



DWHSA

DESTINATION WEDDING & HONEYMOON
SPECIALISTS ASSOCIATION



DW Ceremony Planner Certification Course



Date, Time and Location



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Date, Time and Location

- Most destination weddings are based on when/where the ceremony is held
- Check with the wedding coordinator at the resort/cruise line wedding department directly
- Use a wedding calendar provided on the resort website or a 3rd party website (weddingoptimizer.com)
- Check to see if the date doesn't conflict with a local/national/religious holiday
- Type of ceremony – symbolic, religious, legal
 - ▶ Who performs the ceremony
 - ▶ Legal – Judge, representative from the Judge's office, Justice of the Peace
 - ▶ Can a friend or family member perform the ceremony?
- Choose the wedding package



Date, Time and Location

- Do you have to reserve the wedding location right away?
 - Beach
 - Gazebo
 - Terrace
 - Mountain top
 - Family home
- Check the times available – is it suitable for the weather?
 - Too hot for the time of day
 - When in sunset? Consider the natural lighting for photos



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Reserving The Wedding Date & Time

- Get a copy of the wedding contract from the resort/wedding coordinator
- Read it thoroughly
- Have the couple/client sign it
- Deposit requirements
- Forward signed contract from the client to the wedding coordinator
- Scan and forward with payment info to resort wedding coordinator/dept.
- Receive confirmation for wedding
- Forward a copy to the couple, mail a hard copy



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Working With The Wedding Coordinator

- You are the conduit of the loop between the couple and the venue
- Get a copy of the ceremony format and wording from the wedding coordinator
- Follow the timeline that the resort provides you
- Keep after your client for deadlines on when information is needed



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Plan A, B, or C

- It does rain occasionally in the tropics
- Hurricane season – June 1 to December 1
 - While pricing may be better, there is a risk of weather issues
- Plan B – what happens when there is inclement weather
 - Important to ask the wedding department for options
 - Pictures of ballroom space
 - Ask them when you're on a fam trip touring the resort
 - Take photos or ask them for photos
- What is the cutoff time for moving the ceremony or events



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When things don't go as planned



- Handling issues with professionalism, thoroughness and calm
- One of the reasons clients work with travel advisors - to handle things when issue arise
- “Cooler heads prevail” - Remember the emotional level is higher with romance travel trips
- Communication is the key to success
- Getting ordained online
- Check with local authorities the requirements to perform ceremonies

Types of Ceremonies



- ▶ Whether you're a US citizen, a Canadian citizen, or a foreigner, you can get married in Mexico!
- ▶ And in Mexico, there are **3 types of weddings** performed. However, only one of them is legal!
- ▶ **1. Civil Ceremony**
- ▶ A civil ceremony is the only wedding that is legally recognized in Mexico.
- ▶ This type of wedding is also valid for legal purposes around the world!
- ▶ **2. Symbolic Ceremony**
- ▶ A symbolic ceremony is basically having a full wedding without it being legal in Mexico.
- ▶ Most guests who decide on a symbolic ceremony get married back home before or after the wedding.
- ▶ **3. Religious Ceremony**
- ▶ Religious ceremonies are similar to symbolic ceremonies as they are not legally recognized in Mexico. Catholic, Jewish, Hindu, or Sikh weddings, they do it all.
- ▶ Couples can also choose to do a civil ceremony in Mexico and then a religious ceremony at home.
- ▶



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Important Documents



- ▶ **Passport**
 - ▶ You'll need to bring your and your partner's passports and a copy of them.
 - ▶ Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after the wedding.
- ▶ **Birth Certificates**
 - ▶ Both birth certificates must be apostilled and translated into Spanish.
- ▶ **Marriage Forms**
 - ▶ You can get these marriage application forms from a registry office in the area you're getting married.
- ▶ **Blood Tests**
 - ▶ As mentioned above, the blood test must be done in Mexico in order to be valid.
- ▶ **Make sure it's translated into Spanish.**
- ▶ **Chest X-rays**
 - ▶ If required, also make sure to get these X-rays done in Mexico and translated into Spanish.
- ▶ **Divorce Order or Death Certificate**
 - ▶ If you are divorced or widowed, you must bring copies of the legal paperwork.



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Symbolic

- A symbolic ceremony is not legally recognized and can be officiated or performed by anyone* – a friend, family member, local officiant, any religious or non-religious figure, etc.
- *as long as it's allowed
- Guests don't know any different
 - A ceremonial certificate is signed
 - Costs less than a legal ceremony
 - Couples usually marry prior to going to the destination
 - No legal paperwork, translation, waiting months for documents



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Religious Ceremony

- ▶ Religious ceremonies focus on uniting the couple while following the beliefs and traditions of a particular religion.
- ▶ If you follow a certain faith or religion, you might want your church or congregation to recognize your marriage. Most church leaders and evangelists are licensed to officiate a wedding ceremony, but some require a civil ceremony before or after to make the marriage legal.
- ▶ Most of the time, religious ceremonies have their own standards and processes based on their doctrines. If the ceremony takes place at a sacred place of worship, there are rules to be followed, and the options to personalize your wedding will be limited.



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Religious Ceremony

- For example, Catholic ceremonies in Mexico According to Canon law, because the act of marriage is considered a sacrament, there are some specific rules that apply to recognized Catholic weddings. For the most accurate information, we recommend consulting the Vatican's website – http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_P40.HTM and reaching out to your local parish to begin the planning process.
- In a nutshell, you will need to complete a PNI (prenuptial investigation) and a pre cana course with your local parish often known as a canonical interview with the parish priest or assistant. It's required 1-2 months before the ceremony. This interview is essential for discussing the bride & groom's readiness for marriage and any necessary preparations.
- Catholic ceremonies also need to be held on consecrated grounds, which means that you will not be able to host your ceremony on the beach or other non-consecrated location.
- A "chapel" must have at least 3 walls



What are the destination requirements?

