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Welcome to Dominican Republic: Your perfect wedding destination

Dominican Republic is the perfect destination for a romantic getaway, an unforgettable proposal or a magical honeymoon. The country's diverse natural beauty creates an idyllic backdrop for renewing wedding vows or hosting a destination wedding with loved ones and close friends.

Lovebirds have endless choices when planning a wedding or event in Dominican Republic. Take your pick from a romantic beachside ceremony at sunset, a celebration at a mountainside villa overlooking the ocean, an elegant soiree on a sun-kissed terrace, a boho-chic beach party with a fireworks finale, or old-world charm and historic churches in the capital's Colonial City.

With the help of our wedding guide, planning your destination wedding or romantic escape to Dominican Republic has never been easier. Find your dream venue and let us lead you through every step of planning your fairytale wedding.

This guide puts the finest selection of country's properties and resorts at your fingertips. Each property in our guide is committed to delivering the very best services and facilities to help you host and organize the stress-free destination wedding of your dreams - a beautiful event that you'll remember forever.

Check out our ideas for invitations, dresses, etiquette for inviting guests, current wedding trends and other information that will help make wedding planning a breeze.

There is no better place in the whole Caribbean than Dominican Republic to say "Yes, I do"!
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**Destination Weddings**

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About Dominican Republic

Area: 48,484 square kilometers.
Population: 9.3 million inhabitants.
Climate: tropical, with an average temperature between 26 and 28 degrees Celsius.
Government: democratic system divided into three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. Government seat is located in the city of Santo Domingo, D.N., its capital.
Language: Spanish.
Time: invariable year round.
Monetary unit: Peso Dominicano, represented by acronym RD$.

Levies: tax on products and services (18%); at hotels, bars and restaurants (28%) which includes regular waiter service tip.
Exchange rate: subject to fluctuations, depending on market’s conditions.
Religion: predominantly Catholic, followed by Evangelical and Protestant.
Culture: a great influence from Spanish, African and of a lesser extent, of Taino-Indians, which is reflected in art, in gastronomy, language, and on some religious aspects.

Art: varied crafts, predominantly handmade objects with taino-aborigean patterns painted, manufactured or carved in wood, amber, larimar, leather, horn, bone and ceramic.
Music: the music genre representative of the Dominican Republic is the ‘Merengue’, followed by the ‘Bachata’.
Local festivities: various popular festivities throughout the island, being the most significant one the ‘Carnaval’ (carnival).
Sports: king sport of our local culture in the Dominican Republic is baseball.

Transportation: the Dominican Republic has tourist transport, ‘conchos’ (public cars by areas), ‘guaguas’ (public buses by areas), vehicle rentals, franchise of private transport (taxis), such as: UBER and CABIFY, as well as a modern subway system (METRO) serving two (2) routes - (1) from South to North (16 stations), and (2) West to East (14 stations) strategically distributed within the metropolitan area.
Area codes: 809 (residents and mobiles), plus 829 and 849 (mobiles).
Electric current: 110V/60Hz.
How to reach the Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic is strategically situated in the heart of the Caribbean, which is an advantage in terms of air and sea access.

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### AIRPORTS

- **Las Américas International Airport**
  - City: Santo Domingo
  - Telephone: 809-947-2225

- **Doctor José Francisco Peña Gómez**
  - City: Santo Domingo
  - Telephone: 809-826-4019

- **La Isabela International Airport**
  - City: Puerto Plata
  - Telephone: 809-291-0000

- **International Airport Gregorio Luperón**
  - City: Santiago
  - Telephone: 809-587-6766

- **International Airport of the Cibao**
  - City: Punta Cana
  - Telephone: 809-959-2376

- **International Airport of La Romana**
  - City: Samaná
  - Telephone: 809-338-5888

- **International Airport of Punta Cana**
  - City: Samaná
  - Telephone: 809-248-2566

- **International Airport of La Romana**
  - City: Barahona
  - Telephone: 809-524-4144

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### PORTS

- **Maritime Port of Santo Domingo**
  - City: Ciudad Colonial
  - Telephone: 809-685-9337

- **Amber Cove Port**
  - City: Maimón Pto. Pta.
  - Telephone: 829-904-6411

- **Bahía Cruise Services**
  - City: Samaná
  - Telephone: 809-227-3939

- **La Romana Port**
  - City: La Romana
  - Telephone: 809-813-9000

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For more information:
Aeropuertos Dominicanos (AERODOM) www.aerodom.com

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Contact: 809.933.3171 Ext.: 7728 eventos@pearlbeachclub.com
www.pearlbeachclub.com (+1)809.412.0000
www.cataloniacaribbean.com
Embassies and Consulates

**Germany**
Calle Gustavo Mejía Ricart 196 esq. Av. Abraham Lincoln
Torre Piantini, 8vo. Piso, Piantini
Phone: 809-542-8950

