



Am I allowed to make changes to the packages?

Yes, you may add to any package you choose, however, as the Packages are discounted greatly the items within the package cannot be “traded” for other items, as they do not hold their true monetary value. The only change that can be made to a package is to add to it.

*Services & Products withing the package do not hold their real value and are greatly discounted to offer a more attractive deal (different from doing everything a la cart). I recommend choosing a package as the base and take advantage of the concessions you get to start planning your dream wedding form it.*

How do I get the free wedding that is advertised?

This complimentary wedding package, Wedding in Paradise, is complimentary when booking at least 7 nights in a Preferred Club Junior Suite Ocean View or higher category or if 5 rooms, any category, are booked for at least 3 nights. This package also applies for renewal of vows ceremony. This package only included ceremony for 10 guests.

*\*Additional fees apply for service of a judge or minister. These fees vary by resort and will be confirmed by the wedding coordinator.*

*\*\*At Secrets Playa Blanca this package is available Monday thru Thursday only.*

What about Music for the Ceremony?

We recommend you hire a sound system package (speaker with a Phone docking station, microphone & technician to play it) Another beautiful option would be to upgrade to a live musician as a guitarist, violinist, or sax player. \*An extra charge applies.

## Legal weddings

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What is a LEGAL wedding in Mexico and what are the requirements?

To be LEGALLY married in Mexico you must understand and adhere to the following requirements:

The wedding couple must be in México **4 business days prior** to the wedding ceremony (arrival day does not count, nor do Saturday, Sunday, and Mexican Public Holidays). If bringing witnesses, they must as well be in Mexico 4 days prior to the ceremony. There will be 4 witnesses needed.

The wedding couple must provide a **blood sample upon arrival**; this is VERY easy as your wedding planner will arrange that the doctor comes to the Resort to get it. Blood will be tested for HIV, RPR (sexually transmitted diseases) and blood type. The results will be ready in 72 hours, and it will be given to the wedding coordinator to complete the paperwork.

The wedding couple must provide scanned copies of their and their witnesses' **passports at least 30 days prior to arriving in Mexico** to process the “non-existence of marriage” letter (CIR) which needs to be issued from the local government. And once in Mexico the couple & witnesses also needs to provide the Tourist Visa Card given at the airport.

After the ceremony you will receive a copy of the Marriage License while the original is sent away to Chetumal City, to be **Apostille certified to make it a Legal Document** in your Home Country. We will Fed Ex your Apostille certified copy to your home approximately **6-8 weeks after the wedding date**.

At Secrets Playa Blanca we ensure that all the necessary paperwork is completed prior to arrival in Mexico. Please consider that an extra charge **for legal fees** (blood test, City Hall paperwork and apostille of marriage license) will apply.

Will the officiant speak English?

The ceremony will be most likely in Spanish. If you hire a wedding package, we recommend keeping the minister included to perform the ceremony.



Will my marriage license be in English?

The government of Mexico only issues documents in Spanish. All you need to do is after you receive your apostille, certified license, have it translated by a certified translator, and you will be able to use the document just as if it were issued in your home country. You can do this at your hometown or requested to your wedding coordinator to do it in Mexico before sending it to you. (An extra fee applies)

What happens if I am divorced?

In case you are divorced please consider the following:

If you are divorced and your passport shows the same last name as your parents' because you have changed back your name to your maiden's name (on your passport) or because you never changed it in the first place **no extra documentation is required.**

In case you are divorced, and your passport shows a different last name as your parents we will omit parents' information on legal paperwork and **no additional documentation is required.** Legal **marriage license will be issued with the name on your passport.**

If your last names do not coincide but you would like to include parent information in this case, you will need to present your divorce papers which need to be **apostilled (by US government) and translated to Spanish by an authorized translator.**

What if we do not bring any witnesses?

