



WEDDING BELLS RING IN THE ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS

Planning An Island Wedding Is A Piece Of Cake!

Destination weddings are any number of things: relaxed, intimate, exotic. The Islands Of The Bahamas' Director of Romance, Freda Madrisotti is here to simplify wedding planning in The Bahamas and help turn your wedding into an unforgettable event. Everything from cake to flowers, hair to decorations, Freda will connect you with the resources you need on island.

With 700 islands, The Bahamas is a versatile destination for weddings. Couples easily find something to match their personalities, theme, and budget. Following are a few simple tips for planning the ultimate wedding in The Bahamas:

Where do you ask for help?

The [Director of Romance, Freda Madrisotti](#) can get you started. Some hotels have a dedicated wedding planner on staff, inquire directly of the manager at smaller hotels, as they often assist in coordinating details from the license to the cake, or choose a [wedding consultant](#) from The Bahamas Bridal Association.

How many different ways can you say "I do" in The Bahamas?

Plenty of romantic venues and opportunities are available to create a unique wedding – from saying vows beneath a 14th-century French Cloister on Paradise Island, to exchanging wedding bands on a pristine white or pink sand beach in the Out Islands, or even tying the knot within the majestic underwater world of Grand Bahama Island. The possibilities are endless.

How do you pick an island that fits your style?

There are plenty of options for [wedding locations](#) in The Bahamas, indoors and outdoors. If you are having a big wedding, you may want to consider Nassau Paradise Island or Grand Bahama Island, especially if you want an indoor event. Maybe your wedding party is smaller or you really want that romantic beach wedding, consider the smaller islands like The Abacos, Bimini, The Exumas, Eleuthera or Harbour Island.

Are the travel arrangements simple and affordable for your guests?

Given the close proximity of The Bahamas to the U.S., you need not worry about lack of transportation options. Guests traveling from all parts of the country will find a number of airlines offering direct and affordable flights to most of the islands, or for those that do not fly, [ferry service](#) from Fort Lauderdale to Grand Bahama Island is available, as are private boat charters to all islands, making it easy for friends and family to join you on the big day.

How do you get a marriage license?

You and your fiancé must both be in The Bahamas 24 hours before applying for your marriage license, and should allow two (2) business days to receive the license. If you are

divorced or widowed, you will need to bring certified copies of relevant documents. To review these requirements visit the [Bahamas Bridal Association](#).

How do you wed in The Bahamas when you are coming by cruise ship?

Exception to the residency requirement can be made for cruise passengers provided you have met the residency requirement on board and have a letter from the purser's office, signed by the captain, confirming this. For more information about licenses, visit [Bahamas.com](#).

How do you plan the wedding for good weather?

The average high temperature is 87° F and 76° F is the average low. For weather data about The Bahamas throughout the year check out [The Weather Channel](#).

Where can you find the right photographer, caterer, cake, flowers, hair and make-up?

The Bahamas Bridal Association has a [directory](#) of vendors endorsed by the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism with links to contact them directly. In many cases the hotel, whether large or small, will work on those arrangements with you directly. You may also elect to have a local wedding coordinator manage these details.

How do you incorporate Bahamian accents to the wedding?

The Islands Of The Bahamas not only provides a naturally beautiful setting to say "I do," but also plenty of inspiration for adding a local touch to a wedding ceremony and/or reception. Incorporate local flowers such as bougainvillea; serve traditional Bahamian food including conch salad, Bahamian Rock Lobster and Guava Duff; or hire an authentic Junkanoo troupe to liven up the reception and get guests into the dancing mood.

How do you marry on one island and honeymoon on another?

One of the most distinctive features of a Bahamian wedding is the option for newlyweds to hold their nuptials on one island and then be whisked away for a secluded honeymoon on another. There are a variety of daily flights to the Out Islands and reasonable private charters. The Out Islands have a assortment of [hotels/resorts, activities and packages](#) to choose from.

The Islands Of The Bahamas have a place in the sun for everyone from Nassau and Paradise Island to Grand Bahama to The Abaco Islands, The Exuma Islands, Harbour Island, Long Island and others. Each island has its own personality and attractions for a variety of vacation styles with some of the world's best scuba diving, fishing, sailing, boating, as well as, shopping and dining. The destination offers an easily accessible tropical getaway and provides convenience for travelers with preclearance through U.S. customs and immigration, and the Bahamian dollar at par with the U.S. dollar. Do everything or do nothing, just remember It's Better in The Bahamas. For more information on travel packages, activities and accommodations, call 1-800-Bahamas or visit [www.Bahamas.com](#). Look for The Bahamas on the web on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#). To purchase one-of-a-kind items from The Bahamas, visit [www.eshopbahamas.com](#).

#

Media Contacts:

Jessica Parker
Weber Shandwick
(212) 445-8263
jparker@webershandwick.com

Anita Johnson-Patty
Bahamas Ministry of Tourism
(954) 236-9292
ajohnson@bahamas.com