



WEDDING GUIDE
FOUR INSPIRING DESTINATIONS

BALI, INDONESIA • VIETNAM • OMAN • SWITZERLAND

WELCOME TO THE WEDDING GUIDE

FOUR INSPIRING DESTINATIONS

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Welcome to your GHM wedding guide. In this online guide, we'll take you through four of the most beautiful wedding locations in the world: Indonesia (Bali), Vietnam, Oman and Switzerland, to inspire your choice to exchange vows in their idyllic landscapes.

While all of these havens are equal in beauty, each of them has their individual merits. For those with a taste for tropical temperatures, Bali is your go-to destination, home to a rolling landscape of towering mountains, rich green paddy fields and spectacular beachfront sunset views. Vietnam is perfect for those seeking romantic views and urban exploration. An unusual yet exciting country that has seen a rise in foreign guests is the Sultanate of Oman, which boasts true Arabian beauty. Finally, Switzerland is our magical spot for a winter wonderland, or summer alpine wedding.

We hope you enjoy this guide and your wedding planning journey.

PLEASE NOTE: While great care has been taken in the receipt and handling of material, production and accuracy of content in this guide, the publishers will not accept any responsibility for any errors, loss or omissions which may occur. The views and opinions expressed in this guide are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or position of GHM and its hotels.

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COVER PHOTO The Beach House at The Legian Bali



BALI, INDONESIA



VIETNAM



OMAN



SWITZERLAND



INSPIRING WEDDING DESTINATIONS

BALI, INDONESIA

A paradisiacal Indonesian island, Bali is a hive of culture, proudly displaying their beliefs in daily life through prayer and offerings. The spiritual centre of Ubud is a popular feature of the island, where many couples go to relax and celebrate the next chapter of their lives in the presence of the Balinese gods.

HOI AN, VIETNAM

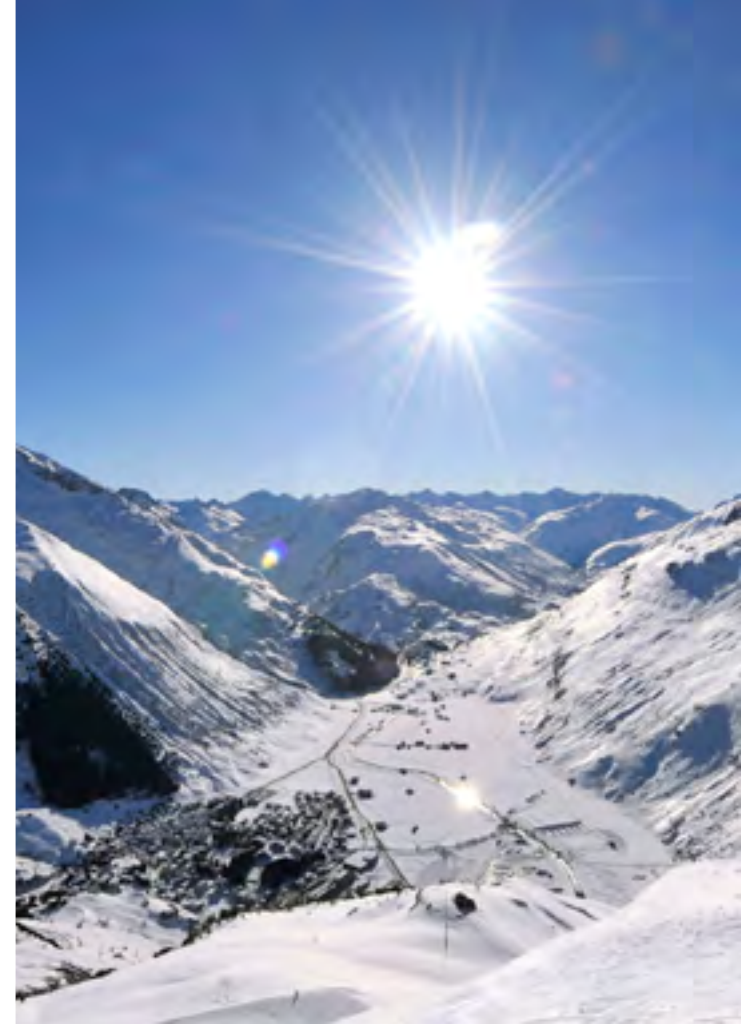
Vietnam is a fascinating destination. Be immersed in history in Hoi An Old Town, float along the Mekong Delta or relax on a deserted beach. There's an awe-inspiring sight to amaze any visitor to this country of natural beauty.

MUSCAT, OMAN

Oman is known for its rich history and culture, friendly people and diverse landscapes. Muscat is the ideal destination for winter sunshine, and the perfect base from which to explore. Discover desert sands, imposing mountain ranges, white sand beaches and turquoise waters.

ANDERMATT, SWITZERLAND

Offering spectacular scenery throughout the year, with guaranteed snowfall in winter and rolling green meadows in summer, Andermatt is an intimate and unique choice for a Swiss wedding destination. The rich culture and timeless traditions will make your marriage as magical as you deserve.





BALI
INDONESIA

WELCOME TO BALI, INDONESIA

For those seeking a whirlwind wedding full of spiritual highs and idyllic atmosphere, the Indonesian island of Bali is your ultimate destination.

This Eden-like beauty spot is awash with natural wonder. Lush rainforests, towering volcanic mountains and a rich multitude of wild plants and animals lie just beyond the swathe of snow white beach surrounding this perfect landscape. Unique venues await you, including magical amphitheatres amongst the trees or a beautiful hotel poolside looking out across the paddy fields. Best to visit in

the dry season between May and September, Bali boasts an equatorial climate along with a warm, welcoming culture to match. If you're fortunate enough to exchange vows on this enchanting island, we highly recommend embracing the Balinese culture. A strong mix of Hinduism, Buddhism and animism makes for a new and exciting wedding experience. A traditional wedding can include anything from fake kidnapping (traditionally, a husband would actually kidnap the bride, but now brides travel gladly with the kidnap being a gesture to traditions) to lavish banquets, music and symbolic offerings to initiate the couple's first steps into their new lives. The Balinese

incorporate religion into every aspect of their lives, and this ceremony is one of the most celebrated in their culture. When the wedding is over, stay on the island and experience a honeymoon to remember. With a variety of adventurous, romantic and historical activities to enjoy, you're sure to have the experience of a lifetime. Climb to the top of Mount Agung or Batur for a once-in-a-lifetime peak view, follow the narrow trails towards hidden beaches in South Bali and discover your spiritual side in the depths of Ubud.

QUICK FACTS

WHEN TO GO

May - September
Weddings can be arranged throughout the year

FLIGHT TIME

AUS: 7 Hours
NORTH ASIA: 5 - 7 Hours
UK & EUROPE: 13 - 15 Hours
USA: 20 - 23 Hours

TIME ZONE

GMT +8 HRS

CURRENCY

Rupiah (IDR or Rp.)

