

# 5 Minute Guide

# CHOOSING WEDDING SUPPLIERS

ADVICE & TIPS TO HELP YOU  
CHOOSE WEDDING SUPPLIERS  
THAT ARE 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 Wedding Suppliers** for your wedding abroad.

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

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

Choosing which companies and suppliers to work with is probably the most important decision you'll make. Therefore, it's absolutely critical that you **do your research properly** and **don't rush in** too quickly. We highly recommend taking your time and weighing up all your options.

Do your initial research and spend some time identifying as many suppliers as you can that operate in the country and specific location where you plan to get married. The internet is generally the best tool for this, including wedding forums and **Facebook Groups**.

Once you have made a decision, ensure that you get absolutely everything in writing. Make sure that you keep a paper trail, so that you always have everything backed up. Even if you have a telephone conversation, ensure that you then sit down and summarise it in an email and send it to your supplier, that way you can ensure that everything you spoke about was clear and will be followed up to your specification.

# Making an Informed Decision

## *Initial Considerations*



*A simple shift from overwhelm to clarity and calm*

Following is a list of initial **CONSIDERATIONS**, to help you get clear on your choice of suppliers.

Considerations may vary depending on your individual circumstances, requirements and wedding location and should be used as a starting point.

We also recommend downloading our **Wedding Supplier Checklist** as an additional guide to the type of information you should consider when selecting Wedding Suppliers.

## **TIP:**

*Every country has different standards and rates so try not to compare with your home market or other destinations. Hiring local means you are supporting the local economy, local businesses and reducing your carbon footprint. You will definitely be able to find suppliers who are not local who will offer to do it for much less, but bare in mind that many who do offer to travel may not have the legal paperwork and work permits, and could be working illegally and invalidate their insurance and visa by doing so. So you could save a lot by bringing suppliers with you, but there is a risk, so check they are going to have all the right work permits and not just travelling on a tourist visa.*

*Cat - Wild Connections Photography*

# 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.*

## Initial Research

Research suppliers and create a short list of those you wish to contact. We would initially recommend contacting a minimum of five, this will provide you with a realistic idea of the options available in your chosen location.

## First Contact

Contact each supplier on your shortlist. Be upfront and honest with suppliers, if after your initial enquiry you do not plan to use them, be courteous and tell them, don't use them for an information source only, they too need time to be doing their real work, planning weddings!

## Initial Evaluation of Each Supplier

Evaluate how quickly each supplier responded to your request for information. Unless there are extenuating circumstances which were explained, I would expect to receive a reply within two working days.

We believe response time is important as it may set the foundation for the speed of future correspondence. **(As a side note, if you are contacting wedding planners in the height of the wedding season or over the weekend they may take a few more days to respond to you).**

# Considerations

## Narrowing Down your List

Once you have received all your replies or visited all your suppliers it's time to narrow down your selection. This can be done by a number of different criteria:

- **Dates** - Is the supplier available on your preferred date.
- **Call / Skype** - Email is fantastic but there is nothing better than having an actual conversation, you should really be able to get a feel for them and obtain a lot more information than you would through written communication.
- **Price** - Make sure that you compare apples with apples. Fully understand what will be included in their fee and most importantly what is not. Determine if there is anything that is outside of their fee that will be an extra expense to you.
- **Negotiate** - Don't be afraid to negotiate and see how flexible suppliers are.
- **Cancellation Policy** - Find out if you will have to pay anything or lose any deposits if you cancel your wedding or decide not to use their services.
- **Terms and Conditions** - Make sure you read each contract carefully and always clarify any points you do not understand. An important thing to note is that if you're signing a contract with a supplier who is not based in your home country, you will be bound by the laws of their country and not your own.



## **TIP:**

*This tip really is very simple. When you have decided on the right vendor for your wedding make sure you go straight ahead and secure them by paying a deposit! This will avoid disappointment and last minute stress looking for news ones who may, in your eyes, just not match up to your first choice.*

*This may sound obvious but sometimes if a couple are unsure about what exactly they will need from a particular vendor they may put off booking them until they have decided on exactly what is they need. I.e. you are unsure of how many hours you need the dj for, you are unsure if you want a cake or cupcakes, you are unsure how many table flower arrangements you will need as you haven't received all you rsvp's back yet.*

*However, putting off booking those vendors and waiting until you have it completely figured out is very risky business!! As by then, they may not have your date free anymore! Especially consider wedding fairs coming up in your area. Some suppliers can secure the majority of their bookings through these events, meaning there is a big chance your wedding date is gone.*

*It's good to know that you don't need to be 100% sure on what you need when you book most of your vendors. Sure people change their mind even up to last minute. It happens we are human! But most djs will take a booking with availability to play more hours if needed. A baker won't need to know how you want your cake until much closer the time, and the number of flower arrangements can be confirmed with your florist at a later date once you have your final headcount.*

*The important thing is that you secure their services with a deposit and then you can finalise the details at a later date.*

*Hollie Ennis - Wedding Planner*

## Key Points

### Additional information



FOR FURTHER USEFUL INFORMATION ON CHOOSING WEDDING ABROAD SUPPLIERS REFER TO THE FOLLOWING PAGE: **[CHOOSING THE RIGHT WEDDING ABROAD SUPPLIERS](https://www.weddingsabroadguide.com/wedding-abroad-suppliers.html)**

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#### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

Enquiries made through our “**Easy Supplier Finder**” Form are **forwarded to the relevant wedding suppliers** who are members of our Destination Wedding Directory and work in the country where you are getting married. 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 supplier 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.](#) We provide you with all the tools you need to kick start your wedding abroad planning. 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](#).

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