



# *ELOPEMENT Checklist*

TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR  
OWN ULTIMATE ELOPEMENT

YOUR WELCOME



# INITIAL Planning

## ☐ DISCUSS THE VISION WITH YOUR PARTNER

TAKE A COZY NIGHT IN, GRAB YOUR FAVORITE DRINKS, AND DREAM BIG! TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU BOTH ENVISION FOR YOUR ELOPEMENT. IS IT A MOUNTAINTOP AT SUNRISE OR A SECLUDED BEACH AT SUNSET?

## ☐ DECIDE ON A DESTINATION

WHERE IN THE WORLD WILL YOUR HEARTS LEAD YOU? JOT DOWN A FEW DREAM DESTINATIONS BASED ON YOUR VISION. REMEMBER SOME LOCATIONS CAN SURPRISE YOU, LIKE WHITE SANDS AND TURQUOISE WATERS IN NORTHERN NORWAY!

## ☐ PICK A DATE

PICK A DATE THAT FEELS SPECIAL. MAYBE IT'S YOUR ANNIVERSARY OR A DATE WITH GOOD VIBES. DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE WEATHER AT YOUR LOCATION FOR THE SEASON.



## ☐ WORK OUT YOUR BUDGET

AH, THE FUN PART. ELOPEMENTS CAN BE CHEAPER THAN A TRADITIONAL WEDDING. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD STILL HAVE AN IDEA OF YOUR BUDGET. SET A REALISTIC BUDGET THAT COVERS EVERYTHING FROM FLIGHTS TO THE FANCY DINNER POST-CEREMONY.

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# RESEARCH Phase

## ☐ LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE

MAKE SURE YOU CAN LEGALLY TIE THE KNOT THERE. SOME PLACES HAVE QUIRKY RULES! ONCE YOUR SURE GATHER TOGETHER ALL YOUR PAPERWORK, DIG OUT THAT BIRTH CERTIFICATE THAT YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T SEEN IN A WHILE, AND MAKE SURE ITS ALL IN DATE!

## ☐ SEARCH FOR THOSE SCENIC SPOTS

YOU DON'T NEED TO SETTLE ON A SPECIFIC SPOT RIGHT AWAY BUT LOOK UP THOSE JAW-DROPPING SPOTS PERFECT FOR YOUR "I DO'S." FIRSTLY, ITS JUST FUN TO SEE WHATS POSSIBLE AND SPARK IDEAS, BUT ITS ALSO GOOD TO HAVE A FEW IDEAS IN MIND WHEN HIRING A PLANNER/PHOTOGRAPHER.

## ☐ WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

YOU MIGHT BE PLANNING FOR SUNSHINE OR SNOW, BUT HAVE A BACKUP PLAN FOR WHEN MOTHER NATURE GETS MOODY. HAVING SOME LOCAL KNOWLEDGE CAN HELP HERE. WEATHER CAN CHANGE FAIRLY QUICKLY, AND HAVING A PLAN B YOU CAN ACTION JUST AS QUICKLY AS THE WEATHER CHANGES IS NEVER BAD.



## ☐ LOCATION PERMITS

DO YOU NEED ANY SPECIAL PERMITS FOR YOUR WEDDING? DEPENDING ON YOUR CHOSEN LOCATION YOU MIGHT NEED TO APPLY FOR PHOTOGRAPHY PERMITS, CEREMONY PERMITS, NATIONAL PARK ACCESS PERMITS TO NAME JUST A FEW.

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# LEGAL Requirements

## ☐ MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATION

FIND OUT HOW AND WHERE TO APPLY FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE. DIFFERENT DESTINATIONS WILL HAVE DIFFERENT RULES BUT OFTEN WHEN ELOPING ABROAD YOU WILL NEED TO APPLY IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY FIRST SO MAKE SURE THERE IS TIME FOR THIS.

## ☐ REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

GET ALL YOUR DOCS IN A ROW. BIRTH CERTIFICATES, IDs, VISA'S AND ANY OTHER PAPERWORK YOU MIGHT NEED. STORE ALL THIS IN ONE PLACE, AND REMEMBER ANY DOCUMENTS THAT MIGHT NEED TO BE TRANSLATED AND/OR APOSTILLED. THEN DOUBLE CHECK THE TIME LIMITS FOR SENDING THIS IN. SENDING TOO EARLY OR TOO LATE CAN MEAN YOUR MARRIAGE ISN'T LEGAL.

## ☐ WITNESS REQUIREMENTS

SOME PLACES NEED WITNESSES, SOME DON'T. FIND OUT AND PLAN ACCORDINGLY. NORWAY REQUIRES TWO WITNESS STATEMENTS FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE KNOWN YOU FOR MORE THAN 5 YEARS, THESE TWO PEOPLE DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY. HOWEVER, YOU DO STILL NEED TWO WITNESSES TO THE CEREMONY. USUALLY YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER CAN BE ONE, BUT SEE IF THEY CAN OFFER SOMEONE TO BE THE SECOND. THERE MIGHT NOT BE A RANDOM HIKER IN THE VICINITY, AS THE TRAILS HERE ARE NOT SO BUSY. SO DON'T LEAVE IT TO CHANCE.

