



DESTINATION WEDDING COUNTDOWN GUIDE

A DETAILED GUIDE TO
PLANNING AN EASY,
BREEZY, STRESS-FREE
DESTINATION WEDDING!



Playa Bella
weddings & travel



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ABOUT PLAYA BELLA WEDDINGS & TRAVEL

At Playa Bella, we're lovers of beautiful beaches—and of the unforgettable experiences they inspire. Founded on a deep appreciation for sun-kissed shores and salty breezes, we've made it our mission to craft seamless, soulful destination weddings and luxurious group travel getaways. Whether you're dreaming of saying “I do” with toes in the sand or exploring Europe’s hidden gems with your best friends, our team of seasoned planners turns those daydreams into real-life celebrations.

Our strength lies in personalized service. We take the time to get to know you—your style, your rhythms, your vision for the perfect moment—and transform your needs into thoughtful details. That might mean refining your ceremony timeline so everything flows beautifully, or recommending the precise beach cove that captures your vibe. We handle everything from resort contracts and group room blocks to travel logistics and guest support, so that you and your loved ones can be in the moment. All. The. Way.

Choosing Playa Bella means choosing calm for your whirlwind, joy for your journey, and unwavering confidence in every detail. Our curated portfolio includes luxe all-inclusive resorts, adults-only hideaways, and bespoke European escapes—always with insider pricing, exclusive perks, and the kind of on-site connections only a locally grounded, well-traveled team can deliver. You stay present; we'll handle the rest.

If you're ready to step off the checklist treadmill and into a celebration that's as relaxed, radiant, and downright fun as you are, you're in the right place. Let Playa Bella be your guide—from the first “yes” to the final wave goodbye—so that your countdown isn't just about time ticking away, but about the joy you're collecting every step of the way.

[SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION](#)

12-18 MONTHS

TAKE ACTION

Schedule a consultation with your Destination Wedding Travel Concierge-
That's us!

Decide on your destination & resort. We will recommend options based on the dynamics you are seeking to help you narrow things down!

Get Room Block Underway: We will explain the entire process of a room block (generally for groups of 20 or more guests), and will lock that in to ensure availability and pricing are secure and solid...even if the resort decides to raise their prices!

Get a **concept of the budget** you'd like to stick to!

Determine if you will have a **Civil Ceremony or Symbolic Ceremony.** Don't worry...we will explain the difference and pro's and con's so you can make an informed decision.

Craft your initial **guest list.**

SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION

NOTES

12-14 MONTHS

TAKE ACTION

☐ Invite your family and friends to be in your **wedding party**.

☐ Start a **wedding website**.

☐ Start your **wedding/honeymoon registry** if you will have one.

☐ Draft /Print / Mail **Save The Date cards**. Not sure what to include? We will guide you on this.

☐ **Request the vendor list** from the resort (think hair and make-up and photography) to decide if you will be working with them. If you will have your own vendors, most resorts will charge an outside vendor fee. We will guide you on this to keep costs to a minimum!

☐ Now is the time to **contract with your preferred hair and make-up artist and photographer**, whether they are outside vendors or the resorts preferred vendor.

NOTES

SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION

10 MONTHS

TAKE ACTION

■ **Finalize your guest list** and get those invitations in the mail! Keep in mind, history shows on average, *approximately 60%* of guests invited will travel with you*. This is simply an average!

■ As you **Say Yes to the Dress** keep in mind you're getting married in the tropics! Keep things light and sheer. And best to leave the stiletto's at home!

■ Decide if you will be **honeymooning at the same resort, or moving to another location**. We have plenty of romantic options if you need one!


SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION

NOTES

6 MONTHS

TAKE ACTION

 **Book your flights!**

 Check your passports! Make sure they are valid and free from all damages! And, just for good measure, make sure the **passport is valid for at least 6 months AFTER your return flight.**

SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION

NOTES

4 - 6 MONTHS

TAKE ACTION

- ☐ Finalize **wedding attire** requirements
- ☐ Plan **rehearsal dinner** details and/or Welcome Cocktail event.
- ☐ Select and purchase **Welcome bag** gift items. Need some inspo on what to include? Just ask us!

NOTES

SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION

3 MONTHS

TAKE ACTION

Create your **wedding day and event itinerary**.

Book a group activity! Think sunset catamaran or snorkeling trip for the group!

SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION

NOTES

2 MONTHS

TAKE ACTION

- ☐ Finalize **wedding vows**.
- ☐ Confirm **ceremony music** selections and mode of connectivity
- ☐ Work with photographer on **list of requested shots**
- ☐ Arrange and confirm any '**day of**' **spa appointments**.

NOTES

SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION

1 MONTH

TAKE ACTION

Delegate responsibilities to family and wedding party (think...handing out Welcome gift bags, etc) to trusted family members or wedding party members to keep the stress off you!

Packing your dress: make sure your dress is on a hanger and packed in a vinyl gown bag for the flight. Each airline has different requirements, so please check in with your airline.

Receive and **review your travel documents.** You and your guests will receive your travel documents from us that you will want to have with you during travel.

Prepare **gratuities for vendors/wedding coordinators.** Need help? Just ask us!

NOTES

SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION

THE BIG DAY

TAKE ACTION

Start with a solid breakfast...and a nice deep breath!

Enjoy the time with your crew getting ready! Eat light bites, laugh and enjoy these moments!

SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION

NOTES

YOUR TRAVEL AGENTS



LORI HEPP
Founder

I've done just about everything in the travel industry—but it wasn't until I found destination weddings that I truly found my passion. As a graduate of Destination Wedding University and a seasoned travel concierge, I now help couples plan unforgettable celebrations in the world's most beautiful places.

Based in the Midwest with my amazing husband, I've passed on my love for travel to our pilot son and our globe-trotting daughter.

Whether it's a barefoot ceremony on the beach or a luxurious adults-only escape, I specialize in turning dream weddings into stress-free realities.



ASHLEY BERG
Travel Advisor

My love for travel started in the fourth grade, packed into a minivan with my siblings on the way to Florida. Waking up in the mountains of Chattanooga left a lasting impression—and that sense of wonder has stayed with me ever since.

Today, whether I'm exploring solo, traveling with my four kids and fiancé, or planning trips for others, I still feel that same magic.

With over seven years in the travel industry, I specialize in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Hawaii, and love helping families, couples, groups, and solo travelers turn dream vacations into lasting memories. I'm here to guide you every step of the way—and firmly believe the only trip you'll regret is the one you didn't take.