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MY WORLD

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I DO'S & I DON'TS!

DESTINATION WEDDINGS HAVE TAKEN THE WORLD BY A STORM! EXPERT WEDDING PLANNER, CANDICE PEREIRA HELPS YOU PLAN IT RIGHT BY KINJAL VORA



Unique and exotic theme weddings have become a popular trend in part due to the mystical adventures being offered by the Asian cultures and as a break-away from the traditional style wedding.

Careful planning is all that it takes to create a wonderful wedding setup. Beautiful flower arrangements, creative lighting, tasteful décor ideas, delicious feasts and elegant wedding cakes are a few elements that add the flavours to the ambience and atmosphere.

CANDICE PEREIRA, CREATIVE HEAD, MARRY ME WEDDING PLANNERS, SHARES A SIMPLE GUIDE ON DESTINATION WEDDINGS AND MORE...



- ◆ A destination wedding is incomplete without...a wedding planner.
- ◆ They say weddings are made in heaven... and we execute them on earth!
- ◆ A dream destination to be married at would be... on a self-created island.
- ◆ Less stress and more romance means...a dream wedding come true.
- ◆ A last minute touch-me-up before tying the knot...remember to be calm and wear that pretty smile of yours.

- ◆ A shopping tip for a destination wedding...plan, travel light and in accordance with the weather – only with essentials, refer to checklist – or better still, hand your stress to the wedding planner!
- ◆ Water deep or sky high, destination weddings have gone exotic to the extreme...deeper the pocket – higher the grandeur.
- ◆ Then comes the honeymoon...adding more fervour to the new beginnings...think of an apt destination that you both are sure to enjoy.
- ◆ Confessions of a wedding planner...once you have selected your wedding planner, and handed the wedding celebrations and planning to them, one must trust their expertise and entrust ample faith in them. All you need to do is – sit back, and make the most of your big day!

DESTINATION WEDDING CHECKLIST!

Planning a destination wedding is no walk in the park. It needs to be given adequate time and effort to achieve everything you want to the T. Making a checklist will ensure an organised approach to executing this day to perfection!

To get the “dream come true” wedding experience, My World got Candice Pereira to dish out what to do and what not to do so all your dreams see the day of life and the memories last for even longer than that!

9 LEGAL ASPECT
Do make it a point of finding out all the legal requirements for a marriage license at your choice destination. It would be awful to get there and find out that there is a waiting period to get married. Also, all NOC and Public Performance licences for entertainment should also be secured beforehand.

10 SAFELY RETURN AND SAY THANK YOU
Remember to make sure that all your guests reach home safely as scheduled. Do send them thank you notes as a token of appreciation for the time and effort they rendered to be a part of your celebrations and for travelling all the way to a place far away from home.

DONT'S

1 DON'T PLAN ALL YOUR VENUES FOR THE WEDDING TOO FAR FROM EACH OTHER

Select venues in close proximity of each other so it makes travelling and commuting easier, avoiding confusions and delays in plans.

2 DON'T OVER-DELEGATE!
If you don't plan to hire a wedding planner then make sure not to delegate responsibilities to too many people.



EXPERT TIP!
Shop well in advance. What may be available in your city may not be there at your wedding destination. Shop early and smartly to tie the knot in style!

3 DON'T LEAVE EVERYTHING FOR THE LAST MINUTE
Do preview your hair and makeup prior to the special day. Be sure to bring a picture of the dress, a certain hairstyle and makeup, so that the stylist has an idea of the look you want to achieve. There is no time for surprises on your wedding day. Cut-outs from magazines can help you achieve your dream-bridal-look!

4 DON'T STRESS
Don't stress out or panic. If you don't hire a wedding planner make sure you put someone in charge to handle details and issues as they arise. Your

bridesmaid/best man can be in charge of tipping and making last minute payments. Put the payments in individual envelopes labelled with the service, i.e. photographer, bartender. Don't keep a constant eye on the time. Things happen when they happen – and keep an open mind. Minor mishaps can sometimes make for the best memories. Visit spas and spend some quality time with your dear ones. Indulge in pampering yourself too.

5 DON'T EXPECT FULL ATTENDANCE
Don't be upset if some of your closest friends or relatives don't attend. While you are, in a sense, footing some of the food bills, their fees for travel, hotel, and car rental can really add up, especially for a family. And while your wedding is a mini-vacation for you, it may not be the one they want to take!

6 DON'T WEAR UNCOMFORTABLE SHOES AND DRESSES
For a dance or cocktail party celebration, remember to be comfortable in what you are clad in and especially be careful the type of shoes you wear. You do not want to get dogged down and miss the best moments of your wedding because of shoe bites and tired feet!