In case you do not have any guests, who could be your witnesses, or your guests do not arrive on time we can provide witnesses from the resort. This will cost an extra 25 USD per witness. The witnesses will not be at the actual ceremony but sign the legal paperwork afterwards. The witness names will not show on your marriage license.

#### Legal Ceremony fees

	Quantity	USD	Subtotal	16% tax	15% Service	USD Total
Justice of the Peace for legal ceremonies	1	\$ 650.00	\$650.00	\$104.00	\$97.50	<b>\$851.50</b>
Blood test per couple (For legal weddings only)	1	\$ 320.00	\$320.00	\$51.20	\$48.00	<b>\$419.20</b>
Apostille validation per couple of the Marriage license (process after the wedding, shipment to your home address included)	1	\$ 320.00	\$320.00	\$51.20	\$48.00	<b>\$419.20</b>
Translation of the marriage license after being apostilled from Spanish into English	1	\$ 280.00	\$280.00	\$44.80	\$42.00	<b>\$366.80</b>
Justice of the peace transportation	1	\$ 180.00	\$180.00	\$28.80	\$27.00	<b>\$235.80</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>\$2,292.50</b>



## What is a SYMBOLIC wedding?

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A Symbolic wedding just means that the couple would be legally married at home either before or after they come to Mexico. There would be a Ceremony that is the same as a Legal Wedding performed by a non-denominational wedding officiant instead of a Justice of the Peace. There are no time restrictions, bloodwork or extra paperwork involved in a Symbolic Marriage. Bear in mind that this type of ceremony does not replace in any way the binding legal civil marriage.

A symbolic ceremony is the promise of love between two people. It is the exact same as a regular wedding ceremony, including the exchange of vows and exchange of rings .....Most of destination wedding couples decide to have a symbolic ceremony, and for them this is the actual wedding; the legal paperwork is then only a formality (same for the renewal of vows ceremony).

What if we want a ceremony that honor a particular religion or one that does not bring in religion at all?

We do not provide an official of a specific religion but feel free to bring your own. If you do not want any religious mention, just let us know.

Will my guests know that I am already legally married?

No, not unless you want them to know. Your guests will feel as though they are at your wedding and will not know that you had performed the legal part of your wedding before or after the wedding day here!

Will we receive a certificate for a Symbolic Ceremony?

Not a legal one, but the Minister will provide one with the date, your names and location of ceremony. This will act as a reminder of your special day.

Can I choose either a Symbolic or Legal ceremony as part of my package?

Yes, you can choose the type of ceremony you like, symbolic ceremonies are included in your package. Legal or Civil ceremonies have an additional cost.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE!**

Please be advised that Secrets Playa Blanca is an Adults Only Resort. This policy applies also for wedding ceremonies.

## More Ceremonies Options

We also can perform **Mayan Ceremonies**, this is a wonderful and spiritual ceremony, directed in the original Mayan language and **preceded by a Shaman**. Please just be aware the Mayan Ceremonies are not included in the wedding packages and an additional fee apply.

**Same Sex Ceremonies** are performed at Secrets Playa Blanca. For symbolic ceremonies we include the Minister as part of our offered packages, the couple also have the option to bring their own Minister. Legal Ceremonies for **same sex weddings** are also available. Legal requirements & costs above.

***Please is important you inform to the wedding coordinator if you will reserve a Same Sex Wedding***

Can we have a Catholic service in the resort?

Catholics ceremonies are not an option in our resort for now as the priest is not allowed to perform outside of the church or chapel.



Will the ceremony be performed in English?

All our ministers speak English, so if you choose a symbolic ceremony the ceremony is guaranteed to be in English. In the case of legal weddings, the ceremony will be most likely officiated in Spanish.

## Now, for the planning

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When does all the Planning begin? & Where to start at?

Between 90-60 days prior to the Wedding, we start the decision making and planning process. Is very important for this time the couple have make most of decisions regarding flowers, colors, style and have also finalized the budget. At this point you might not have full knowledge of the add on services costs; this is fine! we will customize and guide you to create the wedding of your dreams based on what you have estimated to invest in what will be one of the most important days of your life.

