

FROM THE FIRST IDEA TO THE WEEK AFTER

Before *Your Wedding*

What to settle and when, who to plan for,
and what you should never have to see
on the day.





CONTENTS

Read it once. Send it to whoever you plan with. Keep it open on your first call with a planner. Tap any line to jump to it.

<i>I</i>	Who this is for	iii
<i>II</i>	What to settle, and when	iv
<i>III</i>	The money, honestly	v
<i>IV</i>	Guests, family, and who decides	vi
<i>V</i>	Large and Indian weddings	vii
<i>VI</i>	The venue questions	viii
<i>VII</i>	Your real range	ix
<i>VIII</i>	Weather, permits, tides and traffic	x
<i>IX</i>	The last week, a checklist	xi
<i>X</i>	When you are ready	xii

I · WHO THIS IS FOR

For anyone planning *from somewhere else*

You are planning the biggest day of your life from another country.

You are sending real money to people you have never met, for a day that cannot be moved. Feeling nervous about that is not a flaw. It means you are paying attention.

The most expensive part of a destination wedding is not on any quote. It is the risk you cannot see from home.

Each chapter names one of those risks, in the order it arrives, and ends with something you can do this week. It is written for the couple, and just as much for the parents and whoever is paying.

If you want to see where all of this leads, [see real BaliVIP weddings](#).

S · NO. 1 · BEFORE YOUR WEDDING



II · THE ORDER OF THINGS

What to settle, *and when*

There is no universal calendar. Some couples book far ahead, some close to the date. **The order never changes.** Settle each stage before the next one starts, and nothing has to be undone.

i Three answers, before any venue

How many people are coming. What you can spend in total. Whether that total is a ceiling or a starting point. Every price on the island runs from these.

ii Your events, before your venue

Welcome dinner, ceremony, reception, farewell brunch, and any cultural events. The events decide how many spaces you need. That is what rules venues out.

iii The venue, in writing

Capacity, rules, price and rooms, on paper. A verbal yes is a plan. A written yes is a booking.

iv Your planner, by name

When you confirm, know who your planner is, when you first meet, and where every document will live.

v The suppliers who book out first

MC, DJ, makeup, photography and film. A late choice can cost more, or lose the supplier.

vi The forms only you can fill in

Family details, bridal party, guest list, seating plan, rooming list. Each has a due date. A late one holds up something else.

vii The run sheet, signed off

Built backward from your ceremony time, refined over several versions, and signed off by you.

Prefer it as a list? Here is [a planning checklist you can tick off.](#)

The money, *honestly*

Nobody can price your wedding from a photograph.

A real range needs your date, your guest count and your events. Price the celebration, not the day: every event, every meal your guests share with you, flights, attire and the honeymoon. Then remove what you do not want.

i **Tax and service, in or out**

Ask whether every figure includes tax and service. If it does not, the total moves after you sign.

ii **The build at a villa**

Most private villas come empty. Furniture, kitchen, power, rain cover, bar and toilets are often assumed included. They rarely are.

iii **The rain plan has a price**

Moving indoors, or building cover, is never automatically free or available. Get the cost in writing before you need it.

iv **The bar**

Package or pay per drink, corkage per bottle, and who owns the unopened stock afterward.

v **Guest count changes**

The cut off date, the rate per added guest, and which company invoices you. Fix all three first.

vi **A line for the unexpected**

Hold a contingency, so nobody has to ask your family for more money in the final weeks.

Before you ask anyone for a number, rough out your budget in a few minutes.

IV · THE PEOPLE

Guests, family, *and who decides*

At home, a forgotten detail costs someone a phone call. Here it costs a guest who flew across the world.

i Who pays, and who decides

In many families the parents are paying, deciding, or both. Plan with them, not around them. Settle it on the first call.

ii Rooms are names, not numbers

A room block holds rooms. A rooming list fills them. Unnamed rooms get released on a set date, so ask for that date and work back from it.

iii Your oldest guests, by name

Shade at the ceremony, a seat, a short walk from the car, somewhere cool between events, and the path to the toilets.

iv Food is not a detail

Jain, halal, vegetarian, no beef, allergies. Ask whether the kitchen can run a separate prep line, not just whether it has a vegetarian dish.

