

THE OVERWHELMED BRIDES GUIDE

To Destination Weddings in Mexico and the Caribbean

BY ROMANTICS TRAVEL INC



Planning the wedding of your dreams? Sounds magical, right? But let's be real for a second... it can also feel like you're juggling flaming swords while trying to find a unicorn. Between finding the perfect dress, dealing with family dynamics, and staying within budget, you might be wondering how brides on Instagram make this look so easy. (Spoiler alert: they don't.)

Take a deep breath, because you're in the right place.

This guide was created for you, the bride who has a never-ending to-do list and a brain running on coffee and sheer willpower. It's a step-by-step, drama-reducing, sanity-saving resource to help you tame the overwhelm and actually enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

No fluff. No confusing jargon. Just practical tips to make your wedding planning smoother, more fun, and a whole lot less stressful.

Because you deserve that.

Grab your favorite drink, find a comfy spot, and dig in. Your calm, confident, happiest bride era starts now.





Hey There!

Hey there, Beautiful Bride-to-Be!

This guide is here to help you plan with confidence, clarity, and maybe even a little less stress.

Here's what you'll find inside:

- Stress-Saving Tips to keep you cool and collected, even when curveballs come your way.
- Planning Hacks from an Expert to help you pick the perfect venue, streamline communication with local vendors, and handle logistics like a pro.
- Detailed Checklists to ensure no detail gets lost in the shuffle—from travel arrangements to legal paperwork.

Think of this guide as both your blueprint and your cheerleader to bring your dream destination wedding to life. Plus, if you're looking for someone to take travel and wedding planning stress completely off your plate, we've got you covered.

We specialize in helping overwhelmed brides like you with custom travel planning solutions designed for one-of-a-kind destination weddings. Want to make your planning easier and free up space to actually enjoy the process? Click Here for a Free Consultation and let's create something extraordinary, together.

With this guide, you're already one step closer to "I do" in paradise.

You've totally got this. And we'll be here every step of the way to help.





DESTINATION WEDDING Trends

We Are Seeing

5-7 Days

COUPLE'S AVERAGE STAY IN DESTINATION

1 in 4

WEDDINGS ARE A DESTINATION WEDDING

35

AVERAGE # OF GUESTS

May/June

MOST POPULAR WEDDING MONTH

\$15,000

AVERAGE STARTING
COST FOR A
DESTINATION
WEDDING



Thinking about a destination wedding? You're in great company!
These weddings are soaring in popularity for a multitude of reasons.

Imagine breathtaking photo opportunities and creating cherished memories over several days with your loved ones—all part of the destination wedding magic.

Plus, they often come with a surprisingly affordable price tag, thanks to the perks and extras offered by resorts. It's no wonder more couples are choosing this unforgettable option!

When you imagine saying "I do" in a place that feels like paradise, few spots compare to Mexico and the Caribbean. These destinations are renowned for their breathtaking scenery, vibrant cultures, and effortless charm. Whether you're envisioning white sand beaches, turquoise waters, or lush tropical escapes, Mexico and the Caribbean deliver dream-worthy backdrops tailormade for unforgettable weddings.

The Perks of a Wedding in Paradise:

Here's why:

Stunning Venues

• From luxurious beachfront resorts to romantic garden hideaways, these destinations offer a variety of venues to fit any style. Imagine exchanging vows under a palapa on a secluded beach at sunset or celebrating in a historic hacienda surrounded by tropical blooms.

Authentic Cultural Elements

 Spice up your celebration with unique local flair! Incorporate a lively mariachi band in Mexico or traditional Caribbean steel drum music into your ceremony. Guests will love the cultural touches that reflect the richness of the region.

Built-In Vacation for Guests

• A destination wedding doubles as a getaway for your loved ones. Whether your guests prefer relaxing poolside with a margarita or snorkeling in crystal-clear waters, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

All-Inclusive Ease

 Many resorts in Mexico and the Caribbean offer all-inclusive wedding packages that handle the basics, like catering, décor, and even officiants. These packages often simplify both the planning and budgeting process, leaving you with less on your plate.







With so many incredible options, how do you narrow it down? Here are some considerations to keep in mind as you choose your ideal destination:

Your Vision

• Are you dreaming of an oceanfront ceremony? A rooftop with sweeping views? Or maybe a jungle retreat? Start with the setting that captures your heart.

