

2025 Guide

Stateside Weddings vs. Destination Weddings

What's inside:

- Introduction
- About Our Couples
- Venue Costs
- Catering/Food
- Wedding Decor
- Costs for Guests
- Hotel Costs
- Entertainment
- General Time and Effort Spent
- Further Resources



Introduction

The concept of destination weddings has been increasingly popular – with couples opting to tie the knot in exotic and enchanting locations due to its convenience and affordability. Destination weddings provide the flexibility to have a seamless week-long celebration without worrying about multiple events in different places.

We're here to answer the question: *which option is more cost-effective?*

According to data from [The Knot Real Wedding Study](#), the average cost of a wedding in the US is \$35,329. Millennials struggling to pay off student loans may work to host their dream wedding.

This article explores the financial pros and cons of opting for a destination wedding by Destify Couples. We will take a keen focus on venue costs, catering, wedding décor, costs for guests, hotel costs, entertainment, and other factors that will come into play.





About Destify

We are a travel agency that specializes in planning and organizing destination weddings. With a strong focus on personalization, affordability, and convenience, we help couples realize their dream weddings in the world's most scenic locations.



One of our most vital points is our pricing. The average Destify wedding package costs around \$13,000 for 50 guests – based on our Beyond Memorable package with Dreams resorts. Add-ons on the package include:

- A private reception
- A wedding cake
- DJ
- Ceremony setup, and so much more

Couples Statistics

Destify wedding cost

\$8k-\$13k

The average cost of a Destify destination wedding is between \$8,000 - \$13,000 based on 50 guests (including ceremony, cocktail hour, and reception).

Age of couples

25-34

The average age of our wedding couples is 25-34, followed by 35-44 and 45-54.

Most popular destination

Cancun

Cancun is home to many all-inclusive resorts, perfect to plan for the destination wedding of your dreams.

Largest wedding?

178

While most couples average 50 or less guests, our largest wedding boasted 178 attendees!

Common dates

Apr-Jun

April, May, and June are our most popular months because they are outside of hurricane season, followed by our most popular date of 11/11.

Most popular resorts

Mexico

Our top resorts are Majestic Elegance Costa Mujeres, Grand Palladium Jamaica / Lady Hamilton, and Dreams Tulum.



Most Popular Wedding Destinations



Compare Costs

Stateside
Local



VS.



Destination
Weddings

\$4,250

Catering/Food

\$3,999

\$2,000 - \$10,000

Wedding Décor

\$300 - \$500

\$1,422

Costs for Guests

\$1,000

Average per night

\$212

Hotel Costs

\$150 All-inclusive

\$20,000

Entertainment

\$1,500

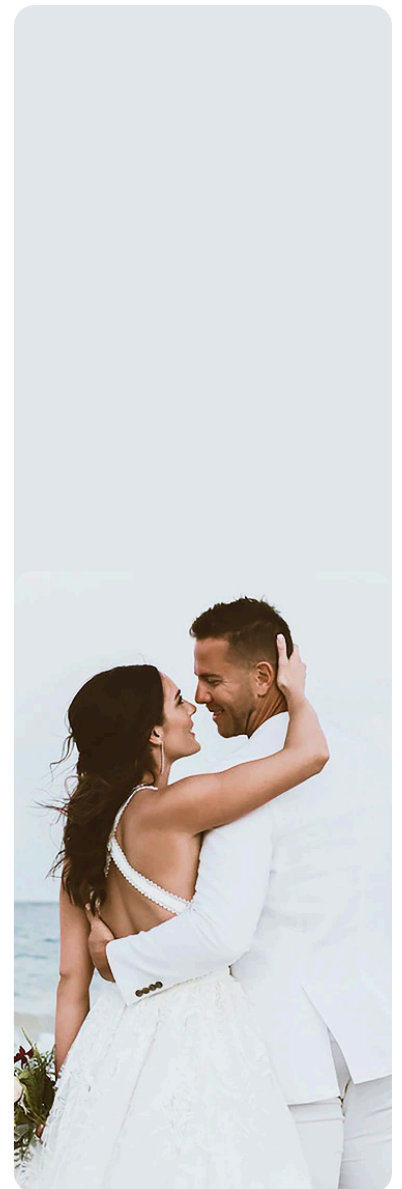
\$35,329

Average Cost

\$13,000

Costs Comparison:

Venue	\$1,500	\$11,000
Catering	\$3,999	\$4,250
	\$650	\$1,500
Photographer	\$950	\$5,000





Venue Costs

The Knot Real Wedding Study research shows that the average cost of a wedding in the US is \$35,329. Millennials are struggling to pay off student loan debt and still host their dream weddings. However, hosting a destination wedding can be an excellent way to save money!