**Argentina**
Av. Máximo Gómez 10, Gascue
Phone: 809-682-0976

**Belize**
Av. John F. Kennedy, Edif. Bonanza
Naco 2do. nivel, Naco
Phone: 809-567-7146

**Brazil**
Calle Eduardo Vicioso 46A, Bella Vista
Phone: 809-532-4200

**Canada**
Av. Winston Churchill #1099
Torre Citigroup, Acrópolis Center,
Piso 18, Piantini
Phone: 809-262-3100

**Chile**
Av. Anacaona #11, Mirador Sur
Phone: 809-797-2433

**Colombia**
Calle Fernando Escobar Hurtado #8-A,
Serrallés
Phone: 809-562-1670

**Costa Rica**
Calle Malaquías Gil #11, Serrallés
Phone: 809-683-7209

**Cuba**
Calle Francisco Prats Ramírez #808,
El Millón
Phone: 809-537-2113

**Ecuador**
Av. Abraham Lincoln # 1007,
Edif. Óptica Félix, Suite 601, Piantini
Phone: 809-563-8363

**Spain**
Av. Independencia #1205,
Zona Universitaria
Phone: 809-535-6500

**United States of America**
Av. República de Colombia no.57,
Altos de Arroyo Hondo II
Phone: 809-567-7775

**France**
Calle Las Damas #42, Ciudad Colonial
Phone: 809-695-4300

**Great Britain**
Av. 27 de Febrero #233, Edif. Corominas
Pepin, 7mo. piso
Phone: 809-472-7111

**Guatemala**
Av. 27 de Febrero #233, Edif. Corominas
Pepin, 9no. piso
Phone: 809-381-0249

**Haiti**
Calle Juan Sánchez Ramírez #33,
Zona Universitaria
Phone: 809-686-7115

**Israel**
Calle Pedro Henríquez Ureña 80,
La Esperilla
Phone: 809-472-0774

**Jamaica**
Av. Sarasota #36, Plaza Khoury,
Suite 304, Bella Vista
Phone: 809-620-2499

**Japan**
Av. Winston Churchill, Torre Acrópolis,
Piso 21, Piantini
Phone: 809-567-3365

**Korea**
Av. 27 de Febrero, Torre Empresarial
Fórum Piso 14, casi esq. Av. Privada
Phone: 809-482-6505

**Mexico**
Calle Arzobispo Meriño # 265,
Ciudad Colonial
Phone: 809-687-6444

**Nicaragua**
Calle Caonabo no. 16, Los Cacicazgos
Phone: 809-535-1230

**The Netherlands**
Calle Max Henríquez Ureña #50,
Piantini
Phone: 809-262-0300

**Panama**
Calle Benito Monción #255, Gascue
Phone: 809-476-7114

**Peru**
Calle Las Ninfas no. 187, Bella Vista
(detrás del Supermercado Pola)
Phone: 809-482-3344

**Taiwan**
Av. Rómulo Betancourt #1360,
Bella Vista
Phone: 809-508-6200

**Venezuela**
Av. Anacaona #7, Mirador Sur
Phone: 809-537-8882

**Uruguay**
Calle Luis F. Thomén #110, Oficina 401,
Edif. Gapo, Evaristo Morales
Phone: 809-472-4229
Airlines

Air Europa
Calle Roberto Pastoriza 158, Naco
Phone: 809-683-8020
www.aireuropa.com

Air France
Av. Máximo Gómez #15, Gascue
Phone: 809-686-8432
www.airfrance.com

Air Plus
Av. Winston Churchill 54,
Plaza Las Américas, 5to. Nivel, Piantini
Phone: 809-541-5151
www.airplus.com

American Airlines
Av. Winston Churchill,
Edificio In Tempo, Evaristo Morales
Phone: 809-542-5151
www.aa.com

United Airlines
Calle Max Henríquez Ureña
esq. Winston Churchill,
Edifício In Tempo, Evaristo Morales
Phone: 809-262-1060
www.continental.com

Copa Airlines
Av. Abraham Lincoln esq. Jacinto
Mañón, Torre Ejecutiva Sonora, Piantini
Phone: 809-472-2672
www.copaair.com

Cubana de Aviación
Av. Tiradentes esq. 27 de Febrero,
Edificio Plaza Merengue, Naco
Phone: 809-227-2040
www.cubana.com

Delta Airlines
Av. Winston Churchill # 1,
Plaza Acrópolis 3er. Nivel, Piantini
Phone: 809-200-9191
www.delta.com

Jet Blue
Av. Winston Churchill
esq. Paseo de los Locutores,
Plaza Las Américas II, Piantini
Phone: 809-200-9898
www.jetblue.com

General Air Services Airlines
Av. Max Henríquez Ureña
esq. Av. Winston Churchill,
Edif. Falco, Evaristo Morales
Phone: 809-621-7777
www.generalairservices.com

PAWA Dominicana
Av. Gustavo Mejía Ricart 93
Phone: 809-227-0331
www.pawadominicana.com

Spirit Airlines
Av. Winston Churchill,
Plaza Las Américas II, Piantini
Phone: 809-381-4111
www.spirit.com

Avianca Airlines
Calle Agustín Lara #45
esq. José Amado Soler, Piantini
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Documents required to get married in Dominican Republic

To celebrate a wedding in the Dominican Republic is obligatory to meet the following requirements and have the documents indicated below:

In case of Foreigners:
- Birth certificate.
- Passport, if it is in Spanish, and records the marital status as single, it is not mandatory the presentation of proof of bachelorhood. For all other cases the proof of single status issued by the Civil Registry of the country of origin or residence is necessary.

