

*The Caribbean's*

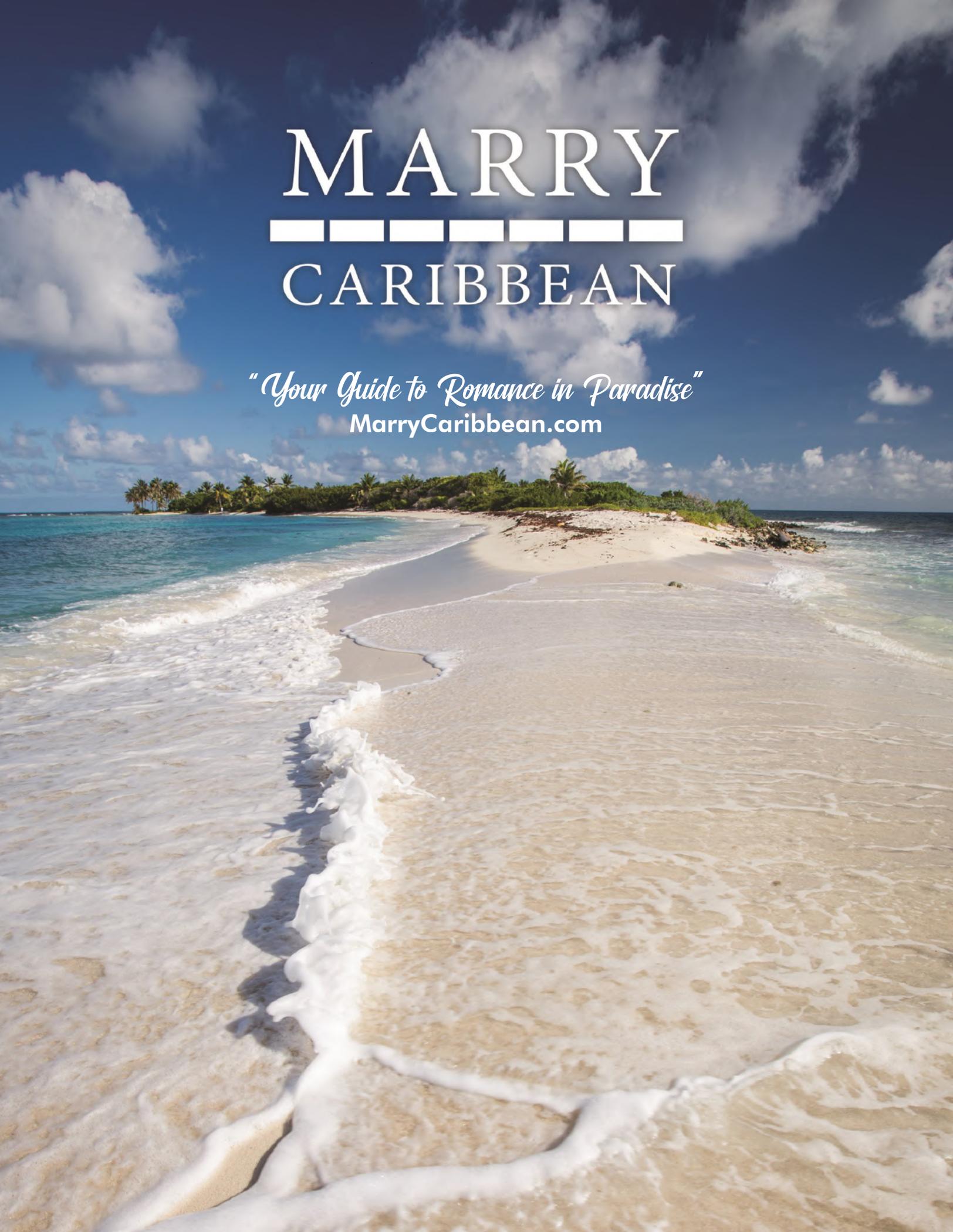
# WEDDING HONEYMOON & ROMANCE

*Ultimate Guide*



MARRY  
CARIBBEAN





# MARRY

# CARIBBEAN

*"Your Guide to Romance in Paradise"*

[MarryCaribbean.com](http://MarryCaribbean.com)



Congratulations on choosing the Caribbean for your romantic Escape.

The Caribbean with its collection of countries/nations placed strategically in the crystal clear blue waters of the Caribbean Sea makes it difficult for the uninitiated to select the right island and activities for a dream destination Wedding, Honeymoon or Romantic jaunt.

**The Annual Ultimate Caribbean Honeymoon, Wedding & Romance Guide** is designed to provide you with the most current information on the plethora of experiences that the Caribbean has to offer to help you to design your ultimate romantic interlude/getaway.

Here you will find information on Marriage Requirements, Cuisine, What to Do and Where to do it and of course, tips to help you make the most of your time in Paradise.

Happy Reading.

JACQUELINE JOHNSON  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
MARRYCARIBBEAN.COM

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Blue Glass Photography – US Virgin Islands

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# About the Caribbean

The Caribbean is considered the 'Oasis of the Western Hemisphere, and with its natural resources it is truly 'nature's garden'. A paradise that provides a wonderful backdrop for your lifestage event – getting married, enjoying your honeymoon or simply a romantic jaunt.

## Culture

The culture of the Caribbean has been shaped by a long and profound colonial history into an intense and complex hybridity that is unrivalled in any other part of the world. It is out of a convergence of African, Amerindian, Asian and European cultures that all things Caribbean, were born. There is a unique cadence to the



Caribbean that can be observed in the way people express themselves and in the creativity they demonstrate in art, cuisine, dance, music and other attributes that make the Caribbean one of the most romantic and exotic places to visit, live, and love. Your romantic experience will benefit from these alluring cultural influences.

## Art

Art through the many colors of the fauna and flora create a wonderful tapestry of memories. Each destination curates and is proud to display its heritage, music and lifestyle through art. You will always find museums and art shops providing a 'moving' experience of the history. And of course you can always



take back a little piece of the history of the destination you have visited by purchasing what is for sale.

## Dance

The Caribbean with its different mix of people/nationalities draws on its rich historical tapestry for some of the most creative dances you will ever see. From the pulsating rhythm of Reggae, to the beautiful and fluid movements of Salsa to the African beat of quadrille, you will definitely want to get in

the groove.

I dare you to sit and listen to these catchy and pulsating rhythms without some sort of movement. Standard movements include the lower extremities with much of it in the hip. With a downing or two of rum punch, coupled with this gyrating and pulsating music - you will be getting your groove on in no time.

Enjoy, you are in the Caribbean and amongst some of the friendliest people you will ever meet.



## Music

Bob Marley took Jamaican Reggae to the world and



Caribbean music has never been the same. This is the day of your wedding, you have great food and now you will be dancing to the pulsating music. Do not forget to buy your copies to take home, where you can perfect the dance in the privacy of your home and with your new love.

## Nightlife

Nightlife in the Caribbean is as varied and overflowing as one can imagine. The Caribbean offers some of the best hospitality and you are now among people who know how to celebrate life. Dancing and nightlife go hand in hand and soothes the soul.

To get your groove on ask the hotel concierge the best places to go. Most likely the hotel you are staying at also have a very 'happening' nightlife.





# Planning the Perfect Caribbean Destination Wedding, Honeymoon or Romantic Jaunt

One of the main reasons people visit the Caribbean is for romance. Whether it is for a honeymoon, a destination wedding or a much needed romantic interlude you'll find all the information you need to make your trip the best it can be at [www.MarryCaribbean.com](http://www.MarryCaribbean.com).

MarryCaribbean.com offers the internet's most complete listing of Caribbean destination wedding and honeymoon resources and I am delighted to share my love of romance and the Caribbean with you.

Here you will find information on some of the best and most romantic Caribbean hotels and resorts, entertainment and cuisine. And if you are one of those very lucky souls who has chosen to be married in the Caribbean you'll find detailed information on legal requirements for each island. Cheers!

I am delighted that you have chosen the Caribbean for this once in a lifetime event: The hospitality in this region is above and beyond and here, you can design, suggest, develop and realize the wedding of your dreams.

Choosing one of the 34 countries is, at best, a difficult task, but with the help of trained Romance Specialists – the experience will be the easiest and most special best you will have.

I would again like to reiterate – it is imperative that you work with a Travel Specialist in destination weddings or honeymoon. Why? They know the destinations and the on-island contacts, understand and practice follow through and attention to detail, with the sole objective of making your day memorable. And while you are at it, why not work with your own Wedding Planner? Every country has its unique labor laws, and your wedding planner will relieve you of the responsibility of sourcing the necessary permits as part of their arrangement. (Of course there are exceptions to this in the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, which are territories of the United States). Wedding Planners in the Caribbean are topnotch and are very skilled at working with you to achieve the look you desire and the event that meets your expectations within your budget.

- ◆ Most hotels already have a 'Director of Romance' on staff and like any other region, qualified independent Wedding Planners are also available for hire.
- ◆ The professional services of a Travel Agent and

- ◆ Destination Wedding Planner are critical to ensuring worry free planning of this important event. Your travel agent will know who to contact and work with, within the allocated budget.
- ◆ Depending on the number of guests attending you will want to ensure that there are nearby hotels at different price points so that your guests may choose their accommodations based on their budget.
- ◆ Your Wedding Planner will manage that all important budget by negotiating the best deals from local specialists: florists, photographers, DJ's, musicians, wedding cake specialists. We recommend that you ask for the local wedding cake—they are awesome! - and use the services of other local specialist to add that special island flavor to your event.
- ◆ Work with your Travel Agent to create a 'newsletter', with up to date information on activities, wedding location, schedule of events, temperature, a brief history of the destination, shopping and all relevant information for your guests. This should also include flight options to the destination.
- ◆ An island event for you and your attendants is highly recommended. Secure the services of your 'Director of Romance' or wedding planner to source island wedding gifts for your wedding party. As an added touch, you may wish to send a welcome basket to the rooms of each of your guests. (Welcome basket could include sandals, disposable cameras, suntan lotion, a bottle of water and a small bottle of local rum/liqueur.)
- ◆ Most of all have fun, enjoy your time away and leave the perceived problems and headaches to the competent planner you selected.