LANGUAGE

Indonesian



Balinese flower girls welcome at The Legian Bali



Canapés served at The Legian Bali





THE LEGIAN

BALI

MARRIAGE ON THE MAGICAL ISLAND OF THE GODS

Discover the enchanting wedding experiences on offer in Bali. Exchange your vows and create beautiful memories on this idyllic island with forests of palm trees and miles of glittering sandy beaches.

Everyone wishes for the perfect wedding day, whether in a church on home soil or on the beach in the sunny tropics. For those with a passion for romance and a taste for adventure, we invite you to take a flight across the world and get married on the magical island of the Gods.

Bali is a paradisiacal destination for happy couples, offering warm weather, a gorgeous natural landscape and panoramic white sand beaches, not to mention a strong spiritual atmosphere. Everyone can exchange vows here, with very few restrictions. Some couples look to ceremonies in-keeping with local tradition, while others seek a commitment, religious or vow renewal ceremony. If you wish to have a legal wedding here, you must declare a religion. In Bali, being an Agnostic or Atheist is not recognised, and you and your partner must have the same beliefs. A chapel, church, villa or temple will perform a marriage for a Christian, Hindu or Buddhist couple, with their religious preferences agreed.

Once the type of ceremony is decided, it's time to consider location. The agreeably warm year-round climate allows for either indoor or outdoor weddings. With miles of glittering sandy coastline, set against a forest of palm trees and deep blue sea, Seminyak beach is one of the most popular choices. The Beach House at The Legian Bali offers stunning beachfront accommodation and doubles as an intimate reception venue for wedding parties. The events team will adorn your special day with local flowers and bouquets, while Balinese flower girls process up the aisle. Receptions here boast fine food, stunning wedding cakes and music-filled receptions for your guests to enjoy. The Club at The Legian Bali is another fantastic option for those wishing to head for Bali's trendiest enclave, Seminyak Beach. Located across the road from The Legian Bali, this estate offers exclusive weddings where the entire eleven villa estate can be yours, offering ultimate seclusion for you and your guests. A personal wedding assistant will work with you to provide all of the traditional elements

We love

The warm hospitality of the local people. The fascinating culture and the stunning backdrops for your all important photos!

you select, while your day is complemented by the warm hospitality and celebrations of the Balinese.

If you're looking for a private experience, The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah, Ubud is the location for you. Nestled next to the spiritual village of Goa Gajah in Ubud, the Tanah Gajah estate was built specifically for intimate celebrations. With an array of venues available for both the ceremony and the reception, The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah can cater for anything from an intimate eight-person dinner to a celebratory feast for 100.

A beautiful garden amphitheatre could be yours for the day as you exchange vows, watched over by hand-carved elephants.

The events team offers a wonderful choice of wedding packages that can be tailored to your exact requirements, the most popular of which



Sunset Garden Dinner Reception at The Legian Bali

is the Amphitheatre Wedding. This natural, grassy sanctuary is surrounded by tropical trees and hand-carved Balinese sculptures of elephants. The calming sound of trickling water from the adjacent infinity pool make this an idyllic choice.

Alternatively, host an even more intimate wedding at Bumi Duadari, ten minutes' drive from The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah, and the private estate of the Hadiprana family - owners of the Tanah Gajah estate. At Bumi Duadari, wedding ceremonies are performed in the midst of a lush natural landscape, poised at the edge of a steep valley along the Petanu River.

Celebrate under the Balinese sun or star filled sky by the poolside or at the open-air Balinese style garden pavilion.

Of course, all these hotels can provide five-star accommodations for you and your guests. You could even prolong your stay by booking

your honeymoon on this magical island. The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah leave you a delicious Honeymoon Cake on turndown and a Special Aromatherapy floral bath on the night of arrival, followed by a Spa Love Ritual for two. Take your time to explore all the wedding packages on offer, refine your guest list and decide upon number of rooms you will need, look into your dining options and duration of your stay. There is indeed, something for everyone.

If a hotel package isn't to your liking, the alternative of chapels and villas across the island are worth considering and will also cater to your every need. Simply choose the chapel and contact them for a package price. Each chapel will usually offer preparation rooms for each party, a civil registrar, English-speaking priest and all legal documentation. They can also take care of the decor, with a selection of florists, professional photographers and make-up artists. The list goes on as to what these diligent planners can source for you.

Some couples prefer to rent a villa as the location for their wedding. Often cheaper than the previous options, a villa wedding is more informal and you can choose to arrange all the details yourself or use a wedding planner. The minimum stay for a wedding function is around three to five nights, giving you and your guests plenty of time to relax, and take in the stunning surroundings.

All packages can be tailored to your specific requirements. In addition, the entire hotel can be rented for an exclusive, once-in-a-lifetime wedding in the most private setting.

Finally, do make sure you allow additional time for paperwork arrangements. Be sure you are absolutely clear on the Balinese principles before going ahead with any expenditure. As mentioned earlier, there are rules surrounding your religion and where you are able to exchange vows. If you're planning a religious

and legal wedding, it's safe to assume you wish for your marriage to be recognised when you travel home. To ensure this, you must have your marriage registered legally with the Civil Registry after the ceremony. Only a marriage under Islam, performed by the Office of Religious Affairs at any location, is legal immediately after the ceremony. If you've come to Bali for a blessing, you are free from any government laws, but if you plan to renew your vows, be aware that the ceremony is also free from regulation but you will be blessed.

Now you have an overview of the enchanting wedding experiences on offer in Bali, we invite you to bring your friends and family, exchange your vows and create beautiful memories on this idyllic island.

THE CHEDI CLUB

TANAH GAJAH, UBUD, BALI



A wedding in Bali will change your life in more ways than one.

A romantic dinner for two on the rice paddies at The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah

Amphitheatre garden wedding ceremony at The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah, Ubud, Bali

FAST FACTS - WEDDINGS IN BALI, INDONESIA

Religious & legal marriages

All couples who marry in Indonesia must declare a religion. The Civil Registry Office can record marriages of persons of Islam, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian-Protestant and Christian-Catholic faiths. Marriage partners must have the same religion, or one partner must make a written declaration of change of religion.

The Religious Marriage under Islam is performed by the Office of Religious Affairs (Kantor Urusan Agama) in a ceremony at a mosque, the home, a restaurant, or any other place chosen by the couple and is legal immediately after the ceremony.

A Christian, Hindu or Buddhist marriage is usually performed first in a church or temple ceremony. After the religious ceremony, every non-Islamic marriage must be recorded with the Civil Registry (Kantor Catatan Sipil). Without the registration by the Civil Registry, these marriages are not legal. A record by Civil Registry officials can be performed directly at the religious ceremony for an additional fee.

