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The thought of planning your wedding in an overseas location might be daunting, to say the least, but in Australia it is relatively straight forward if you know what to do and how to do it.

Australia has become renowned for stunning beaches, rolling vineyards, big open spaces, glorious gardens and mystical forests therefore planning the logistics for a wedding in one of these locations can be complicated when you live overseas.

We are here to assist you and have compiled an easy step by step guide for international couples planning their wedding in Australia.

The Best Time of Year to Say "I Do".

Choosing the right time of year to get married can involve many factors and, with all four seasons of the year each having their benefits, it can make the decision making difficult.

Spring ~ September to December

- There is still a chance of rain in spring time so make sure, if you are having an outdoor ceremony, that you have a great indoor back up plan. The weather can be a little cold in the evenings so be the ultimate wedding host and make sure there is heating provided or, even better, some beautiful pashminas to keep the ladies warm.
- The great part is that it's not too hot in Spring so your guests should not suffer from heat stroke.
- Choose your ceremony location wisely. If your dreaming of a beach ceremony check what the wind conditions are like at that time of year. Perhaps selecting a more sheltered location around the corner will work better in Spring time. A garden ceremony is also a great option as all the flowers and plants will be flowering at this time of year.
- In terms of flowers for the styling of your wedding there is plenty to choose from as, naturally, most flowers bloom in spring. Talk to your florist about flower availability.

A romantic wedding scene set in a lush garden. A bride in a white gown and a groom in a dark suit are embracing in the center of the frame. They are standing on a paved walkway that leads to a small, rectangular water feature. The garden is filled with greenery, including a prominent wisteria trellis with cascading purple flowers that frames the couple. In the background, a white building with a gabled roof is visible. The overall atmosphere is soft and romantic, with sunlight filtering through the leaves.

Peonies are typically available in November and December. Roses are available all year round.

Summer ~ December to March

- Remember that temperatures in Australia can rise to the mid 40's so be careful where you get married. If choosing an outdoor wedding ceremony, plan the wedding for late afternoon so that it's not in the hottest part of the day or, even better, choose a shaded spot.
- Choose a food menu suited to a hot climate and talk to your florist about the hardiest flowers for the heat.
- The locations are unlimited for outdoor weddings in Australia in summer. You have the choice of a beach ceremony, garden, vineyard, cave, forest, winery, and numerous other options.





Autumn ~ March to June

- One of the most popular months to get married is March so make sure you book any "must have" vendors and suppliers well in advance to avoid disappointment.
- The weather in Autumn is glorious; not too hot and not too cold. You should enjoy some warm balmy evenings however, it is Autumn, so there is a chance of rain. Be prepared with an indoor solution for any outdoor arrangements.
- There are a few less flowers available at this time of year but still plenty of gorgeous options so make sure you chat with your floral designer or stylist early in the planning process so you can be clear on what is available.

Winter ~ June to September

- Winter can be a great option for couples seeking a quieter period to get married. Venues tend to decrease their hire prices and have more availability.
- The weather might be a bit gloomier but some dark and stormy clouds in your wedding photos can make for some great dramatic images.
- Choose venues with indoor options and, please, do not be disappointed if it rains on your wedding day.



Public and School Holidays

- Be aware of Australian Public Holidays and school holidays. School holidays tend to be busy during the day for many lunch time venues making set up times limited. If you would like the venue closed to the public you will need to consider a time outside of school holidays.
- Public Holidays such as Christmas/New Year and Easter are very precious family occasions even if they are not religious. So, planning your wedding around these times may cause conflict with a friend or family member who would love to attend your wedding but also has family commitments.
- Venues and vendors tend to charge more to cover wage costs which increase over these periods.



Public Holidays
in Australia

[www.australia.gov.au/about-
australia/special-dates-
and-events/public-holidays](http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/special-dates-and-events/public-holidays)

School Term Dates
[www.australia.gov.au/a-
bout-australia/special-
dates-and-
events/school-term-
datest](http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/special-dates-and-events/school-term-datest)

Ceremony and Reception Ideas



There are so many locations in Australia where you can hold your wedding ceremony and reception.