MarryCaribbean.com is designed to encourage visitor interaction. So please share stories about your romantic vacation experiences with other readers. You can even submit your wedding or honeymoon photos to our Photo Gallery where our editors will select the photos of the month for the entire world to see!

Jacqueline Johnson, CTC  
President | [MarryCaribbean.com](http://MarryCaribbean.com)



# Celebrating Your Love IN PARADISE

The Caribbean with its collection of Islands placed strategically in the crystal clear blue waters of the Caribbean Sea makes it difficult to select the right island and activities for your dream destination wedding or honeymoon. With the engagement season in high gear you may want to think about your likes and dislikes before you make your choice to Marry in the Caribbean.

**Q?:** I do not plan on getting a Passport, and would like to know what Caribbean Islands I can visit.

**A:** Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands

**Q?:** I would like to visit a destination with great beaches and quiet evenings.

**A:** This you can find in almost all the destinations

**Q?:** I am looking for great beaches and active nightlife.

**A:** The larger Islands, Bahamas, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, United States Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Aruba all offer great beaches and good nighttime activities.

**Q?:** I am into nature and looking for a destination that is compatible with my lifestyle.

**A:** Dominica, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Cayman, St. Kitts, Guadeloupe.

**Q?:** I am definitely into water sports and would like to know the destination that offers this.

**A:** All destinations offer a varied selection of water sports.

**Q?:** Cost is a factor and I would like to have my fantasy wedding at minimal cost.

**A:** Luckily for you, each island offers a package to suit every budget. And they are skilled in the preparation and execution of weddings.

**Q?:** I would like to bring the family and friends to witness to my destination wedding. How do I begin to plan?

**A:** You should not attempt to do this by yourself. Seek out a good travel agent and they will work with the hotel or a destination wedding specialist to pull it all together for you. Yes, you do know the destination and would prefer to do this by yourself. A word of caution! Unless you have friends or family in that destination, work with a professional.

**Q?:** Can I have a religious ceremony in the Caribbean?

**A:** Whatever your religion or custom, there is a house of worship to accommodate your request.

**Q?:** Can I use the American Dollar?

**A:** Yes, American currency is accepted throughout the Caribbean.

**Q?:** If I get married in the Caribbean, will my marriage be legal in the United States.

**A:** A legal marriage in the Caribbean is legal in the United States.





# Happily Ever after in the Caribbean: Destination Wedding are Big Business

As the COVID curtain continues to lift and the Caribbean is once again open for business, saying 'I do' at a dream destination wedding is Paradise Found. As Editorial Director of [marrycaribbean.com](http://marrycaribbean.com); the most-read wedding source for travel advisors, it is, indeed, my pleasure to welcome couples to tie the knot on any one of many tropical locales with backdrops that go the distance from the snow white sandy beaches in the Turks and Caicos Islands, spectacular scenery that graces Antigua, luxury resorts in The Bahamas and Anguilla, mesmerizing sunsets in Saint Lucia to top-shelf hospitality in Jamaica, casual chic in Sint Maarten, Dutch-inspired venues in Curacao and Aruba, tropical elegance in Barbados and all-inclusive vacation playgrounds in the Dominican Republic.

The go-to for the romance market, [marrycaribbean.com](http://marrycaribbean.com), our social media platforms and companion publications are the most respected sources of information holding the trust of the private sector, regional governments and partners that include airlines and resorts. As the author of the popular 'Caribbean Romance Report', I welcome collaboration from

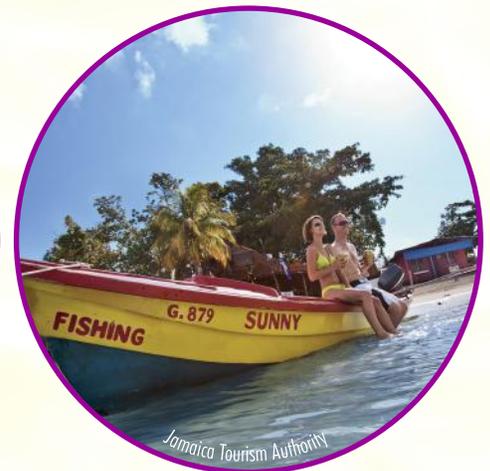
resorts, tourism boards, governments and destinations which are truly win-win partnerships as our editorial spotlights are widely read platforms that immeasurably benefit the private sector, tourism bureaus and country governments.

We are excited to announce that 2022 will see an updated 'Ultimate Caribbean, Honeymoon & Romance Guide' as we champion the exciting relaunch of the romance market in the Caribbean. We're inviting couples worldwide to celebrate weddings, honeymoons, vow renewals and anniversaries in the most picture-perfect destination in the world.

With a myriad of choices to suit every twosome and romance always on the radar, tying the knot in the Caribbean is easy-breezy whether couples opt for a barefoot on the beach wedding or a lavish party in a grand ballroom. A leader in the romance market, the umpteen resorts, hotels, villas and destinations in the Caribbean are rolling out the welcome mat for couples from all over.



MELANIE REFFES  
Editorial Director | [MarryCaribbean.com](http://MarryCaribbean.com)



# Cuisine of the CARIBBEAN

Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority

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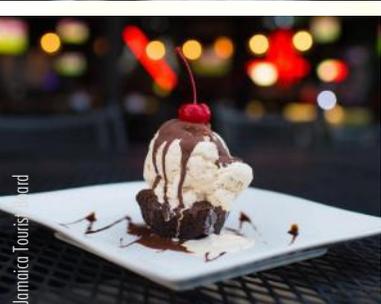
Grenada Tourism Authority

Bahamas Ministry of Tourism

Saint Lucia Tourism Authority

Bahamas Ministry of Tourism

Jamaica Tourist Board



## Wedding Cakes

From Rum Cake to Black Cake, a Caribbean Wedding Cake is a mouth watering delight that will take center stage at your reception.

Tradition would dictate that the cake is a minimum of three tiers - the bottom one is cut by the bride & Groom and then shared with the guests. The top tier cake would be put in the freezer to celebrate and share on your first anniversary.

From the Second tier cake... a sliver... and I mean a sliver of the cake should be put under the pillow of the bride and groom that same night to guarantee conception. Now the reason for the 'sliver' of cake is that the bigger the slice the more children you will have. So unless you want a large family, stick to a sliver.

What makes this cake so different and special? Well to begin with once a wedding date has been set the family or the cake baker would go into preparation mode. All the dried fruits will be put in a large bowl/ vat or container of wine and rum to 'soak' for at least six months. At the end of this period when it is baking time, the fruits will literally melt into the alcohol so when the other ingredients are mixed in and the cake is done - there will be no tasting of any particular fruit. This is very much unlike the American Fruit Cake which has no bearing, resemblance or taste to a Caribbean Wedding Cake.

The Caribbean Wedding Cake is then covered in 'English Icing' not a frosting. The English Icing is firmer, sweeter with more body and so easy to decorate.

You are in the Caribbean, you are there for a memorable event - your wedding. Enjoy the bounty, beauty and elegance of the destination. Utilize local products or incorporate what you can in this your Caribbean Wedding.

Throughout the islands, the traditional 'Black Cake' is a must have for your Caribbean wedding. This is derived from the English Plum Pudding: a rich mixture of blended fruits soaked in wine/rum and baked. End result a rich, moist dark brown cake and this is generally topped with English icing.

(Royal icing) This icing holds up well in the Caribbean and is heavily decorated as per the choice of the bride/groom. Unlike an American fruit cake, the fruits blend into the Caribbean wedding black cake. Your Wedding Planner will know the best wedding cake baker on the island of your choice.

One Wedding Planner who makes absolutely delicious cakes is Dreamy Weddings of St. Kitts & Nevis.

It is said that if you put a piece of wedding cake under your pillow, you are guaranteed to be exceptionally fertile.

Please be careful and only use a small sliver, unless of course you want a large family.

The first tier (top cake) is usually put aside and frozen to be eaten at the first anniversary celebration.

<https://www.pinterest.com/marrycaribbean/wedding-cakes/>

## Fruits and Vegetables

The Caribbean, otherwise known as 'Nature's Paradise', is blessed not only with great beaches and fabulous weather, but also an abundance of fresh fruits. From coconut water, soursop, mangoes to name a few and





Jamaica Tourism Board

the healthiest of vegetables that you can incorporate in any meal and at anytime, you will definitely not lack for anything.

If you are a vegetarian, vegan or just need to give your body a rest from meats: you have selected the right region for this your memorable occasion.

### Seafood and Meats Caribbean Cuisine

You have contacted your Caribbean wedding destination, planned all the elements and now choosing the menu, and of course you are working with a Wedding Planner. What fun! Now you will want to incorporate the local cuisine to impress your guests. Having a Caribbean



Bahamas Ministry of Tourism

wedding or Caribbean honeymoon is more than Sun, Sand and Water. The local food and customs can be included to provide a new experience, thereby giving your special day that memorable edge.

Caribbean cuisine is a rich mixture of African, French, Spanish, Dutch and English There are customs and 'must have' foods that is a part of the local tradition when getting married. Most of the food tends to be on the spicy side, so do make sure you explain dietary habits to your Caribbean Wedding Planner. Spices is a fundamental basic in cooking to enhance taste of European dishes brought to the Islands.

### Healthy Eating

I cannot imagine another region on planet earth that can offer such an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables. You can eat 'local' and there you will find some of the healthiest meals – as in some destinations you have a sect of people that eat nothing



Grenada Tourism Authority

but fruits and vegetable. No meats.

Make sure you check with your local Wedding Planner or the hotel to inform them of your dietary needs. In every community you will also find 'herbalist' or older folks who specialize in healthy living. Have your local contact take you to learn more from these 'sage' locals about the different plants/fruits that promote not only a healthy lifestyle, but create a healthy body inside and out.



Jamaica Tourist Board

### Main Course

You simply cannot have a main course without the

traditional rice and peas. (This is white rice and red beans cooked in coconut milk with special seasoning): truly mouth-watering.

Of course you have the choices of fish, meats or chicken. You may also want to include some of the famous Jamaican Jerk cooking. 'Jerk' was developed by the runaway slaves during the British occupation. It is a simple way of cooking meats heavily spiced over a slow open fire.

### Spices

What would the Caribbean do without spices? Jamaica is internationally known for its 'jerk' meats/foods. Meats are properly seasoned with select spices (pepper, onions, etc.) and the result is a finger licking delicacy.