- Most of this can be handled at the resort, for a fee, and your resort can work directly with you on these details. A completed marriage application form
- A copy of your passports and tourist visas (this is issued to you at the airport)
- Both birth certificates, (baptism & confirmation certificates=Catholic)
- Divorce decree or death certificate, if applicable
- You must be in Mexico 3-4 business days before the ceremony (Saturday, Sunday, legal holidays and the day your flight arrives, unless you arrive prior to noon, do not count in these days)
- Blood test for HIV and a Health Certificate must be done in Mexico within 7 days before the wedding. The blood test checks for blood type, syphilis, and HIV. If one of the couple tests positive for one of these, you cannot get civilly married in Mexico.
- Chest X-rays may also be required in some areas
- The ceremony can be performed in both English and Spanish and translated into English.
- 4 witnesses that can be family and/or friends that are at least 18 years old. They must be present for the ceremony in order to sign the marriage certificate. Each of these witnesses must have their passports and tourist visas with them as well. If you do not have 4 witnesses, your resort can normally provide this for a fee.



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Civil/Legal Ceremonies

- Marriage requirements are different in every country, state and local municipalities
- Verify with the wedding department, the country's embassy, or tourism board for legal requirements, for Mexico [Marriage - U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Mexico](https://mx.usembassy.gov/marriage/) <https://mx.usembassy.gov/marriage/>
- Symbolic ceremonies are not legal and will not be recognized in the United States
- Some resort/hotel wedding departments take care of processing the legal ceremony paperwork prior to the couple's arrival in destination or there are private companies that will also do that
 - <https://wedo.com.do> For the Dominican Republic



Legal Ceremonies

- In some countries, documents are in the native language e.g., Spanish
 - Then translated to English
- Must be translated - need official Apostille document to verify document was translated from English to Spanish
- Filing paperwork in the country of marriage
 - Waiting for copies to sent to the US
 - Can take months
 - Couple can not change names, SS#, insurance, etc.
 - Some countries allow expediting for a cost
 - Destination often require health checks, blood tests, chest x-rays - additional cost

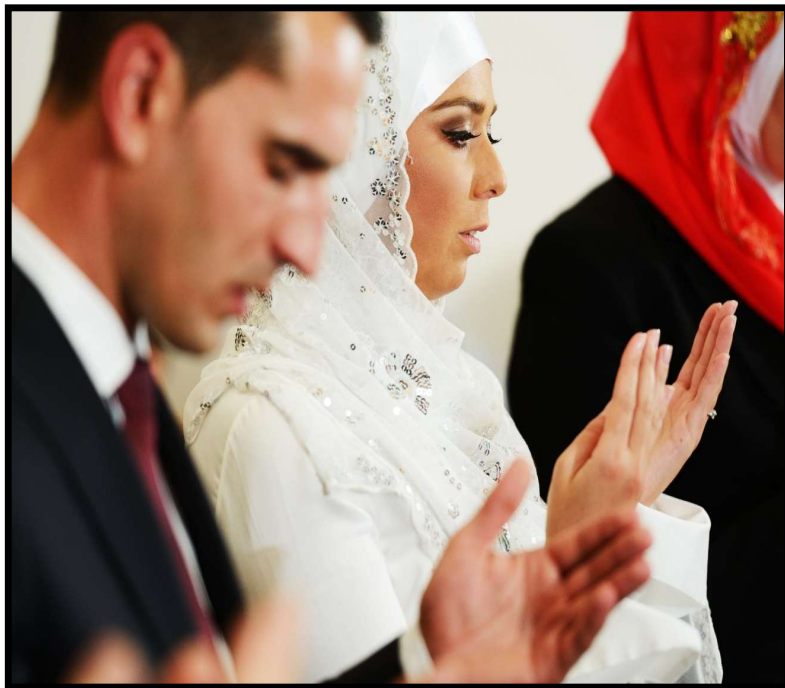




Photo courtesy of Rabbi Steve

Interfaith Weddings

South Asian Weddings



- Main religions but there are different types under some categories
- Hindu
- Sikh
- Islam
- Buddhism
- Muslim

South Asian Weddings

- ▶ Traditions and ceremonies vary based on region and religion
- ▶ They are known for their multiple ceremonies, color, tradition, food, music
- ▶ Multi-day events



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Hindu Weddings

- Families save the entire childhood of their daughter(s) for their wedding
- Dowries were outlawed
- The weddings and events are still very extravagant
- It's not unusual to have 250-400 guests attend



Ceremony Format

Processional

Presentation of Bride (who presents this bride for marriage?) (Optional)

Welcome

Prayer

Reading (optional-a poem, song lyrics, excerpt from a book –read by someone or I can)

Wedding Message

Wedding Vows

Ring Exchange

Unity Ceremony (optional) Sand, planting a tree

Reading

Closing Statements

Presentation of Newlyweds

The Kiss

Recessional

(signing of the marriage license)

Ceremony Notes

- ▶ License_____
- ▶ Attendants_____
- ▶ Witnesses_____
- ▶ Rehearsal_____
- ▶ Walking down aisle_____
- ▶ Family dynamics _____
- ▶ Readings_____
- ▶ Special Music_____
- ▶ Candle/Sand/Braiding ceremony_____
- ▶ Any children_____

Ceremony Components

- ▶ Ceremony format
- ▶ Readings
- ▶ Unity ceremony
 - ▶ Candle
 - ▶ Hand blessing
 - ▶ Sand
 - ▶ Braiding
 - ▶ Planting a tree



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