Persons of non-Islamic faith are required to file with the Civil Registry Office in the Regency where they are staying first a 'Notice of Intention to Marry' as well as a 'Letter of No Impediment' obtained from their consular representatives.

Non-legal ceremonies

These include blessing and commitment ceremonies. If you've come to Bali for a blessing, you are not required to fulfil any government laws. If you plan to renew your vows, the ceremony is also free from regulation but you will be blessed.

A Balinese blessing ceremony is ideal for couples wanting a more spiritual component to their ceremony. These non-legal ceremonies are popular with those couples already legally married, couples choosing to legally marry in the future and couples of the same sex.

Additional Information

The legal age for marriage is 18 years for both men and women.

Same sex couples can choose to have commitment ceremonies in Bali.

Useful Links

AUSTRALIAN

www.indonesia.embassy.gov.au

UK

www.gov.uk/marriage-abroad

USA

www.jakarta.usembassy.gov

Legal Terminology

A Certificate of No Impediment

This is an official certificate that proves that you are single and free to marry.

An Affidavit

This is a sworn statutory declaration that you are free to marry.

ESSENTIAL

We advise all couples planning to get married in Indonesia to contact the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia about local marriage laws before any bookings are made. They will also be able to advise you on what travel documents you will require.

Please contact your embassy or let your wedding planner help you, and ensure you do this well before your intended wedding date.

Please note: The information presented here serves as a guide. Full details should be obtained from relevant authorities.

Wedding Ceremony at Bumi Duadari, Ubud





HOI AN
VIETNAM

WELCOME TO VIETNAM

Welcome to Vietnam, a Southeast Asian paradise of lush green rolling hills, over 2,000 miles of sparkling coastline and an exciting history to see and explore.

With a year-round tropical climate, this idyllic landscape provides a plethora of venue ideas for your wedding celebrations regardless of your wedding date. Watch the sun set on a sandy beach, climb the mountains to see the awe-inspiring views or discover the depths of an ancient city temple. Whether you're here for the nature or the nuptials, there's nothing you won't love about this country. One of our

favourite aspects of Vietnam is the beautiful beaches. Stretching from the northern point of Mong Cai down to southern Ca Mau, the coastline is blessed with swathes of white sand, deep coves, lagoons and magical rock formations to enchant and amaze their visitors. Vietnam's luxury tailors are also a highlight, offering custom-made suits and wedding dresses crafted from the finest materials and fitted to perfection in time for your special day. When your dream wedding has come to an end, extend the celebrations and spend your honeymoon discovering the best of what Vietnam has to offer. Whatever your interests, there are plentiful attractions to enlighten and

entertain. Choose from ancient history, natural countryside, relaxation, city breaks or a mix of them all. After you've experienced a wedding in Vietnam, you'll want to return again and again.

QUICK FACTS

WHEN TO GO

Late February - September

Weddings can be arranged throughout the year, however, for monsoon season during October - mid February, an indoor back-up venue is advised

FLIGHT TIME

AUS: 10 Hours

NORTH ASIA: 2 - 6 Hours

UK & EUROPE: 11 - 13 Hours

USA: 17 - 19 Hours

TIME ZONE

GMT +7 HRS

CAPITAL

Hanoi

CURRENCY

Dong (VND)

LANGUAGE

Vietnamese



My Son, a UNESCO site in Central Vietnam
Photo: Eric Michael Wight



Cham Islands, Central Vietnam



The Nam Hai Hoi An
Intimate Reception Dinner

A bride in a white wedding dress is standing on a sandy beach, holding a bouquet of yellow flowers. The ocean waves are visible in the background, and the sky is overcast. The bride's dress is long and flowing, with a train that extends onto the sand. She is wearing a pearl bracelet and a ring.

*Did you
know?*

In the last five years, one
in six married couples
have tied the knot
overseas

A traditional ceremony can
be performed anywhere from
the local church to a hotel
or location of your choice



Hoi An Old Town

PHOTOGRAPHY IN VIETNAM, A PICTURESQUE LOCATION

Uncover the wonders of Vietnam's varied terrain of bustling cities, sandy beaches and dense forest. Every picture you take will be a treasured and awe-inspiring addition to your wedding memories.

For many couples planning their dream wedding day, the desired romance of the experience is defined by thoughtful gifts and lavish gestures. For those with a creative flair, what better gift is there than the magnificent landscape of Vietnam captured in pictures to cherish for a lifetime?

While a brief holiday to Vietnam provides a mere snapshot of the beauty its landscape offers, an extended wedding celebration here will uncover the wonders of its natural and metropolitan environment. With a varied terrain of bustling cities, sandy beaches and dense forest, every picture you take will be a treasured and awe-inspiring addition to your wedding memories.

Before making plans to travel here for your image-led wedding, make sure you're aware of the laws, as exchanging vows in Vietnam can be complicated. In order to have a legal ceremony, one of you must be a Vietnamese

citizen. Those who are not in this situation are offered a non-legal blessing where you legally marry in your country of residence and follow this with a non-legal blessing celebration in Vietnam. Two foreigners can only have a non-legal blessing, even if one of the couple lives in Vietnam. If you are a foreigner marrying a Vietnamese citizen, it's important to obtain a marriage licence, also known as a Certificate of No Impediment. It's recommended to get this in your home country and exchange it for a local certificate at a Vietnamese Embassy. There are numerous legal papers that the Vietnamese law will want to see. These will include your ID and a Certificate of Single Status.

Immerse yourself in local culture and create an album of authentic and cultural photography.

If you and your partner qualify for a legal Vietnamese wedding, the traditional

We love

The immersive culture,
and traditional customs.

The wow factor, and
honeymooning around
Vietnam after the big day!

ceremony is most definitely an experience to consider. Known as one of the most important ceremonies in Vietnamese culture, the wedding is influenced by Confucian and Buddhist ideologies. Numerous customs are acknowledged such as traditional dress, receiving the bride with gifts of luck and blessings from ancestors, and a formal tea ceremony. This is a fantastic opportunity to immerse yourself in local culture and create an album of authentic and cultural photography to take home and remember for years to come.

A traditional ceremony can be performed anywhere from the local church to a hotel or location of your choice, as can a blessing for those unable to exchange vows legally. There are a number of wedding planners in Vietnam who offer a full package for your wedding, blessing or vow renewal. Planners will usually provide everything from tailors and cake bakers to photographers and music bands, ensuring your special day is perfect and stress-free. Wedding officiates such as celebrants



Poolside wedding at The Nam Hai

and other religious individuals can be booked for the ceremony and will travel to your chosen destination to bless your life partnership in the traditional manner.

After the paperwork is prepared and the ceremony chosen, it's time to consider where to exchange vows and capture the romance through the lens. Create a historic love story preserved in pictures to treasure.

Vietnam is a photographer's dream, and there's an endless list of desirable sites and venues that will deliver much more than a pretty picture.

