Whether you're looking to meditate at the Dambulla Cave Temple or rebalance at a beautiful seaside resort, Sri Lanka is stunningly diverse.

Portugal

From romantic seaside villages where the seafood is as fresh as it gets (and the wine just as good), to the beauty of Sintra-Cascais Natural Park, Portugal blends natural beauty with cultural abundance. Lisbon offers 16th century history in the Belém district, iconic trams that navigate steep picturesque streets, and a flourishing culinary scene. Get lost with your lover in Porto's old world charm, beaches, and cafés.

Maldives

If you're looking for a remote-island escape, the Maldives offers a unique balance of nature, spiritual experiences, and exploration. Find bliss with an Ayurvedic spa treatment for two and let time-honored wisdom and teachings help you calm your minds and bodies. In a world where coral reefs are increasingly threatened, the Maldives remains one of the few places on earth where you can dive this underwater wilderness.

Costa Rica

Costa Rica has been discovered, and it's no wonder—it's home to some of the best surf beaches in the world, beautiful cloud forests, stunning volcances, and a culture that embraces conservation. Nothing spells romance more than the thrill of adventure and pleasures of relaxation. And a vacation in Costa Rica can take you from the depths of the forest, to the heights of an active volcano, to the sunsets of a pristine beach—all in one week. Surfers flock to Tamarindo for its perfect waves, and sun-lovers can find a stretch of sand to bask in the sun.

Scotland

Beyond Edinburgh's stately Royal Mile and breathtaking castle on a hill, you'll find Scotland's wilder side. From the new Snow Roads Scenic Route through the highest elevations of the Cairngorms, to the St. Kilda islands of the Outer Hebrides, a UNESCO World Heritage Site accessible only by boat, northern Scotland can indeed feel like the edge of the known world. Just a train ride north toward Isle of Skye takes you through otherworldly landscapes and charming villages where the signs are written in Gaelic.



Cayman Islands

If you're looking to dive in the Caribbean, the Cayman Islands offers some of the most pristine spots in the Caribbean Sea, and the world. You can both enjoy swimming with wild stingrays, diving shipwrecks, and exploring tropical marine sanctuaries. Top marine destinations include Stingray City, the Kittiwake Shipwreck, and Eden Rock & Devil's Grotto.





Tried & True

When you book any of our Tried & True recommended accommodations, you know these are brands you can trust. Hand-selected as our partners, we've made sure they have stood the test of time with excellent service and exceptional attention to detail. It's their unrivaled reputation and dedication to give you the best possible vacation, along with the value they provide and their focus on improving their experience with constant innovation that makes them stand out. So, no matter which you choose, you'll have the peace of mind that comes with knowing that you will be well taken care of. Ready to make your wedding dreams come true?



Have the Wedding of a Lifetime

What could be more perfect than the tropical paradise that is Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on your big day? Choose from generous packages thoughtfully designed to make the most of your time together. Our wedding coordinators will handle every detail, so all you need to do is relish the moment.

We have a resort to suit every couple's wedding wish list in Puerto Vallarta:

- Our romantic wedding gazebos overlook the sapphire waters of the Banderas Bay at Now Amber Puerto Vallarta.
- Say, "I do," on our wedding gazebo or private beach at Secrets Vallarta Bay.
- Get pampered with special touches at Dreams Villamagna Nuevo Vallarta and enjoy a stunning ceremony, lively cocktail hour, and a private dinner reception.
- An elegant ballroom or a picturesque beach? The choice is yours at Reflect Krystal Grand Nuevo Vallarta.
- Exchange vows on a gazebo amid the ocean breeze, with sunlight sparkling on turquoise waters behind you at Sunscape Puerto Vallarta Resort & Spa.

The Wedding Gift: Free First-Year Anniversary nights are included with every wedding package, so you can return to celebrate the momentous occasion where it all began.

Insider Tip: Guests can make the start of your lives together even more special by contributing unique gifts and experiences to your wedding or honeymoon when you start a complimentary Bridal or Honeymoon Registry.







finest RESORTS

Create Unforgettable Memories

Immerse yourself in elegant romance at Excellence Resorts in Playa Mujeres, Riviera Maya, Punta Cana and Oyster Bay Jamaica & Finest Playa Mujeres by Excellence Group. When you choose one of these all-inclusive luxury hotels & resorts to host your wedding, you'll celebrate with the following special touches:

- A starry sky with mesmerizing Caribbean Sea views at the Sky Lounge in Finest Playa Mujeres for a high-end ceremony
- Say "I do" at a gorgeous Caribbean setting right on the beach

Talk to your travel agent to decide which luxury resort is right for you! Whatever resort you choose, your big day and relaxing vacation will be nothing short of excellent.