This record statement must be legalized by the Dominican consular authority accredited to the place it was issued. If the document is not written in Spanish, must be translated by a court interpreter and legalized by the Attorney General’s Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Italian Case:
In the cases of Italian citizens must not exempt the edict, must be fixed in a visible place of the Court for at least three (3) days prior to the date that the marriage will take place. In this regard a certificate shall be drawn up.

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Requirements for a Civil Marriage: Dominican citizens
- ID card of the couple.
- Divorce Act (if they have been married before).
- Death Certificate (in the case of a widow or widower).
- Birth Certificate of the parties.
- At least two (2) witnesses. At least two (2) of the witnesses cannot be family or direct or collateral relatives up to the third grade inclusive of the couple.
- If have children together, birth certificates of the children (these must be previously declared).

Requirements for a Religious Marriage: Dominican citizens
- Certification of Non Existence of Civil Marriage issued by the Office of Vital Records located within the jurisdiction corresponding to the parish.
- Textual Marriage Act issued by the parish and legalized in the diocese. That the civil marriage is not registered in the Office of Vital Records corresponding to the couple.
- Instrument affidavit before a Notary Public and duly legalized at the Attorney General's Office, in which the parties declare that they have not contracted a civil marriage prior to the celebration of the canonical marriage that is intended to be transcribe; and the names of all children of the marriage. It can be done by the spouses or by their descendants, if they have died.
- Records may be deposited at the "Oficialía del Estado Civil" corresponding to the parish where the wedding was celebrated or directly to the National Register of Civil Status (Direccion Nacional de Registro del Estado Civil).

In case of minors:
- Minor Birth Certificate.
- Parental card and consent of parents, which can be granted at the time of the marriage ceremony or by authentic act or private signature duly legalized.
- If the couple is to marry under the legal regime of the separation of Goods, it is obligatory to hand over to the Civil Status Officer the authentic act performed for these purposes, which must be registered and duly notified. This act must be lifted prior to the celebration of the marriage.

For more information and to learn about the fees for marriage contact the "Junta Central Electoral" on its web page: www.jce.gob.do Telephones: 809-539-5419 / 809-537-0188
The Dominican Republic is considered as one of the best destinations in the Caribbean to solemnize weddings, for honey-mooning, or to spend unforgettable moments with your couple. The Dominican Republic is the perfect setting—because of its varied and spectacular geography—that allows you to plan the wedding of your dreams.

Should you choose for a destination wedding, in the Dominican Republic you will find paradise, secluded, lively—a varied of places that will fascinate you—whichever place you have dreamt to voice your “I do”; be it a romantic, or an elegant, or an intimate, or an exotic, or a colonial, or a tropical, or simple a fun wedding … we assure you … your wedding will be unquestionably an unique one!

At a wedding, the not miss element is the celebration of the significance of love … but to celebrate that love, the bride and groom must organize and strategize a series of steps as to ensure that their wedding ceremony is not only unique, but a perfect one.

The first steps would be: defining the date, defining the concept, deciding on style and theme of decorations, defining the budget, and agreeing on the amount of guests. With the information provided, the wedding event will be much easier to organize.

Today’s trend is to celebrate theme weddings, where the bride and groom personalize the event according to their likes, and one where the “magic”, or “fun”, or “surprise” touch is a not miss! Fashion is to be less classic and more creative, without forgetting that this event, in no way, can lose the solemnity that characterizes this event.

Romantic-sylvan, bohemian, elegant, industrial, rocker, and glimmer styles are the ones that have been setting trends in what respects to décor, which are complemented by the use of gold accent pair to pastel colors. Now-a-days weddings are lighter, less rigorous, reason why bride’s dresses are less elaborate, groom’s suits are simpler, have lost the sobriety that once characterized them; brides’ hairstyles are more natural; wedding cakes are less structured and more original; bunches are made with different types and color of flowers… and the more wild flowers are use, the better!
Santo Domingo

The capital of the Dominican Republic and is known as the First City of the Americas, a metropolis full of charm and of outstanding historical value.

Santo Domingo is a city where old and modern converge, which conforms a conjugate and beautiful contrast that invites visitors to explore each and every one of its corners.

The area of the highest historical and touristic value of Santo Domingo is its Colonial Zone, area where the first structures were erected, and the first city of the New World. The Colonial Zone was declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as ‘Cultural Patrimony of Humanity’ (1990).

If you are an unrelenting romantic, the ideal destination ideal for your wedding is Santo Domingo, especially the Colonial Zone, where you may be able to seal your love covenant in temples that more than architectural relics, are full of history.