If you're seeking a wedding ceremony in the countryside, you might enjoy the rolling rice paddy fields and soaring mountains that tower overhead. A film of vibrant green, this landscape is a beautiful and simplistic backdrop to complement the beautiful bride in her bright white dress.

Central Vietnam boasts historical sites and fantastic beaches. It is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites, the ancient city of Hoi An, sacred ruins of My Son and historically fascinating Imperial Hué, located on the picturesque Perfume River. If you are seeking a backdrop of clear blue waters, the scenic Cham Islands are a mere 30 minutes by speed boat from Hoi An. These eight islands make a beautiful setting for wedding photography, offering lush green landscapes and clear blue seascapes.

Another popular destination, the Marble Mountains, are situated off the coast of Bien Dong. Made up of five marble and limestone hills named after the five elements, there are plenty of photo opportunities here. Start at the base of the mountains in the tropical gardens, then climb the steps and capture yourselves among the wildlife and ancient temples at the top, overlooking the spotless Da Nang beach. Afterwards, why not wander down to the shore and take some coastal photographs as the sun sets against the sea?

From coastal beauty to historical marvels. My Son was the religious and political capital of the Champa Kingdom for most of its existence. Wedding photos taken among the jungle scenery and ancient temples have a new level of beauty and offer a captivating memento of your day to treasure.

Imagine wedding photos at My Son, among the lush jungle with ancient ruins as your backdrop.

Moving on to the bustling city, we head to the highlights of metropolitan photography. The ancient town of Hoi An is a fishing port dating back to the 15th century and is located just a stone's throw away from Da Nang beach, a popular location for wedding photography. Beautifully preserved traditional timber framed buildings line the traffic-free streets, while softly lit lanterns adorn the pathways to create a historic love story preserved in pictures for you to treasure. Refresh your wardrobe with traditional Vietnamese wedding attire to

complete the authenticity of your photographs and be sure to explore your surroundings and learn the exciting history of this once bustling trade centre.

The Nam Hai Hoi An lies along the coast on the powdery sands of Ha My Beach, located minutes away from the ancient town and just a short drive away from the Marble Mountains. The hotel is inspired by over 2,000 years of history, blending seamlessly into its surroundings, offering numerous venues within its walls to host ceremonies and lavish receptions for you and your guests. The tropical gardens and three-tiered pools are a popular attraction for those seeking first-class photography, while a luxurious room with an ocean view awaits for you to rest and relax into your honeymoon. Select the Celebrate in Style wedding package and have your ceremony, reception and accommodation taken care of by The Nam Hai team.

If this sounds like a dream location for your wedding, then start planning and don't forget your camera!

Did you know?

Blessings are a great alternative if neither you or your partner are a national of your chosen wedding location

Hoi An ancient town, a fishing port dating back to the 15th century, is a very popular location for wedding photography

FAST FACTS - WEDDINGS IN VIETNAM

Religious & legal marriages

One of you will need to be Vietnamese citizen in order to legally marry there.

Any application for marriage between a citizen of a foreign country and a Vietnamese citizen residing in Ho Chi Minh City should be filed in person at the Principal Registrar's Office (Justice Department, Ho Chi Minh City).

You must obtain a Certificate of No Impediment (CNI). This can be done either in your home country and then exchanged for a local certificate at your Embassy in Vietnam, or if you are resident in Vietnam, then you can obtain it in person from your Embassy there. You must have resided in Vietnam for at least 21 consecutive days prior to your application for marriage.

You will be asked to swear an affidavit to submit to a Notice of Marriage, which will then be posted for 21 days before the CNI will be issued.

You then take all papers to the Principal Registrar's Office in Ho Chi Minh City to apply for a marriage licence.

Blessing ceremonies

You can legally marry in your country of residence and have a non-legal blessing in Vietnam.

Blessings can be tailored to either a Vietnamese or Western wedding ceremony, depending upon your requirements. Please note, the wedding ceremony is symbolic and not legally binding.

Additional Information

Legal age for marriage is 18 years for women and 20 years for men.

Same sex couples may have blessing ceremonies and weddings ceremonies in Vietnam, although they will not be legally recognised.

Useful Links

AUSTRALIAN

www.vietnam.embassy.gov.au

UK

www.gov.uk/marriage-abroad

USA

www.vietnamembassy-usa.org

Legal Terminology

A Certificate of No Impediment

This is an official certificate that proves that you are single and free to marry.

An Affidavit

This is a sworn statutory declaration that you are free to marry.

ESSENTIAL

We advise all couples planning to get married in Vietnam to contact the Embassy of Vietnam about local marriage laws before any bookings are made. They will also be able to advise you on what travel documents you will require.

Please contact your embassy or let your wedding planner help you, and ensure you do this well before your intended wedding date.

Please note: The information presented here serves as a guide. Full details should be obtained from relevant authorities.



Garden White Wedding at The Nam Hai



MUSCAT
OMAN

WELCOME TO OMAN

The Sultanate of Oman offers spectacular landscapes, rich heritage and year-round sunshine. Celebrate your special day and immerse yourself in the lesser-known treasure of Arabia. This majestic, awe-inspiring land is an adventurous story ready to be experienced.

Bordering with the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, Oman offers over 1,600 kilometres of expanse coastal plain and a plethora of ancient culture, wildlife and

natural wonders to behold. Whether you visit for a city break or a countryside retreat, a wedding in the Sultanate of Oman will not disappoint. Home to one of the oldest civilisations in the Arabian Peninsula, it's a gold mine for historians, with stunning architecture and tribal mountain villages awaiting your discovery. For city lovers, embark on a tour of the capital, Muscat, and dine on rich and flavourful Omani cuisine in five-star restaurants. Meanwhile, a trek out into the rural land will treat you with breathtaking panoramic views of the rugged Hajar Mountains, welcome you to swim around

in the dramatic wadis, and give you an adrenaline kick riding on the rolling sand dunes of the Wahibas.

It is best to visit between October and April when the weather is cool. A wedding and honeymoon in this Arabian landscape is sure to astound you with pristine golden beaches, national parks and views of the clear blue Arabian Sea beyond. Choose to exchange vows in this beautiful location and you'll depart with treasured memories of history, culture and most of all, excitement.