Grenada Tourism Authority

Grenada, known as the 'Isle of Spice' will create or provide a lesson in gastronomic dining, uses spices that can only be had in that region. So is the Island of Guadeloupe...it is about the spices whether it is served in ice cream, coffee, sweets and any delicacy your mind can dream of. And the good thing, you can bring this home as a reminder of your travel experience.

One caution regarding certain spices that are pepper based: if you have no tolerance for spicy food, I would suggest you always order very mild.

### Drinks

The bounty of fruits in the Caribbean gives rise to whatever concoction the mind can conceive. Have the bartender create your signature Caribbean



Saint Lucia Tourism Authority

wedding drink to be served to everyone. As a matter of fact, make your signature drink the centerpiece of the cocktail hour. Arrange for the hotel to present you with the recipe and the date of your wedding in a photo frame for display in your new home. This will also provide you with the opportunity to serve your special signature drink at your first dinner party.

### Desserts

The offerings are numerous and truly appetizing. Work with the Wedding Planner to have a table of varied desserts using local products.



Jamaica Tourist Board

I can assure you that you will be pleased with the delicacies that can be had in the Caribbean. From the traditional 'black cake' (it is not black, but the crushed spices give it a very rich color) puddings using everything you can think of: rice, cassava, yam, bananas....and they are all good. Sweets using coconuts are my favorite.



# Getting Married Away? Yes!

It has definitely been a challenging two years for those of us in the travel industry. With cancellations, rebooking, delays in reaching suppliers, only the strong or innovative are still standing. No, more than ever, clients need trained travel advisors to help them craft their travels. Agents have been working on building or strengthening their relationships with suppliers, resorts and destination management companies. Relationship building has been the key to surviving and thriving this experience. Learning more about destinations, becoming familiar with new properties and getting to know new business development managers and wholesalers is how the advisors have been spending their time. Finding new forms and processes has become an ongoing education. Most important has been connecting with other agents to sharpen our skills.

Finding a wedding date in 2022 has been indeed challenging with the rebooking of cancelled weddings which is a good sign for all involved. We are already booking weddings into 2023 and 2024.

The travel professional has been challenged with keeping up with the ever changing protocols throughout the region. Agents have been working hard to process refunds, hold for hours with airlines to rebook and provide therapy to brides, grooms and their families.

Now to the good news. Clients are ready to travel with family and friends for destination weddings, vow renewals and honeymoons. Destinations, cruise lines resorts and suppliers are slowly getting back to pre-covid levels. Covid travel is not

quite as complex as before and some restrictions are even being relaxed. Tourism is the main source of income in these destinations and all are working to safely welcome our mutual clients back.

So some suggestions for our clients:

- ◆ Book your date early
- ◆ Be patient with your agent as they reach out to suppliers and resorts
- ◆ Be flexible as protocols are still changing
- ◆ Buy travel insurance

Most importantly relax and enjoy the process. Remember you and your significant other are inviting guests to join you in a decision that has already been made. You are not asking their permission to get married away.

Please seek out a travel advisor. They provide invaluable support and knowledge.

So, it's engagement season. Congratulations and enjoy getting married away!

## BRENDA WASHINGTON O'NEAL

Ms. O'Neale serves on the board for the Association of Black Travel Professionals and the International Association of Destination Wedding Professionals. She is a member of the Female Leaders and Travel ALLIES and Caribbean Wedding and Event Professional Association. She contributes articles to Agent At Home Magazine and MarryCaribbean.com





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for all your Wedding  
and Honeymoon needs!*



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# Destination Wedding ETIQUETTE

You are about to have your first contact with your Caribbean Service Provider (hotel, wedding planner, tour operator, etc.) There are simple things that you need to be mindful of when conversing from a distance. **Good Manners!!**

The old adage, "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar" applies here as it does in all other situations. Treat others the way you would like to be treated, and you will be surprised to see how others go out of their way to make sure your requests are fulfilled.

## Respect

Respect the person; respect the culture. The fact that you are the customer does not give you the right to be disrespectful.

## Honesty

Be honest with your Service Provider. If the cost of the arrangements exceeds your budget, say so and ask for a more affordable option. This is no time to be embarrassed. Do not hide behind the 'curtain' of negative negotiation. You would be amazed by what your Service Provider can deliver, possibly going out of their way to make sure your wishes are granted.

## Civility

Ah...yes...you are from a superpower and therefore speaking with "natives" so you are about to show them how things are done. Wrong!! Never underestimate the level of sophistication of your service provider. With a smile and a gentle response to your unreasonable arrogant posture, the Service Provider will make sure you are 'nickel and dimed' for every-

thing. That is not the experience you want!

## Communication

Be gracious in your communications (verbal, text, email, etc.) and clearly state what your objectives are for your memorable day and your budget limitations.

## Laws

Each destination is governed by rules/laws. You must abide by these or you will have the opportunity to meet your local Ambassador from a confined space (Jail). If the Laws forbid your Service provider from delivering your request due to the laws of his/her country...refrain from unleashing your hostility, and inquire what else might work to achieve a similar outcome. Remember that Service Providers, too, must also abide by the laws.

## Attire

You have a great body and the desire to show it off. Save it for the beach! Dress appropriately in public spaces. If you would not do it in your hometown, then do not do it in someone else's.

## Behavior

Loud, Aggressive, Profanity laced behavior will provide you the opportunity to meet the local law enforcement. This is not the memorable experience you are hoping for.

You are visiting the country for a new experience and to have a memorable wedding/honeymoon or romance. Take heed of these nuggets of etiquette and have fun!





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# Wedding Customs IN THE CARIBBEAN

Caribbean wedding customs and traditions are influenced by our African and European heritage, and although not all customs are practiced in every destination today, here are a few of the common yet unique ones.

- ◆ A dime placed in the bride's shoe on the day of the wedding will bring wealth and prosperity to couple.
- ◆ Throw your bouquet directly to someone and do not let it fall on the ground. If it falls on the ground and break into pieces, your husband will cheat on you throughout your marriage.
- ◆ Never give the dog a taste of your wedding cake or let the crumbs fall on the ground as this may not bode well for the longevity of the marriage.
- ◆ To appease the departed and ward off any evil intentions, sprinkle a little white rum in the yard outside so that everyone can enjoy in the celebration.
- ◆ Keep a sliver of wedding cake wrapped under your pillow as it will guarantee fertility.
- ◆ Brides maid should dress in white to confuse any evil spirits lurking by. Hence Kate's sister Pippa was dressed in white for the Royal Wedding.
- ◆ Do you know why shoes are tied to the back of the car after the wedding ceremony? This is a symbol by the father of the bride that the new husband is now financially responsible for his daughter. In modern times, shoes have been replaced with tin cans.
- ◆ The only cake served at a wedding in the Caribbean is the 'black cake'. Tradition dictates that this fruit cake (fruits are soaked in rum and wine for at least six months) When

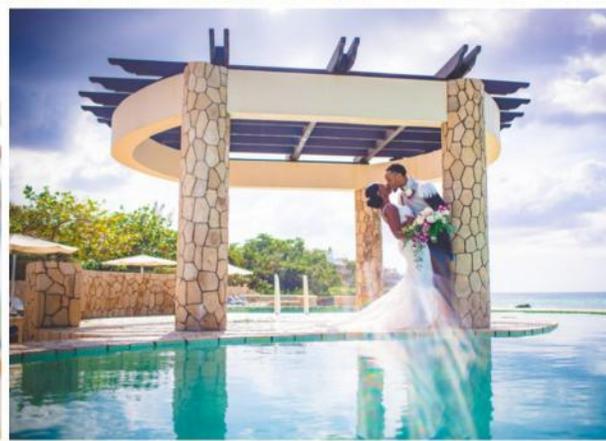
baked it is more like a plum pudding – all fruits are melted in the batter (a different feel, taste and texture of the American fruit cake). Recipe of this traditional cake is handed down among families.

- ◆ Of course the something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue is strictly adhered to.
  - ⇒ **Old:** You want something from a close friend or family who enjoys a good relationship with their partner – then this luck could be transferred to you.
  - ⇒ **New:** Your wedding attire and shoes – bringing new ideas, new thoughts to the marriage.
  - ⇒ **Borrowed:** A quality piece of jewelry or expensive trinket – good fortune should follow you throughout the marriage.
  - ⇒ **Blue:** Signifies purity and love.
- ◆ Wearing of the veil – A full veil that covers the entire face is worn and lifted only after the ceremony is over. This signifies modesty, purity and basically you have had no emotional attachment to anyone else. In some areas, the veil is also used to hide you away from evil spirits.
- ◆ Dancing of the Wedding Cake: this tradition is actively practiced on the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique in Grenada and on Myreau, Canouan and Union Island in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Mothers of the bride and groom (or their representative) do a traditional dance with a wedding cake on their head. This custom signifies the beauty and unity of everyone who will consume the marital cakes.



# Say Your I Dos

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only by boat. The sanctuary contains over 170 species of birds and is home to over 5,000 frigate birds.

**Fig Tree Drive:** is a 32km (20-mile) scenic route along winding roads through the lush tropical hills and picturesque fishing villages along the southwest coast.

**Yachting and Sailing:** Antigua's trade-wind kissed seas have earned the title, "[Sailing Capital of the Caribbean](#)." A not to be missed event is **Antigua Sailing Week** at the end of April which culminates with lots of food, drinks and on-shore partying.

## *Cuisine of Antigua and Barbuda*

There are numerous restaurants covering all price ranges. The more upscale restaurants require jackets for the men and appropriate attire for women. Tipping is a minimum of 10% if not included in the bill.

The national dish of Antigua and Barbuda is fungus pronounced "foon-jee") and pepper pot. Fungie is a dish very similar to the Italian Polenta, and is almost completely made from cornmeal. Other local dishes include ducana, season rice, saltfish and lobster (from Barbuda). There are also local confectionaries which include: sugarcake, fudge, raspberry and tamarind stew and peanut brittle.

## *Marriage Requirements*

If either of you have been previously married, then bring the original divorce decree or, in the case of a widow or widower, the original marriage and death certificates. Both parties must be over 15. If under 18, written authorization from your parents or guardians is required.

