

## THE WEDLEY GUIDE TO DESTINATION WEDDINGS

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Co-authored with *Lelian Chew, Principal of The Wedding Atelier*



Photo Credit: The Wedding Atelier

If you've decided on a Destination for your wedding, Part 2 of our guide will help you plan out the intricacies involved in putting together a wedding your guests will remember. Co-authored with Lelian Chew, Principal of The Wedding Atelier, this article will guide your thinking as the Big Day approaches. If you haven't decided on a Destination, you may want to check out Part 1 of this piece.

### 6. Go Local.

I love this idea and always encourage my couples to have at least one event that embraces the local culture – the fact that it is different from your own is a big reason why many couples choose to get married abroad! Local food, local wedding practices/blessings, traditional local wedding decor can be fun, unique ways to incorporate a piece of the local culture into a wedding, and also differentiate yours from the rest of the weddings out there.

Some ideas include

- Using local musicians for the ceremony/reception
- Sourcing for wedding favours locally
- Planning an excursion/day trip for all your guests to local sites in the area (as a gift)

We are very much in favour of an excursion involving everyone as it's a good way to get guests to bond with one another as well.

### 7. Guide Your Guests.

While we're on the topic of going local, please do be a guide to your guests, especially if you've picked a place that most have never travelled to before.

Having a welcome pack waiting in their rooms (with a map, ideas on things to do, sunblock and bug repellent if you're headed somewhere tropical...) is a wonderful way to make them feel taken care of, and they will appreciate the hospitality and thoughtfulness that went into putting it together.

### 8. Arrive Early.

Fly in a few days ahead of the Big Day to make sure all the final details have been done and dusted. Once that's done, hit the spa for some final R&R before you walk down the aisle!

You could also invite your guests to arrive early with you, to allow them to not only make a holiday of the trip, but have a chance to get to know guests on the other side.

### 9. Don't Forget The Date!

After selecting the perfect destination, you'll then need to select the perfect date. Consider the weather, and also seasonality of the destination's visitors.

For example, August has the best weather for Bali, but one has to note that vendors, flights, accommodations are also double the price as hordes of tourists flock there to take advantage of the best weather. As for Phuket, avoid September into October at all costs, as even the locals are known to break out their umbrellas then.

### 10. Be Creative

Many destinations and resort-towns around South East Asia will not offer the same standards and quality when it comes to decoration, food and service (as compared to the cities). So you will need to be flexible when planning your wedding as it's difficult, for example, to demand the best Ecuador roses in a remote part of Phuket. But these destinations also offer some of the most beautiful natural settings which you should take full advantage of when planning the décor and theme for the day.