QUICK FACTS

WHEN TO GO

October - April

Weddings can be arranged throughout the year

FLIGHT TIME

AUS: 22 Hours

NORTH ASIA: 6 - 9 Hours

UK & EUROPE: 6 - 8 Hours

USA: 18 - 20 Hours

TIME ZONE

GMT +4 HRS

CAPITAL

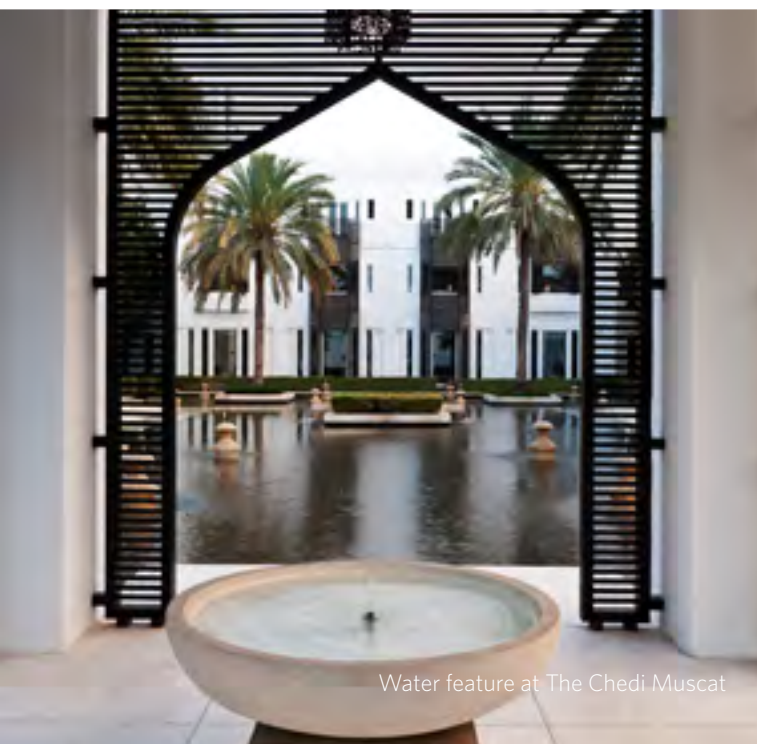
Muscat

CURRENCY

Rial (OMR or RO)

LANGUAGE

Arabic



Water feature at The Chedi Muscat



Corniche de Muttrah
Ministry of Tourism, Oman

A wide-angle photograph of a resort courtyard at dusk. The scene is dominated by a large, calm reflecting pool in the foreground, which mirrors the sky and the surrounding architecture. In the center of the pool, a small, ornate fountain structure is illuminated from below, casting a warm glow. The courtyard is lined with tall, slender palm trees, their fronds silhouetted against the twilight sky. In the background, a long, white building with arched windows and doors is visible, its interior lights glowing. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and luxurious.

Did you know?

Marrying abroad can save up to \$15,000 due to local suppliers and honeymooning in the same location

This Arabian treasure is sure to astound you with pristine golden beaches, national parks and views of the clear blue Indian Ocean beyond



TRADITIONAL VS MODERN WEDDINGS IN OMAN

Oman offers two core types of wedding: traditional and modern. While both have their differences, they remain steeped in Arab culture. Here we discover the enchanting elements that make up an Omani wedding.

If you're planning a wedding or reception celebration in the Sultanate of Oman, it's clear you're looking for a new and exciting experience. This sandy landscape lying on the Arabian Peninsula is a hive of culture and natural beauty, with rolling dunes, high diving cliffs and tranquil beaches to attract both adventurous and sun-seeking couples.

To be legally wed in this spectacular country, you must be Omani or currently living in Oman to be married here. There are no civil marriages in Oman, but you can get married through a religious ceremony at a church or Shariaa court. Nevertheless, wedding receptions can be held at a host of locations and cater to celebrations for a host of couples.

A traditional wedding in Oman follows Islamic religious practice, comprising a segregated celebration, with bride and groom spending the majority of their big day apart with family and friends of their own gender. The marriage process begins when the groom seeks

permission from the bride's family, then an official proposal takes place. Following an 'I do', the groom arranges a dowry, which can be defined as money, gold, goods or estate that the man gives to his future bride. The gift is then bestowed upon the bride for her exclusive use. The couple then sign their wedding contract and are deemed formally married. At this point, and following the Mulkah (the mosque ceremony), it is culturally acceptable for the newlyweds to be seen together in public and talk on the telephone.

In a traditional Omani wedding, the bride and groom celebrate in different locations. The bride and her party eat and celebrate in colourful dresses with their abayas removed, the groom and his male party celebrate outside wearing their traditional clothing and swords.

We love

Ancient Arabian wonders,
bright sunshine, fantastic
cuisine and splendid
scenery for perfect
memorable shots!

Both parties enjoy the walima, also known as the marriage banquet. When the feast comes to a close, the groom will set out with his parade to collect his bride and take her back to his home, a hall or hotel, where the party continues until sunrise. When the groom arrives, the women wear their abayas (in keeping with Islamic traditions). When the party ends, the bride and groom retreat to their honeymoon and return to build a home with the groom's parents, or more commonly, by themselves.

A traditional wedding has long been the only choice in Oman, following Islamic teachings and cultural passion. However, westernisation has slowly increased in the Sultanate, which has introduced slight alterations and a number of new opportunities to the wedding celebration.

Rather than the distinctly separate ceremonies held in a traditional wedding, a modern wedding can see both genders celebrating together, giving newlyweds a chance to spend

more time with each another on their special day. There are small differences in clothing too. Although women still follow the custom of wearing abayas when around male non-family members, the bride is able to choose a white dress rather than the traditional colourful garment, if preferred.

The change to give couples a choice between a traditional and modern ceremony marked a big step forward in Omani culture and sparked great interest abroad as a unique wedding location overseas.

The reception venue is one of the most important elements of the day. Oman is home to a flourishing array of hotels, with The Chedi Muscat hotel a prize example. Situated on the coast with breathtaking views of the towering Hajar Mountains, the hotel offers special areas for guests to exchange vows, from the luxurious poolside to the peaceful beach right on its doorstep. With a wealth of experience in hosting weddings, you can leave your wishes in their hands and have your celebration planned down to the finest detail. Following the ceremony, private dining rooms serving gourmet cuisine and fine wines welcome the reception, while the perfect suite awaits you to begin a romantic honeymoon.

The Sultanate of Oman has become a fine host for any couple wishing to celebrate their wedding abroad. The combination of fascinating history, warm culture and powerful scenery are inspiring and provide the perfect location to create treasured memories your wedding celebration deserves.



FAST FACTS - WEDDINGS IN OMAN

Marriage in the Church

You must be currently living in Oman to be married here.

Foreign nationals who hold a resident permit for Oman and are Christians are able to marry at the Protestant Church of Oman or in a Catholic Church.

You would be required to submit a Certificate of No Impediment to get married in the church.

After the ceremony has taken place, in order to ensure that the marriage is recognised in Oman, the couple must take a signed copy of the entry in the Church Marriage register for accreditation to:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The embassies of both parties

Marriage in the Shariaa Court

You must be Omani or currently living in Oman to be married here.

A marriage between two Muslims can be conducted in the Shariaa court in Muscat, as can a marriage between a Muslim man and a non-Muslim woman. However, the court will not allow a non-Muslim man to marry a Muslim woman. More information on this can be obtained from the Shariaa court.

