

## Destination Décor

*Learn How to Decorate Your Destination Site, Without Ever Seeing it in Person.*

Planning a destination wedding is harder than most people think. Why, you ask. Well, because depending on your location, you may not have the opportunity to see it before your wedding day. Take note, planning a destination wedding is not for the faint hearted or those who want to have control over the wedding planning. Most destination weddings require a great deal of trust in the wedding professional on-site.

Now, even though they can be a challenge, they are not impossible to manage. I would say selecting the décor elements is the hardest planning element for destination weddings. For many couples, it is hard to imagine what the space will look like if you can't physically see it. Don't worry. This article outlines what questions to ask, how to use the space effectively and suggestions on what to take and what not to take.

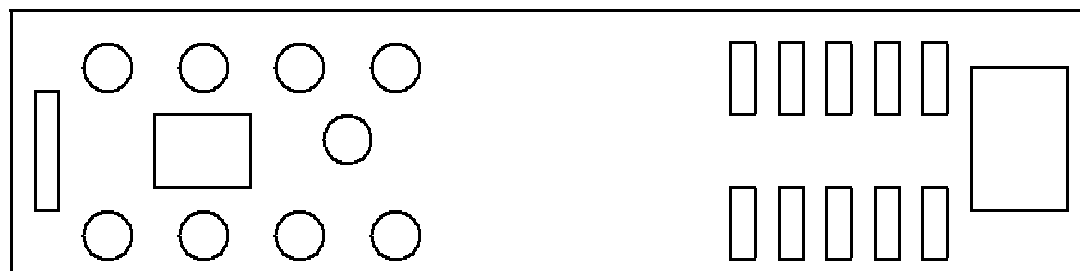
### Questions to Ask

1. What flower and decorations are included in my wedding package?
2. What features do I love most about this destination? (Such as, lush gardens, view of the mountains, the look of the Chateau, etc.)
3. Are digital pictures and site schematics available?
4. Is there a wedding professional on-site to assist me with questions and concerns?
5. What items am I allowed to bring or not to bring?
6. May I ship flowers and décor items directly to the site?
7. How long will we have to decorate the space?

### How to Use Your Space Effectively

Many times destination weddings have the ceremony and reception in the same space. Therefore, you must design the room for a multipurpose and easy transformation from ceremony to reception. It is important to separate the two areas, even if they are back to back. (See layout example 1)

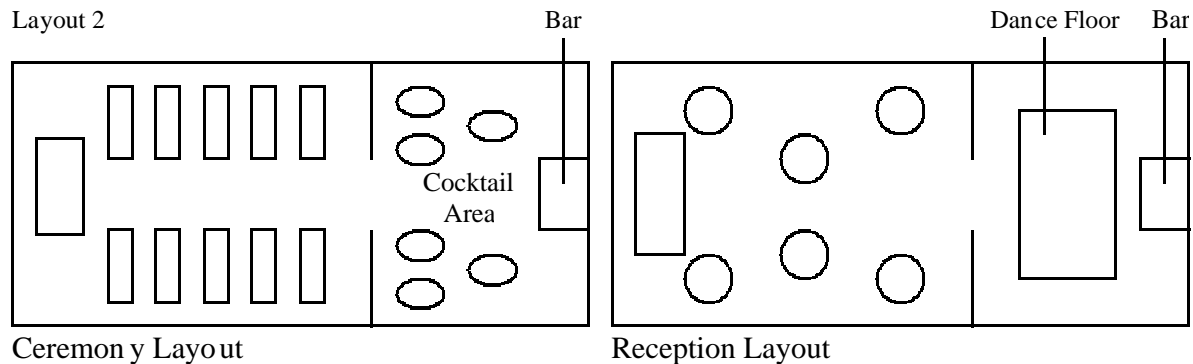
Layout 1



Reception Area

Ceremony Area

If this is not possible, then I recommend having the ceremony, then moving guests to a small cocktail area while the reception area is set-up where the ceremony once was located.



Other things to items to consider in your layout design are :

- Where are the restrooms and kitchen located?
- If guest will need to take pathways to get to and from ensure you create directional signs and consider lighting them with luminaries, torches or other lighting elements.
- Use what's already there. If there are ledges to sit on, built in wall niches for decorations, large porches for a cocktail area, etc.

### What to Take & What Not to Take

Obviously you can't take everything with, especially if you are traveling to Hawaii, the Caribbean, or overseas. But, there may be items you will need to take with you.

*Flowers* – be advised that the US Department of Agricultural regulates all outgoing and incoming plant, animal or bug materials. That means you will not be able to keep any of your fresh flowers from any place outside the domestic US. (So, nothing from Hawaii, either). If you want to be able to keep your wedding bouquet, have a silk bouquet created and take it with you. (Check out [www.BloomedToLast.com](http://www.BloomedToLast.com) for beautiful silk bouquets.)

*Favors* – again be careful about your favor selection. Food items, or plant life will be restricted, so choose a smaller gift item such as shot glasses, fans, flip-flops etc. If you really want a food item, check to see what the local cuisines or delicacies are and have smaller portions created and wrapped for favors.

*Place Cards* – this is an easy take, or have them shipped ahead to your destination spot. Other items like table numbers, cake serving sets, toasting glasses etc should all be shipped ahead and after the event have them shipped home.