*We can also start planning process once you have 80% - 90% guest confirmed (by confirmed I mean they have paid their trip) as this way we will be working on accurate numbers and we will avoid extra stress to the couple about budget.*

By this time your Onsite Coordinator will need your *Wedding Planner form* with as much pictures and specifications as you can. At this point nothing is written in stone nor will be confirmed and sealed, is time of dreaming.

The best way of communication will be by email please consider most of the time your onsite wedding coordinator is out on the property grounds working with on site weddings couples and making sure that a wedding event flows impeccably. She will respond to your email as quickly as possible. If necessary a phone conference or zoom meeting can be schedule, make sure you have all your questions already written down, this way the call will be smoothly.

### Budget: Evaluate Your Resources

Prioritize the budget talk early in the wedding planning process — in fact, I think this is the first thing you and your partner should do after you have finished celebrating the engagement. I know budgeting is not the funniest part of wedding planning, but it is a conversation that needs to happen early on before any big decisions are made. We recommend you build your budget around 3-5 things that are super important for you as a couple. I recommend prioritizing on photography, lighting, and music, once you decide on what categories are your more important for you then budget a bit more on those. Once you do this it should be easy to figure out what aspects you can sacrifice within your budget to make your priorities a reality.

1. Set Your Wedding Budget Priorities
2. Talk to Anyone Who Is Contributing
3. Determine Your Guest Count
4. Prepare For the Unexpected

### Flower prices

Prices are subject to change without previous notification, those changes can be a result of sudden climate change as frozens, lack or excess of rain that affect the floral production fields. We have Mexican festivities when the flower can increase the costs (Valentin's Day, Mother's Day, Day if the Death, Guadalupe's Virgen Day, Christmas)

In some circumstances, the catalog photos may represent a general theme, style and or include a unique vase or container that we are unable to replicate exactly. Occasionally, (due to weather, seasonality and market conditions) we will be required to substitute flowers and or containers. Our experienced designers will ensure that, even though the flower may not match the photo exactly; the theme, style, and color palette will remain if substitutions of equal or higher value are utilized.

Guest List: Who can we not imagine getting married without?



In large part, your budget is dependent on the size of your wedding. Your wedding budget is one of the most obvious reasons why you cannot feel guilty about your guest list because it is also one of the most reasonable. From the meal they are served to the chair they sit in, each guest, logistically, comes with a price tag.

Before you start creating your guest list think about how big or small you envision your wedding. Do you expect to be able to spend time with every guest, or is it more important to you to include as many people as possible in celebrating? Once you know the general size you want your wedding to be, you can begin making a list of guests, starting with the people you cannot imagine *not* having there on your big day. This strategy makes a couple of things easier in the long run. First, you will be building a list based on what is most important to you, rather than who you are expected to invite. This sets an emotional tone for every other aspect of your day. Second, it will be clear to see who you can cut from the list should you need to downsize, as they will be listed in a sort of outer circle.

What are the most important things to include in our wedding?

Because there are no hard and fast rules about planning a wedding, there is not a right answer to what services you need to hire. A good idea would be to start with a list of potential services you want and *cannot not miss!* identify which are the most important to invest in for your wedding. Everyone's priorities are different, so consider what each other's must-haves are and find a compromise that makes both you and your budget happy.

Once you have chosen your top three or so priorities, make sure your budget reflects that. Maybe it is extremely important to you to have both a photographer and videographer capture your day, which is something you need to know before you start budgeting for furniture, DJ or flowers. Maybe you envision a day surrounded by gorgeous floral design, so you invest in the best florist in town. Without answering these questions, you are more likely to invest money in the wrong places and end up skimping on what is most important to you.

I need to visit the hotel prior my wedding day?

