



# NO-STRESS DESTINATION WEDDING TIMELINE: 5 Expert Secrets for Your Perfect Day

BY CURATED TRAVEL CO.

# Hi There!

From sunrise ceremonies with 20 closest friends to sunset celebrations with 200+ guests dancing under the stars, we have helped create unforgettable destination weddings across Mexico and the Caribbean's most stunning locations.

What do most couples wish they'd known about destination wedding timelines? After orchestrating dozens of destination weddings, we've discovered that the perfect celebration comes down to precise timing and insider knowledge. While every couple dreams of their perfect day in paradise, most don't realize that the key to a flawless celebration lies in the details of their timeline.

These five expert secrets will transform your destination wedding from a potentially stressful undertaking into the seamless celebration you've been dreaming of. Whether you're planning an intimate beachfront ceremony or a grand resort celebration, these insights ensure every moment unfolds exactly as you've imagined. We are so excited to share this with you!

-The CTC Crew

## ABOUT US

As destination brides ourselves (yep, we've both been exactly where you are!), we've got your back. After planning dozens of destination weddings (and our own!), we know all the insider secrets to make this process actually FUN.

-Cassie and Annie





## O1 Hair & Makeup

Your bridal party size directly impacts your entire wedding day timeline. Here's what you need to know:

Key Planning Points:

- Bride's hair and makeup: 3 hours
  - Each bridesmaid: 90 minutes
  - Usually only 2 stylists available
  - Mothers of bride/groom often forgotten in planning
- ★ BONUS TIP: For parties of 3+ bridesmaids, plan to start 2 hours before the bride. Smaller parties can start 20 minutes before.
- ★ PRO INSIGHT: Always ask mothers early if they want services - this commonly overlooked detail can throw off your entire timeline.

## O2 Photography: What Your Coverage Really Controls

Your photo coverage determines your entire day's flow. Here's what most packages really mean:

Key Coverage Points:

- Full day (getting ready to reception end) = 10 hours
- Partial day (prep to first dance/speeches) = 6 hours
- Resort "included photography" = typically only ceremony + brief newlywed shots
- Must plan backwards from key moments

★ BONUS PRO TIP: Resort packages advertising "included photography" rarely cover what you actually want. Always check the fine print for exact coverage hours.

PSST... We know some amazing photographers who can capture your entire celebration exactly as you envision. (And they know all the best secret spots at your resort!)



## 03 First Looks & the Flow of Your Day

Your "first look" choices dramatically impact your start time. Let's break it down:

Key Timing Points:

- Each first look needs 30 minutes
- Multiple first looks (groom, parents, bridesmaids) = 90 minutes total
- Getting ready photos (dress, jewelry, shoes) need their own time
- Full wedding party photos add extra time

★ BONUS PRO TIP: For a 5 PM ceremony, work backwards:

- 4:45 PM: Wedding coordinator whisks you away
- 3:15 PM: Begin first looks (start earlier if including full wedding party photos)
- 11:30 AM: Start hair and makeup (if just bride + 2 others)
- 9:30 AM: Be shower-ready with clean hair (if bride + moms+ wedding party)

PSST... Most couples don't realize they need to start their day before 10 AM for those perfect sunset ceremony photos!

## 04 The Groomsman Strategy

Let's be real about managing your guys' timeline:

Key Points:

- Groomsmen are notoriously flexible with time
- They consistently run 30+ minutes behind
- This can derail your photo schedule
- Simple solution: Tell them an earlier time

★ BONUS PRO TIP: For a 2 PM groomsman photo start time, tell them:

- Be dressed and ready: 1:30 PM
- Arrive for getting ready photos: 1:00 PM
- This buffer ensures they'll actually be ready at 2 PM!

PSST... After coordinating nearly 100 destination weddings, trust us - this little white lie is the secret to keeping your timeline on track!



## 05

## Designing a Reception Designing That Fits You

Your personality type should guide your reception timeline. Here's why:

Key Considerations:

- Introverts might prefer combining entrance with first dance (90-second song clip)
- Extroverts often enjoy separate entrance and full first dance
- Timeline affects dinner service timing
- Traditional elements (cake cutting, tosses) are optional
- Your comfort sets the party vibe

★ BONUS PRO TIP: Assign a timeline captain! Whether it's a responsible bridesmaid, parent, or professional coordinator (hint hint), you need someone managing the schedule while you:

- Sip champagne
- Stay present in the moment
- Actually enjoy your celebration

PSST... This is exactly why our couples love having us handle the timeline details - so they can focus on making memories instead of watching the clock!

## Your Perfect Timeline Awaits....

Now that you know the insider secrets to creating your dream destination wedding timeline, you might be wondering about your next steps.

Here's the truth: Every couple's perfect timeline looks a little different. While these secrets give you a strong foundation, the magic happens when you customize them to your unique celebration.

Whether you're:

- Still exploring destination possibilities
- Ready to start planning your timeline
- Looking for someone to handle all the details

We're here to help transform these timeline secrets into your perfect wedding day reality.

The most relaxed destination wedding couples we work with all have one thing in common, they handed over their timeline details to a pro so they could focus on enjoying their celebration!

Ready to create your stress-free destination wedding timeline? Let's chat over a virtual margarita about making your dream celebration come to life!

PSST... Our couples tell us that having a destination wedding expert handle their timeline details was the best decision they made - after saying "yes," of course!



WANNA LEARN MORE?



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