Guest List Size

• Smaller gatherings might work well for more intimate boutique venues, while larger guest lists may require spaces with more capacity and resort-based accommodations.

Budget

 Mexico and the Caribbean cater to a range of budgets, from affordable, allinclusive resorts to ultra-luxurious, bespoke experiences. Decide what works best for your priorities and stick to it.

Ease of Travel

• Consider how far your guests will need to travel and the availability of direct flights to your chosen destination. Accessible locations can make attending your celebration easier for everyone.

Seasonality

• Think about weather and peak travel times. The dry season, often between November and April, is ideal for sunny skies and mild temperatures.

Personalized Planning Made Simple

Feeling inspired but overwhelmed? Don't worry—that's what we're here for. From helping you choose the perfect location to ensuring that your guests' travel plans are seamless, we specialize in stress-free destination wedding planning.

Want to take the guesswork out of this process? <u>Click Here to Schedule a Free Consultation</u>, and let's explore how to make your destination wedding as unique and spectacular as your love story.

With the stunning landscapes of Mexico or the Caribbean as your setting, you're already halfway to an unforgettable wedding. Together, we'll make the rest just as magical.

NOT SURE WHERE TO TIE THE KNOT?

Top Destinations

Choosing a destination for your wedding is a big decision. There are many factors to consider, such as your wedding preferences, budget, guests, and time of year. Here are our top choices:

MEXICO

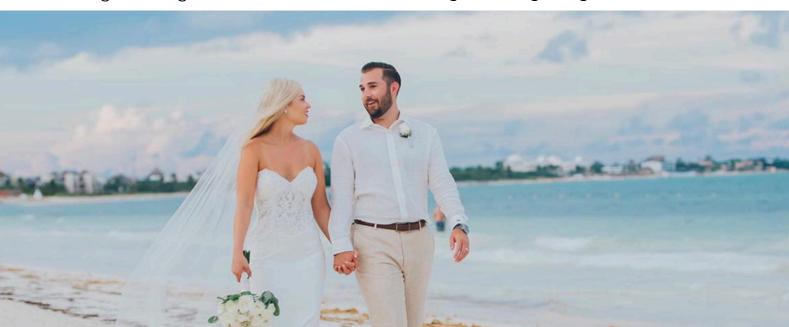
Mexico is an ideal destination for a wedding for several reasons. With its stunning beaches, top-notch resorts, and convenient flight options, it offers a picturesque setting that is easily accessible for guests. Not only does Mexico provide breathtaking natural beauty, but it also offers excellent value for money, catering to a wide range of budgets.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

If you're seeking an affordable destination with stunning beaches, look no further than the Dominican Republic! With its pristine white-sand beaches, crystal-clear waters, and year-round warm weather, it's no surprise that this tropical paradise is increasingly sought after. Moreover, with an abundance of resorts to choose from, finding one that perfectly suits your requirements is a breeze.

JAMAICA

If you're in search of romance,
Jamaica is the ultimate destination.
This captivating island boasts
breathtaking beaches, thrilling
excursions, and a laid-back
atmosphere that sets the perfect
tone for romance. One of the
standout advantages is how
seamlessly you can navigate the
legalities of getting married here.





ON AVERAGE 40% - 60% OF THE GUEST LIST WILL ATTEND A DESTINATION WEDDING

Guests Lists can be as big or as little as you like. From a grand affair to an intimate celebration.

Who to Invite?

Begin crafting your wedding guest list by jotting down everyone you'd absolutely love to have there—think close family and cherished friends. Next, consider those you'd like to invite, even though they aren't essential attendees. Lastly, include those you feel obligated to invite but who might not make the journey. A good rule of thumb: expect all your 'love to have' guests (A LIST) and about half of your 'like-to-have' guests (B LIST) to join the celebration. If you need a few more rooms to help with perks, consider the C LIST.

Keeping Guests Informed In addition to your Save the Dates and

In addition to your Save the Dates and formal invitation, you can also include an information card, a wedding website or a Facebook group outlining all of the events you've planned. This way, your guests will have all of the important information in one place. Be sure to include the date, time, and location of each event.



PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Before you get to feel the sand under your feet, here are some topics to get you thinking...

Wedding Date

Out of all the factors that contribute to how much your wedding might cost, your wedding date is probably the most important one. That's because weddings during high season (from December to April) tend to be more expensive than those during low season (June to October). Besides this, but during high season you're more likely to get sunny weather, while during low season you're more likely to experience hotter temperatures or more rain. Couple this with seaweed and hurricane season, you'll want some help to navigate what to expect.