The Wedding Gift: If your party stays more than six nights in the Excellence Club, you may be eligible for a complimentary wedding package.

Insider Tip: Ask for a two-story Rooftop Terrace Suites to enjoy your own private terrace and plunge pool during your stay.





CANCUN . PUNTA CANA VALLARTA . RIVIERA MAYA COMING SOON: LOS CABOS AN ALL-INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

Own Your Moment Forever

Have you always imagined saying "I do" on a sandy beach with an ocean sunset behind you in Mexico or the Dominican Republic? Hard Rock offers all-inclusive packages specially designed by master wedding planner Colin Cowie to bring your dreams to life. Choose one of four options: Complimentary (simple yet elegant, for up to 32 guests), Driftwood Romance (featuring rustic beauty), Golden Radiance (with a glamorous glow), or Seaside Shimmer (sparkling and modern). And no matter which gorgeous location you select as your unforgettable backdrop, you'll get the star treatment with a US-based wedding planning team and complimentary honeymoon package.

The Wedding Gift: Room upgrades galore! Basically, the more room nights you book, the more complimentary nights you receive. Plus, when you book 25 rooms or 75+ room nights, you'll receive one complimentary room upgrade to the next available room category (up to Caribbean Diamond/Deluxe Diamond).*

There are also perks available like private functions and cocktail receptions you can earn depending on the number of rooms or room nights booked in your party.

Insider Tip: If you choose to wed in Cancun or Vallarta, you can celebrate the start of your new lives together with two complimentary nights at the Rock Star Suite—the night before the wedding and the wedding night.





IBEROSTAR HOTELS & RESORTS

Where Your Love Shimmers

Flying off to a gorgeous location is a sure way to fan the flames of love, and Iberostar knows how to make it everything you hope for with their exclusive Star Weddings Packages.

In Mexico and the Caribbean, Iberostar resorts give you much to explore and enjoy for you and your guests, all while handling every aspect of your celebration right down to the smallest detail.

- Star packages feature venue set-up & ceremony items, minister & legal fees, and the wedding service including cake & wedding dinner
- Silver Star packages add more flowers, music, and spa discounts
- Gold Star packages add live music, cocktail hour, room upgrades, and pre- and postwedding extras
- À la carte weddings are also available if you have a specific event in mind

Relax and leave everything up to Iberostar; their highly skilled wedding experts are on hand to ensure that all you have to do is enjoy your special day.

The Wedding Gift: Begin your life together in style with complimentary breakfast in bed the day after your wedding.





Elegant Events Without the Exorbitant Expense

With more than 7,000 brides to their credit, Majestic Resorts have become a favorite for destination weddings in Punta Cana. Choose the all-new, all-suite Majestic Mirage Punta Cana or the serene escapes of Majestic Elegance & Majestic Colonial Punta Cana, all located beachfront on the spectacular Bávaro Beach in the Dominican Republic. Also, keep an eye out for Majestic Elegance Playa Mujeres opening Fall 2019.

Wedding packages include special touches, such as:

- 25-minute massage for the couple and use of the spa's wet area
- Services of a civil judge or Catholic priest
- Upgrade to superior room category for the bridal couple (subject to availability)
- Special bracelet for the bride and groom with exclusive access to all three resorts
- Romantic breakfast in the suite and candlelight dinner with champagne for the couple
- Bottle of champagne in the room, twice during stay

The Wedding Gift: Celebrate with a complimentary ceremony when your wedding party books at least 15 rooms for seven nights or a total of 105 room nights.

Insider Tip: For a relaxing honeymoon, consider the Club Sections (Adults Only 18+) with exclusive amenities like 24-hour Room Service, Butler Service, beach and pool areas with Bali Beds, pillow and aromatherapy menu, in room bar including 4 bottles of spirits and other exclusive amenities.







Your Wedding Begins With Us!

Pamper yourself with our luxury transportation service on your wedding, honeymoon or any special occasion.

Our Concierge Transfers include:

- Comfortable leather seat vehicles
- A glass of champagne upon arrival
- Bottled water
- Wet cool towels
- A flower for the ladies
- Special handcrafted gift

Enhance your experience by enjoying any of our exclusive and incredible tours and excursions and make everlasting memories!

Creating amazing local travel experiences in Mexico, The Dominican Republic & Costa Rica®





Just Say "I Po." Leave the Rest to RIU

If you have always dreamed about getting married by the sea and celebrating this day with your family and friends, RIU Hotels & Resorts offers you an outstanding team of professionals to organize your wedding. Enjoy your special day under the sun at the finest Caribbean or Mexican destinations.

