



WEDDINGS + HONEYMOONS

The 2012 Real Weddings Survey by TheKnot.com and WeddingChannel.com shows that 24% of couples opted for a destination wedding and 3 in 4 couples are taking honeymoons, as wedding spending is on the rise once again.

Capture those dollars by helping your clients plan their special day in Belize. One of the world's most idyllic destinations with its azure seas, swaying palms, white sands, lush jungles, colorful wildflowers and magical Maya temples, it's the perfect backdrop for romance. And from jungle lodges to luxury resorts on private islands, most hotel properties have wedding and honeymoon packages that include special suite accommodations, wedding coordinator, minister, cake and flowers.

Some ideas:

Nature Lovers

Bride and groom walk a tree-lined aisle to say vows under a rainforest canopy, serenaded by chirping birds, on the beach at the water's edge or inside a spectacular cave.

Authentic Passion

Guests are treated to a Belizean dinner menu including ceviche and rice and beans while traditional Garifuna drums punctuate the moment.

Maya Blessings

"I dos" are exchanged in the shadow of a great Maya temple or atop an ancient Maya ruin. For more information visit <http://www.nichbelize.org/ia-general/welcome-to-the-institute-of-archaeology.html>.

Wedding Bubbly

Couples literally take the plunge and get married underwater near the Belize Barrier Reef. Dive operators offer certifications for the entire wedding party and refer to these unique nuptials as "wedding bubbly."

CLIENT TIPS

Steps to Getting Married in Belize

Register to be married with the Registrar General's Office in Belize City or Belmopan. There's no residency requirement and a blood test is not required. Parental consent is needed for applicants under the age of 18. Applications can be obtained through the Registrar General's Office in Belize City at Ph: (501) 227-7377 or Fax: (501) 227-0085; or at the Solicitor General's Office in Belmopan at Ph: (501) 822-2504 or Fax: (501) 822-3390.

- The marriage must be registered with the Belize Registry Department after the marriage ceremony has been completed.
- Proof of citizenship is required by the Belize Government (i.e. valid passport, certified copies of applicant's birth certificate, etc.).
- If applicable, a certified copy or an original copy of a divorce certificate is required, and in the event that one of the partners getting married is a widow or widower, providing a certified death decree is mandatory.
- A fee of \$250 USD must accompany the application, plus an administrative fee of \$5 USD. Licenses can be obtained within two days.
- Besides the person who will be performing the ceremony, two witnesses over the age of 18 must be present during the marriage. If these witnesses are not residents of Belize, they will require passports to verify their identity.

For additional information on getting married in Belize, contact the Belize Tourism Board toll-free (from USA and Canada) at 1-800-624-0686 or visit <http://www.travelbelize.org>.