Visit planning are very common, feel free to ask the best rate available for your visit to the Weddings Department. It is very important to know that visit planning's are not available in weekends from Thursday to Sunday. Please when you want to request the special rate, send at least 2 options for the possible dates that you want to visit us and we will confirm the availability and the special rate for you. It applies only for the wedding couple. More than one room will be subject availability.

The Magic of You

A wedding is not only a celebration of your love and the beginning of your forever together, but also a representation of what is most important and beautiful to you as a couple. Those are the things you cannot find on Pinterest (because you have to look inside to find them!). We know that sounds a little hokey, but it is true. Your wedding is special because it is yours. There is something remarkably magical about your connection as a couple, and that is what your friends and family want to come celebrate on your wedding day.

When it comes to planning your wedding, before even opening Pinterest, start by making a list of things you love together. Waffles, Harry Potter, travel, making playlists, your dog, the type flowers you got on your first anniversary — these are the types of unique things that should be on display at your wedding. More memorable than your table décor is the meal you shared with your new spouse and guests around it; more important than your bridal hairstyle is the music you heard while letting it down to dance the night away. Let what makes your relationship exceptional be on display at your wedding, rather than the biggest trends Pinterest has to offer.

Great News: We Do Tailor Made Weddings!

Having a Pinterest wedding can be good and gorgeous, but even those Pinterest details should be based in what you love as a couple. Reinterpret, do not copy. One of the most important ways to reinterpret what inspires you is to look into your own budget. You may or may not know how much another couple spent on certain details of their wedding, but you do know how much you have to spend. **The easiest way to take a realistic approach to your décor is scale. Consider your centerpieces; if you love a wedding with many lush centerpieces down long farm tables, you can choose to make them either fewer or smaller. Perhaps having the same number of smaller centerpieces helps you achieve the look or having only a few very lush pieces**



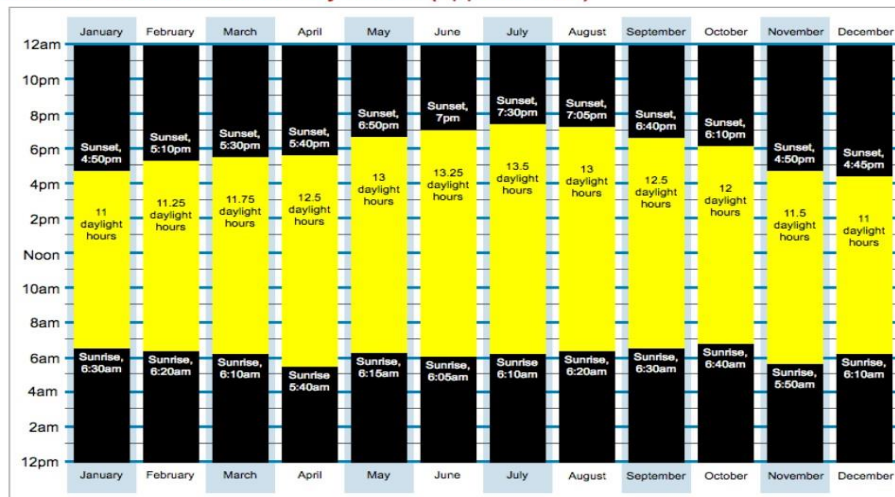
helps them each stand out.

Your Onsite Coordinator will be especially helpful here as they can consult you on similar options to achieve the look you envision. Instead of scale, there may be a less expensive alternative. If we are still talking centerpieces, look to your coordinator for a suggestion on flowers that have a similar look to the ones you love but at a lower price point that is within your budget.

### Ceremony time recommendation

Based on our experience, depending on the time of the year/month of the wedding & the events the couple will host is that the ceremony time is assigned; this is related to the sunset time too. You will need to consider daylight for pictures after the ceremony, also we want to make sure we have the perfect light for the first kiss, the sparkles at the reception entrance, an amazing first dance & comfortable dinner.

