

FREE PLANNING GUIDE / TIPS:

TEN MONTHS TO A YEAR OUT:

- Determine your budget. Remember to factor in travel expenses, such as airfare and hotel accommodations.
- Select your date. With an average rainfall of just over 20 inches, anytime of the year is perfect for an outside event in Aruba. The so-called "rainy season" runs from late October into the beginning of January, but most of this rain falls in the form of short, sharp showers and mainly overnight. We recommend to base your wedding date on YOUR desired time. Many times your guests will make their schedules work on your selected date no matter what. If price is a concern, mid-May until mid-October is Aruba's low season which has more cost effective accommodations and air fare for guests.
- If possible, schedule a scouting trip. We call this an 'Engagement-Moon'
- Create the guest list.
- Choose the wedding party. There are many creative ways to ask your bridal party! Check out our blog for some of our favorite ways!

EIGHT TO TEN MONTHS OUT:

- Select vendors: photography, videography, makeup artists and hair stylists, entertainment
- Choose an officiant, if not Rev. Geoffrey Banfield
- Buy a gown. Many gowns take 4-8 months to come in and 2 for proper alterations.
- Send save-the-dates. This can be very fun for destination weddings. You can create a luggage tag save the date or boarding pass to let guests know they will be traveling. Be sure to include your wedding website details so that guests can begin planning as well.
- Launch your wedding website.
- Register for gifts or create a honeymoon registry.

SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS OUT:

- Ask your planner about group excursions; plan one per day. Let guests know where you will be on your wedding website.
- Begin making dinner reservations for your wedding vacation. Do you want to experience one last date together before you say I DO? Enjoy a romantic date at one of our preferred restaurants. Want to spend every night with a group? Plan who you will spend time with and when and let everyone know on your wedding site!

FOUR TO SIX MONTHS OUT:

- Order invitations. We recommend incorporating the travel theme with passports, boarding passes, etc.
- Finalize florals, décor, and cake.
- Renew your passports (if needed), begin preparing proper legal documents for an Aruba Civil Ceremony.

Required documents: As of January 2002, civil marriages are possible in Aruba. Couples can still arrange religious wedding ceremonies after they have been legally married either civilly in Aruba or by a civil authority such as a justice of peace or a municipal judge in their home state. Should the couple choose to be married civilly in their home state, they must bring their marriage certificate with them and the proper Aruba officials must be informed in advance. The following are the guidelines for the various ceremonies.

- Couple must obtain a document from the bureau of vital statistics or civil registry from their home state as proof that by their records they are both presently unmarried and are therefore free to be married to each other.
- Each person must submit copies of their birth certificate with a raised seal. The local civil authorities will keep these copies.
- Items 1 and 2 must be taken to the office of the secretary of state of your home state for an "apostil" seal that verifies the signatures on these documents.
- If either party has been divorced they must submit a copy of their degree nisi.
- If either party has been widowed, they must submit a copy of the death certificate.
- Couple must be holders of valid passports and submit with their application, copies of the pages showing all relevant details.
- Copies of the passport pages of their witnesses must also be submitted.
- All documents must be submitted by courier (i.e. Fedex) at least one (1) month prior to desired wedding date.

TWO TO FOUR MONTHS OUT:

- Send invitations and a schedule of group events.
- Plan the welcome party and rehearsal dinner.
- Finalize menus.
- Confirm the hair-and-makeup trial and day-of-appointments.
- Schedule dress fittings.

ONE MONTH OUT:

- Write vows.
- Choose welcome-bag goodies, guest favors and gifts for the wedding party.
- Create a final timeline with your planner.
- Finalize ceremony programs and other stationery and signs.
- Finalize playlist with entertainment.
- Ship items in advance to avoid holdups at customs.



ON ARRIVAL:

- Meet with your planner and officiant to review the timeline, event spaces and ceremony.
- Apply for the marriage license.
- Arrange for your gown to be steamed.
- Distribute welcome bags to your guests' rooms / hotel front desks.
- It is recommended that you arrive at least 2-3 days prior to your wedding day. This ensures that you have plenty of time to touch base with your wedding event manager and your guests. However, this is entirely up to you. We have hosted weddings where the bridal party and guests come in on a cruise ship and are only in Aruba the day of the event.

THE WEDDING DAY:

- Begin your happily ever after in paradise!