## ☐ ACCOMMODATION & TRAVEL

YOU MIGHT NEED TO BE BOOKING YOUR ACCOMMODATION AT THIS POINT. IN NORWAY YOU NEED TO BE A LEGAL RESIDENT AT THE TIME OF YOUR MARRIAGE. THIS CAN BE A TEMPORARY RESIDENCY COVERED BY A VISITOR'S VISA, EU LEGISLATION OR OTHER RULES. FOR SOME THE PROOF OF STAY WILL INCLUDE YOUR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY, AS WELL AS THE ADDRESS AT WHICH YOU WILL BE RESIDING (I.E. YOUR HOTEL)

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# BOOKING & *Reservations*

## ☐ CONSIDER A PLANNER

HAVING A GOOD PLANNER WHO IS LOCAL CAN MAKE THE WHOLE PROCESS SO MUCH SIMPLER FOR YOU. ESPECIALLY IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE DESTINATION WELL. THEY ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO CONNECT YOU WITH HAND PICKED, TRIED AND TESTED VENDORS , THAT YOU MAY NOT OTHERWISE HAVE ANY CLUE EXIST. THEY WILL ALSO KNOW THOSE HIDDEN GEMS, LOCAL SECRETS, AND BE ABLE TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE POSSIBLE PITFALLS.

## ☐ TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY GET THOSE FLIGHTS BOOKED AND TRANSPORTATION SORTED. LOCK IN THAT DREAMY PLACE TO STAY. IF YOUR DATE IS DURING A HIGH TOURIST SEASON THE BEST PLACES GET BOOKED UP SUPER FAST, SO DON'T WAIT.

## ☐ HIRE AN OFFICIANT

FIND SOMEONE WHO GETS YOUR VIBE. CONFIRM THEIR AVAILABILITY AND ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE TYPE OF MARRIAGE YOUR LOOKING FOR. NOT ALL OFFICIANTS CAN PROVIDE A LEGAL CEREMONY.

## ☐ BOOK PHOTOGRAPHER/ VIDEOGRAPHER

CHECK THEIR PORTFOLIO, CONFIRM THEY'RE AVAILABLE, AND SHARE YOUR VISION. LIKE A GOOD PLANNER THE PHOTOGRAPHER YOU CHOOSE WILL MAKE OR BREAK YOUR EXPERIENCE. THEY ARE AFTER ALL GOING TO BE WITH YOU ALL DAY. THEY ARE ALSO THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR CAPTURING THE FOREVER MOMENTS, THE PHOTOS TO SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY, AND IMAGES YOU WILL LOOK BACK ON IN YOUR GOLDEN YEARS TO REMEMBER THAT ONCE IN A LIFETIME STORY OF HOW YOU CRAZY LOVE BIRDS ELOPED!



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# CEREMONY Details

## ☐ SELECT WEDDING ATTIRE

PICK SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU FEEL FABULOUS AND SPEAKS TO YOUR OWN PERSONAL STYLE.

## ☐ PLAN HAIR AND MAKEUP

GET SOME INSPIRATION AND TEST IT OUT MULTIPLE TIMES BEFORE YOUR DAY. SEE HOW LONG THAT MAKEUP LASTS, OR IF YOUR HAIR STYLE WILL HOLD UP TO WHATEVER ACTIVITIES YOU DECIDE TO DO. HIRING A LOCAL STYLIST CAN ALSO TAKE A LITTLE PRESSURE OFF YOU IF YOUR NOT NATURALLY GIFTED WITH HAIR AND MAKEUP.

## ☐ FLOWERS

CONSIDER LOCALLY SOURCED SEASONAL FLOWERS TO ABIDE BY **LNT GUIDELINES**, OR FAUX FLOWERS. SOME NATIONAL PARKS REQUIRE YOU TO REFRAIN FROM HAVING INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR FLORALS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. SO, MAKE SURE YOU CHECK AHEAD OF TIME WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT DO.



## ☐ WRITE YOUR VOWS

PERSONAL, HEARTFELT, MAYBE EVEN A LITTLE FUNNY. WRITE THEM FROM THE HEART.

## ☐ WORK OUT YOUR TIMELINE

WHAT IS YOUR DAY GOING TO LOOK LIKE? HOW LONG WILL THAT HIKE TAKE? IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO DO DURING THE DAY? MAYBE A SPECIAL MEAL WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY AFTER YOUR CEREMONY, OR RELAXING TOGETHER READING LETTERS FROM HOME. PERHAPS YOUR CONSIDERING A SUNSET CEREMONY, HAVE YOU CHECKED THE TIME OF SUNSET FOR YOUR DATE? DO YOU KNOW IF THE SUNSET IS VISIBLE AT YOUR CHOSEN LOCATION, OR COULD IT BE THE OTHER SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN? TIMELINE AND LOGISTICAL PLANNING IS SOMETHING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER AND/OR PLANNER SHOULD BE ABLE TO HELP WITH AS ITS NOT ALWAYS AS SIMPLE AS YOU THINK.