It is important that all documents presented are original or certified original by the issuing departments or offices. Ensure that all documents are in your legal name and provide affidavits in cases where you are known by another name.

Your marriage must also be solemnized or celebrated in the presence of two or more witnesses, apart from the Marriage Officer. (You can even ask two guests from your hotel). There is no residency requirement for the special license.

**Cost-US \$:** The registration fee of \$40 that must be paid at the courthouse on Queen Elizabeth Highway.

The Special Marriage License application is \$150.

The Marriage Officer's fee is \$250.

The certified copy of the Marriage Certificate \$10.

Valid passports are needed as proof of citizenship.

*The* expansive, winding coastline of Antigua is a tremendous wealth of secluded, powdery soft beaches. And the fascinating little island of Barbuda — once a scavenger's paradise because so many ships wrecked on its reefs — is now home to one of the region's most significant bird sanctuaries. More and more people are getting married while on vacation, and it's now easy to do so in Antigua and Barbuda. Even cruise ship visitors can now get married.

If it is peace and quiet you are after, head to quiet Barbuda, the lesser known of the two islands. It feels untouched by progress with the principal inhabitants being the graceful frigate birds.

## *Things To Do*

**Great Beaches:** Antigua and Barbuda is one of the best beach destinations in the Caribbean with over 365 beaches each with its own personality including features such as rock pools filled with tiny crabs, aerial displays by diving pelicans or organized water sports.

Most beaches are not equipped with facilities so it is important to remember to bring water and sun protection. On holiday weekends the beaches often fill up with locals picnicking.

**Divng:** Get an experienced dive guide to show you around the coast of Barbuda as there are many wrecks, from different periods of the islands history, and beautiful coral reefs.

**Frigate Bird Sanctuary:** Barbuda's Frigate Bird Sanctuary is located in the island's northwestern lagoon and is accessible



ANTIGUA  
AND BARBUDA

*The beach is just the beginning...*

VOTED THE CARIBBEAN'S  
MOST ROMANTIC  
DESTINATION 4 YEARS IN A ROW

# Weddings & Honeymoons



[visitantiguabarbuda.com](http://visitantiguabarbuda.com)



**R**enowned for its sophistication and charm, Barbados will make you swoon with her enchanting beauty. This island offers boundless liveliness, turquoise waters and white sand under your bare feet. Paradise unspoilt, her tropical rhythm beckons you to explore, to desire her more. That's Barbados!

Lovers stroll leisurely under towering palms swaying over turquoise waters; waves gently roar and crash against the shores of this beautiful coral island, Barbados stands alone, exclusive in her offerings. Secluded spots for romantic rendezvous in a land touched by joy, warmth, friendship and a stunning beauty you will never forget.

Accommodations are wide-ranging – choose from 5-star luxury properties to all-inclusive resorts from historic plantation houses to intimate boutique hotels, or just select a charming Bed and Breakfast. There's the ideal place for everyone.

### Things to Do

While in Barbados, you can simply relax, soak up the sun, savor the sumptuous epicurean delights and enjoy a cocktail made with one of its famous rums. Or you may opt to take in a cricket match or just explore the beautiful island. Take a tour and explore the stunning tropical landscapes, the unique wildlife, or visit one of the beautiful Botanic Gardens.

The famous Harrison's Cave is not to be missed! A tram-ride underground reveals flowing streams, deep pools of crystal-clear water, the formation of towering columns and the slow-growing stalagmites.

Love life on the water? There are many water sporting

activities for you. Take a dive or snorkel along the coast and among the variety of colorful fish.

### Cuisine of Barbados

Create unforgettable experiences as you enjoy a meal. Take the opportunity to sample everything: the national dish of flying fish and coucou, rice and peas with stewed chicken or choose from an assortment of curries, rotis, sweet plantains, roasted breadfruit with salted codfish or fresh, locally caught fish. And if it's the weekend, you must indulge in some pudding and souse. You must!

At most hotels you can enjoy a breakfast menu that include freshly prepared tropic fruits and juices, omelets with your choice of filling, fish cakes and delicious homemade breads and pastries. For

lunch and dinner, the choices are endless! There are countless restaurants, cafés and even food trucks which offer Bajan, Caribbean or even international cuisine. You can choose to go formal or even try a beachfront shack where the dress code is your swimsuit and bare feet. Your options are endless so eat up!

### Marriage Requirements

There is no waiting period to get married in Barbados! Both parties must apply for the license in person. You will require:

- Valid passports and birth certificates
- If applicable, original Decree Absolute or Death Certificate
- Your priest to sent relevant documents to the priest in Barbados for a church ceremony
- To arrange with a Magistrate or Marriage Officer to perform the ceremony prior to applying for the license and present the letter from either the when making the application. ALL documents MUST either be in English or accompanied by a Notarized translated copy

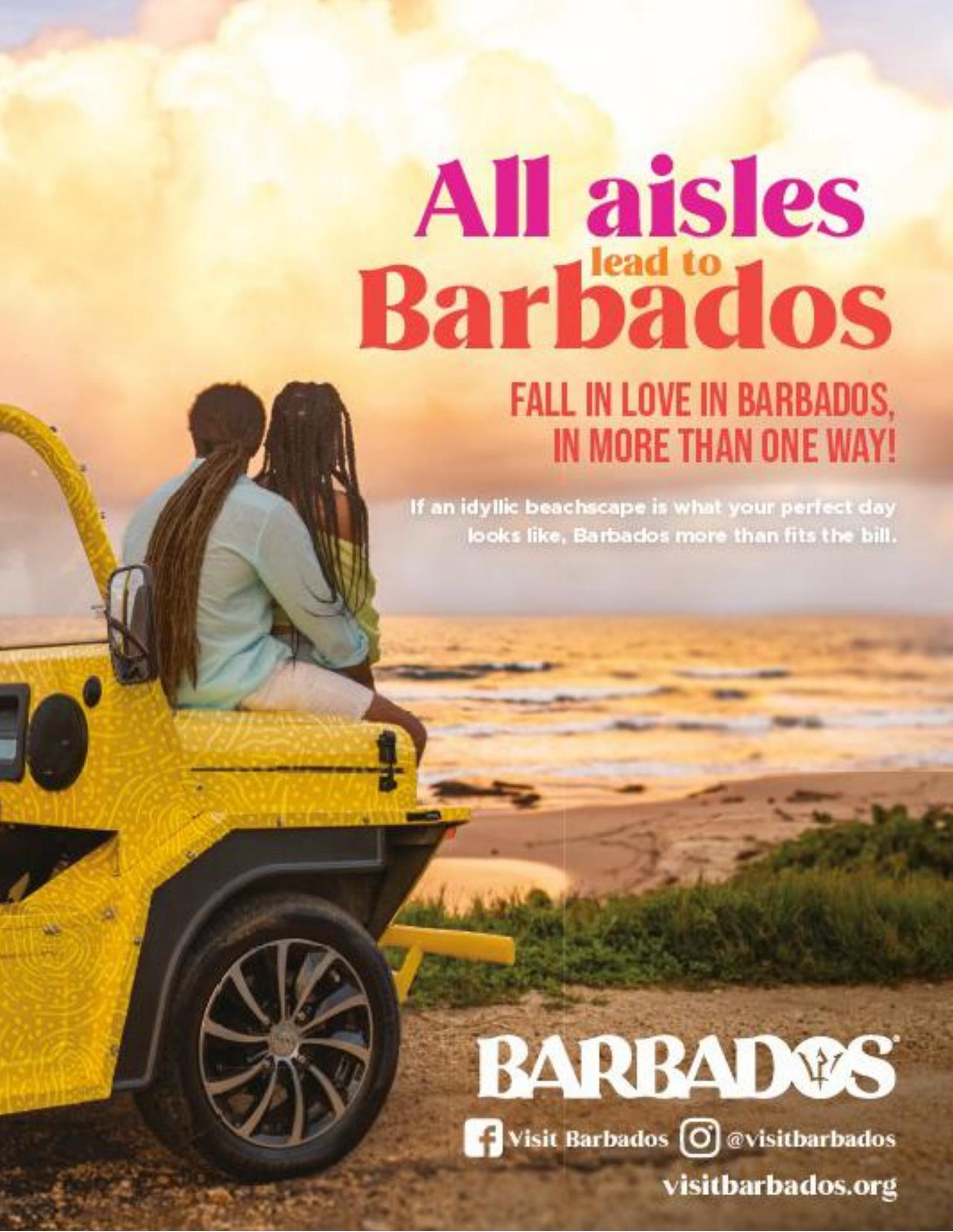
#### Applicable fees (US \$) include:

- Civil Marriages in court \$125 out of court, \$175
- Marriage license and certificate \$122
- Solemnization of a civil marriage \$50
- Publication of banns for church weddings \$38
- Other fees totaling \$150

Fees are less if either party is a citizen or resident of Barbados.

For more information contact the Ministry of Home Affairs:

Phone: 1-246-535-7260 | E-mail [homeaffairs@mha.gov.bb](mailto:homeaffairs@mha.gov.bb)

A couple with long dreadlocks is seen from behind, sitting in a yellow jeep. They are looking out over a beach and the ocean during a sunset. The sky is filled with large, golden clouds. The jeep is parked on a dirt path.

# All aisles lead to Barbados

FALL IN LOVE IN BARBADOS,  
IN MORE THAN ONE WAY!

If an idyllic beachscape is what your perfect day looks like, Barbados more than fits the bill.

**BARBADOS**



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flat elevation, its striking coral reefs, secluded sandy beaches and clear springs bubbling from its coral beds.

### *Things To Do*

The BVI offers breathtaking vistas of the ocean from almost every corner. In its pristine waters, snorkelers and scuba divers can relish in the reef's mazes, underwater caves, tunnels and drops, inhabited by marine life. Hikers and nature lovers can enjoy the protected national parks, home to nature sanctuaries and the very distinct natural wonder, the Baths National Park which encompasses rock pools hidden in the shadows of massive granite boulders along the beach. A site that will forever keep them in awe.

Made up of more than 60 islands, the British Virgin Islands (BVI) has pristine, palm-fringed, powdery, white-sand beaches; lush green mountains; protected national parks; sheltered, yacht-filled harbors; quiet coves and safe anchorages. While some islands are uninhabited and designated as national parks, others enjoy a robust lifestyle with warm, friendly and hospitable people. Accommodations range from luxury resorts and private villas to Campgrounds.