Unlike other countries you do not need to marry under a licensed structure or building meaning that you can marry anywhere you like! If you do choose a public area to marry you will need to ask permission from the local

Shire to hold your ceremony there.

For the reception; if you have dreamed of having it under the stars or in a cave, it is entirely possible provided you can access power at the location for all your reception requirements. Here are a few suggestions:



Outdoor Locations

Beach or Coastline

Garden – public or private

Vineyard or Winery

Farm

Mountain

Valley

Forest – Tree Tops or Forest Floor

Cave





Indoor Locations

Church

Art Gallery

Winery

Brewery

Warehouse

Marquee

Veranda

Restaurant

Function Venue

Museum

House

School/College

Check List when choosing Your Location

- Does the site have power?
- Is it easy to access by vehicle?
- Will your guests be required to walk a long distance from the closest vehicle access point?
- Is there an undercover option in case of inclement weather?
- Are there toilets?
- When can you access the venue/location for set up?
- When do you need to dismantle the wedding by?
- What time does the reception finish?
- Are there noise constraints for live music?
- Is there a venue manager and how long will they be there on the day?
- Are you allowed open flame candles?
- Are there any specific rules and regulations to respect?
- What services are provided in the venue package?



Australian Wedding Traditions

The White Dress - In the past white represented a virgin or pure bride, today white is worn by the bride as a symbol of tradition.

*Wedding Photos -
Wedding photos act as a memento of that special day which represents the start of a new life together with the one you love.*





Father of the Bride - It is the tradition for the bride to be given away by their father.



Smoking Ceremony - Indigenous Australians believe that smoke has cleansing and healing properties, and can ward off evil spirits. Plants are burned in a fire, or a smudge stick is used, and the fragrant smoke is fanned over the couple.

Acknowledging the Land - The tradition of acknowledging who the land belonged to and those who came before you is thought to bring you good luck and allow you to start your marriage on a positive note.

Stone Ceremony - This Australian wedding tradition came about when the early settlers could not afford wedding rings. The bride and groom would each cast a stone into the river, which would represent them staying together forever as life ebbed and flowed around them.

Legal Requirements

You don't have to be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia to legally marry in Australia.

However, to be legally married in Australia, a man and woman must:

- not be married to someone else
- not be marrying a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother or sister
- be at least eighteen years old, unless a court has approved a marriage where one party is aged between sixteen and eighteen years old
- understand what marriage means and freely consent to becoming husband and wife
- use specific words during the ceremony
- give written notice of their intention to marry to their authorised celebrant, within the required time frame.



You will need to find a marriage celebrant to perform the ceremony.

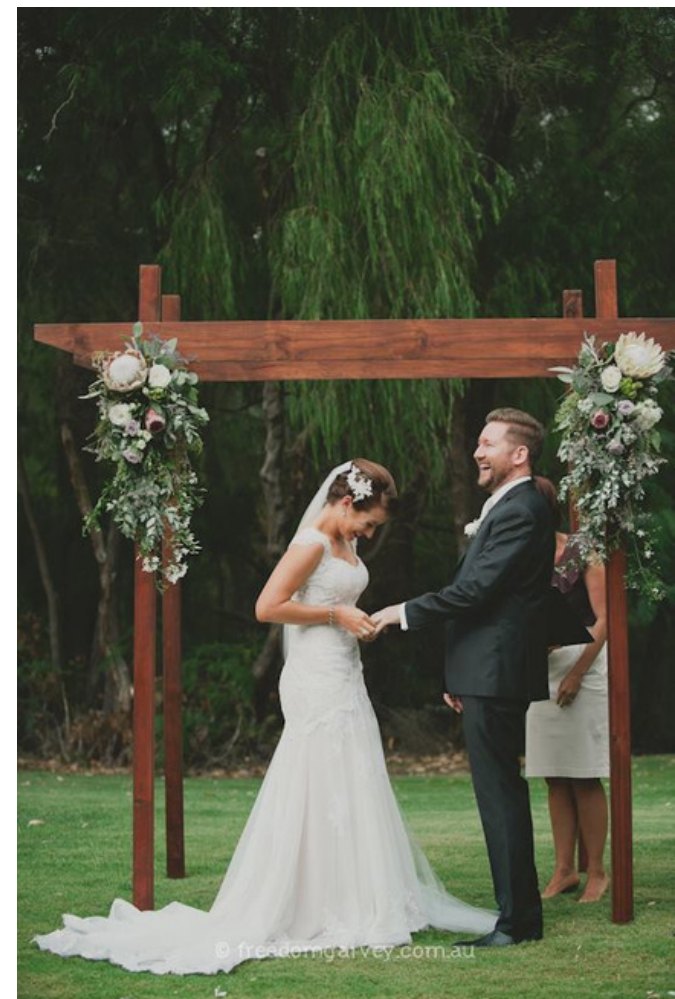
We recommend using the following authorised guide from the

