

# WEDDINGS IN MALAYSIA

Why choose Malaysia?



Malaysia offers couples a myriad of options when it comes to destination weddings. For the most part, couples tend to favour beach weddings as we are well known for our islands. Landscapes of the sun, sea and surf make perfect settings. The popular islands for destination weddings are Langkawi, Penang as well as Sabah on Borneo. A sunset wedding on the beach or manicured lawns of a resort followed by an alfresco reception under a starlit sky is the common route taken.



Introducing Kris Wong, editor-in-chief

~ Weddings Malaysia ~





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Some additional information on beach weddings in Malaysia:

Locations Aplenty

Tie The Knot In Langkawi

A Harbour Of Love

On A Legendary Island

Other than the wedding ceremony and reception, some of the island resorts are also wonderful locations for photography. Have a look at some of these:

Romance In Langkawi

An Island Shoot



Some destinations in Malaysia also offer venues for the culturally-inclined. Infused with culture and heritage, couples can choose to immerse themselves in local culture and history, incorporating such elements into their wedding. Penang is particularly popular for cultural weddings as Georgetown is a Unesco world heritage city.

Some of the wedding planners featured in the links below have organised cultural weddings in Penang, click on their respective links and you can check out some of their work in their websites:

Negotiating With Vendors

A Planner's Goodwill

“Infused with culture and heritage, couples can choose to immerse themselves in local culture and history...”







### What are the hottest trends right now?

Beach weddings are by far the most popular among couples who choose Malaysia for their destination wedding. Be it a private ceremony for 2 or a larger guest list with family and guests flown in from abroad, we have a variety of resorts and professional wedding vendors who can cater to varying budgets. Ease of connectivity between Kuala Lumpur and other cities within Peninsular Malaysia and Borneo via Malaysia Airlines, Air Asia, Firefly and Malindo Air make transporting guests from abroad an easy proposition.

### Can you talk us through the variety in venues available?

Couples can choose from a range of resorts for their destination wedding. From the high end such as properties under the Starwood and Shangri-La banners to more unique boutique properties, couples are spoilt for choice when it comes to venues. Most established properties have a dedicated wedding team who will guide the couple through the entire process. Couples can also choose from wedding packages or can one custom-designed to their preferences. Properties also vary in size, and one can decide on a wedding at smaller, intimate venues if they so wish.

### When should a couple start planning their wedding?

For those planning to come to Malaysia, it is best to start planning a year ahead. Weddings are a big deal, and venues tend to be booked a year in advance in the cities. However for destination weddings, which is a more niche in nature, six months to a year is a good timeframe. Whilst most resorts and hotels have a dedicated wedding team, they primarily focus on the ceremony and reception, and may or may not look into areas where external wedding vendors are involved. As such, it may take some time to evaluate and select external vendors such as photographers, hair and makeup artist and the like.



How straightforward is the administration procedure for those getting married in Malaysia?

This is where it gets tricky. The administration procedure to get married legally in Malaysia is a lengthy one, particularly for foreigners. For many couples, they come to Malaysia to have the ceremony and reception, only after having registered their marriage in their home countries.

Please visit the website of the **Association of Wedding Professionals Malaysia**. You may get in touch with its President, Leticia Hsu, who will be able to offer you a more in-depth view of the legalities of getting married in Malaysia for foreigners. Please feel free to mention that I referred you to her.

What is the most important thing for a couple to consider when planning a wedding abroad?

When planning a wedding abroad, the most important thing one needs to get to terms with is relinquishing a certain level of control. Once you have selected your venue, it would be wise to ask them for recommendations of vendors whom they normally collaborate with. It would make the process more seamless and easier to navigate. Nevertheless, it will also be a good idea to visit wedding portals in the country you wish to get married in, to have a wider understanding of what's possible and

the potential vendors who could form part of your wedding team. Some couples go the other route, budget permitting, where they hire a Malaysian-based wedding planner who would then shortlist and recommend venues and vendors. The latter would be the best route to take as couples are able to share their aspirations and the wedding planners can in turn conceptualise an event to realise the dream wedding that the couples have always envisioned.







### What do couples most often overlook which are worth thinking about?

Photos will be a lasting reminder of your wedding in Malaysia, so please do take the time to evaluate and consider the wedding photographer you will be hiring to document your special day. Our partner photographers offer varying styles and different pricing levels. As such, I would advise couples to be thorough in their research.

It will also be a good idea to incorporate local cuisine into their wedding menus. Malaysian cuisine is world famous for its variety and fusion styles, and food is top priority at any wedding in Malaysia.

Finally, once your wedding is over, do consider travelling to other parts of the country for your honeymoon. There is lots to see and do!

### What should the bride and groom wear for a Malaysian wedding?

Believe it or not, for most urban couples, wedding attire is not that different from that of the West. The bride would be in a wedding gown and the groom in a suit. However, for Malaysian couples, they also often incorporate traditional wedding attire based on their ethnicity. Being a multi-cultural and multi-religious country, weddings are indeed very colourful and exotic when it comes to attire. For couples from abroad, depending on the type of wedding they choose, attire can either be formal or casual. Those who choose to have a beach wedding still very much stick to a wedding gown and suit, although there are those who choose to be more casual because of our hot and humid weather. For those who perhaps choose to wed at a heritage venue, then a more formal dress code may apply.



## When or why should a couple hire a wedding planner?

Budget permitting, it would be best to hire a locally based wedding planner. They know the ins and outs of planning a wedding in Malaysia, have contacts with venues and vendors, and generally will be your point-man or point-woman in the months leading up to your wedding here. Couples can also tap on the planner's goodwill and will have the opportunity perhaps to enjoy better rates and value-added services from vendors.

Here is a list of wedding planners we collaborate with. Feel free to get in touch with them via the email links in the respective listings. They would be able to provide you with some first-hand accounts of weddings they have planned for overseas couples. You may mention that you were referred by me, and hopefully they will respond at a faster rate!

Some of their work are featured [here](#).

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## There are so many vendors to choose from on a wedding day, how can you help?

Getting a simple brief from a couple would be a good starting point. Once we have an idea of the type of wedding they have in mind, possible destinations within Malaysia which they are considering and so forth, it will then allow us to point them in the right direction in terms of venues and vendors they can consider. We will normally provide them with a few options per category of vendor as each may have a different style and price point.







**How can you ensure a wedding provides the happy couple with a personal and memorable occasion?**

The idea is to plan well ahead and not leave things to the last minute. Planning for a destination wedding is much more work than planning for one in one's home location. As such, hiring vendors who communicate well and who are well-versed in dealing with international couples to be part of your wedding team in Malaysia is crucial. Malaysians are well-known for our hospitality and if plans are put in place early, then couples will certainly be able to have an enjoyable and memorable experience.

**Overall, what can our readers expect to experience if they utilise the resources available from Weddings Malaysia?**

We mainly collaborate with specialist vendors who offer a personalised service. Many are experienced in dealing with couples from abroad who intend to get married in Malaysia, and some have travelled abroad to do destination weddings as well as photography too. The wedding industry in Malaysia has a relatively good infrastructure, and vendors as well as resorts offer good value. The important thing to do is to communicate your ideas and budget clearly at the onset of negotiations so that either your wedding planner or your vendors have a clear understanding of what you expect and how they may play a role in delivering a service that will meet your expectations. Naturally, please do feel free also to drop us a note with a brief description of your initial thoughts and we will be happy to link you up with vendors and venues which may be of interest to you.



[www.weddingsmalaysia.com/contact](http://www.weddingsmalaysia.com/contact)



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