For the bride and groom that do not want a religious wedding, or religious-set environment, the Colonial Zone also has restaurants and hotels that offer wedding packages that includes: organization, rooms for guests, honeymoon bridal suite, an elegant as beautiful scenery, exquisite buffet, and beautiful details to make a special day even more special, and not only for the bride and groom, but as for their guests.

SANTO DOMINGO: Historical Weddings

If bride and groom want to seal off their love in world heritage temples, Santo Domingo is the right place to so do, as this city has beautiful chapels, authentic architectural monuments, named:
- Iglesia de las Mercedes
- Catedral Primada de América
- Convento de los Dominicos
- Iglesia Regina Angelorum
- Santuario Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia

And for the bride and groom’s wedding album, we suggest some scenic views of natural beauty, or colonial setting within the city of Santo Domingo, named:
- Jardín Botánico Nacional
- Museo de las Casas Reales
- Alcázar de Colón
- Ruinas de San Francisco
- Acuario Nacional
- Parque Mirador Sur
- Parque Nacional Los Tres Ojos

Juan Dolio: Casual Weddings

At the mention of Juan Dolio, the general public visualizes lush golf courses and beachfront hotels. The Juan Dolio area is located a mere 35 minutes from Santo Domingo, and conforms, together with Guayacanes, a coastal municipality of unparalleled beauty.

In recent years Juan Dolio has been the subject of major projects, ideal to carry out the wedding that couples have always idealized: to say their “I do” under coconut palm trees against crystalline blue water sea, crooned by the sounds of waves, and in this same spot begin their treasured honeymoon. Juan Dolio has renowned hotels, restaurants and leisure areas, amongst them:
- Garden Suites by Hodelpa
- Emotions by Hodelpa
- Sensations by Hodelpa (opening 2017)

Places to luxuriate in the Juan Dolio area:
- Juan Dolio Beach
- Guayacanes Beach
- Barceló Rum Hictorical Center
- Wonder’s Cave
- Los Marlins Golf Course
- Guavaberry Golf Course
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La Romana-Bayahibe

Glamour and Intimacy.

The area is known for its magnificent golf courses, as for the privacy, luxury and quietude of its idyllic marinas, resorts and restaurants, reasons why it is the favorite destination of jet setters and celebrities.

Attractions that stand out in Romana-Bayahibe are a combination of human activity and of natural resources present in the area: abundant rivers, beautiful beaches, as ideal sceneries to carry out weddings.

At Bayahibe, besides discovering a picturesque fishermen village, you will also find one of the most spectacular beaches, where you can celebrate a beautiful wedding suffused by the pinkish refractions of sun rays at sunset, to then be bathed by the soft moon rays as witnesses.

At the Romana-Bayahibe area, you will discover the following places for you to celebrate that special moment:
- Altos de Chavón (Casa de Campo, La Romana)
- San Estanislao Church (Altos de Chavón)
- Bayahibe Beach (La Romana)
- Marina de Casa de Campo (La Romana)
- Catalina Island (La Romana)
- Saona Island (La Romana)
- Palmilla Beach (La Romana)

For lodging, best options in the area are:
- Casa de Campo Resort & Villas (La Romana)
- Catalonia Gran Dominicus (Carretera Bayahibe-La Romana)
- Viva Wyndham Dominicus Beach (Bayahibe-La Romana)
- Viva Wyndham Dominicus Palace (La Romana)

Other interesting places to visit are:
- Wonder’s Cave (between San Pedro de Macoris and La Romana)
- Palmilla Natural Pool (Bayahibe)
- Saona Island Natural Pool (Bayahibe)
- East National Park (La Romana)
- Mangrove's Reserve (East National Park, Bayahibe)
- Ecological and Archaeological Path “Padre Nuestro” (Part of the East National Park, Bayahibe)
In the East region of the Dominican Republic, specifically in the province of La Altagracia, is where Bávaro and Punta Cana, two of our most important tourism hubs, and where major resorts and hotels are, ones which are visited by millions of tourists each year, coming from different countries, and of many nationalities, to enjoy the most spectacular, crystalline blue water beaches in the world, and why not to get married – the true tropical way!

Punta Cana and Bávaro, as one, conform a paradise of incomparable beauty, swaddled with premium range hotel infrastructure – be it “all inclusive”, “boutique hotels”, “exclusive for adults”, “family resorts”, “large groups”, as “ecological” hotels. In Punta Cana and Bávaro you will find hotels and leisure activities to choose from and will find out for yourself the answer to why these tourism hubs are so popular!