Symbolic or Civil

A civil ceremony is a legal marriage that is officiated by a government official, while a symbolic ceremony is a commitment service that is not legally recognized. Each destination has different rules and requirements for getting married, and some are easier to fulfill than others. Your guests will not know the difference unless you tell them!

Resort Options

When it comes to researching resorts for your wedding, wedding date availability is the first thing to look at followed by the room availability. Ensuring both are available can sometimes be a balance, and being flexible is key. Saturday weddings are the most popular followed by Friday, Sunday and then Monday. Try avoiding Tuesday-Thursday weddings so that guests do not have to take more than a few days off their work week to attend.



Step 1: Create a Realistic Timeline

When it comes to destination weddings, starting early is the key to success. There are more moving parts compared to a local celebration, so here's how to stay ahead of the game:

Start Early Ultimately you will want to begin this planning process a year to 18 months out.

• Popular venues and resorts fill up fast, especially during peak seasons. Aim to reserve your date and time and block accommodations for guests at least a year or more in advance.

Send Save-the-Dates ASAP and create a way for guests to receive all of the information whether that is a personal wedding FB group or a wedding website.

• Give your guests plenty of notice so they can plan and budget for the trip. Sending save-the-dates 8–12 months before the big day is ideal.

Build in Buffer Time

Shipping decorations overseas? Sourcing a custom dress? Allow extra time
for these elements to account for potential delays. But even better bring
these items with you because they could get held up in customs and never
arrive to your destination.

Create a Countdown Schedule

• Break it all down into bite-sized tasks by month (or even week) so nothing sneaks up on you.

Step 2: Coordinate Travel for Your Guests

Getting your loved ones to paradise smoothly is just as important as the big day itself. Here's how to simplify travel logistics:

Reserve a Group Rate

• Many hotels offer discounted rates for group bookings. This not only saves money, but it also makes organizing accommodations easier for everyone.

Provide Clear Travel Info

• Send a detailed travel guide to your guests, including airport options, transportation details, and activity suggestions for their stay.

Consider a Travel Agent, but not just any Travel Agent

 A professional can help manage bookings, troubleshoot issues, and ensure everyone arrives stress-free. And guess what? That's where we come in! In fact, not only can we manage the travel, but we can also help with finding the perfect resort options and managing the room block as well!



Step 3: Understand Legal Requirements

Destination weddings often require some red tape if you are doing a legal ceremony. To make it official, here's what you need to keep in mind when marrying abroad:

Research Local Laws

• Requirements vary by country. For example, Mexico typically requires a blood test, while some Caribbean islands may need specific documents translated and notarized.

Gather the Right Documents

• Common requirements include passports, birth certificates, and divorce decrees (if applicable). Make sure these are prepared and ready to go.

Consider Legalizing It at Home

• Some couples opt for a legal ceremony in their home country before hosting a symbolic ceremony at their destination. It simplifies the process and cuts down on paperwork.

Step 4: Work with Local Vendors

Collaborating with vendors from afar doesn't have to be daunting.

Choose Reputable Vendors

• Work with vendors who have experience with destination weddings. Online reviews and social media can give you helpful insights.

Schedule Video Meetings

• Since in-person meetings aren't always possible, video calls are your next best option. Build a good rapport and clarify expectations.

Hire a Local Wedding Coordinator

• Many resorts include a coordinator in their packages, but if not, consider hiring a trusted local planner to manage on-the-ground details.

Personalized Support Makes All the Difference

If all this feels like a lot to handle, don't worry. Destination wedding logistics are what we do best! From helping your guests book flights to navigating marriage requirements, We're here to streamline the planning process and make your dream celebration stress-free. And we even have wedding planners on our team for that extra support!

Want to take the pressure off and get expert help with the logistics? <u>Click Here to Schedule a Free Consultation</u> and leave the hard parts to us! Together, we'll make your wedding as smooth with less stress! With the right plan and support, managing the details of your destination wedding can be so much easier. You've got this, and We are here to help every step of the way!

Finding Yoru Dream Venue

FOR YOUR DESTINATION WEDDING

The venue is the heart of your destination wedding. It sets the tone, creates the mood, and makes your "I do" moment unforgettable. But with so many breathtaking options in Mexico and the Caribbean, how do you pick the one that's just right? Don't worry—we'll walk through it step by step.