**Tortola**, home of the capital and business hub Road Town, is a haven for yachts and a center for tourism.

**Virgin Gorda** entices some visitors with its yacht clubs, quiet coves and safe anchorages. The island has natural beauty in abundance and is easily accessible via indigenous plant-lined trails. Evidence of the island's rich African, Indian and Spanish history is plentiful. From the Spanish ruins at Little Fort National Park to the Cornish Copper Mines, from the local cuisine to its arts and fashion, the influence is visible everywhere.

**Jost Van Dyke**, the BVI's smallest island was once home to Arawak Indians, Caribs, Dutch, Africans and the British. Famous inhabitants included William Thornton, architect of the U.S. Capitol Building, and John Lettsome, founder of the London Medical Society.

You can explore the old sugar mill ruins, observe whales and dolphins or treat yourself to a freshly grilled lobster or any of the many other local, mouth-watering dishes.

**Anegada** is the only coral island in the Virgin Islands' volcanic chain. This island can be easily identified by its nearly

### *Cuisine of the British Virgin Islands*

Seafood is major in the BVI's cuisine with Anegada's spiny lobster, conch and fresh fish, including Mahi Mahi and Grouper, available on the menu of local restaurants. The national dish of 'Fish and Fungi' (Okra cooked with cornmeal and served with fish braised with onions tomatoes, peppers and other spices) is very tasty and certainly worth trying.

### *Marriage Requirements*

The couple must first apply for a Marriage License from the Registrar-General's Office. A *Special License* (US \$220) if resident for less than 15 days or an *Ordinary License* (US \$120) if resident for 15 days or more.

The following original documents are required:

- Valid Passport
  - Divorce Decree (if applicable)
  - Death Certificate (if applicable)
  - Previous Marriage Certificate (if applicable)
  - Affidavits as proof of Identity (where applicable)
- Foreign languages documents must be accompanied by a certified English translation.

There are other fees involved when getting married. For further details and additional costs, please contact the Registrar-General's Office in Road Town, Tortola at:

Phone: (284) 468-3442

Email: [info@crisvi.gov.vg](mailto:info@crisvi.gov.vg) or [infocris@gov.vg](mailto:infocris@gov.vg)



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Tortola | Virgin Gorda | Jost Van Dyke | Anegada | Cooper Island | Guana Island  
Little Thatch | Necker Island | Norman Island | Peter Island | Saba Rock | Scrub Island





Gulf of Mexico

The Islands of the Baha

USA

Mexico

Cancún

Cozumel

Cuba

Belize

Guatemala

Honduras

Nicaragua

Costa Rica

Panama

Pacific Ocean

GRAND CAYMAN  
LITTLE CAYMAN  
CAYMAN BRAC  
Cayman Islands

Jamaica

Haiti

Caribbean Sea

Colombia

GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND

ABACOS

FLORIDA

N. BIMINI

BERRY ISLANDS

S. BIMINI

ELEUTHERA

ANDROS

NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND

CAT ISLAND

SAN SALVADOR

EXUMAS

LONG ISLAND

CROOKED ISLAND

ACKLINS

INAGUA

umas



### Bermuda

Bermuda is located approximately 675 miles east/southeast of Nags Head, N.C.



[www.CaribbeanTravel.com](http://www.CaribbeanTravel.com)



[www.OneCaribbean.org](http://www.OneCaribbean.org)

#### Language Spoken

- English
- French
- Spanish
- Dutch

### Turks & Caicos Islands



### Atlantic Ocean





to choose from you can pretty much select an island for your mood. Cayman Brac – a nature lovers paradise with walking and hiking trails and is home to the only dive-accessible Russian warship in the western hemisphere.

Little Cayman with a population of 250 also boasts spectacular diving.

### *Cuisine of the Cayman Islands*

A destination that is as cosmopolitan as Cayman will offer the best dining experience. Local, Caribbean, International, Gourmet, Chinese, Italian, Mexican and much more is offered in the most delightful setting. The more upscale restaurants do require jacket for men and appropriate attire for women.

It's difficult to imagine a destination more perfectly suited to lovers of life, beauty and romance than the Cayman Islands. Nestled in the Caribbean, just one-hour south of Miami, the three islands shine like a trio of jewels sparkling in a turquoise crown.

The Cayman Islands is the place where love stories begin again, with secluded beaches and indulgent spa treatments setting the scene. Lazy mornings lead to intrepid afternoons, followed by candlelit evenings – as every sunrise and sunset brings added romance.

The real treasure, however, is the special brand of romance each island delivers. Grand Cayman, the largest and most cosmopolitan, welcomes young and old alike with 5-star accommodations, a bustling local culture and one of the longest, most beautiful stretches of beach in the world.

Little Cayman, famous for its world-class diving and science wonders, isn't just a romantic retreat; it's a romantic surrender.

Cayman Brac, with its awe-inspiring bluff and laid-back lifestyle, splits the difference. The perfect place, not only to get away, but to be away.

With dozens of world class dining options and a host of luxury accommodations, Cayman is also the perfect setting for a destination wedding, honeymoon or romantic weekend getaway.

### *Things To Do*

For some, Cayman is a diver's dream. With three islands

### *Marriage Requirements*

With the proper preparation, you can get married in Cayman as soon as the day you arrive. Here is a list of everything you'll need to have and to hold:

- Proof of citizenship and age (Passport or Birth Certificate and Photo ID)
- Proof of marital status (Divorce Decree or Death Certificate, if needed)
- Immigration Department Cards for non-cruisers
- International Embarkation/Disembarkation Cards For cruise passengers
- Two witnesses at the ceremony
- A Non-Residents Marriage License
- A Letter from the authorized Marriage Officer who is to officiate

Applications for non-resident marriage licenses and a list of licensed Marriage Officers can be obtained from the Passport and Corporate Services Office. These are provided by the District Commissioner's Office:

#### **Passport & Corporate Services Office**

128 Elgin Avenue

George Town | Grand Cayman

Phone: 345-943-7678 | [passport&corporate@gov.ky](mailto:passport&corporate@gov.ky)

#### **District Commissioner's Office**

P. O. Box 240

Cayman Brac KY2-2101

Phone: 345-948-2506 | [BracDC@gov.ky](mailto:BracDC@gov.ky)

*Crystal Caves, Grand Cayman. This is a creative representation; stepping in the water is not permitted.*



DREAM IN CAYMAN.

CAYMAN  ISLANDS  
GRAND CAYMAN | CAYMAN BRAC | LITTLE CAYMAN

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tions on the island. Surrounded by lush gardens, swaying palm trees, and Balinese inspired furnishings, the Baoase Luxury Resort takes on the philosophy of barefoot elegance, where luxury meets serenity.

### *Cuisine of Curaçao*

Local food is called **Krioyo** (pronounced the same as criollo, the Spanish word for "Creole") and boasts a blend of flavors and techniques best compared to Caribbean and Latin American cuisine.

**Popular dishes include:** stobá (a stew made with various ingredients such as papaya, beef or goat), Guiambo (soup made from okra and seafood), funchi (cornmeal paste similar to fufu, ugali and polenta) and a lot of fish and other seafood. The ubiquitous side dish is fried plantain.

Local bread rolls are made according to a Portuguese recipe.

All around the island, there are snèk which serve local dishes as well as alcoholic drinks in a manner akin to the English public house. The popular breakfast dish is pastechi: fried pastry with fillings of cheese, tuna, ham, or ground meat.

At weddings and other special occasions a variety of kos dushi are served: kokada (coconut sweets), ko'i lechi (condensed milk and sugar sweet) and tentalaria (peanut sweets). Surinamese, Chinese, Indonesian, Indian and Dutch culinary influences also abound. The island also has many Chinese restaurants.

### *Marriage Requirements*

As a premier wedding destination, couples can bring their ceremonies to life on the resort's pristine beach, private island, or Master Villa pool terrace with every detail customized to their liking.

Guests in attendance can stay in one of the 23 extravagant rooms, villas, and suites with the privacy and intimacy of a romantic escape complemented by the impeccable service and quality offerings of a resort. You will need:

- A valid passport and birth certificates for both parties
- Return Ticket
- Proof of marriage or death certificate if applicable
- Written request two months prior to the wedding date
- A three-day residency is required
- The total cost is US \$176.00.

**C**uraçao – the very name conjures up a mosaic of cultures. Curaçao's inhabitants are influenced by the heritage of Arawaks, Dutch, Spanish, West Indian, Latin and African. With such a diversity of culture, you can well imagine the dining experience and the cultural charm of such a fabulous island.

With this diversity you have a rich history that combines Jewish Culture, European Flavor and African Heritage. The local language is called Papiamentu, a mixture of Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and African dialects. Of course, English is understood and spoken, so you will be right at home.

### *Things To Do in Curaçao*

**Entertainment and Nightlife:** Exotic days? eccentric nights? What's your fancy? Dancing? Jazz? Island Music? Tropical libations? or maybe Karaoke? You will find this and more in Curaçao. For a complete list of entertainment, be sure to pick up a K-Pasa Entertainment Guide.

**Shopping:** Curaçao has been a major trade center for hundreds of years so it's not surprising that stores are stocked with quality items from around the world. Strolling around in exquisite, centuries-old buildings while ocean liners cruise up the channel that cuts through the city, so close you could almost touch them, all this makes the shopping ambience very special.

When couples aren't exploring the island, they can find themselves at the Baoase Luxury Resort or the Santa Barbara Beach and Golf Resort – two of the many romantic destina-



# TAKE YOUR LOVE TO CURAÇAO

Curaçao boasts more than a typical getaway, but a destination that encourages romance in all the right ways. The island is home to over 35 gorgeous beaches, stunning wedding venues, and a unique blend of European-Caribbean culture.

Apart from its picturesque landscape and array of amenities and activities, Curaçao's illuminating energy inspires a celebration of love in all forms.

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Every year over one million visitors come to Jamaica, the Caribbean's third-largest island, and it's not hard to see why.

Jamaica is a self-contained holiday universe offering unsurpassed tropical beauty, excellent water sports, the most vibrant of music scenes, and a sophisticated tourism industry.