List of hotels for your consideration in the areas of Punta Cana and Bávaro:
- Tortuga Bay Puntacana Resort & Club (Punta Cana)
- The Westin Puntacana Resort & Club (Punta Cana)
- Meliá Caribe Tropical (Playa Bávaro, Punta Cana)
- Paradisus Punta Cana (Punta Cana)
- Paradisus Palma Real (Bávaro)
- Majestic Mirage (Punta Cana)
- Majestic Colonial (Arena Gorda, Bávaro, Punta Cana)
- Majestic Elegance (Arena Gorda, Bávaro, Punta Cana)
- Catalonia Bávaro (Bávaro)
- Catalonia Punta Cana (Punta Cana)
- Catalonia Royal Bávaro (exclusivo para adultos) (Bávaro)
- Hoteles RIU (Arena Gorda, Macao, Punta Cana y Bávaro)
- Pearl Beach Club (Punta Cana)

Church options for religious (Catholic) weddings in the areas of Punta Cana and Bávaro:
- Basílica La Altagracia (Higüey)
- Parroquia Jesús Maestro (Bávaro)

Places to visit:
- Manatí Park (Bávaro-Punta Cana)
- Mundo Taíno Cave (Bávaro)
- Ecological Park Ojos Indígenas (Punta Cana)
- La Marina de Cap Cana (Punta Cana)
- Macao Beach (17 Kms. to the north of Punta Cana)
- Campos de Golf (Bávaro y Punta Cana)
Puerto Plata
Unique and Elegant Weddings.

The city of Puerto Plata, in the North portion of the island of the Dominican Republic, bathed by intense blue waters that sweeps its coasts, is known as “la novia del Atlántico” (the bride of the Atlantic).

In Puerto Plata we suggest you take advantage of the magic of the Victorian-style architecture of its houses, of the beauty of the gazebo which is located at Puerto Plata’s central park -ideal for photos-, as to perform that original and magically thematic rural wedding ceremony.

This paradisiac city has beaches, hotels and resorts where you can be married, enjoy your honeymoon, or celebrate your wedding anniversary or vow renewal. In Puerto Plata you may choose amongst many options of beautiful beachfront hotels, in the areas of: Cabarete, Sosúa, Costa Dorada, Cofresí, Playa Dorada, Maimón, Playa Grande and Punta Rucia.

For couples who have idealized a wedding full of charisma and elegance, the most striking places of the ‘Costa del Ámbar’ (trans.: ‘Amber Coast’) –as Puerto Plata is also known- are:

- Casa Colonial Boutique Hotel (Playa Dorada, Puerto Plata)
- Lifestyle Holidays Vacation Resort (Playa Cofresí, Puerto Plata)
- Blue Jack Tar (Playa Dorada, Puerto Plata)
- ‘V’ HEAVENS by Viva Wyndham Collection (Puerto Plata) (Adultos)
- Grand Paradise Playa Dorada (Playa Dorada, Puerto Plata)
- Club Hotel RIU Merengue (Puerto Plata)
- Club RIU Bachata (Puerto Plata)
- Club RIU Mambo (Puerto Plata)
- Casa Marina Beach & Reef (Sosúa)
For couples who prefer to marry in a Catholic Church, or have a Jew Orthodox ceremony, in Puerto Plata they may also do so:
- San Felipe Apóstol Cathedral
- Sosúa Sinagogue (Jew Orthodox)

Other interesting places to visit in Puerto Plata are:
- Puerto Plata’s Central Park
- San Felipe Fort
- The cable car, with its breathtaking views and Christ statue (only one in the Caribbean area)
- Puerto Plata Promenade
- Isabel de Torres National Park
- Ocean World Adventure Park (Acuatic Park)
- The 27 Damajagua Water Falls
- Museum of Taino Arts
- Amber Museum
- Brugal Rum Manufacturing Plant

The city of Samaná is a destination blessed by its beauty and exuberant vegetation, with a combination of natural, cultural and exotic attributes that will surely appeal to any couple when considering a wedding destination. Samaná also offers a wide range of ethnics, together with the remains of various cultures, as in this zone of the Dominican Republic where English, North American, African and Spaniard ancestors first migrated to.

The Samaná peninsula is of sublime nature, a beautiful bay and two cays that are connected to land by bridges, which are walked during the twilight hours by
To organize a wedding is not a simple matter, it requires patience and dedication. Expert wedding planners ensure that the most convenient thing to do is to start organizing event (18) months before the planned wedding date. Generally it is the bride who normally undertakes preparations, with the help of her mother. Do not worry if you do not know where to start! Here, you will find suggestions and advices so that you yourself may be able to begin organizing your dreamed wedding! There are thousands of details to be considered, but with our advice, and a little organization on your part, everything will come out with the style and the glamour that you desired.

FROM 16 TO 9 MONTHS BEFORE:
1. Prepare a folder with sample materials and colors that you want to see in your wedding.
2. Determine the style, location and date of wedding.
3. Elaborate wedding budget.
4. Choose wedding officiant of the ceremony (civil and religious or only civil). In case of an international wedding, you must ask the officiant of the ceremony to request the presence of an interpreter. In the Dominican Republic, civil marriages are the responsibility of Junta Central Electoral and wedding are to be celebrated in the District of the residence of the Dominican party.
5. Select names of family members and guests you wish to see at your wedding.
6. Choose wedding officiant of the ceremony (civil and religious or only civil).