Explore the Styles:

Beachfront - Say your vows with your toes in the sand, waves crashing behind you, and a stunning sunset as your backdrop.

Beach Terrace - Elevated views and ocean breezes come together on chic, open-air terraces for a refined yet relaxed vibe.

Garden - Lush greenery and vibrant blooms create a fairytale-like setting ideal for nature-loving couples.

Rooftop - Celebrate with panoramic views of the ocean, cityscapes, or starlit skies in a modern and sophisticated setting.

Chapel - Choose a serene and traditional chapel, from quaint beachfront sanctuaries to ornate, historic gems.

Ballroom - Opt for luxury and space with elegant chandeliers, air conditioning, and customizable themes.

Each venue sets the tone for your big day, and we're here to help you find the perfect match. Excited to discover your ideal venue? <u>Click Here to Schedule a Free Consultation</u>, and we'll guide you every step of the way!







Narrowing It Down

Once you've decided on your preferred vibe, it's time to narrow your list:

Guest Capacity - Make sure the venue comfortably accommodates your headcount. Too small, and you might feel cramped; too big, and your event could lose that intimate charm.

Accessibility - How easy is it for you and your guests to reach the venue? Consider its proximity to accommodations, the airport, and local attractions.

Amenities - What's included with the venue? Some spots offer all-inclusive packages, while others might be a blank slate.

Flexibility - Check whether the venue can adapt to your needs, like badweather backup options or permitting outside vendors for catering or décor.

Tips for Touring Venues

Whether you're checking out venues in person or virtually, proper preparation can help you make the most of your visit.

Virtual Tours - Many venues now offer video walkthroughs or live video calls with their team. Take note of lighting, layout, and surrounding views.

- Questions to Ask
 - What's included in the rental fee?
 - Are there any noise or timing restrictions?
 - What is the Outside vendor fee?
 - What are the payment and cancellation policies?

Visit If You Can - If it's possible, invest in a trip to your top-choice venues. There's nothing like meeting the team in person. Many resorts even have specials where they might apply some of the cost of the room to your wedding elements.

Your Venue Expert Is Here

Choosing a venue might feel overwhelming, but you don't have to do it alone. We are experts for Mexico and the Caribbean and can help narrow down the hundreds of choices into the best options for your group! We'll help you weigh the pros and cons, and make a confident decision that fits you both!

• Ready to discover your perfect venue? <u>Click Here to Schedule a Free</u> <u>Consultation</u>, and I'll guide you every step of the way. Together, we'll find a location as special as the love you're celebrating.



HOW FAR AHEAD TO PLAN?

We recommend that you make the most important decisions about your wedding - the destination and the resort, the dates, the budget, and the estimated guest count - at least 12 months in advance (though we can always help with shortnotice elopements!) Ideally you will get started on planning 12-18 months before.

WHO PAYS FOR EXPENSES?

These days, there are no hard-and-fast rules about who pays for the expenses. It can be the bride's family, the groom's family, the couple themselves, family friends and relatives, or any mix of these. What's important is deciding - very early in the planning process - who will be responsible for the major expenses.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Many resorts will offer pre-assembled ceremony packages that include the basic components complimentary like the officiant, seating, cake & champagne bouquet, and boutonniere. They will also have other packages that have more elements as well.

Check the fine print in each package option to confirm that it includes the services you want. Pricing sometimes also depends on guest count or year.

ABOUT THE BUDGET

When planning, budgeting is crucial. Set a realistic total budget and allocate funds to travel expenses, rooms, venue costs, vendors, decor, and guest activities.

Research to estimate costs accurately. Consider your priorities as a couple and allocate funds accordingly. Account for hidden or unexpected costs by building a contingency fund.

Keep guests' budgets in mind when choosing a destination and planning activities. Having a clear budget provides a solid foundation for decision-making and ensures a memorable wedding within your financial means.

What's Isn't Included?

It will depend on the resort and their packages but generally - Audiovisual, Extra Floral and Decor above what packages offer, Photography, videography, string lights, dance floor, musicians, mariachi, and fireworks.

Want to save money? Let the destination be the backdrop, let floral bouquets do double duty as centerpieces, and, bring a few garlands, faux leaves, or table sashes, from home to decorate tables, and ask us for help!



What Ceremony Type Works?

