

# DESTINATION WEDDING VS. LOCAL WEDDING COST

One of the most common questions we receive at A. Marie Events & Design and Travel is how much a destination wedding generally costs. Although most assume that the combination of travel and wedding costs in an exotic location can cost a fortune, that's actually not the case!

## Not all destination weddings are created equal.

We have analyzed over 100 of our destination weddings and compared their costs to what a traditional wedding would cost, and have found that the vast majority saved greatly. The biggest factors contributing to destination wedding costs are the choice of destinations and the number of guests attending. A good rule of thumb is to expect about 50% of your guests to attend your wedding, which is often much higher for a local wedding.

## Destination Wedding vs. Traditional Wedding Cost Comparison

Our top selling destinations are Mexico, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic. Below we have chosen Mexico as our sample destination, due to the high number of all-inclusive resorts on offer and that it has the pristine beaches our customers expect. It is also the most accessible destination we offer travel wise with an average flight time of 5 hours from many major U.S. cities.

### Local Wedding In The U.S.

Venue	\$3,000 – \$20,000
Catering (per person)	\$45 – \$150
DJ (4 hours)	\$500 – \$1,500
Photographer (per event)	\$999 – \$5,000
Officiant	\$100 – \$400
Misc. (Transportation, etc)	<u>\$500-\$1,000</u>
<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>\$11,000 - \$49,000</b>

Group costs based on national average guest count of 139

### Destination Wedding In Mexico

Venue	\$999-\$3990
Catering (per person)	\$0-\$85
DJ (4 hours)	\$350-\$1550
Photographer (per event)	\$0-\$1699
Officiant	\$0-\$500
Misc. (Dance floor, beach clean-up, etc.)	<u>\$0-\$2000</u>
<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>\$1,350: \$11,500*</b>

Cost based on an average destination wedding with a guest count of 20.

## **FREE Weddings**

Many hotels offer “free” wedding packages, but they often include only a limited amount of guests. This doesn’t include any travel expenses. Free packages often have stipulations.

## **Guest Bookings**

The above tables only reflect a couple’s expenses. Your wedding guests still must pay for their own travel expenses. However, your wedding often qualifies them for group discounts, not to mention it is a vacation!

## **Stress-free**

Our Destination Wedding packages include a built-in wedding planner, who oversees the complete process of your destination to make sure it goes smoothly. We work closely with the resort wedding coordinator to make sure all of your needs and wants are met and are there on-site during the festivities.

## **Affordable Destinations**

Even though we used Mexico as our example, there are many other tropical destinations that are comparable in pricing. Check out the table below to get a better idea of the cost difference in other popular locations.

## **Tropical Wedding Destinations – Destination Wedding Cost**

- |                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| • Mexico (Riviera Maya)           | \$5,600 |
| • Dominican Republic (Punta Cana) | \$6,300 |
| • Jamaica (Montego Bay)           | \$6,700 |
| • Other Islands (St. Lucia)       | \$8,500 |
| • Costa Rica (Guanacaste)         | \$9,500 |
| • Hawaii (Oahu)                   | \$9,900 |

**Based on average entry-level wedding package costs.**

## **Budget-friendly Paradise**

A destination wedding can be as affordable as you want it to be, with no set amount that must be spent. The value of an all-inclusive resort and the wedding packages that they offer are what make it an incredible way to get married. Everything can be parlayed into your two forms of contact, from A. Marie Events & Design and Travel taking care of travel and booking needs to our wedding planner taking care of your ceremony and reception, along with any vendor needs such as floral arrangements and photography that we can coordinate with the resort's wedding department.