After the marriage, the marriage certificate should be taken to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Legalisation Office in your country of residence. You should check with your relevant Embassy for procedures.

Additional Information

Legal age for marriage is 18 years for both men and women.

Same sex couples are not allowed to marry.

Useful Links

AUSTRALIAN

www.dfat.gov.au

UK

www.gov.uk/marriage-abroad

USA

www.oman.usembassy.gov

CHURCHES

www.holyspiritchurchoman.com

www.churchinoman.com

www.soharchurch.org

Legal Terminology

A Certificate of No Impediment

This is an official certificate that proves that you are single and free to marry.

An Affidavit

This is a sworn statutory declaration that you are free to marry.

ESSENTIAL

We advise all couples planning to get married in Oman to contact the Embassy of Oman about local marriage laws before any bookings are made. They will also be able to advise you on what travel documents you will require.

Please contact your embassy or let your wedding planner help you, and ensure you do this well before your intended wedding date.

Please note: The information presented here serves as a guide. Full details should be obtained from relevant authorities.



Wahiba Sands, interior of Oman
Khalil Al Zadjali, Ministry of Tourism, Oman



ANDERMATT
SWITZERLAND

WELCOME TO SWITZERLAND

Home to silky-smooth chocolate and stunning snow peaks, the picturesque country of Switzerland is the ideal wedding and honeymoon location for a bride and groom-to-be.

The wealthy landlocked country in central Europe is home to some of the highest mountains in the Alps, offering outstanding recreation for sports enthusiasts and awe-inspiring views for all to see. Switzerland is most popular for its luxurious ski resorts and chic urban metropolis, Zurich. An exciting

array of wedding locations and honeymoon attractions await your enjoyment, including towering mountains, picturesque national parks, historic old towns and buzzing cities. Visit between December and April to enjoy a magical white wedding in the Alps, or in the summer months to exchange vows on the green flower-topped hills. A destination guaranteed to enthrall is Andermatt, situated in the picturesque Urseren valley where four alpine passes cross. Soak up the rich and colourful past, and be dazzled by its spectacular scenery. Be sure to visit the nearby Gotthard Pass, which connects

north and south Switzerland. It makes for a breathtaking drive and takes you across the legendary Devil's Bridge. Those open to alternative customs can transform their celebrations with traditional Swiss song, dance and entertainment, all taking place amidst the lush green mountains. Gaze across panoramic Lake Geneva, explore the towering mountains of the Jungfrau Regions and discover ancient treasures in the historic town of Montreux after saying 'I do'. With countless gems to amaze and inspire, this home of natural wonder is sure to tick all your nuptial boxes, no matter where your wishes take you.

QUICK FACTS

WHEN TO GO

April - September (summer season)
December - April (skiing season)
Weddings can be arranged throughout the year

FLIGHT TIME

AUS: 17 - 21 Hours
NORTH ASIA: 10 - 13 Hours
UK & EUROPE: 1 - 2 Hours
USA: 8 - 10 Hours

TIME ZONE

GMT +1 HR

CAPITAL

Bern

CURRENCY

Switzerland Francs (CHF)

LANGUAGE

German, French, Italian and Romansh



A winter's sunset in Andermatt village



Horse-drawn carriage rides through the mountains of Andermatt



The Chedi Andermatt





The town of Andermatt, Switzerland



This alpine haven is fast becoming
a favourite for both weddings and
honeymoons

THE CHEDI

ANDERMATT, SWITZERLAND



ROMANCE IN THE ALPS, COME SNOW OR SHINE

If you're celebrating your wedding in an alpine wonderland, there's a whole host of timeless traditions to make your new life adventure as magical as you deserve.

Imagine the exhilaration and delight you would feel exchanging vows on top of rolling snowy hills or in the midst of a springtime forest. Picture spending your honeymoon in a romantic winter wonderland, or in the reviving alpine passes in summer. Switzerland is becoming a sought after destination first and foremost for its magical landscapes, but also for its exciting traditions.

There are many snow-topped locations to explore for your perfect white wedding and due to their wonderfully varied climates, you're guaranteed to experience the desired weather. Meeting the northern border of Italy, the stunning snow peaks and ski slopes of Switzerland are a dramatic beauty, serving as the perfect backdrop to your romantic celebration. The country's enviable summer scenery is also well-suited to its wedding customs and traditions, all revolving around nature and the outdoor world. As a growing amount of brides are keen to incorporate

nature into their nuptials, this alpine haven is fast becoming a favourite for both weddings and honeymoons.

When deciding on a ceremony type, couples can choose between a civil or symbolic ceremony. A symbolic ceremony is non-binding to the law whereas the civil is a formal ceremony held by government officials to receive your legal marriage licence binding in your country. Once you have chosen a ceremony, it's on to deciding which traditions and customs to embrace.

A traditional wedding in Switzerland encompasses a number of different customs, including new and old fashioned entertainment, song and dance. It's very rare to see a ceremony here unless it's in a church, but it's the reception that draws in the crowds. Two tiers of guests are invited to different elements of a Swiss wedding. Following the nuptials, an apero begins, where one tier will attend a gathering with food and drink and meet the newlyweds. Soon after, the second

We love

The enchanting scenic location, natural beauty and quirky wedding traditions you can embrace for your big day

tier of family and close friends arrive for the reception and the first tier go home. Along with its cost cutting advantages, this is also a fantastic idea to make your wedding more personal and relaxed without the stress of hosting hundreds of guests.

The Andermatt region is renowned for its winter beauty due to its high altitude and reliable amounts of snow, but what you may not realise is Andermatt is equally as stunning during the summer months. As the weather warms, the region thaws to reveal beautiful mountains covered in spring flowers, a magical backdrop for a special day.

Much of a Swiss celebration is spent outdoors playing music and dancing, while their traditions are immersed in its natural beauty.

Evergreen trees are a symbol of fertility and luck here and many newlyweds take their first



steps over an evergreen path. If you're feeling adventurous, why not try the 'Baumstamm sagen' or 'log sawing' tradition? As man and wife leave the party, their path is blocked by a log on a sawhorse. In order to make a joyous transfer into their new lives they must saw it in half as a team, symbolising their partnership against any obstacles they will encounter in the future.

When the celebrations have come to a close and your tiers of guests have parted ways, it's time to relax and begin your honeymoon in the mountains. With ample snowfall in the winter months, you're guaranteed to have both a relaxing or thrill-seeking honeymoon depending on your wishes.

Switzerland is as enchanting in winter for its stunning snow capped scenery, as it is in summer with its abundance of wildflower meadows.