We recommend that you make the most important decisions about your wedding - the destination and the resort, the dates, the budget, and the estimated guest count - at least 12 months in advance (though we can always help with short-notice elopements!) Ideally you will get started on planning 12-18 months before.

WHAT PHOTOS SHOULD YOU GET?

Give the photographer a written list of key shots you really want.

Five key times for "must have" shots include the pre-wedding preparations, the arrival of key relatives and wedding party members at the ceremony, the critical parts of the ceremony, official family and wedding party photos, and shots at the reception. Need more? We've got the prime shot list when you work with us!

What if Some Can't Attend?

Not everyone who's special to you will be able to make the trip to see your wedding in person (e.g., they may have trouble getting off work, or they can't afford the expense).

You can offer a reception at home where these guests can see you and wish you well (and even bring presents if you decide to set up a registry).

What else Happens?

Your wedding ceremony and reception will dominate the schedule on one day - but your guests will arrive at least a day or two in advance. So, you can help them plan (or you can coordinate in some cases) activities such as spa visits, golf rounds, off-site excursions, special meals (e.g., the rehearsal dinner) and other fun things to do before your big day happens!

Also keep free time in mind for your guests as well who will have paid a lot to be there to your celebration.

WHAT IF I'M STILL OVERWHELMED?

Are you still feeling overwhelmed with the thought of wedding planning? Take a deep breath and let us help! Schedule a complimentary Destination Wedding Planning session with us!

Our expert team is here to guide you through every step of the process, from choosing the perfect destination and resort to assisting your guests and being the point of contact for any and all questions, and so much more..

Don't let stress take away from the joy of your special day. Contact us today and let's work together to make your dream wedding a reality. Trust us to handle the details so you can focus on making unforgettable memories.

At a Glance PLANNING TIMELINE

12 - 18 Months

At this stage the big decisions are made, including choosing your destination and resort. Locking in these decisions so far in advance gives you a better chance of getting the date you want & getting better pricing.

12 Months

Once the destination & resort are selected its time to send out the save the dates. Meanwhile, dress shopping will be next on your agenda and checking your passport status & expiration date.

4-6 Months

Six months is the perfect time to reach out to your guests to remind them to book their accommodation if they haven't already. It's also a great idea to send formal wedding invitations at this time. Your wedding planner will usually be in contact anywhere from one to six months out depending on the resort you have chosen..

3 Months

When you're getting close to your wedding date, you and your wedding planner will be busy finalizing all the details of your big day. With three months to go, you'll be finalizing your legal documents and making your final payments for travel arrangements.

05 1 Month

The final month before your wedding is a busy one! You'll be wrapping up details with your planner, collecting your dress, and packing for the big day. Make sure you have a packing list handy, and take some time to shop for any last-minute items you may need.

1 Week

You're getting married! In just a few short days you'll be saying "I do" to the love of your life. As you're packing your bags for the big day, don't forget to pack a photocopy of your passport and wedding documents.

YOUR DREAM DESTINATION WEDDING AWAITS

Think of us not just as your travel agent experts, but as your new wedding besties! Your big day should be nothing short of extraordinary, and we're here to turn your wedding dreams into a reality.

Picture this: exchanging vows in a breathtaking location, surrounded by your nearest and dearest. Our mission? To find that perfect spot that echoes your love story, creating memories you'll cherish forever.

Embarking on this journey together, you'll see that our service is all about you. We'll dive deep into understanding your unique personalities, ensuring your destination wedding is a true reflection of your love. And because your guests are part of this journey, we extend our expertise to them too —making their travel experience smooth as well. Let's create a memory that's spectacular for everyone involved!







Courtney& Danny

We found Romantics Travel through Wedding Wire and read so many great reviews, that we decided to go with them. We are so glad we did. They dealt with this stressed out bride better than my own husband.

They were so fast to respond to any questions. They presented us with a beautiful presentation to pick our destination venue. They created a phenomenal website and app to ease the booking pain for our guests. I knew they were great, but the guests comments made my day! They could not brag about them enough. It does not matter where you live, if you are planning a destination wedding or any trip or a honeymoon, you would be a fool not to use them. I am an event planner for my job, so I know what to look for. They exceed all expectations! Customer for life!

Maria & Davis

Kimberly listened to what was most important to us and used her vast knowledge in international wedding destinations to match us with the best resort we could have imagined. She helped us along the planning process, connected us with the resorts wedding planner, helped us understand what we were agreeing to, ensured the entire party arrived to the hotel without a hitch, and even provided excursion options for our party. All of this while being so pleasant and such a joy to work with.

