



# Island Guide to your big day!

## 12+ MONTHS BEFORE

- Begin to envision your wedding. This is your big day. What do you want your wedding to be like? Formal? Exotic Beach Wedding in Islamorada, FL? A little bit of both at Marker 88?
- Start a notebook, so that you can be organized. Use dividers for guest list, venue choices, catering menus, etc. (I think you get the idea.)
- Begin interviewing wedding consultants. Wedding consultants can really add to your big day and ease your stress level. They are especially helpful when your wedding is being held out of town, as they are familiar with who to talk to and what can be done in the Florida Keys.
- Start thinking about your wedding gown; length, color, & style. Begin the process of selecting your wedding dress.
- Discuss your plans for your engagement party.

## 6 + MONTHS BEFORE

- Decide on wedding date preferences
- Determine a budget
- Make an appointment with Officiant who suits the two of you.
- Set time & location of Ceremony
- Set time & location of Rehearsal
- Set time & location of Reception Venue, & if necessary, Choose a caterer
- Begin to create guest list based upon venue occupancy and your budget.
- Choose Photographer/Videographer
- Choose a DJ or Entertainment (or both).
- Register with gift registry. (You may want to include where you are registered on your invitations or on your wedding home page, so that your guests can find your registries easily.)
- Pick a honeymoon destination; renew passports, vaccinations, and visas if required.
- Ask your bridesmaids and groomsmen to be in your wedding.
- Set a date to order dresses for bridesmaids and other accessories.

- If using frequent flyer miles for your airline tickets, book your flights now!
- Research and purchase wedding insurance if necessary.

## 5 + MONTHS BEFORE

- Begin looking for a baker to prepare your wedding cake, or cakes, as is common today.
- Begin searching for a stylist, make-up artist, and manicurist. Make appointments for your big day.
- Choose a florist and floral style & negotiate pricing.
- Make sure that your maid of honor and best man are aware of what is expected of them.
- Discuss dates for upcoming parties, i.e. bachelorette parties, bachelor parties.
- Set aside blocks of hotel rooms for out of town guests, and don't forget to book a room for the two of you for your wedding night.
- Have Groom and groomsmen choose attire and schedule fittings.
- Send out save the date notices to guests.
- Order your invitations and announcements. Make sure to hire a calligrapher if necessary.
- Compile a list of hotel locations, maps to venues, and other information for your guests who may be coming from out of town, or who may not be familiar with the locations that you have selected.
- Make an appointment for a bridal portrait.
- Confirm delivery of bridal gown.
- Arrange for transportation for all members of bridal party to and from ceremony and reception locations.

## 2 + MONTHS BEFORE

- Shop for and purchase wedding bands. Send bands out to be engraved...just make sure they'll be back in time.
- Make sure that groomsmen have been fitted.
- If necessary, design a ketubah or other marriage contract.



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- Mail invitations. Make sure all postage amounts are correct, especially for invitations being mailed internationally.
- Make or purchase wedding favors. You may have to allow extra time for custom wedding favors.
- Make sure all your honeymoon plans are finalized. All visas have been received. All vaccinations completed. Hotel & plan tickets booked.

## 6 + WEEKS BEFORE

- Confirm reservations for your out of town guests.
- If necessary, begin to write the ceremony program.
- Begin working on vows.
- Research local marriage license requirements and obtain documents required. Get blood tests if required.
- Purchase a guest book and pen for your reception.
- Follow-up with all venues, caterers, and entertainment. Make sure everyone is ready for your big day.
- Confirm wedding night and honeymoon reservations.
- Begin to record notes in your notebook for gifts received.
- Finalize music choices with musicians.

## 3 + WEEKS BEFORE

- Finish & print ceremony program.
- Complete trial runs of hair and makeup.
- Begin thank you notes. A head start will help to ease your stress on your wedding day.
- Work on wedding day details. How will you get to the wedding? Who will take you? How will the groom get to the wedding? (I think you get the idea.)
- Select and wrap gifts for the wedding party.
- Begin to review all of your plans and expectations with the wedding party.

- Create a seating plan for your guests at the reception. Call all guests who have not returned an RSVP and ask them if they are coming.
- Review all of the details with your wedding planner. Create a list of items that you are still working on with a deadline for their completion.

## 1 + WEEK BEFORE

- Smile...*you've done a lot in these last 12 months.
- Give your final head counts to your caterer.
- Confirm delivery time and location with cake decorator.
- If you are having a receiving line, determine the order you would like everyone to stand in.
- Confirm delivery times and order with florist.
- Confirm
- Have groom and groomsmen try on tux. Don't wait until the day before the wedding.
- Remind wedding party of rehearsal and rehearsal dinner guests of time and location.
- Prepare wedding announcements, stamped and ready to mail the day after the wedding.

## 1 DAY BEFORE

- Get a manicure and pedicure.
- Send the groom for a haircut.
- Give ushers the guest list.

## YOUR BIG DAY!

- Hair and makeup.
- Check wedding dress for pressing or steaming.
- Appoint family members to last minute details.
- There are bound to be last minute surprises, and your wedding planner should be able to take care of those issues for you, so RELAX, remember why you are here, and enjoy your day.