Send everyone travel notes for your guests, so they see flights, stays and transfers before they reply.



Large and Indian *weddings*

Your family is here for several days. Every one of those days needs its own plan.

i One run sheet per day

From the welcome dinner to the farewell brunch, each day gets its own timings and its own names. Ask any planner how many multi-day weddings they have run.

ii Never assume a ritual is included

Mehendi, haldi, sangeet, baraat, ceremony, reception. Traditions differ by region and by family. Say what is happening, how long it runs, who takes part, and what your priest needs.

iii Every ritual needs its own space

A baraat needs a driveway and room to turn around. A haldi needs daytime space and a change of clothes. A sangeet needs a stage and a curfew that allows it.

iv Say what already happened at home

Some events take place before anyone flies. Say so early, so nobody plans them twice.

v Food and drink, by family

Vegetarian, Jain, no beef, alcohol or none. Each family may need something different, at every meal, on every day.

COMING NEXT

More on large and Indian weddings coming from the BALIVIP team

Until then, look through [multi-day weddings we have planned](#).

The venue *questions*

A venue is not a picture. It is a guest count, a curfew, a kitchen, a rain plan and a room block. The view sells the venue. The floor plan decides whether the evening works.

ASK	WHAT TO GET IN WRITING	WHY IT DECIDES THINGS
Capacity	Seated and standing limits, the flow from ceremony to dinner, the wet weather space	A few extra guests can mean a second space, a higher minimum, or the whole estate.
Rules	Curfew and sound limits, outside suppliers, corkage, drones	Many curfews are the village's rule, not the venue's, so they cannot be bargained away.
Price	Rental or minimum spend, what is included, season, tax and service	Tax and service added on top is the most common reason a total moves.
Rooms	Room count, group rates, buyout terms, the release date on any block	A room block is not a rooming list. Unnamed rooms get released.

CHECK WITH YOUR OWN EYES ON A VISIT

- i* Where the generator goes, and whether its hum sits under your speeches.
- ii* Whether the kitchen cooks, or only warms.
- iii* The real drive time at the hour you will travel, and whether a truck can get in.

Start with every venue we plan at.

Then open one, like this venue page, and hold it against the four questions above.



VII · YOUR REAL RANGE

Have these ready *before you ask*

- ☐ Your guest count, even a rough one.
- ☐ Your date, or the month you want.
- ☐ Your events, in the order they happen.
- ☐ Who is paying, and who decides.
- ☐ Your total, and whether it is a ceiling.

A real range comes from a person, for your date, in your currency.
Not from a price list.

When you have them, get a real range for your date.

Weather, permits, *tides and traffic*

A wedding here runs on things nobody controls. Every one of them can be planned for.

i Rain: a plan, not a hope

A real plan names where the ceremony moves, how many that space holds, what it costs, how long it takes to build, and who makes the call. The build time sets your deadline.

ii Permits and village rules

The failure is rarely a refused permit. It is both sides assuming the other was getting it. Agree in writing who holds each one.

iii What is not allowed

Sky lanterns, balloon and dove releases, and drones are banned at many properties. Fireworks need confirming well ahead.

iv Tides

If any part of your day is on or near the sand, ask what the water will be doing at your ceremony time, on your date, before the timing is fixed.

v Traffic

Distance here is traffic, not kilometers. A short hop on the map can take far longer at the wrong hour, and some cliff venues cannot take large vehicles.

A rain plan starts with the spaces you can book at each venue.

Ask your planner what happens if it rains. Then ask them to show you.



IX · THE LAST WEEK

Tick these off, *then rest*

- ☐ The final run sheet, signed off, one for each day.
 - ☐ The final guest count and rooming list, sent.
 - ☐ The rain call: who makes it, and by when.
 - ☐ Every supplier arrival time, confirmed by your planner.
 - ☐ A copy of the run sheet for each parent.
 - ☐ One number your family calls instead of you.
 - ☐ A free day to rest before the first event.
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BALIVIP

WEDDING

X · WHEN YOU ARE READY

Your wedding, *not ours*

Everything in this book is what we would tell you across a table.
The next step is yours: your date, your people, your events.

When you are ready to plan it, apply.

APPLY FOR YOUR DATE

BALIVIPWEDDING.COM/APPLY

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