

DIRECTORY

Packing it up for the big day

Destination weddings call for extra luggage as well as organisation

Whether you're heading to a remote exotic island, the mountains or a romantic city, packing for a destination wedding is quite different than packing for a typical holiday. A destination wedding requires items not normally needed for an overseas trip, which is where planning and a checklist can come in handy.

In addition to obvious items like the bride and groom's outfits, couples may also need to make space for other wedding-day necessities including place cards and menus, the wedding playlist and favours for the guests, and gifts for the wedding party.

"Packing a lot more one-time wear items and beauty essentials to look absolutely perfect on your special day and throughout the celebrations

requires a lot more planning, packing and extra allowance for weight," says Evelyn Mills, founder and event planner at Marriage Maestros. "You may also have to pack more legal and supporting documents if you are planning to legally marry overseas."

Working out how to get the wedding gown and the groom's suit to the destination wrinkle-free can be one of the most vexing parts of the packing process.

"Ironing and pressing facilities can be a headache if you're going to a remote island where professional services may not be available. When choosing your gown or outfits for wedding functions, it is best to opt for wrinkle-free fabrics that don't require much ironing, or that can be easily steamed in the shower," Mills says.

Ask the bridal salon or tailor to pack



Marriage Maestros planned a wedding at the Bulgari Resort in Bali.

the dress for you, and carry it with you as hand luggage on to the cabin along with all other essential items including

wedding day shoes and the rings, and the documentation that will make the occasion legally binding.

Mills recommends leaving copies of key paperwork at home and keeping reference photographs of them on the couple's phones, in case the documents get lost before it's time to say "I do".

She also recommends packing documentary proof that you are heading to a wedding, as carrying excess baggage may raise eyebrows at certain airports. "Customs in some countries may question why you are bringing in so many new outfits and other items, and so you may need to show some proof that you are hosting a wedding and not bringing in goods to sell," Mills says.

Couples planning to extend their trip into a honeymoon will also have to factor in additional clothes, as well as a way to send their wedding gear back home. "Arrange for a trusted family member or friend to help lighten your load by bringing your gown and tuxedo, and any other valuable accessories you won't be using after the wedding, home for you," Mills says.