Australian Government.

www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Marriage/Findamarriagecelebrant/Pages/default.aspx

Your celebrant will help you with the following important paperwork:

- A completed Notice of Intended Marriage form must be given to your celebrant at least one month before the wedding.
- The notice may be completed and witnessed outside Australia if required.
- Talk to your celebrant if there is less than one month before your wedding. A prescribed authority may approve a shorter notice time in some limited circumstances.
- You will need to give your celebrant **evidence of date and place of birth, identity and the end of any previous marriages for each party.**



On the day of your wedding, you will sign three marriage certificates. Each certificate should be signed by you, your celebrant and two witnesses. Your celebrant will give you one of the certificates as a record of your marriage.

Your celebrant must register your marriage with the registry of births, deaths and marriages in the state or territory it took place within fourteen days.



The certificate issued by the registry of births, deaths and marriages is required for many official purposes. You should apply for a copy of this certificate from the registry after your wedding through the relevant births, deaths and marriages.

www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/family-and-community/births-deaths-and-marriages-registries

And that's it! Once the paperwork has been attended to, you can focus on the more fun aspects of organising your wedding like venues, photography, and catering.

Start Planning Your Wedding in 4 Easy Steps

Step 1

Choose the season in which you would prefer to get married in.

Step 2

Choose the State in which you would like to hold the wedding.

Step 3

Choose the theme of your wedding I.e. beach or vineyard etc.

Step 4

Book a reliable wedding planner.





We are a luxury wedding planning and design team who offers an array of services for overseas and Australian couples dreaming of getting married in the Margaret River region, Western Australia.

Our weddings are world class and bespoke. They are individually designed to reflect your style with flawless attention to detail.

Luxury Weddings Australia is perfect for the couples who want to host their dream wedding away from home plus offer their guests a unique and unparalleled experience in one of the most breathtaking holiday destinations in Australia.