7 DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY
If on a beach destination wedding, don't get carried away by sun bathing for a long period of time; you might get sunburnt, looking not so apt for your functions ahead. Or if you are in a desert like Rajasthan, then don't gallivant to explore the place or city for long hours; else you'll tire yourself out. Try to be with the group and have fun. Rest yourself when fatigue sets in.

8 DON'T BE CARELESS
Take care of all your valuables and belongings and lock your suitcases when you are not in the room. Duplicate keys to suitcases must be secured in the electronic room lockers and try not to have too many things scattered around in the room to ensure finding things easily without losing your mind!

9 LAST MINUTE TOUCH UPS
Don't forget to carry a lip gloss that you may dab on just before you are about to enter the altar. A mouth freshener or chewing an elaichi, or a chewing gum just before you are about to step in for the ceremonies might distress you.

10 DON'T CLUTTER – CALL ON A COURIER
Make a plan for wedding presents. If you've got a ton of wedding gifts to take home, ask if someone who lives in your city can take them back and keep them for you until after the honeymoon – or even drop them at your home for you. Or, pack an extra duffle bag to bring them home yourselves. Figure this out before the wedding so you'll have a plan of action if you need it.

DO'S

1 SEEK THE SERVICES OF A PROFESSIONAL PLANNER

A good wedding planner makes sure that your dream wedding becomes a reality with the right blend of sophistication and a unique personal touch. Wedding planners are usually behind-the-scenes, planning and executing at the same time. Share your ideas with them and what kind of a wedding, budget, destination, and vision you have, and the planner will have it all done very smoothly for you.

2 SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Your wish is the wedding planner's command. If you have a particular destination in mind, don't hesitate to tell the wedding planner your choices. Leave the feasibility angle to them. This will help in fixing a destination for a wedding of your choice.

3 WEATHER CHECK

Don't forget to consider the climate when choosing your destination. Choose one with pleasant climate – neither too hot nor too cold. This also allows for people to enjoy, carry their favourite clothes etc. You'll be swimming in sweat if you pair your fairy tale satin wedding outfit with tropical humidity. Whether your dream location is specifically a beach or simply outdoors, dress for no stress. Don't limit yourself to only summer months to plan your island/beach wedding. Remember, these destinations have beautiful weather all year round.

4 SAVE THE DATE NOTE

As soon as you freeze on the destination for your wedding, do send out save the date cards as soon as you can, preferably 3-6 months prior, so that your guests have enough planning time and RSVP their attendance to you. Carry out your flight and hotel bookings once you have your count in place.

5 SCHEDULE A TEST DRIVE

Remember, unlike a wedding in your hometown, guests are dependent on you once they reach the destination. Make sure you provide transportation to and from the airport, as well as to all the events of the weekend. Insist that drivers do a dry run of the route so they don't get lost between the ceremony and reception. You'll need to scout and secure your key venues – banquets and hotels for guests at the selected destination, so visit and finalise the packages with the parties.

Make sure you do all the sampling and finalising ahead of time. All local suppliers such as caterers, florists, and photographers, etc. that you finalise must be flown to the destination prior to the wedding so they become familiar with the venues and plan their display, setup and decor layouts at the venue. During a second trip – you'll need to schedule "tastings" with your caterer, see sample bouquets from the florist, plan a hair and makeup session with a salon, and organise activities (golf, tennis, walking tours, and museums) for everyone.

6 GET IN THE EXPERTISE

Bring your own pros! Don't hesitate to fly in talent you trust from home for critical aspects such as the wedding photography, hair and makeup, entertainers, chefs etc. These vendors can work with local ones in a supervisory capacity to avoid any communication mishaps.

7 PACK RIGHT & LIGHT

Whatever you bring with you, you'll have to lug along for the trip. And don't forget to allow ample room for your outfit. Do pick a wedding dress with the climate and location in mind. Also remember that the dress will need to travel with you, so choose carefully. Make sure you carry only as much clothes and jewellery, money and all other accessories as you will need for the functions. There is a chance you might misplace valuables in such crowds and alien places, hence it's advised to pack sensibly and minimal things only.

8 WELCOME YOUR GUESTS

Be sure to place a gift basket in each room full of essentials for the trip (suntan lotion, bug spray) and goodies that will remind them of the setting – calypso tapes, cookbooks, samples of native food, or crafts from local artisans are all good options.

Creating gift bags for guests, greeting everyone at the airport, keeping people busy with fun activities once there, vetting special requests (babysitters, dry cleaners, and so on), and getting everyone where they need to be on time will give your guests a time to remember as well, just remember don't try and go at it alone.

Add a personal touch by making a point of setting aside some time to spend with your guests. Arrange a special dinner or brunch explicitly for these guests. This can be done before or after the wedding. They have travelled a long distance to share in your special day.

