



JUST AS THE BRIDE WILL PROBABLY WEAR WHITE on her wedding day, chances are pretty good that she'll also be wearing a lovely strand of cultured pearls.

## Exotic weddings

Romance seems to go hand in hand with exotic locales: A deserted tropical beach, a windswept Irish moor, an elegant Parisian restaurant.

If your fantasies transport you to some far-off land, but getting married in paradise sounds too difficult, think again. More and more American couples are finding ways to say their vows in the far-away lands of their dreams.

The major attraction for many of these couples is the spontaneity and adventure of marrying abroad.

Some, who want an intimate wedding—surrounded by only their closest friends and family—find it easy to keep the guest list small when the event is thousands of miles from home. Others want to celebrate their big moment in paradise with all their loved ones (including children of former marriages).

For everyone, the economics of a far-away wedding are appealing. Although travel and accommodations are the biggest expenses involved, these often cost less than a traditional ceremony and reception.

*Explore your options.* Some romantic spots have made it simple for Americans to be married—others don't allow foreign weddings at all.

Before you get your hearts set on a particular location, find out whether or not your fantasy is within reach.

Among the exotic locales that have made it very easy for Americans to get married are Barbados, the British Virgin

Islands, the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Nassau, Hawaii and some parts of Mexico.

*Pay attention to the legal details.* The rules for getting married away from home will be different from those of your home town.

Contact the consulate or tourist board of the country you've chosen, or the license bureau of the state where you'll be married.

They'll be able to tell you how to obtain a marriage license, what documents you need to provide, and how long the whole process will take.

*Allow at least six to eight weeks for planning.* Remember: Paperwork takes time, and overseas mail and phone calls only add to the delays.

*Pick a simple, easy-to-pack wedding ensemble.* Don't settle for less than your dream wedding dress when you plan to say "I do" in paradise.

Just be sure to choose fabrics and styles that suit the setting and travel well. Opt for a light, breezy dress for a care-free ceremony on a tropical beach; select a smart suit for an elegant Parisian wedding; indulge in a frothy, fairy-tale gown if you plan to say your vows in a castle.

*Decide with whom you most want to share this special occasion.* Perhaps just your parents and closest friends, or perhaps a whole gang of friends and relatives.



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