The following options of hotels are ideal places in which you may spend that special day, or in which to celebrate that special ceremony:
- ‘V’ Hotels Samaná by Viva Wyndham Collection (Las Terrenas, Samaná) (exclusive for adults)
- Grand Paradise Samaná (Las Galeras)
- San Pedro Evangelical Church, better known as “La Chorcha”

Other attractions to visit in Samaná are:
- Atlantic Touristic Promenade
- El Limón Waterfall
- Excursion to observe Humpback Whales (January, February and March)
- Whale’s Museum
- Los Haitises National Park
- Cabo Cabrón National Park
- La Arena Cave
- El Ferrocarril cave
- Pueblo Príncipe (Mall & Hang-out place)

Samaná

Wedding Preparations

To organize a wedding is not a simple matter, it requires patience and dedication. Expert wedding planners ensure that the most convenient thing to do is to start organizing event (18) months before the planned wedding date. Generally it is the bride who normally undertakes preparations, with the help of her mother. Do not worry if you do not know where to start! Here, you will find suggestions and advices so that you yourself may be able to begin organizing your dreamed wedding! There are thousands of details to be considered, but with our advice, and a little organization on your part, everything will come out with the style and the glamour that you desired.

FROM 16 TO 9 MONTHS BEFORE:
1. Prepare a folder with sample materials and colors that you want to see in your wedding.
2. Determine the style, location and date of wedding.
3. Elaborate wedding budget.
4. Choose wedding officiant of the ceremony (MC), who will assist you since before the hour of the ceremony until last guest has gone home. The job of the MC was that of the Wedding

Bridesmaids and Groomsmen.
Godfather, but now the MC has taken not only the responsibilities as Master of Ceremony, but as Wedding Planner. The responsibilities of the MC are essential in any wedding event.

3. Look options of professional services of foods and beverages for social events (catering). We advise you not to make your decision on the first place visited just because you liked it; search options of at least three suppliers who have been referred due to their excellent service, prompt delivery and quality.

4. At this stage, you must start to look for options of wedding dresses. We recommend you look for, at least, three options and choose your favorite, considering the style that fits your personality.

5. Select hotel. In the Dominican Republic there are hotels that are specialized in organizing weddings, and that have wedding combos that include a place for the ceremony, flowers, decoration, food and beverages, wedding cake, and all of the small details needed to make of your wedding a most memorable day.

FROM 7 TO 6 MONTHS BEFORE:
1. Select the invitation according to wedding concept and theme and order printing (request also a digitized version of the printed wedding invitation).

2. Start planning your honeymoon. Verify that passports are updated and visa for the place you want to visit is in order. Checkup budget versus plan of place and time.

3. Select bridesmaids dresses; search options or couturiers where bridesmaids dresses can be bought or made.

4. Ceremony: you must coordinate with the officiant of the ceremony or with your wedding planner. At this time you must check and confirm documents required.

5. Settings: hotels have at your disposal a wedding coordinator that is responsible for coordinating setting up everything that is required for your wedding event.

6. Flowers: Do not worry about this item. In the Dominican Republic you will be able to find all flowers that are preferred and sought by brides.

FROM 5 TO 4 MONTHS BEFORE:
1. Invitations: check that they will be ready as planned and with enough time to deliver them.

2. Invitations: check that they will be ready as planned and with enough time to deliver them. Wedding Cake: your wedding coordinator at the hotel will assist you to choose the cake that fits your dress and theme.

3. Wedding Dress and Wedding Shoes: be sure you buy them after trying them and assuring they are very comfortable and that the shoes goes with your wedding dress.

4. Hair and Make-up: hotels provide this service and it is advisable to timely book such. Should the wedding have many guests, beauty parlor should be reserved for the group.

5. Music: select the music you would like to hear and be played at each stage of your wedding: aisle walk, reception, entertainment portion of event, and others.

3 MONTHS BEFORE:
1. Flowers and Menu: be sure to have chosen flowers type for the decoration of your wedding, as of menu. Remem-
ber that there are fruits and foods that are seasonal.
2. Cocktails & Hors d’Oeuvres: coordinate with your wedding planner how hors d’oeuvres are going to be passed and how cocktails are to be served during the event, and specify at what time should waitresses and waiters, and bartenders, will do so.
3. Readings: in case of a religious ceremony, select reading and who will be the reader of selected verse, and in case of a civil ceremony, of selected text.
4. Bridal Lingerie: buy underwear that you will be using with wedding dress and organize test of wedding dress with underwear chosen as with shoes chosen, as you will wear them on that that special day.
5. Rings: remember to have rings engraved. Do not forget this small but important detail.

2 MONTHS BEFORE:
1. Suppliers: your wedding planner should coordinate with the different suppliers (florist, music coordinator [DJ], caterers [foods and drinks], music [entertainment], and others... and little by little, this great day will be completely and efficiently organized.
2. Photographer and Videographer: accompany them to all the places you want to capture for your photographs, videos and memorabilia on scheduled dates before the big day. This is what it takes to guarantee they capture those great on-the-moment photos and videos at your wedding event.
3. Invitations: time to send invitations to family members and guests.
4. Bachelorette / Bachelor Party: planning Bachelorette and Bachelor Party, which are always performed by separate by the couple's best friends.