The classic Urseren Valley in Andermatt, Switzerland offers a huge expanse of natural alpine slopes, surrounded by towering peaks, deep canyons and beautiful waterfalls. After an action-packed morning, wander down to the charming Andermatt village, climb aboard a horse and cart and be guided around the cobbled streets with Gemsstock Mountain, a spectacular backdrop. Among the accommodation available in these locations, remote villas, cabins and chalets will provide you with an authentic stay, but for the real

wow-factor, there are plenty of hotels and resorts that will answer your every need. Blending into the remote Urseren idyll is The Chedi Andermatt. This luxurious hotel offers top-class facilities including fine restaurants, a welcoming living room and indoor and outdoor pools, and a number of packages are available to complete your magical honeymoon in this snowy landscape. Choose the Rejuvenate in Style package for a pampering three-night deluxe stay in The Chedi, including complimentary access to the comprehensive spa and wellness centre, a two-hour Bali Oriental Ritual spa treatment, daily yoga sessions and a four-course dinner served at The Restaurant. A wide range of authentic central Swiss, European and Asian food is available here, all served with a world-class wine if you so choose. Watch the chefs at work in four theatre kitchens, socialise at communal tables or warm yourself around a flickering fireplace – the choices are endless.

There are so many tempting attractions to engage in when planning your wedding in Switzerland. Andermatt is a charming traditional village set within a pure alpine landscape. With a host of activities and spectacular year-round scenery, this could be the destination you have been searching for. Visit Andermatt, and experience a whole host of timeless traditions to make your new life adventure as magical as you deserve.

Image Credit Switzerland in snow, page 3, Lukas Mathias



Summer in Andermatt

FAST FACTS - WEDDINGS IN SWITZERLAND

Religious & legal marriages

All Swiss weddings must include a civil ceremony at a registry office for the marriage to be legally registered. This means that the religious ceremony is separate from the legal proceedings.

The marriage certificate must be obtained at the Registry Office in the canton where either one of the parties is a resident. If the couple doesn't live in Switzerland, the application can be made at the Registry Office in the canton where the marriage will take place.

The civil ceremony must take place in the registry office, with two adult witnesses. Ceremonies can only take place from Monday to Saturday. There are no marriage ceremonies during public holidays or on Sundays.

If the couple wishes to hold a religious ceremony, this must be done only after the civil marriage has taken place, and the marriage deed must be presented as proof.

A marriage deed includes when and where the civil ceremony was conducted, as well as the name of the spouses before and after the ceremony took place.

Blessing or symbolic ceremonies

A symbolic wedding ceremony or blessing is non-binding to the law. No prior civil marriage or paperwork is required.

Additional Information

The legal age for marriage is 18 years for both men and women.

Same sex couples may have civil unions or registered partnerships in Switzerland.

Useful Links

AUSTRALIAN

www.geneva.mission.gov.au

UK

www.gov.uk/marriage-abroad
www.eda.admin.ch

USA

www.bern.usembassy.gov

ESSENTIAL

We advise all couples planning to get married in Switzerland to contact the Embassy of Switzerland about local marriage laws before any bookings are made. They will also be able to advise you on what travel documents you will require.

Please contact your embassy or let your wedding planner help you, and ensure you do this well before your intended wedding date.

Please note: The information presented here serves as a guide. Full details should be obtained from relevant authorities.



The Lobby Bar at The Chedi Andermatt

CEREMONIES - A ROUND-UP OF YOUR OPTIONS

Find the ceremony style to suit you and your dream wedding, from blessing and commitment ceremonies, to legal, religious and modern, there is something available to suit every happy couple embarking on their wedding abroad.

When planning your dream wedding, top of the itinerary comes the venue and ceremony. But for many, both cultural traditions and restrictions can have an effect on the type of ceremony you can have. It's important to know what's available when you travel abroad, so here's our round-up of the ceremonies available in our favourite locations.

Blessing or Commitment

The first and most common ceremonies to engage in abroad are a blessing or commitment. Practised in many countries, these can be chosen no matter your gender or nationality. The only drawback is these ceremonies are not legal, they are merely a romantic acknowledgement of your wish to spend the rest of your lives together. In Balinese culture, weddings of same sex couples are commonplace. A blessing or commitment can be held at nearly any chapel or hotel of your choosing and a full

package including everything from pastor to photographer can be organised to suit your desires. When you return from your honeymoon, simply complete the legal papers in your home country to make the marriage legal.

Legal

Of course, a legal ceremony is what the majority of couples seek to make their marriage official, whether they're abroad or on home soil. As we all know, a legal ceremony consists of binding vows and paperwork. With a licence to do so, it can be performed in any location, even on a beach! In each of our luscious landscapes there are some restrictions surrounding this type of ceremony. For example, in Vietnam one of you must be a national of the country in order to qualify. Meanwhile in Bali, you must follow the same religion as each other and the country does not support Agnostic or Atheist beliefs.

Religious and Cultural

There is a religious origin ingrained in every ceremony around the world and in our four destinations there's a great deal of culture too. A religious event will follow the beliefs of a particular country, whether old or new, including different readings and offerings to gods.

With religion comes tradition, and there's plenty of cultural traditions to explore around the world.

A wedding is one of the most important ceremonies in Vietnam, where Confucian and Buddhist ideologies are combined with ancient customs for you to embrace. Across the continents in the Swiss Alps, it's nature that has been embraced and included in local weddings. Expect to celebrate amidst the rolling snowy hills, adorn your party with beautiful flowers and fight your way into the



Garden Bliss Wedding, The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah, Ubud, Bali

future by sawing through a hearty tree trunk! Of course, these cultural traditions can be cherry-picked to your taste to personalise your celebration.

Modern Weddings

Finally, as we move into the future, there is an ever increasing amount of contemporary influence within wedding ceremonies, focused on combining the culture of a country with new and exciting experiences. Modern weddings can be as simple as a vow exchange in a glamorous hotel or as lavish as an underwater 'I do' in a tropical coral reef.

So, if you seek a blessing or a legal ceremony overseas, whether it be modern or traditional, there is a plethora of religious and cultural customs on offer for you to select and shape to create your perfect wedding to remember for years to come.