# CEREMONY Details

## ☐ PURCHASE THE RINGS

CHOOSE YOUR RINGS AND GET THEM ADJUSTED IF NEEDED. MAYBE RINGS ARE A LITTLE TOO TRADITIONAL FOR YOU, OR THE SYMBOLISM AROUND IT DOESN'T MATCH YOUR PERSONALITIES, AND YOU HAVE ANOTHER WAY YOU WANT TO SHOW YOUR COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER. MATCHING TATTOO'S, OR SOMETHING MORE SUBTLE, ENSURE YOU HAVE WORKED OUT THE DETAILS WITH PLENTY OF TIME, AND MADE ANY RESERVATIONS YOU MIGHT NEED.

## ☐ ACTIVITIES

HOT AIR BALLOON RIDE? SNOWMOBILE UNDER THE NORTHERN LIGHTS? SWIM WITH ORCA? OR A RELAXED DAY TOGETHER? HOWEVER YOU CHOOSE TO SPEND YOUR DAY MAKE SURE YOU HAVE BOOKED IN ADVANCE ANY ACTIVITIES AND MADE THEM AWARE ITS YOUR WEDDING DAY.

## ☐ ASK FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO PARTICIPATE

YES YOU CAN ABSOLUTELY INVITE THEM ALONG FOR YOUR ADVENTURE! OR, IF YOUR HAVING A MORE PRIVATE INTIMATE CELEBRATION ASK THEM TO SEND YOU VIDEO MESSAGES, OR WRITE LETTERS TO BE OPENED THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY SO THEY CAN ALL BE A PART OF YOUR CELEBRATION.



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ☐ NOTIFY IMPORTANT PEOPLE

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS. NOW THIS CAN BE A LITTLE TRICKY FOR SOME, CONSIDER HOW YOU ARE GOING TO BREAK THE NEWS, AND PREPARE FOR SOMEONE TO NOT INITIALLY BE AS HAPPY ABOUT YOUR CHOICE TO ELOPE AS YOU ARE. LOVED ONES OFTEN HAVE EXPECTATIONS OF HOW YOUR DAY WILL BE, BUT SHARE YOUR REASONS FOR ELOPING, AND WHAT YOUR HOPING FOR GOING INTO YOUR UNION. THEY WILL SOON COME ROUND TO THE IDEA, MAYBE EVEN PLAN A SMALL CELEBRATION.

## ☐ SAVE THE DATE'S & INVITATIONS

EVEN IF YOUR NOT HAVING GUESTS IT CAN BE A NICE KEEPSAKE TO HAVE ONE SET OF STATIONARY MADE UP FOR YOUR DATE.



## ☐ WE DID IT!

SOME COUPLES CHOOSE TO KEEP THEIR WEDDING A SURPRISE UNTIL AFTER THE CEREMONY. WHETHER YOU DECIDE TO DO THIS OR NOT YOU WILL WANT TO LET PEOPLE KNOW YOUR MARRIED. THIS CAN BE A SOCIAL MEDIA POST, OR A MORE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER THE ELOPEMENT. THINK OF A FUN IDEA HOW YOU WILL LET EVERYONE KNOW YOU ELOPED.

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# FINAL Preparations

## ☐ CREATE A PACKING LIST

WHILST YOU THINK YOUR GOING TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING, ITS HANDY TO HAVE A LIST PREPARED IN ADVANCE. CEREMONY ESSENTIALS RINGS, VOWS, WEDDING ATTIRE, TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, PERSONAL ITEMS, AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED.

## ☐ CONFIRM ALL BOOKINGS

TAKE A MOMENT TO JUST DOUBLE CHECK THROUGH ALL YOUR BOOKINGS. CONFIRM WITH YOUR VENDORS, AND MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS IN ORDER. ALSO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOUR AIRLINE ABOUT TRAVELLING WITH YOUR DRESS IF APPLICABLE. MOST ARE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR WEDDING CLOTHES IN THE CABIN TO ENSURE NOTHING GOES ASTRAY.

## ☐ SPA TREATMENTS

TAKE ANY BEAUTY TREATMENTS, SKIN CARE, HAIR, NAILS ETC AT LEAST A WEEK BEFORE YOUR ELOPEMENT DATE, TO ENSURE THERE IS TIME FOR ANY POSSIBLE REACTIONS TO FADE.



## ☐ RELAX AND ENJOY

PLAN A DATE NIGHT, OR JUST TAKE A MOMENT TO RELAX TOGETHER. PLANNING AN ELOPEMENT IS A LOT OF WORK AND YOU HAVE LIKELY BEEN SUPER BUSY THESE LAST MONTHS. DON'T FORGET THE REASONS YOUR DOING THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE IS YOUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER. SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME TOGETHER BEFORE YOU TRAVEL.

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