### Sunrise and sunset times by month (approximate)



If you are planning a first look photo session, it is very important you mention it to your wedding planner; keep her always updated with what you are planning to do.

Month of the Year	Recommend ceremony time
January- February March	5:00pm
April- May- June	5:30pm
July- August -September	5:30   6:00pm
October- November- December	4:00   4:30pm

1. We can confirm a wedding date straight away, however, in the case of legal weddings judge availability will need to be checked to confirm the exact ceremony time.
2. Most weddings are in the evening about one hour before sunset, that is when it is not as hot anymore, but you still have enough time to get pictures after the ceremony.

**Cocktail and reception will follow the ceremony. Please bear in mind that all outside private events need to finish at 10:30pm**

What are the available locations for a Ceremony & Reception?

1. For Ceremony we offer the Beach we can personalize and make it exclusive for you.
2. A unique Wedding rooftop terrace with amazing Ocean front view (no gazebo nor pergola as backdrop is included)
3. For Ceremony and reception with amazing Sunset view\* (minimum 80 people)



Reception venues are subject to modifications; right now, we offer the following options:

1. Beach\*
2. Pool Side locations.

\* Restriction applies.

### Beach (events) terms & conditions

- Please consider the government applies a fee for the use of it; the fee goes from \$1,500 USD (for a set-up of 100-1560p). Final cost will be calculated according to the characteristics of the event closer to the date. This fee must be prepaid & is not refundable in case the beach is not used due to weather or any other reason.
- Per government regulation the schedule of the event is limited: events need to finish at 11:00pm (November to April); events need to finish at 9:00pm (May to October due to turtle nesting season).
- Tents or bleachers need additional permission from government offices
- Maximum decibels for music are 90.

### What do couples typically wear at your resort for destination weddings?

Most couples prefer casual, comfortable & bare feet on the beach. More formal attire is usually worn at the Rooftop or Courtyard, we have done weddings where the couple dress khakis and light dress to full gown and tuxedo.

### What happens in case of bad weather?

The hotel is not responsible for the weather conditions like rain, storms, excess of wind, high tide, sargasso, etc., but it is responsible to inform you and assist you in organizing in advance the best back up options to guarantee the success of your wedding events.

The date of the event(s) the wedding couple will need to **meet their onsite wedding coordinator at the Wedding Office at 12:00pm (noon)** to discuss the options to guarantee the success of the wedding ceremony and events. Last minute back up location cannot be guaranteed by the resort (set up times need to be considered). If any events are cancelled within 48 hours of the event no refund applies. Last minute changes, a set-up fee of \$2,000usd charge will apply

The Hotel is unable to guarantee third party availability of suppliers (judges, ministers, musicians, photographers, videographers, etc.) if a last minute back up location is requested; neither extending the time frame they were originally contracted for. We have wonderful indoor options for Ceremony, Cocktail Hour and Reception which we can send you photos of. We will walk with you through those areas when you have your first meeting with the wedding coordinator upon arrival.

### Wedding Menu

As you design and send out the invitations of your wedding, consider requesting information about your guests' dietary needs. Your invitations can ask about whether guests have food allergies, need kosher meals, or eat meat and cheese. Once you have received your wedding's RSVPs and your guests' information, notify your on-site wedding coordinator.

Once you know how many people have dietary restrictions, you, your spouse-to-be, and your on-site wedding coordinator can work on creating a menu that accommodates everyone's needs and meets your expectations. The most likely is all your guest without food restrictions will have the same set menu and the ones with specifications on dietary will have a personalize menu. Then you can notify your guests about what you plan to serve.

Having this information beforehand will help also help you plan your reception stationery, from the menus and programs down to everyone's place cards.

### How to choose the right menu style?

#### **Plated Sit-Down Dinner**

The most traditional reception style, a plated meal is the most formal of the reception options. This is when all the guests are seated and served a formal dinner. Typically, it consists of three courses (an appetizer, salad, and an entrée), plus dessert & wedding cake if it is served tableside. Everyone is usually served the same food options. If the group is small, then the main





course is handled a few different ways:

Guests are served the same entrée with a silent vegetarian or vegan alternative.