1 MONTH BEFORE:
1. Go over list of guests and start calling them as to confirm attendance.
2. Go over permits, documents, and necessary certifications.
3. Schedule last fitting of your wedding dress. Remember to do such with the underwear and shoes that you will be wearing with your wedding dress.
4. Payments: nothing is free and now is the time to pay suppliers of services contracted for the wedding event.
5. Reconfirm make-up and stylist appointments.
6. Hair: If you thought of cutting or color ing your hair, this is the time to do so.

2 WEEKS BEFORE:
1. Pick up wedding dress.
2. Confirm photographer and videographer.
3. Schedule manicure and pedicure for the day before the wedding.
4. Send wedding planner final list of guests, so that he/she is able to coordinate with the hotel and with the other suppliers.
5. Pack everything you need for your honeymoon.

If you’ll be celebrating your wedding this year, you’ll love to know what are the hot new trends in order to prepare the most beautiful and original wedding of all.

Decorative styles: for wedding decoration, no matter if ceremony is at the open or at closed doors, there is only one word for it: elegance. The four most popular styles are: romantic & nature wild, bohemian & elegant, the industrial, and the rock & roll and sparkly. Also, scenery of ocean-front, mountain-view, colonial buildings (includes palaces, monuments, temples, churches, chapels and breathtaking terraces) will rule as stages for any celebration. Never forget the following venues and elements when time for decorating comes: the altar, the aisles, chairs (the simpler the better), and tables (tablecloth, table runners, with a center piece that matches decorative theme).

Love-Romantic: the concept of the wedding is marked by the bride and groom love story, by the collection of memorabilia of their life as a couple, all of this inserted within a casual and non-structured atmosphere. Also, should the bride and the groom have a good financial position, they may be able to recreate special ambience to impress their guests.

Wedding Dress: for this year, styles and models of wedding dresses vary considerably: from those sewed with lace, chiffon and tulle, leaving the shoulders on the air and low-rise sleeves that reminisce the Victorian era; to dresses with bare back and adorned with laces and even the use of a tailored dresses in lieu of a traditional wedding dress. For the ‘petite’ brides, they should wear simpler and more iconic, such as cocktail dresses, or light and loose clothing with lace instead of traditional ones.
Groom attire: although there is no significant difference to previous years, when it comes to the grooms’ attire the most important accessory is: the tie; with a wide variety of models and colors, but it will come down to the concept of the wedding. The reigning color will be the blue, no matter the color shades, where prints are “a la mode” in a mix of fabrics: satin, plain embroidered with small specks, polka dots, freckles, geometric patterns, or nature-inspired brocades. Also, some traditional colors used are gray and black, and other not so classic, like green and garnet red.

Braided Hair: the perfect hairstyles and best ally of brides - for any style of wedding - braids, will be the main protagonist, be it wrapped, loose, or in disarray.

Make-up: less is more! This year, the trend for makeup is the use of completely natural, with bold lips highlighting the bride’s sensuality.

Bride’s Bouquet: the creative bouquets are winning over the traditional ones, leaving the classic behind. The trend now is the use of wildflowers with a good colorful combination, including uneven leaves and stems, or long-stem twigs, such as olive, eucalyptus and ferns; so, the asymmetrical bouquet is made up of different flowers cluttered together, in a somewhat disorderly way, and tightly secured by a satin ribbon. Others are the cascade bouquet in a vertically flowing arrangement and, also, the classic round bouquet (or bunch) prepared with the same type and color flowers. The ideal flowers for the classic round bunch are: roses, carnations and peonies.

Invitations: in terms of wedding stationery, the trend for this year, will remain with the watercolors somewhat elaborated, as well as the classic invitations and botanic illustrations, whether tropical or the same tropical with a bohemian flair for the more daring couples. The minimalist, clean and simple designs are also trending, but the most important detail will be the type of letter-font and the way bride & groom will deliver their wedding invitations.

Wedding Cake: one key element for any wedding is the cake. The whites, off-whites and ivory still remain as favorites, but nothing presumptuous and not too many details to decorate, just the colors selected by the couple according to the wedding theme trends. Due to the many different designs, shapes and flavors, all wedding cakes are considered a real task of ingenuity.
Current trends are:

- **Naked Cakes**: decorated with beautiful wildflowers and delicious seasonal fruits, like strawberries. They are recommended for morning, outdoor and countryside weddings.

- **Semi-nude Cakes**: the cake adorned with a thin layer of butter and confectionery sugar mixture (butter cream) and the top must be similar to the bridal’s bouquet well be the hot trend for this year. These cakes are ungraceful, but glamorous and perfectly geometrical. The texture makes of it the perfect wedding cake for any type of ceremony, be it intimate or in a big family wedding.

- **Vertical**: they are elegant and minimalistic, but totally luxurious when simply elegant and luxurious, this cake is to be the centerpiece of dessert table, and details may be added, such as: flowers, colors laminated in gold or silver.

- **Hand-Painted**: elegant and sophisticated, this cake is inspired by the bride’s dress and by the layers of tulle. This trend in cakes is recommended for artists and architects and for couples that stand out as originals and creative.