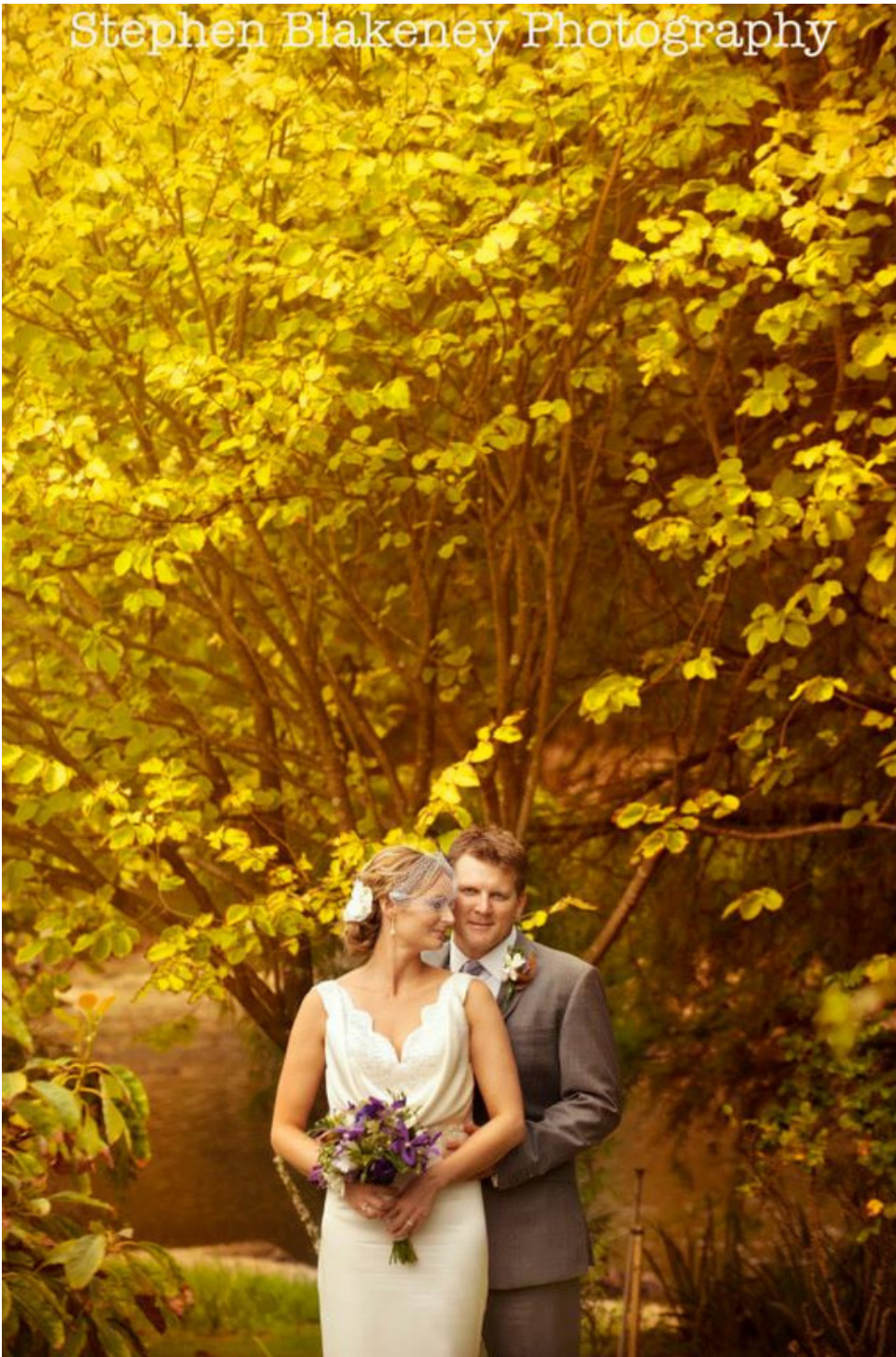


About Margaret River

Margaret River has become renowned for offering some of the best and prettiest wedding locations in the world. From expansive beaches, secluded forests, rolling vineyards to gorgeous gardens there is a special and unique place for everyone. Not only is Margaret River able to offer these scenic places for your nuptials but there is also a plethora of fine restaurants and luxury accommodation available to lodge you and your guests for your entire stay in the region.



Stephen Blakeney Photography



About Western Australia

Western Australia is a unique state and is famous for its clear blue sky and clean air, pristine beaches along the Indian Ocean, flora and fauna, fresh seafood, local produce and premium wines, diverse landscape, relaxed lifestyle and space, and the locals are known to be easy-going, friendly and warm people.

WA is close to Asia and is in the same time zone as China making it an obvious choice for a short (or long) holiday escape or destination wedding.



Contact Us

We would be delighted to provide you with some more information on our services. We can be contacted via email or phone and would love to discuss how we can be of assistance to you on your wedding day.

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