There are many different images of Jamaica, because the country is so diverse, and visitors find that most of them are accurate. Sometimes even picture-perfect. It's an island where you can find peace and seclusion in relaxed coastal hideaways and cool mountain inns, or join the crowds in the big, popular resorts.

Jamaica has one of the most diverse populations in the Caribbean. From African, Chinese, Indian, British, German and Irish, you will find a blending of the races, giving credence to the Country's motto "Out of Many One People". And of course Jamaica is noted not only for its music but world renowned for its coffee. There is nothing like a good cup of Blue Mountain.

In addition to the excellent coffee, Jamaica's hotel offerings run the gamut. From small Inns to large hotels, you can literally choose the style that suits you best.

Whether it is an all inclusive where every imaginable detail is taken care of (the home of the Sandals & Beaches chain) to the more upscale Tryall Hotel, HalfMoon Resort and of course Round Hill.

The HalfMoon Resort is truly a spectacular property, over 400 acres and every detail is attended to. The villas and suites are extraordinary, and the staff is truly superb. It serves as a great backdrop and location for a fabulous destination wedding or honeymoon.

## Kingston

Visit any of the following attractions for a healthy dose of Jamaican beauty and history:

- Bob Marley Museum
- Castleton Botanical Gardens
- Caymans Park- Horse racing on Wednesdays and Saturdays and on public holidays
- Devon House
- Hope Botanical Gardens
- Coins & Notes Museum
- Jamaica Defense Force Museum
- King's house
- Lime Cay
- National Gallery of Jamaica
- National Gallery of Art

## Mandeville

The English built this small city (2,000 ft in elevation) to escape the heat of the coastline, it probably has the best climate on the island. Activities include bird watching, caving, mountain exploration and not to forget... saying "I do"!

## Montego Bay

This city sits in a bay with mountains rising in the background. You could describe Montego Bay as the Mecca for shopping and dining. The beaches are lined with some of Jamaica's finest all inclusive resorts. So, besides for taking part in some of the fine offerings of the resort be sure to check out the following attractions:

- Rose Hall Great House - home of the infamous Annie Palmer
- Greenwood Great House - one of the finest restored plantation homes
- Falmouth - A walking tour to visit this 18th century port town, where you will see beautiful historical buildings
- Discovery Bay - Site of Columbus' landing in 1494
- Runaway Bay - where the Spanish "ran away" when the British invaded

## Negril

Discovered in the 1700s by rowdy pirates and then invaded by hippies in the 1960's. This is the newest resort destination on the island. Famous for its seven mile long sandy beach. Fun in the Sun as well as water sports are really the main

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**HEARTBEAT** OF THE WORLD

# Feel the Rush

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Do you feel it?

*Let's go!*

[visitjamaica.com](http://visitjamaica.com)

attractions in this city, but be sure to check out the Negril Light house, it has amazing views!

### *Ocho Rios*

Water sports and natural wonders are the attraction in the Cruise capital of Jamaica so you know it is full of markets, shops, restaurants and of course discos! Be sure to check out the Dunns River Falls, a 600 ft waterfall.

### *Port Antonio*

Birthplace of bamboo rafting and home to some of the best deep sea fishing one will ever experience. Also the gateway to John Crow and Blue Mountain ranges. Other attractions worth seeing are:

- Erroll Flynn Estate- The movie star that fell in love with the city and became absorbed in local culture. He purchased Navy Island and Comfort Island Castle Plantation
- Goldeneye - The beach front estate of Ian Fleming
- Somerset Falls

### *Water Sports*

Surrounded by water and over 100 rivers, Jamaica is bound to be able to accommodate just about every water activity known to man.

### *White Water Rafting*

Enthusiast will not return home disappointed. Great rafting sites include The Great River, just outside of Montego Bay. The Rio Grande made famous by Errol Flynn. Martha Brae River, a bit more than 20 miles outside Montego Bay. New Sites are being discovered all the time, maybe the next one will be by you & yours to be! Many of these rivers also have Bamboo rafting, which is synonymous with Jamaica.

### *Scuba Divers & Snorkelers*

All should feel free to venture towards the west coast. There are more than 40 sites off the 10 mile long reef at Booby Cay. Waters around Kingston have many historical wrecks to dive to as well.

### *Shopping*

The best shopping to be found would be in the Montego Bay and Ocho Rios areas. US citizens have a duty- free allowance of US \$600. Favorite items to bring home among tourist include Blue Mountain Coffee, Rum, Tia Maria (liquor), and silk screened t-shirts, batik fabrics, cigars, pick-a-peppa sauce, scotch bonnet pepper sauce and Jamaican jams, chutneys and jerk seasoning. Just an idea, items listed above can make great welcome baskets for wedding party and or special guest.

### *Cuisine of Jamaica*

The term 'jerking' was developed in Jamaica whereby

different meats/fish were highly seasoned and cooked on an open fire. Jerk chicken, pork, or fish is said to be at its best when smoked over aromatic wood charcoal or briquettes. The wood ("pimento wood"), berries, and leaves of the allspice plant among the coals contribute to jerk's distinctive flavor. The result is addictive, as you will find yourself drawn to this style of cooking.

Other popular Jamaican dishes include curry goat, fried dumplings, ackee and salt fish (cod - the national dish of Jamaica), fried plantain, steamed cabbage and "rice and peas" (pigeon peas or kidney beans). Jamaican Cuisine has been adapted by African, British, French, Chinese and Indian influences. Jamaican patties and various pastries and breads are also popular as well as fruit beverages and Jamaican rum.

Like all other destinations that cater to the tourism market, Jamaica offers a full array of the dining experience. From the very high-end to the fast food.

### *Marriage Requirements*

Visitors can be married just 24 hour after arriving in Jamaica providing prior application has been made for a marriage license.

The cost of a license is four thousand Jamaican dollars (approximately US \$75-US \$80). To Apply for Your Marriage License Call or Visit:

**The Ministry of National Security**

**Mutual Life Building**

**2 Oxford Road | Kingston 5**

**(876) 906-4908**

**Office Hours:**

**Monday to Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm**

**Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm**

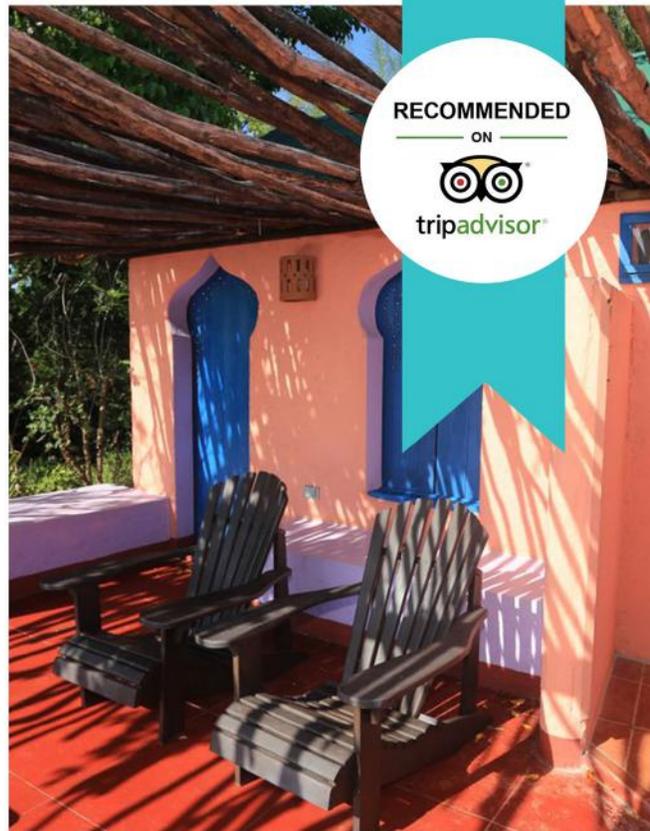
Unlike many countries, Jamaica does not expect you take a blood test before getting married. However, the following documentation is required:

- Proof of citizenship - certified copy of birth certificate, which includes father's name.
- Parent's written consent if under 18 years of age.
- Proof of divorce if applicable (original divorce decree).
- Certified copy of death certificate for widow/widower.
- Italian nationals celebrating their wedding in Jamaica must notify their embassy and a certified copy of their marriage certificate forwarded to their embassy to be legalized and translated.
- French Canadians need a notarized translated copy of all documents and a photocopy of the original French documents.
- There are non-denominational Marriage Officers who can officiate either at their offices, in their homes or at a place chosen by the couple, and are able to provide witnesses. Marriage Officers charge anywhere from US \$50 to \$250.

