

5 Minute Guide

CHOOSING A WEDDING PLANNER

ADVICE & TIPS TO HELP YOU
CHOOSE A WEDDING PLANNER
THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU



Making an Informed Decision

Initial Considerations



A simple shift from overwhelm to clarity and calm

This guide has been designed to **provide you with guidance on selecting a wedding planner** for your wedding abroad.

To help you collate and compare the responses you receive, please make sure you download our **Wedding Planner / Supplier Comparison Spreadsheet**.

You can find additional **checklists, advice, hints, tips** and **planning guides** in our **PLANNING CLUB**.

We believe it's vitally important to find a wedding planner that you connect with on every level. You need to ensure they **understand you as a couple**, your **requirements** and your **vision**. You need to ensure that **you like them** and most importantly **trust them**.

As well as feeling an **initial connection** with a wedding planner, it's important to **understand** how they work, the services they offer and their fee structure.

It is just as important to know what is NOT included in a quotation as knowing what IS included.

Wedding planners and their offerings will vary. Sometimes this **can be very subtle** and when evaluating and comparing their quotations **it's not always obvious** what is and what is not included.

As an example, some wedding planners may charge an extra fee to take you to view potential venues whereas for others this is a standard inclusion in their package.

If you see venue visits included in one quotation, it is often easy to assume it will be the same for all planners. We have seen many couples get caught out on this and have been left feeling unhappy when they are told of the extra cost.

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Another important point to note is that some wedding planners work on a commission basis. Put simply they will receive a commission from some of the suppliers they use for your wedding.

As a result they may have a lower planning fee than wedding planners who do not take commissions as their earnings will increase through the commissions they receive.

It can be difficult when comparing quotations as a lower planning fee does not always mean you will pay less overall.

However, a wedding planner who does not take commissions will usually pass any discounts they are offered directly onto you. Therefore the cost you pay for the individual suppliers they use may be less expensive.

When evaluating wedding planners it is therefore important that you **compare apples with apples**. Ask a lot of questions, understand their fee structure and clarify any items you are not sure about.

Speak to a number of different planners and don't necessarily take the first offer that comes to you - you may actually choose the first wedding planner you contact but when you do it will be with the confidence that they are the right planner for you.

We cannot stress enough how **important it is to have transparency** with each quotation. Make sure you ask for a breakdown of costs including any additional taxes, travel costs, site visit fees, extra hours, labour and security fees etc. This will help reduce any last minute unexpected costs that you have not budgeted for.

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Following is a list of initial **CONSIDERATIONS & QUESTIONS** to ask when contacting wedding planners, to help you get clear on your choice. Questions may vary depending on your individual circumstances, requirements and wedding location and should be used as a starting point.

We also recommend using our **Wedding Planner Initial Contact Form** as a guideline of the type of information you should provide to prospective wedding planners when making an enquiry.

TIP:

Take it step by step, finding the right location to suit your taste and budget is key. Extras such as hair, floral decoration, music etc should be flexible and tailorable to suit your budget too so beware of 'package weddings' which may seem cheap but offer you very little and where you have no choice of suppliers. Wedding planners such as myself add to the overall cost but will also save you money in the long run getting you better deals on services. Consider what sort of ceremony you want; religious, civil or symbolic because this also has an impact on the location you choose. If you want a legal wedding ceremony use a wedding planner, as preparing the paperwork can be complicated. Finally, if you find a location and wedding planner to suit your budget great, because with a planner you'll find the whole process stress free.