Stateside weddings

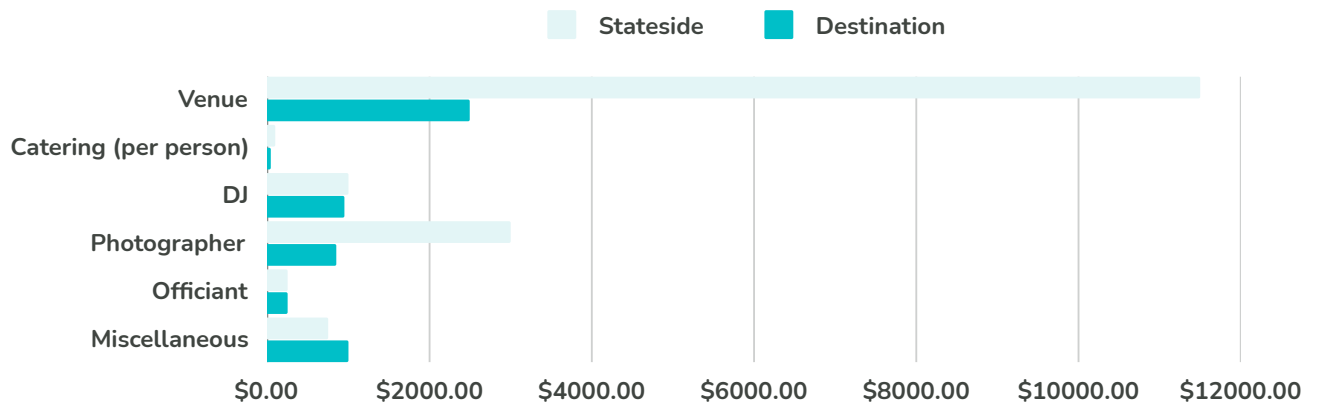
Multiple items are taken into account for stateside weddings that may be included in destination wedding packages, including:

- Ceremony venue separate from reception venue,
- Officiants,
- Rentals (chairs, sound systems, dining amenities, tents, etc.),
- Flowers,
- Alcohol,
- Catering and cake,
- and more!

Destination weddings

After analyzing over 100 of our destination weddings and comparing their costs to that of stateside, we've found that the vast majority of wedding couples save greatly, due to all-inclusive wedding packages. The biggest factors contributing to destination wedding costs are the choice of destinations and the number of guests attending. Expect about 50% of your guests to attend your wedding, which is often much higher for a local wedding.

Cost Comparison



Comparison information:

Our top selling destinations are Mexico, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic. Above, 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.



Catering / Food

Stateside weddings often see two types of food options for weddings - buffets, which are economical and easy to please a crowd, or plated meals, which come in at a higher cost and often leave people wanting more!

Destination weddings offer up multiple options with packages, including but not limited to:

- Semi-private or private dinners,
- Midnight snack stations,
- Upgraded desserts,
- Open bar,
- and more!



For example, wedding packages with an included private reception could cost around \$4,000, which includes up to 30 guests, a ceremony, cocktail hour, and three-hour reception with dinner and open bar, photography package, bouquet/boutonniere, hair/makeup for couple, and one floral centerpiece.

Stateside weddings often offer desserts at a separate cost, while destination weddings often include desserts in a package (however, the wedding couples can upgrade if they choose!)

Stateside alcohol and open bar options are often incredibly costly, sometimes running \$3,000! At destination weddings, all-Inclusive properties include open bar with a private reception. Since all-inclusive resorts combine the cost of food and beverage to about \$75 per person, you're saving in comparison to the cost of \$200 on average per person for food and drinks for your stateside guests!