Guests pre-select their entrée choice when they submit their RSVP\*.

\*Only recommend it for groups under 49 guests, otherwise dinner time can take longer, this means you will have less time to party. Please be aware there are a few details you will need to consider making this work. Please see below:

- The rest of dishes in the menu will be the same for all guest (appetizer, salad, dessert).
- 30 to 20 Days prior you will need to confirm total amount per dishes.
- Couple will need to work on a Seating Chart with all guest names (including wedding couple), what dish are they having and which table are they seating at. (Please request the template to your onsite wedding planner)
- Couple needs to bring name tags with the food selection on them. Make sure this are super clear for our service team.
- *Meal choice stickers* for place cards work perfectly for this and those are easy to find in Etsy or Amazon.

#### Pros

It immediately sets the tone for a more formal gathering.

You have the most control over the look and feel of the meal.

#### Cons

The limited variety and can be challenging for guests with dietary restrictions.

It typically requires more manpower to help with serving and plating, so staffing fees tend to be higher.

#### Tips

When you invite people over to a dinner party at your house, you do not typically ask to each of your guest what they want. This also really helps with food waste, which is a big priority for us.

#### **Buffet-Style Dinner +50 Guest**

A buffet features long tables topped with a wide variety of food options. This meal style offers the most variety for your guests, making it particularly desirable if you want a wide range of cuisines or have picky eaters. The most important thing to consider here is how to get your guests through the food lines as quickly and efficiently as possible, and at Secrets Playa Blanca do not worry we take care! Available for larger groups of more than 50 guest only.

#### Pros

From a guest standpoint, buffets are great because they cannot only pick what they want but how much food they want.

Abundant buffets can be visually appealing and photogenic when executed well, with vibrant food and a talented design team.

#### Cons

The tremendous variety and quantities of food that you get with a buffet comes at a price. Buffets are typically higher in price than many of the other reception meal styles.

#### Tips

We will have access points to the food so that people are not waiting in line forever... we also have staff available at various points to educate guests as they navigate the buffet to avoid any traffic jams. Also, we do not send all the guests up to the buffet at one time, with help from the MC we invite table by table.

How do I pick my flowers?

Your wedding coordinator will send you the bouquet options included in your package by e-mail. If you have a picture of your dream bouquet or any other decoration element, please send it to your wedding coordinator who will be happy to send you a price quote.

As we do tailor made weddings is also recommended to share your mood board (or Pinterest board) & budget for flowers, if you do not have one, make sure you start discussing one with your loved one, will be necessary! The sky's the limit when it comes to flowers for your wedding, but realistically you can plan on spending, at least, 8% to 10% of your overall budget. This covers the bride's bouquet, bridesmaids' bouquets, boutonnieres, corsages, and ceremony and reception arrangements.

Consider costs vary depending on the couple taste in flowers. Remember that the average price of wedding flowers will fluctuate based on the kind of florals you get and the way you arrange them. Is also important to keep in consideration Quintana Roo do not grow flowers, there is no infrastructure for producers to be able to have crops, all the flowers are brought from Mexico's City





and surroundings towns.

Imported flowers as Peonies, Dahlias, Tulips, Ranunculus, and orchid increase also the cost of the flowers too.

### Lighting

Your wedding coordinator will send you option to décor including lighting, please consider that the venues are not included lighting we can have some spotlights covering the area but is not the best way to décor and show them the romantic ambience for the wedding.

Lighting prices will be based in the number of guests and the wedding venue. If you would like to waive the lighting payment, please consider to have the reception at the ballroom. This will be more comfortable for your and it will be very free stress decision,

### What are my options for a Wedding Cake?

In our Wedding Packages the cake is designed to please the tastes of up to 10, 30, 50 or 100 guests (depending on the package) the shape of it can be round or square covered with whipping cream & recommend it to be decorated with flowers that match the wedding theme.