If there was ever any questions, concerns, or issues, Kimberly and Jeff were on top of making sure we had the best experience possible. I can't recommend them enough. They helped make our wedding, the absolute best experience we could have asked for.

Aubrie & Austin

Phenomenal service by Romantics Travel! Thank you so much for working with us throughout the last year for our wedding. We had an amazing time and all our guests had a blast! All your help and knowledge took tremendous amount of stress off us! We are so happy we found y'all and worked with y'all! All our guests were truly impressed with your work and the quick response at all times from you. We so deeply appreciate that!

Your wealth of knowledge and quickness to reply consistently was incredible. With your team, so much stress was alleviated. We would highly recommend you to our friends and future brides!

We Got You!

Congratulations on your engagement! As you step into the exciting world of planning your dream destination wedding, we're here to ensure your journey is nothing short of extraordinary.

We're Kimberly and Jeff Jacoby, the passionate duo behind **Romantics Travel**, an award-winning agency in Fort Worth, Texas. As seasoned Destination Wedding Travel Experts, we've explored hundreds of stunning resorts across Mexico and the Caribbean. This firsthand experience allows us to expertly guide you through the numerous choices, ensuring you find the perfect venue that aligns seamlessly with your vision.

Our clients consistently rave about our phenomenal service and stress-free planning approach. With meticulous attention to detail and a commitment to responsiveness, we'll help guide you through the entire process while handling all travel logistics, enabling you to savor every moment leading up to your big day without worry.

From selecting the ideal destination and resort, to assisting every step of the way, you'll never have to wonder what to do next! **We'll transform a seemingly overwhelming** process into a smooth and seamless experience.

What truly sets us apart is our expert level knowledge, and dedication to crafting incredible experiences. We only take on a few weddings each month and take pride in our personalized and professional approach, making you and your unique love story our number one priority. Our clients' glowing testimonials are a testament to the unforgettable weddings we've helped with.

Are you ready to embark on this incredible adventure with us? We can't wait to turn your destination wedding dreams into reality. Contact us for a consultation and let's start planning a celebration that will be cherished forever!







We Got You

AT ROMANTICS TRAVEL,
WE TRANSFORM YOUR
DESTINATION WEDDING
DREAMS INTO REALITY
WITH STRESS-FREE
PLANNING, AND
PERSONALIZED SERVICE.

Crafting Your love Story:

TRANSFORMING THE DETAILS INTO YOUR DREAM WEDDING

It Starts with the Little Details...
When planning your dream
destination wedding, it's all
about the details that make
your celebration uniquely yours.

From the moment we begin this journey, we dive into understanding your unique love story by asking the important questions. These conversations allow me to capture whats important to you both and your preferences, transforming the little details into custom recommendations that elevate your wedding day from special to spectacular.

Let's make your big day as extraordinary as your love story!

1

Destination Wedding Experts: At Romantics
Travel, our expertise in destination weddings
means you can trust us to turn your dream
wedding into a reality. With years of experience
and a deep understanding of the world's most
beautiful locations, we guide you effortlessly
through the planning process.

2

Perfect Resort Selection and Seamless
Coordination: We work closely with you to find the ideal resort options that match your vision, negotiate the room block and wedding perks, all while ensuring every detail is flawlessly executed. Our aim is to make your wedding day not just special, but truly unforgettable.

Comprehensive Planning and Travel

3

Assistance: From start to finish, we're by your side, ensuring you never have to wonder what comes next. We also handle all travel logistics for you and your guests, so everyone is prepared on what to expect in destination so they can focus on celebrating your love without a hitch.



We're eager to connect and delve into your vision for a dream destination wedding. Whether you're dreaming of tranquil beaches or picturesque mountain views, we can explore various destinations, styles, and themes together.

Our priority is ensuring a seamless and stress-less planning experience, focusing on your satisfaction and happiness.

If you're ready to move forward, we're here to guide you every step of the way. Please let us know your availability so we can schedule a discussion. If you have any immediate questions or need further information, feel free to contact us at (817) 386-0701 or kim@romanticstravel.com

Thank you for considering us as your Destination Wedding Planners. We're genuinely excited to embark on this incredible journey with you and create timeless memories.

Kimberly & Jeff Jacoby

Destination Wedding Travel Experts Romantics Travel <u>www.romanticstravel.com</u>