- **Chalkboard**: as crazy as it may seem, decoration trend in variations of grays is more fashionable than ever. These wedding cakes are unique and totally personalized, where the bride and groom are able to write their love story.
**THE WESTIN PUNTACANA RESORT & CLUB**
Lourdes Fernández de Defiló, 11th of February 2017 (mother of the bride)
"Dear César, Ana and Santiago, we want to express our eternal gratitude for all the courtesies and details extended to all during the celebration of Raquel and Francisco’s wedding at the Westin Puntacana Resort & Club & Four Points by Sheraton Puntacana Village. All our guests never stopped talking about the amazing and comfortable venue of this property. Regarding the wedding: there were exceptional ambiance, exquisite food and flawless service. Raquel and Francisco were so happy to see their wedding turned out to be as they dreamed off".

**TORTUGA BAY PUNTACANA RESORT & CLUB**
Shradha Argawal & Jay Premkumar, December 2016
"We thank you both, and Irely, for helping create our dream wedding. We hope you enjoyed all the new customs and festivities you witnessed. We really appreciate your help! With love".

**MAJESTIC COLONIAL**
Maria & Peter Guralewycz, September 2016
"My wife and I had our wedding at the Majestic Colonial. We recommend this hotel for a destination wedding. The planning team, together with the wedding coordinator, the photographer, and the videographer were all great. they took into account and respected all our ideas, as well as each one of the hotel’s staff. Our wedding was performed in the beautiful colonial chapel, and the wedding reception at the Wet Bar - an outdoor space surrounded by coconut palm trees, with a spectacular view of the swimming pool. We are more than happy, we are completely pleased with the wedding and that we had chosen the Majestic Colonial and the Dominican Republic for our destination wedding".

**MAJESTIC ELEGANCE**
Donald & Susan Garner, January 13, 2017
"Our wedding at Majestic Elegance was more than what we expected. Thanks to their wedding coordinator who did everything possible to make of our celebration magical. On our wedding day everything was perfect. I still cannot believe how wonderful the scenery of the ceremony was. I will treasure our wedding day forever... I recommend this hotel, its staff, the exquisite food and its beautiful and comfortable rooms".

**MAJESTIC COLONIAL**
Cynthia & Henry Jakubowski, November 5, 2016
"Our wedding at Majestic Colonial Punta Cana was a dream come true! My husband Henry and I had been talking about a destination wedding some years past after our engagement. We both wanted a casual and fun wedding at the beach and it was exactly what it turned out to be. Despite a rain threat, hotel staff managed to accomplish a perfect fun beach wedding. We loved the place, the gazebo, the tropical flowers, attention given by the staff, and all hotel amenities. It was everything we dreamt of. We are very pleased of having chosen Majestic Colonial as the place to be married".

**CATALONIA HOTELS & RESORTS**
Sarah & Javier Gil, October 2016.
"I want to take this opportunity to thank the staff at the Catalonia Hotels & Resorts for their attention and service. Sarah and I were extremely impressed of how well everything turned out - from start to finish. We treasure our many memories forever and the staff of Catalonia Hotels & Resorts’ will be always remembered, as you all are part of our experience. Again, thanks for everything and hope to see you again”.

**CATALONIA HOTELS & RESORTS**
Jennifer Hardin & Eduardo Erazo, November 15, 2016.
"A million thanks for all your support at the time of our wedding. Everything was spectacular... It was our dreamt wedding! We hope that God allows us that we see you all again… Blessings and thousands, thousands thanks."
LIFESTYLE HOLIDAYS VACATION RESORT
Katherine Santana & Mike
"Mike and I wanted to thank you for the outstanding work that you did while coordinating all details of our wedding event. My colleagues at work commented at the office how beautiful was the wedding, how delicious and exquisite food was, and how much fun they had. We were very pleased with everything... We hope that all is well and we take the time to let you know that we have returned to New York, after enjoying our unforgettable honeymoon".

RIU PALACE BÁVARO
Shedeka Marriot & Kashwayne Williams, August 2016
"I want to say thank you for helping to make our special day so memorable. We appreciate your efforts in preparing our wedding on August 4th. It was a very beautiful and sensual moment for us. I am very happy that you helped us to celebrate such a incredible journey in our lives. I cried because I was so happy and overwhelmed, everything was perfect. The bouquet was absolutely beautiful!!! I was very pleased with the way that you did exactly what I had hopes for. The cake was very delicious as well. We enjoyed it! We will return soon to enjoy more of that cake and your beautiful country".

MELIA CARIBE TROPICAL
Jennifer Gray, January 2016
"Due to our budget and geographically wide spread family, my husband and I wanted to do a destination wedding where we could share more than just a few hours with our group of 12 members, between relatives and friends. All of our guests were pleased with the Meliá Caribe Tropical in Punta Cana, and especially with the food. However, I think the best food we had was during our wedding banquet and our romantic dinner on the beach the night after – although I may be a little biased; plus, the resort’s beach and pool were astonishing, clean, and well maintained, and there were plenty of activities for everyone".

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