- Classic packages includes wedding planner services, decorations for the ceremony, recorded music, and dinner at a specialty restaurant, plus cake and sparkling wine
- Royal packages include a complimentary room upgrade and romantic massage for the couple
- Caprice packages add late check-out and manicure, pedicure, and hairstyling for either bride or groom
- Indulgence packages add a cocktail the night before the wedding, a romantic dinner and slippers for the wedding couple, as well as a framed picture

The Wedding Gift: Celebrate with a complimentary wedding package for up to 10 guests when 80% of the wedding guests stay at the Riu hotel or resort where the wedding is held.

Insider Tip: Celebrate in sheer decadence with complimentary fruit with chocolate & bottle of sparkling wine.





Begin Your Happily Ever After

When it comes to destination weddings, Sandals — the resorts made for love — have what you need for an elegant and fun celebration. They know you want an experience that is stress-free and filled with personalized details that reflect your style. Every bride and groom receive their own personal pre-wedding and resort wedding planners as part of the complimentary Wedding inclusions.

Share your wedding with as many family and friends as you'd like, because the more people you bring, the more Bells & Whistles are included. <u>Bells</u> include the option of One Room Category Upgrade, 2-minute Wedding Video Trailer, Basic White or Bamboo Structure, Rum & Game Night, or Spiked Tea Themed Bridal Shower. <u>Whistles</u> include the option of Twilight Package, Welcome Celebration Event setup fees waived, Wedding Dinner setup fees waived, \$1,000 Credit toward Catamaran Cruise for Group, Spa Themed Bridal Party (worth 2 whistles), Bonfire with Sweets & Wine (worth 2 whistles), or 6 Nights in a Love Nest Suite (worth 3 whistles)

• 5-11 Rooms = 2 Bells

- 36-49 Rooms = 3 Bells & 6 Whistles
 - 50+ Rooms = 4 Bells & 8 Whistles
- 12-19 Rooms = 2 Bells & 2 Whistles
- 20-35 Rooms = 3 Bells & 2 Whistles

With amazing locations and unbelievable extras, your ultimate romantic journey begins at Sandals.

The Wedding Gift: Stay three nights or longer, and your Wedding is free. Plus, receive your honeymoon room free when you invite family and friends. * Talk to your travel agent for all of the details.



CAN DAME

THE Most Romantic BACKDROPS EVER

Still looking for some swoon-worthy inspiration? Capture sweet moments with your love in some of the most breathtaking spots this world has to offer.

THE SHORES OF LOS CABOS

Mexico

Who wouldn't want to pucker up on the white-sand shore of Los Cabos, with the sparkling sapphire sea in tow?

2 OLD SAN JUAN Puerto Rico

One can't help but feel happy wandering the blue cobblestone streets of this historic region that's lined with row houses painted in every bright hue imaginable.



THE HILLS OF TUSCANY Italy

The Tuscan region of central Italy is dotted with rolling, green hills and bathed in warm sunlight, reminiscent of a Renaissance art masterpiece.



4 THE PALACIO **DE MONSERRATE** Portugal

Also known as Monserrate Palace, this striking mansion in the picturesque city of Sintra has a detailed stone exterior and an overall enchanted feel.



Mazes of gray stone alleyways and white-washed buildings lead to incredible views of the blue-green Aegean Sea on this small, dreamy island gem.



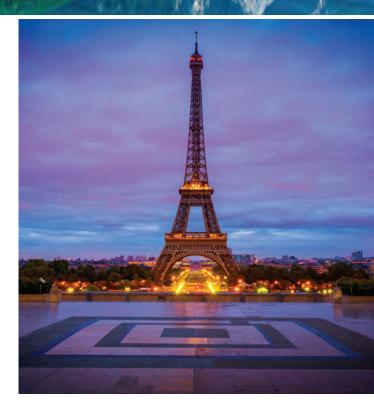
EMERALD LAKE

Canada

Located in British Columbia's Yoho National Park, the intense green hue of this massive lake stands out amongst the surrounding Canadian Rocky Mountains.

THE EIFFEL TOWER France

This towering French icon in Paris is one of the world's most well-known landmarks and sets the tone for the ultimate romantic moment.









With GOGO on your side, we have you covered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. If you have an emergency within 24 hours of departure or while traveling, contact the Emergency Travel Center.



Exclusive perks & special amenities at no additional cost with My Time, an elevated vacation experience.



Traveling in a group of 10 or more? Take advantage of all the added perks, amenities, upgrades and more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT TODAY!



Together with GOGO Vacations, we can get you there.