An extra cost per additional guest of USD 8 per person applies to make the standard cake bigger. Still only one tier and same decoration. Cake flavors are Vanilla, Chocolate or Marble.

If you would like a bigger/different cake you have some options:

- An option is to upgrade to a personalized two or more-tier cake (ribbon, chocolate seashells, flowers, rose petals) different icing (cream, fondant, chocolate) and shape (round, square) of your choice. A two-tier cake typically serves 20-30 people, three tiers serve 30-50 people, and 4 tiers serve 50+ people. With a two-tier cake you can also choose two different flavors, one for each tier. Depending on your wishes we will quote your dream cake, feel free to send us any inspirational image. Most likely we hire this service with a great local pastry chef we love.
- Or if your dream cake has three or more tiers but you will not be having as many people the perfect option for you will be to add on a fake tier to your cake to make it look bigger for USD 50 per tier. You and your guests will not be able to tell the difference and get the BEST pictures of your cake.

### Can the resort deliver my gift bags?

Of course! Our Concierge team will be happy to help you coordinate the delivery of your welcome bags. An extra charge of 6USD per room applies for room delivery. Please mind that for operational reasons gift bags cannot be given out by front desk staff upon arrival. Welcome bags will be place on guest's rooms after their check in, around 6pm on arrival day, this to ensure the bags are delivered successfully.

### What about guests not staying at the resort? Are there any restrictions?

They are welcome to come to the event, but they will have to purchase a wedding pass at an additional cost. All guest coming from outside needs to be 18 years and older, an official ID (passport) will be required upon arrival & they need to check in at the front desk (not the beach), please consider this procedure can take up to 20min.

Important to mention we have a limited access of external guest per wedding. Is very important you provide a guest list to your onsite wedding planner for approval with enough time in advance. You must be aware that the services provided by the resort are for guests staying on property, which is why it is important that at least 80% of the wedding guests stay with us, not to mention it will be easier if you want to program any other activities for your wedding party while you are here.

Guests who chose to come only for the event will have to purchase a day pass. This will be an additional cost.



**Morning Day pass: Valid from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm \$130 USD**

**Afternoon Day pass: Valid from 5:00 pm to 12:00 am \$150 USD**

**Full Day pass: Valid from 12:00pm to 1:00am \$180 USD**

**Wedding pass: from 30 min before the ceremony and open for 5 hours \$100 USD**

- The external guest needs to bring an ID ( passport or driver license) to leave at the front desk upon check in and will be return once they check out after the reception ends.
- A list from the bride & groom will be necessary with the full names of the external guest and their arrival time. No more than 8 up to 10 people from out side is allowed
- The external guest also needs to be older than 18 years to access the Resort.

*\*Wedding pass can change without prior notice, please ask your onsite wedding coordinator for the most updated information.*

How do I get all the information to my guests and keep everything organized?

Some couples choose to have an official wedding website or go thru the Travel Agent they are working with. There are also great wedding blogs that provide free websites templates. Other couples have created Facebook private pages or Instagram accounts to provide Destination tips, pictures, and wedding plans.

External suppliers | Outside vendors

All the services and vendors you see in the area can be hired thru your Onsite Coordinator, any way we already work with most of them, if not all, she will follow up, organize, be in communication with all of them and you will not need to do independent deposits or payments thru the one-year planning as your onsite coordinator will take care of everything! We have great business and professional relationship with all local vendors, we know them (and they know us too) very well, we know how negotiate for you and even have more of one contact person for each service you need! PLUS we have the expertise to balance your budget and make it match your dreams & needs.

If you are interested in a specific supplier, just ask! We can guide you and advise you to make the right choice. If at the end of the day you decided, you still want to handle the things for yourself without our professional advise then please be aware additional fees will apply.