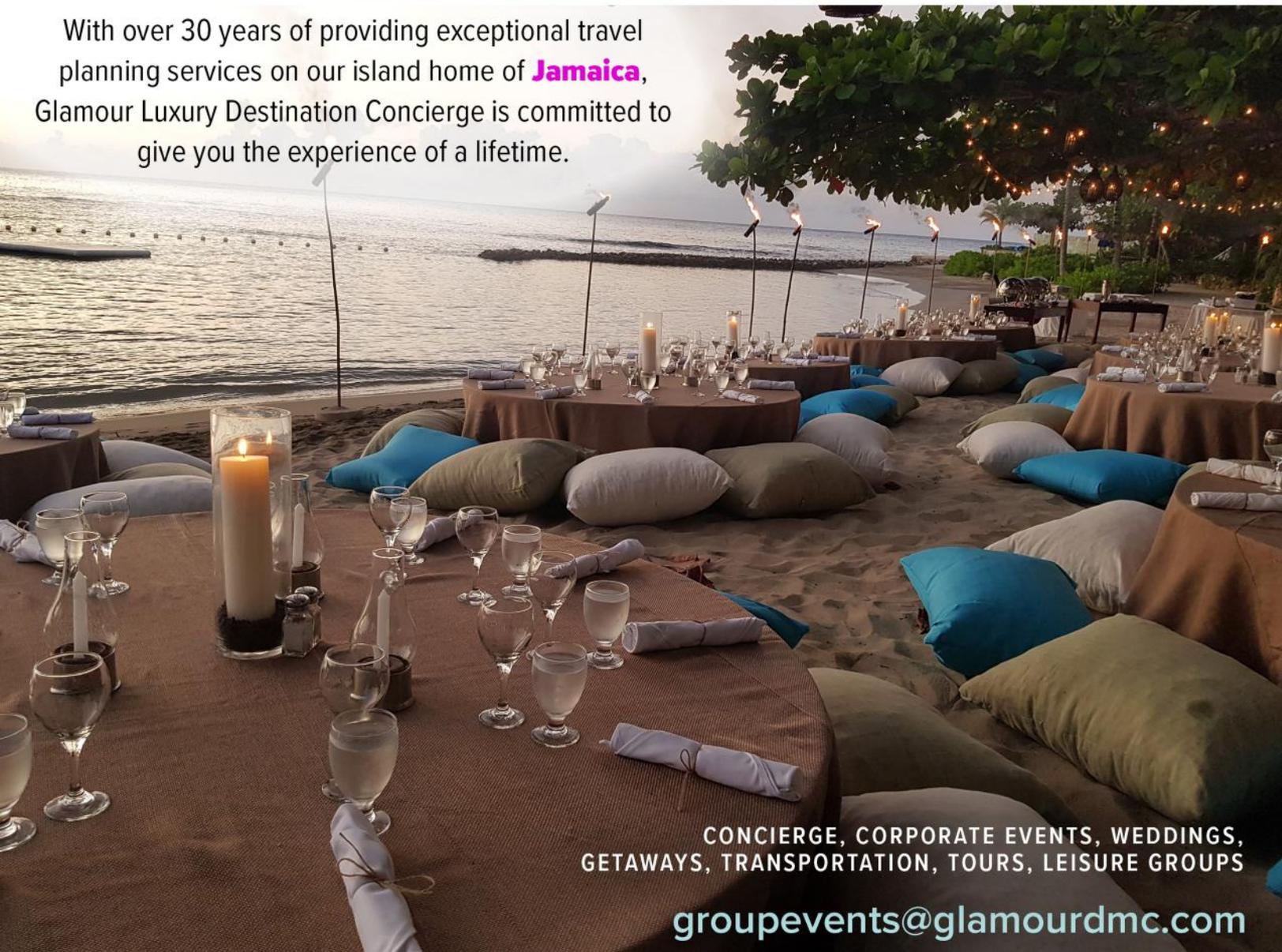


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Like royalty, the majestic Piton Mountains peaks reign over the Helen of the West, Saint Lucia. An island that captivates visitors to her shores, with renowned lush rainforest and refreshing waterfalls. Its blue-green waters and beautiful beaches are hypnotizing; Saint Lucia will dazzle and amaze you; and her warm hospitable people are waiting to welcome you.

Saint Lucia has a strong cultural identity with a unique blend of Carib, African, English, French and Dutch elements. Local foods tantalize the tastebuds with mysterious spicy flavors.

The Saint Lucia experience includes five-star cuisine, world-class accommodations, music festivals, street parties, and amazing views in a relaxing atmosphere.

While some areas of Saint Lucia offer bustling nightlife and beachside parties, others present the opportunity to explore dense rainforest and serene and picturesque landscapes.

### Things to Do

While some areas of Saint Lucia offer bustling nightlife and beachside parties, others present the opportunity to explore dense rainforest, and serene and picturesque landscapes.

In the **North**, nature lovers can explore Pigeon Island National Park, hike the old fort ruins, or opt to kayak, snorkel or swim. The town of Rodney Bay has popular night spots and you can try your luck with cards or roulette at the local casino.

In the **South**, you can explore the ancient ruins and historic sites around Vieux Fort then enjoy one of the luxury resorts, only minutes away.

In the **West**, home to Saint Lucia's original French capital, Soufrière, you can visit some of the island's most famous attractions including both Petit and Gros Piton – a pair of volcanic spires that vault heavenward from the Caribbean Sea – or take a trip to the world's only drive-in volcano Sulphur Springs. And while the town of Soufrière is quiet during the off-season, it comes alive as a popular tourist destination as many cruise ships dock there during season. And if you're looking for gifts to take back home, the shopping is good in this area.

**Central** Saint Lucia is a nature lover's delight and home to many forest reserves. With several lookouts, you can hike past waterfalls and gushing steams, observe exotic birds and some wildlife in their

natural habitat, and reach some of the most picturesque views on the island.

### Saint Lucia's Cuisine

Saint Lucia's cuisine is infused with African European, American, Indian and Caribbean flavors. Local chefs combine the island's fresh produce with a wide variety of equally fresh seafood to create tantalizing curries, Creole-style entrees, and stews. And although callaloo soup, made from a leafy green similar to spinach, is very popular, the island's national dish is salt fish and green figs — boiled unripe bananas served with salt-cured cod prepared with various herbs and spices.

### Marriage Requirements

Saint Lucia does not have a residency period, so marriage licenses can be obtained within 24 hours of arrival with a same day marriage license application. If applying for the regular marriage license, the couple is required to be in Saint Lucia two days prior to their wedding. As laws, fees, and requirements are subject to change, it is important that you verify all information with the local marriage license office before making any wedding or travel plans.

The following documents are required for a Marriage License:

- Valid passport
- Birth certificate
- Divorce decree (original or certified copy) if applicable.
- A death certificate (original or certified copy) of the spouse if either party is a widowed.

Let her into your heart  
*and she'll stay with you forever*



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For more information visit [stlucia.org](http://stlucia.org)



**SAINT LUCIA**  
LET HER INSPIRE YOU



submerged anchors, cannons, pristine corals, and a variety of colorful fish, rays and turtles.

## *Statia Cuisine*

While St Eustatius does not really have its own specialized cuisine, there are some tasty Creole (Caribbean of African descent) options if looking for something a little exotic. Although the food has a strong Dutch influence, there is an array of international eateries, including European, American, and Asian.

Specialities include Carnistoba or Goat Stew that's usually served with rice and peas and provisions, Funchi or corn (polenta) mush, Pan Bati, a corn flour pancake, and Bolo Pretu, a black, fruit cake prepared for Christmas and at weddings and special occasions. There is also a variety of local seafood including pickled conch, baked snapper in shrimp sauce, grilled fish and lobster.

*A* dormant volcano reigns over the tiny Dutch-Caribbean Island of St. Eustatius. Towering at nearly 2,000 feet above sea level, The Quill dominates this island of 8.1-square miles, nicknamed Statia.

Discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493, the tiny island changed hands among 22 countries but has remained with the Dutch since they took over in 1816. During the 1700s, the capital town of Oranjestad, was the trading hub for slaves as well as cotton, sugar, and other commodities from Europe.

Small hotels, inns, lodges, apartments and luxury villas, are your choices for accommodation. Restaurants are aplenty... and one can certainly join the locals and enjoy the favorite goat meat with rice and peas. A meal to die for!

## *Things to Do*

Statia's large crater is home to a tropical rainforest where orchids, bromeliads ferns and lianas are part of the flora. The Quill was designated as a National Park in 1997. Hikers get the opportunity to visit multiple vegetation zones, from dry forest to evergreen seasonal woodland. For the adventurous, you'll need only to stop at the rim of the crater to catch your breath and enjoy the magnificent views before descending into the pit to explore the lush vegetation, including fruit and silk cotton trees.

Statia is just as popular for what lies below the sea as what lies above. It's a diver's dream with several ancient wrecks,

## *Marriage Requirements*

Statia rightly boasts of being prime for a unique wedding. Look beyond the beach and the courthouse. Imagine the historic Fort Oranje built in 1636 or the ruins of "Honen Dalim Jewish Synagogue built in 1793. There's also The Miriam C Smith Botanical Gardens. So, if you're looking for a one-of-a-kind experience, look no further. You will need:

- A completed application of marriage
- To register your *Notice of Intent to Marry* in writing at least 3 weeks before the wedding
- Be at least 18 years of age—if under 18, proof of parental consent stamped and notarized
- Valid passports
- Birth certificates with the parent's name
- Proof of "Single" status: divorce decree or death certificate
- If applicable, proof of name-change by Deed Poll, stamped and notarized. Documents must be presented in English or Dutch. If translated, present original and translated copies
- Two witnesses must be present if getting married at the
- Registrar's Office and six witnesses are required for marriages taking place elsewhere
- Total Fees: US \$300 - \$330 depending if you get married on a weekend or weekday, at the courthouse or elsewhere.

For more information, please contact the **Census Office:**

**Kenip Road | Princess Garden | St. Eustatius**

**Phone: +599 318 2027 | [census.office@statiagov.com](mailto:census.office@statiagov.com)**



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boutiques. It is also a base for duty-free shopping with many clothing, shoes, jewelry, cosmetics, and liquor shops.

### *Cuisine of St. Martin*

French cuisine with Caribbean flavors best describes St. Martin's cuisine. The subtle mix of flavors, spicy sweetness, chili peppers, achiotes, chayote, fish, lobster, and shellfish will ravish your taste buds and surprise and tantalize your senses.

The island's best chefs convene on the Grand Case waterfront where the main road is lined with restaurants serving, Creole, Italian, French among other foods. It has been described as a happy gastronomic "melting pot!"

Looking to enjoy a taste of Caribbean including grilled lobster or stuffed crab then check out one of the lolos along Grand Case beach. These typical open-air

restaurants on the waterfront give you the chance to savor St. Martin like a local.

### *Marriage Requirements*

Civil ceremonies are held exclusively at the **Collectivité of St Martin Salles des mariages** (the Marriage Hall)

- Both parties must be at least 18 years of age
- If either party is French, one person must be resident for at least 1 month
- Wedding banns MUST be published for 10 days prior
- Submit a letter with names and date of marriage 14 days prior to the ceremony along with the following notarized and translated documents:
  - ◇ ID for both parties and their witnesses
  - ◇ Birth certificate issued within 3 months along with a French translation
  - ◇ Proof of address for both parties and their witnesses
  - ◇ Marriage contract (Contrat de Mariage), if applicable
  - ◇ Foreigner nationals need to provide "Certificat de coutume" - a document stipulating the laws of their country regarding marriage and "Certificat de Célibat" - certificate proving celibacy issued within 3 months
  - ◇ Copy of previous marriage certificate with proof of divorce or death, if applicable
  - ◇ Authorization from your superior (if in the military)

Send documents to the President of the Collectivité

**Collectivité de Saint-Martin , BP374 - 97054 Saint Martin**

For more details call: +05 90 87 61 80 63 09

The Isle of two! St. Martin is divided into two geographical zones. St. Martin, or the French side, occupies two thirds of the island to the north and is an overseas collectivity of France. The southern end of the island, the Dutch Side, Sint Maarten, a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Although these are two very distinctly different countries by characteristics, only welcome signs and flags indicate that there is a border. Yes, everyone is free to travel across both countries without any hassle. The island has beautiful landscapes, an array of beaches from lively to the quiet, and offers every watersport you love or dream of trying.

