



Top 5 romantic recommendations

It's that time of year again – no, not just the holiday season - ROMANCE! This time of year is prime engagement time with the new year the start of the search for the perfect wedding location.

Often couples don't want a traditional white wedding and would prefer to escape to the sun (or snow). So here are some of our recommendations for the best places in the world to get married.

Best for SUN – Hawaii

These tropical islands make a truly romantic location in which to exchange your vows. Located in the Pacific Ocean, thousands of miles away from the nearest landmass, they benefit from temperatures in the high 20°s c year-round, with the gentle trade winds making it not too hot or sticky.

Hawaii is perfect for the couples looking for a dream tropical location, but with plenty of activities available if you want to explore. Marry on the beach at sunset while the palm trees wave in the gently breeze and the waves lap at your feet; tie the knot in a stunning tropical garden with a view of the lush mountains; or simply choose a wonderful luxury resort and get married in the grounds under a wedding gazebo with a view of the ocean – whatever you choose, there's an amazing choice of wedding location in Hawaii.

Best for SNOW – Canada

Are you fed up of every wedding abroad being held in a tropical beach? Do you dream of a winter wedding in the snow? Then Canada makes the ideal wedding destination for you.

Central Canada's snow season lasts from November to April and there are many fantastic locations from which to choose. Couples looking for a fairytale wedding might be interested in the modern faux chateau-style of the Banff Springs Hotel in Alberta, or in one of the many historical-style hotels in French-speaking Montréal. For an incredible wedding backdrop, set your wedding ceremony against snow-covered mountains as the sun drops behind them, the colours will be amazing. The Ice Hotel in Québec holds weddings with a difference – just make sure you pack a warm wedding dress if you pick this option! You could choose to marry in a log cabin, arrive in style in a horse drawn sleigh or ice skate up to the chapel. With all these options it's hard to beat Canada for a winter wedding!

Best CITY wedding – New York

New York, New York, so good they named it twice! What better place to hold a city wedding than in the city that never sleeps? There are so many world famous wedding locations in this city that it's difficult to choose the best – Times Square, Central Park

and The Empire State Building to name but three, but there are so many other amazing locations in the city in which you can marry that it's no wonder New York is one of the world's most popular city wedding destinations. You can even exchange your vows in a helicopter as you soar above the skyscrapers and over the island of Manhattan! Many professional wedding planners in New York have worked for the rich and famous over the years, so if you're dreaming of a "celebrity" style wedding you could ask your planner to imitate a specific style of ceremony, or, of course, simply hold your own unique wedding in this amazing city.

Best for SAFARI – South Africa

How about exchanging your vows in a luxurious lodge overlooking a waterhole where elephants, giraffe and zebra take their evening drinks? Well, this could be you if you marry in South Africa!

Luxurious game lodges and tented camps abound in the many game reserves of South Africa, and whether you choose a private reserve or the famous Kruger Game Reserve, you're bound to see some amazing sights during your time here. For the energetic there are early morning game drives to see the animals as they settle in for the day, as well as the dusk drives which usually involve a sundowner drink while watching the sun set and listening to the animals awake as the earth cools down. For a truly atmospheric wedding and honeymoon, South Africa is a hard destination to beat.

Best FAIRYTALE wedding – Germany

Once upon a time there was a bride who dreamed of a fairytale wedding, and lo and behold she found it...in Germany. Maybe not an obvious wedding destination, but Germany and most of Eastern Europe have plenty of amazing old castles which have nowadays been transformed into upscale hotels and make excellent wedding locations. If your perfect wedding involves turrets, moats and drawbridges then consider Germany and her near neighbours for your destination wedding. Southern Germany in particular boasts many restored castles set amidst forested valleys – try the Black Forest area to start with - as do neighbouring Austria and the Czech Republic. Depending on your budget you could easily hire the whole castle for your guests and really make your wedding one to remember!