Wedding Planning Made Easy

Our aim is to be the next generation of destination wedding companies — marrying technology with top-quality service. Our platform has been built from the ground up to simplify the complex booking of a group in a matter of a few short steps.

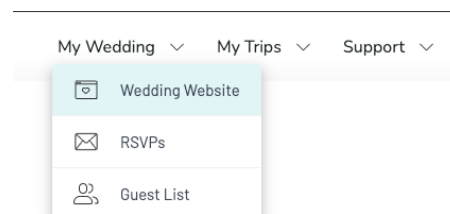


You're in charge

Destify solves complicated wedding planning with our awesome technology. Our custom websites are personalized websites that are designed specifically for your needs. They can include features such as custom domain names, unique layouts, and tailored content.

Our wedding planning tools are applications, resources, and platforms that assist couples with planning their wedding. These tools include features such as guest list management, payment tracking, vendor management, and even sharing itineraries with your guests. Our wedding planning tools make the planning process more organized, efficient, and enjoyable.

Welcome to the destination wedding company of the future, and we're just getting started, so couples can stress less.





Costs for Guests

We don't believe in charging fees. Our services are always 100% free.

We do not charge customers directly for our services but make commissions from our travel suppliers, hotels, and tour operators. Therefore, our fees are built into the overall travel cost, and this also allows us to offer the best rates possible. We even can offer promotions, packages, and exclusive deals that are not available elsewhere, which can save customers money and time on planning and researching their trips.

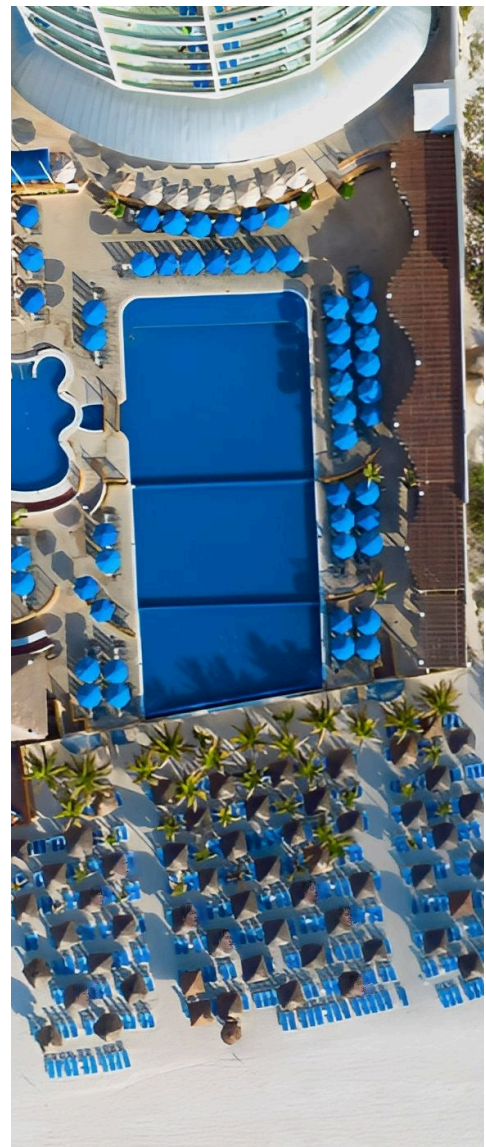
In addition, we can provide personalized recommendations, advice, and 24/7 support to ensure a smooth and enjoyable travel experience for our customers.

Destify's Exclusive Perks*

As a leader in the industry, we can offer exclusive wedding perks that our competitors can't, thanks in part to our relationship with certain preferred resorts. Whether hosting a small ceremony or a larger gathering of 100+ guests, you may qualify for amazing inclusions to your destination wedding like:

- Special room rates for guests
- Free nights for the wedding couple
- Free cocktail hours or welcome parties
- Spa and salon discounts
- Complimentary upgrades for the bride and groom
- Late checkout on the wedding day
- Complimentary bridal suite for the bride and groom
- Discounted spa treatments/services
- Complimentary champagne or wine upon arrival
- Complimentary breakfast in bed for the newlyweds
- Dedicated wedding coordinator to assist with planning
- Complimentary hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour
- Complimentary anniversary stays