The Beach House Sunset White Wedding at The Legian Bali



WEDDING GUIDE
THE PLANNING CHECKLIST

WHERE

Destination

Select your wedding abroad destination

Legal & Residency

Requirements

Contact the Foreign Embassy or Consulate to confirm the legal and residency requirements for your chosen country

Investigate time-frames and required steps that need to be completed prior to your wedding

WHEN & WHO

Set A Date

Decide what time of year you would like to get married and select a preferred date

Guest List

Speak to guests as early as possible in order to estimate the numbers that may attend. This will help when speaking to wedding planners, tour operators, suppliers and choosing your wedding venues

PLANNERS & EXTRAS

Wedding Planners

Wedding planner
Tour operator
In-house co-ordination planners

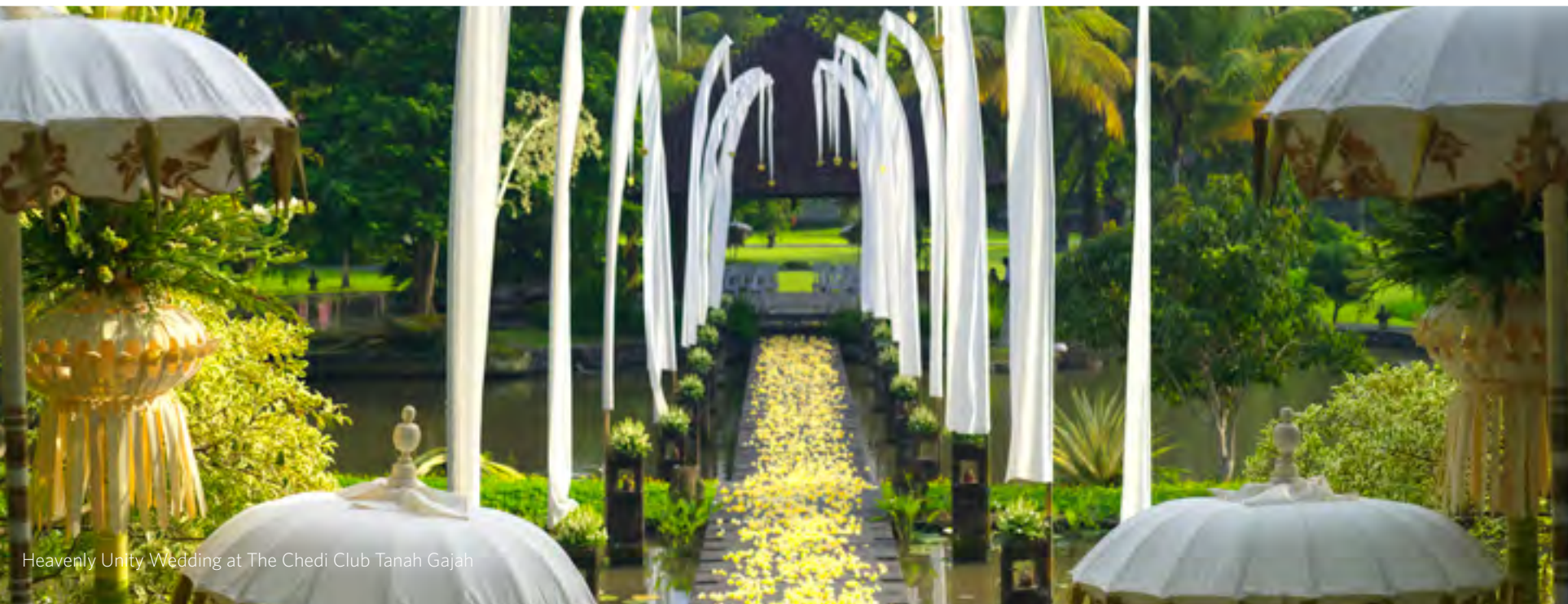
Extra Celebrations

Rehearsals
Pre-wedding day meals
Post-wedding meals
Sightseeing for guests

SUPPLIERS

Wedding Suppliers

Do you need any additional suppliers?
Ceremony venue
Celebrant / priest
Reception venue
Caterer
Florist
Wedding cake
Photographer
Videographer
Musicians
Transportation for wedding party
Hairdresser
Make-up artist
Beauty therapist



Heavenly Unity Wedding at The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah

THE CEREMONY

Decide on a ceremony type

Civil ceremony
Religious ceremony
Blessing ceremony
Venues available for chosen ceremony
Customs and traditions
Music
Readings
Vows

RECEPTION

Destination

Select your reception venue

Food & Entertainment

Drinks reception

Canapés

Wedding meal

Speeches

Music

REMEMBER TO PACK...

Passports

Marriage documents

Plane tickets

Insurance documents

Wedding attire

Wedding rings

Speeches

Cameras

Thank you for joining us on our journey across the world, discovering the highlights of our favourite wedding hotspots: Indonesia (Bali), Vietnam, Oman and Switzerland.

Our exploration into these idyllic locations has unearthed beautiful and awe-inspiring landscapes for you to love and enjoy together as a newly married couple. We've travelled through tropical rainforests, across the sandy desert and over the highest snowy mountain peaks to find the best and most romantic havens to host your matrimony.

These countries welcome marriages with open arms and offer their unique cultures and beliefs for you to embrace if you wish.

We invite you to choose your favourite location, cherry-pick cultural traditions and embark on a once-in-a-lifetime journey towards a dream wedding unlike any other.

SHARE THIS WEDDING GUIDE



WEDDING CONTACTS

The Legian Bali, Indonesia



Events Sales Executive
T (62) 361 730 622
F (62) 361 730 623
events@thelegianbali.com
www.TheLegianBali.com

The Club at The Legian Bali, Indonesia



Events Sales Executive
T (62) 361 730 622
F (62) 361 730 623
events@thelegianbali.com
www.TheClubAtTheLegian.com

The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia



Devi Maharani (Ms.)
Director of Sales
T (62) 361 975 685
F (62) 361 975 686
dos@chedibali.com
www.ChediClubUbud.com

The Nam Hai Hoi An, Vietnam



Phuong Thao (Ms.)
Sales & Events Manager
T (84) 510 3 940 000
F (84) 510 3 940 999
sales@thenamhai.com
www.TheNamHaiHoiAn.com

The Chedi Muscat, Oman



Banqueting & Events Manager
T (968) 2452 4400
F (968) 24 49 34 85
banqueting@chedimuscat.com
www.ChediMuscat.com

The Chedi Andermatt, Switzerland



Banquets & Private Events
T (41) 41 888 74 88
F (41) 41 888 74 99
events-chedianderstatt@ghmhotels.com
www.ChediAndermatt.com

GHM HOTELS

Outdoors by the seashore, under the stars and indoors among a breathtaking array of elegant, Asian influenced spaces, GHM hotels offer stylish, fully equipped venues for your upcoming wedding.

Your wedding and one of our unique venues will make the most memorable combination. Whether you envision a garden party among lush coconut palms at the Indian Ocean shoreline, cocktails by Bali's emerald rice paddies or dinner for dozens along the fabled Arabian coast in Oman, GHM's world-class events span the globe. Before and after, allow us to show your guests around our worlds, from the island of the Gods of Bali to the ancient kingdoms of Vietnam.

All of our resorts offer the services of our events team to manage your big day, from bespoke menus to entertaining your guests with off-site excursions.

Plan the wedding of your dreams with GHM hotels.

www.GHMhotels.com



Infinity Pool at The Legian Bali, Indonesia



One Bedroom Villa at The Club at The Legian Bali, Indonesia



Main Pool at The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia



Beachfront Pool Villa Breakfast at The Nam Hai Hoi An, Vietnam



Chedi Club Suite Balcony at The Chedi Muscat, Oman



The Chedi Andermatt, Switzerland

GHM

A STYLE TO REMEMBER

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