Emma - Love in Italy Weddings

Considerations

***The planning phase can be just as exciting as your wedding day itself...
it definitely lasts a lot longer, so make the most of it and really enjoy it.***

- ✓ Find out exactly what they will organise for you. If there is anything extra you would like organised will this increase their fee?
- ✓ Ask for a sample budget. Determine if you will be given the option to choose from different priced suppliers, e.g. do they use high and low end suppliers?
- ✓ Ensure they will take care of the legalities and paperwork for getting married abroad.
- ✓ Determine if they have a set list of venues and suppliers they work with. Often this can be an advantage as they will use them because of their high standards and reliability. However, see how flexible they are in researching new venues and suppliers if you are not happy with their recommendations.
- ✓ Understand their fee structure. Determine if they receive commissions from booking with certain venues or suppliers. You want to be sure they are using them because of their excellence and not because they stand to make extra money.
- ✓ Find out if there is a total amount you need to spend on your wedding before they will organise it. Some wedding planners will only plan your wedding if it costs over a certain amount.
- ✓ Ask if they will be onsite co-ordinating your wedding day. If so, will this be an extra charge?
- ✓ Ask how many weddings they organise for the same day or weekend. If they are a small company it is better to have someone solely dedicated to your wedding.
- ✓ Ask to see testimonials of weddings they have planned or if you can contact previous clients.?

Considerations

- ✓ Do they provide bespoke planning services and/or wedding packages. Make sure you understand the difference between the two and choose the service that best fits your requirements.
- ✓ Find out what their cancellation policy is. Will you have to pay anything or lose any deposits if you cancel your wedding or decide not to use their services? Check what your legal rights are here.
- ✓ **FOR FURTHER USEFUL INFORMATION ON CHOOSING A WEDDING PLANNER REFER TO THE FOLLOWING PAGE: WEDDING PLANNERS ABROAD**
<https://www.weddingsabroadguide.com/wedding-planners-abroad.html>

IMPORTANT NOTE

Enquiries made through our **"Find Your Wedding Planner"** Form are **automatically forwarded to all the wedding planners** who are members of our Destination Wedding Directory and plan weddings in the country you requested. If they offer the service you require and work in the region specified on your form, **they will reply to you directly** (please remember to **check your SPAM/Junk Folder** in case responses end up there instead).

We do appreciate that **your inbox may become quite full** and we hope this guide and **our spreadsheet will help manage the responses** you receive.

We would be incredibly grateful if you would **send a one line email back** to each wedding planner who contacts you. Even if you don't plan to use their services please let them know you've received their information. This helps us to ensure the wedding professionals listed in our directory receive the best possible service from us and ensures we retain the highest quality suppliers to recommend to couples getting married abroad!

We have a number of **other excellent resources** to help you plan your wedding abroad. We will send links to these resources in a separate email – so make sure you keep an eye out for these.

Best of luck and if you have any questions, please feel free to **contact us**.

Natalie & Kim

What Next

Planning Club

[Join our PLANNING CLUB.](#) A monthly membership providing you with all the information and support you need to plan your wedding abroad. Video tutorials, interviews with wedding professionals, planning guides, cheat sheets, checklists and a friendly member's only community.

Download Planning Tools

If you haven't already, download our [FREE Destination Wedding Planning Tool Kit](#).....it contains **Eight Free Checklists**, so no matter what planning stage you're at these essential checklists will help you plan and get organised.

Pin Our Step-by-Step Guide

[PIN](#) or bookmark our [Step-by-Step Planning Guide.](#) Here, we have broken the planning process into logical groups where you will find a lot of information in each section to help you calmly plan your wedding abroad.

Find Wedding Suppliers

Use our [Easy Supplier Finder.](#) The quickest, easiest and most effective way to find suppliers for your wedding abroad, just fill in one simple form.

Weddings Abroad Community

Join our Facebook Group - [Weddings Abroad Community.](#) It's a very active, fun, friendly and helpful group. Pop in and say hello!

Contact Us

Have a question? We'd love to hear from you. You can contact us [here.](#)



Wedding Abroad *Planning Tool Kit*

Want to plan your wedding abroad like a pro?

Then say hello to **your secret weapon!**

We've put together the **most comprehensive destination wedding planning tool kit** available and we're confident you're going to love it!

It has **everything you'll need to get started and stay on track.**
Designed specifically for weddings abroad it has **30 Checklists, Spreadsheets and Worksheets.**

We want to help make destination wedding planning simple, affordable and enjoyable for all.

GET TOOL KIT HERE