**This is only applicable for certain preferred partners/resorts.*





Hotel Costs

With Destify you have 24/7 support from our amazing Guest Services department. They ensure smooth travel for each and every single one of your guests, from booking, all the way until their return home. Many of your guests have never left the country -- we're here to make their first international trip easy



What Sets Us Apart

- 1. Reservation assistance:** Guests can reach out to Destify's Guest Service team for help in securing the best room rates, and making reservations for hotels, and other travel-related services.
- 2. Destination recommendations:** Destify's team of Travel and Reservation Specialists can provide personalized recommendations and tips for guests looking to explore a new destination.
- 3. Customized wedding itineraries:** Couples can work with Destify's travel planners to create a customized wedding itinerary that meets their specific needs and interests, and can be shared on your website for your guests to see.
- 4. Travel insurance:** Destify offers travel insurance plans to protect guests in case of unpredictable events with certain parties, and can recommend a 3rd party for individual purchases when we are unable to provide it ourselves.
- 5. 24/7 support:** Guests can reach out to Destify's customer service team at any time for assistance with their travel plans and questions they may have during their trip.

In addition to these unique features, Guest Services can also assist with modifications to existing reservations (like wanting to upgrade your room or extend your stay).



Entertainment

Destify has trusted relationships with some of the most gorgeous resort brands around the world. These brands include Playa Resorts, Hyatt, AMR Resorts, RIU Resorts, Grand Palladium, Marival, Marriott, and many more! What do all of our preferred partners have in common? We'll tell you:

Location: The resort's location should be comfortable, awe-inspiring, and easily accessible to guests; and always with beautiful views and spaces for the wedding ceremony and reception.

Amenities: The resort should offer a range of amenities including luxurious accommodations, spa facilities, wedding planning and coordination services, catering services, and recreational activities.

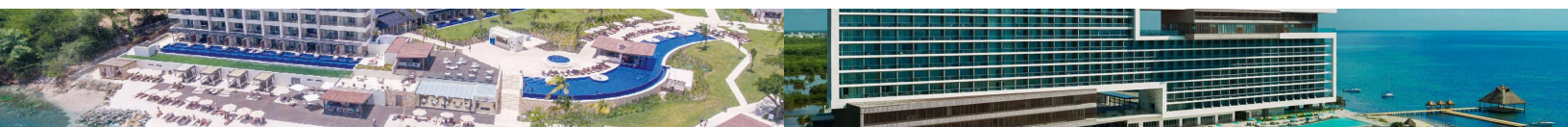
Reputation and Reviews: A resort with a good reputation, positive reviews, and a professional online presence is guaranteed for Destify's destination weddings.

Privacy and Exclusivity: A resort that offers a sense of privacy, intimacy, and exclusivity will make the wedding day all the more special. We also receive exclusive deals, perks, and further inclusions from our preferred partners.

Affordability: The cost of the resort and its services should be reasonable, transparent, and within the budget of the wedding couple's financial plan.

Cultural Sensitivity: The resort should be culturally sensitive and respectful, accounting for diverse traditions and religious customs. Our resorts are standout members of the communities they serve and are located in.

Availability and Professionalism: We always assess if the resort and its services will meet the needs, expectations, and timelines required for a destination wedding. They have a professional team, quality facilities, and organizational skills to ensure seamless destination wedding implementation for each and every couple.





Further Resources

- [Wedding Cost Calculator](#)
- [Destify Top Resorts](#)
- [Destination Wedding Location Quiz](#)
- [Why All-Inclusive? - guide](#)
- [Destination Wedding Ceremony Types](#)
- [Popular Destination Wedding Dates + Seasons](#)
- [Wedding Package Breakdown - guide](#)

About the Business

Destify is an award-winning organization focused on helping couples from around the world plan their dream wedding. We offer a range of services that cater to different budgets, styles, and preferences, ensuring that each wedding is unique, personalized, and unforgettable.

One of the key advantages of working with Destify is that we have extensive knowledge and expertise about various destinations and venues worldwide. We have a team of experienced wedding planners, travel agents, and concierges who can handle every aspect of the wedding, from choosing the perfect location to concierge services for guests.



Destify
www.destify.com
24 E. Washington St. Suite 875
Chicago, IL 60602