Whether you choose to stay at a luxurious hotel, a charming villa, or a pretty guesthouse, there's white sand, turquoise waters, and quiet romantic hideaways available for all. So, soak up the sun while you sip a fresh cocktail, enjoy the magnificent sunsets as you take a stroll with your loved one or delight in a romantic candlelit dinner just for two ... after all St. Martin is a Lovers' Paradise. Savor each moment!

### *Things to Do*

A trip to St. Martin also offers the tantalizing opportunity to go island-hopping. You can take a ferry to Anguilla, St. Barts or Saba or a short flight to St. Eustatius or St. Kitts and Nevis. Be sure your visas are in order before leaving home and your visit could become quite an expedition to the neighboring British, French and Dutch islands.

Marigot, the capital is home to beautiful colorful houses, an open-air waterfront market and a variety of cozy, chic

A couple is seen from behind, sitting in a swimming pool and looking out over a beautiful tropical bay in Saint-Martin. The water is clear and blue, with several small islands and hills in the distance under a bright blue sky with scattered clouds. The overall scene is romantic and idyllic.

**CAN'T HELP**  
*falling in love*  
**IN SAINT-MARTIN**

**COME AND  
CELEBRATE YOUR LOVE  
IN SAINT-MARTIN**

**#CELEBRATEYOURLOVEINSAINSTMARTIN**

  
**St. Martin**  
THE FRIENDLY ISLAND  
FRENCH CARIBBEAN

# ST. CROIX • US VIRGIN ISLANDS

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most distinctive ways to get hitched. Adventurous couples can literally “take the plunge” in an underwater ceremony complete with scuba gear.

In fact, St. Croix holds the world record for the largest underwater wedding: an event that drew more than 100 certified divers as guests. For those who prefer to begin their life together on land, other St. Croix settings include 19th-century churches and a lush botanical garden.

St. Croix offers a wonderful mouth-watering mix of cuisine. Check out the Food and Wine Experience to explore all the tastes the island has to offer.

## Marriage Requirements

To make your dream wedding become a reality, request an application for a wedding license by writing to:

**The Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands**  
P. O. Box 929 | Christiansted  
St. Croix, USVI 00821  
or Call 340-778-9750

After the island receives a completed and authorized application, there is a required eight-day waiting period.

If either party is divorced, he or she must have a certified copy of the divorce decree or a notarized affidavit stating when the divorce was granted.

Additionally, please specify whether the marriage will be performed by a judge in the court or by a clergy member. If you wish to be married in court, you need to make an appointment. You can make appointments for court marriages on St. Thomas, Monday through Friday, and on St. Croix, Monday through Thursday by calling the appropriate Territorial Court.

The marriage application fee is US \$25 and the marriage license fee is US \$25. If you are not being married in the court by a judge, there is also a fee of US \$200 for the ceremony.

**Personal checks are not accepted.**

For more information on destination weddings and honeymoons in the USVI, check out our website [visitUSVI.com](http://visitUSVI.com).

Revitalize your heart with an escape to Utopia - St. Croix and experience the beauty of love.

With no passport required and the U.S. Dollar as the official currency, you can experience exotic beauty easily.

Delight in celebrating your love in one of the most unique and beautiful places in the world. Renew your vows on your own private beach or get married at any of the historic houses of worship that are scattered across the island.

There are a variety of places for couples to explore together. St. Croix offers secluded beaches to lie in the sun or swim together. You can also snorkel together with sea turtles and all kinds of exotic marine life at Buck Island.

St. Croix, the largest of our islands, is a tranquil tropical destination for honeymooners, culture seekers, scuba divers and more. St. Croix has a fascinating history rich in cultural diversity. Spain, Great Britain, the Netherlands, France, the Knights of Malta, Denmark and the United States all played a role in shaping St. Croix. Experience the unique culture of St. Croix through its arts, crafts, music and more during a variety of festivals and cultural events throughout the year.

## Take the Plunge on St. Croix

Known for its exceptional diving, St. Croix offers one of the





BONDS FORMED  
HERE STAND  
THE TEST OF TIME.  
EXPLORE THE PAST  
WHILE CELEBRATING  
YOUR FUTURE.

# ST. JOHN • US VIRGIN ISLANDS

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its crystal sands and underwater nature trail, and it just one of the many memorable beaches on St. John.

If you and your partner want something a bit more casual and laid back, then a local pub or patio overlooking moonlit Cruz Bay on St. John. Whatever you choose to do together, let the magic of our islands strengthen your Real Nice connection to yourself and each other.

Originally settled by the Arawak and Carib Indians, the island has a history as rich as its landscape. The United States purchased St. John from the Danish West India and Guinea Company in 1917.

## Marriage Requirements

To make your dream wedding become a reality, request an application for a wedding license from the Territorial Court of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Write to:

**Territorial Court | Family Court Division**  
P. O. Box 70 | St. Thomas, USVI 00804  
or call 340-774-6680.

After the island receives a completed and authorized application, there is a required eight-day waiting period.

If either party is divorced, he or she must have a certified copy of the divorce decree or a notarized affidavit stating when the divorce was granted.

Additionally, please specify whether the marriage will be performed by a judge in the court or by a clergy member. If you wish to be married in court, you need to make an appointment. You can make appointments for court marriages on St. Thomas, Monday through Friday, and on St. Croix, Monday through Thursday by calling the appropriate Territorial Court.

The marriage application fee is US \$25 and the marriage license fee is US \$25. If you are not being married in the court by a judge, there is a fee of US \$200 for the ceremony.

**Personal checks are not accepted.**

For more information on destination weddings and honeymoons in the USVI, check out our website [visitUSVI.com](http://visitUSVI.com).

**Experience the beauty of Love!**

Come for unspoiled beauty, stay to create memories in St. John.

With no passport required and the U.S. Dollar as the official currency, you can experience exotic beauty quick and easy.

If being pampered together is more your style than you can visit the exquisite resorts of St. John. Though it is the smallest of the three main U.S. Virgin Islands, St. John's unspoiled beauty is perhaps the greatest found anywhere in the Caribbean. The natural beauty of the Caribbean, St. John offers visitors pristine splendor amid modern luxuries.

## Get Hitched in Secluded Natural Splendor

Exquisite natural beauty takes center stage in ceremonies on St. John, the smallest of the islands, where wedding settings include waterfront gazebos, island chapels and tropical villas.

The island, two-thirds of which is undeveloped, is an extraordinary choice for nature lovers who will find the 11,560-acre Virgin Islands National Park an incomparable setting featuring 800 varieties of plants and 160 species of birds.

St. John has some of the world's most beautiful beaches, like the much-beloved Trunk Bay. This beach is renowned for



**THIS ISN'T ABOUT  
DIAMONDS OR CAKE.  
IT NEVER IS.**



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## Take Your Pick

On St. Thomas, settings can take on the island's more cosmopolitan atmosphere, including the bustling backdrop of Charlotte Amalie harbor.

Forty beautiful beaches, including heart-shaped Magens Bay, voted one of the ten most beautiful beaches in the world by *National Geographic*, ensure there's no shortage of shoreline for seaside nuptials.

For those spellbound by local legend, the medieval-style Skytsborg, better known as Blackbeard's Castle, adds a touch of the 17th-century lore to the wedding day.

## Marriage Requirements

To make your dream wedding become a reality, request an application for a wedding license from the Territorial Court of the U.S. Virgin Islands at:

**Territorial Court | Family Court Division**  
**P. O. Box 70 | St. Thomas, USVI 00804**  
**or Call 340-774-6680.**

After the island receives a completed and authorized application, there is a required eight-day waiting period.

If either party is divorced, he or she must have a certified copy of the divorce decree or a notarized affidavit stating when the divorce was granted.

Additionally, please specify whether the marriage will be performed by a judge in the court or by a clergy member. If you wish to be married in court, you need to make an appointment. You can make appointments for court marriages by calling the appropriate Territorial Court on the listed days:

- St. Thomas: Monday through Friday
- St. Croix: Monday through Thursday

The marriage application fee is US \$25 and the marriage license fee is US \$25. If you are not being married in the court by a judge, there is also a fee of US \$200 for the ceremony.

**Personal checks are not accepted.**

Discover an island that pulses with energy! St. Thomas is our most cosmopolitan island, yet it still retains the distinctive atmosphere of a Caribbean paradise. For families or couples, St. Thomas is packed with opportunities for smiles and surprise.

If you're more the adventuresome type, check out Coral World on St. Thomas and explore the depths, petting sharks or swimming with sea lions.

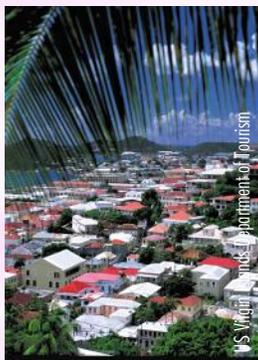
Enjoy the mouth-watering entrees on St. Thomas that range from continental cuisine to Caribbean and Mexican foods.

There is plenty of duty-free shopping, spectacular diving and world-class dining. Enjoy the island's world-renowned golf course, picture-perfect beaches and spectacular nightlife.

Take the Skyride 700 feet above the city or climb the famous 99 Steps of Charlotte Amalie for an incomparable view of the Caribbean. And if you're interested in culture and history, don't miss seeing the **second-oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere**, the 1680-built Fort Christian or the childhood home of Camille Pissarro, one of the best-known French Impressionists.



US Virgin Islands Department of Tourism



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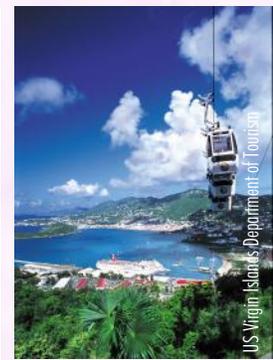
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