**One of the best advices I can tell you is Professional Vendors will enhance your wedding experience. We only work with vendors we can personally vouch for who are fully licensed and bonded with our goals.**

## 20 – 15 days before the wedding

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At this point all the planning formats needs to be send back to you Resort Wedding Planner and coordinator. This included:

- ☐ Wedding planner form (if you have not sent it yet. Remember we need it 90 days prior in order to guarantee services)
- ☐ Rehearsal dinner attendees.
- ☐ DJ form
- ☐ Spa Reservation Chart
- ☐ Seating Chart with guest food restrictions
- ☐ Final Guest list (rooming list)
- ☐ Wedding Day Timeline
- ☐ 80% proof of Payment
- ☐ List of stationery or décor you will bring.

Your Resort Wedding planner & coordinator will send you the confirmation on final meeting at the Resort. This is usually scheduled the day after your arrival (Monday to Saturday) in the morning after breakfast, around 10:30am.

**No reductions are allowed by this time. Any additional service request at this moment, or later, will be subject to availability.**



A link with 80% of the wedding final balance will be send to you to take care of payment. If you desire to pay the wedding in full to avoid exchange rate or bank fees, please let you Wedding Coordinator known for her to send an updated link with final due balance.

**At this point main decisions should be ready to go! is now time for you can focus on the logistics and details, if you have some extra budget or haven't spent all of it, we can start getting imaginative about adding extra sparks.**

Plan how to welcome your guests | Rehearsal dinner

Couples often find that having a Welcome event for their guests is the best way to get them in the party mood; it is also a great way to thank everyone for travelling so far to be with them in their special day; here we show you some suggestions, but of course there are plenty more things that can be done!

- Offering lawn games **bonfire or firepit** is a wonderful and fun way to get your crowd together before or after the wedding. The bonfire/firepit set up is for 2 hours and includes private waiter service. You can add on s'mores and appetizers for your guests, music (from a sound system or DJ to live music)

The included set up is high cocktail tables with white linen, NO chairs PLUS few shorter cocktail tables (white Linen) with white folding chairs, full bar, and lamp post for lighting AND fire pit!!

Package below are for groups from 30.

Final costs will depend on final number of attendees, the menu selected and the tailor-made décor you add.

Two (2hr) services included:

- **Cocktail** is always fun! You can have appetizers, private bar, waiter service... Even live music! It is a very good idea to share a couple hours with your family and friends in a very nice, calm, and happy environment.  
\*\* Final costs will depend on the menu selected and the tailor-made décor you add.  
One (1hr) service included.
- **Plated Rehearsal Dinner** is an excellent idea if you are looking for something more formal; you can start with a three courses dinner at pool side area or beach... We can put up any sorts of lighting to make your evening the most magic and romantic one! The perfect way to celebrate this special day.  
The included set up is banquet tables with white linen, white folding chairs, full bar and lamp post for lighting.  
\*\* Final costs will depend on the menu selected and the tailor-made décor you add.  
Service: 2hr included  
Capacity: from 5 up to 50 guests | After 50 guest we recommend Buffet or Station Menu
- Another unique option is **Theme Nights!** These are incredibly fun, and there is such a wide variety of themes you can choose that it is impossible not to find something you will not like, Seafood Market, Tequila Tasting, Mexican Night (be warned, these may include a piñata or two!), Caribbean Party, Mayan Night (if you want to impress your guests, you can add a Fire Show, it is STUNNING!) You say the word and we will make it happen.
- **Tacos Party:** Casual buffet style dinner with assorted taco menu (up to 6 different options) and Mexican garnish. Perfect to welcome in your guest to Mexico!  
The included set up is banquet tables with white linen, white folding chairs, full bar and lamp post for lighting PLUS Small Mexican décor or touches here and there.  
\*\* Final costs will depend on the menu selected and the tailor-made décor you add.  
Service: 2hr included

Restaurants are not available for groups as a part of our Unlimited Luxury promise, and our dedication to keep our romantic and relaxed atmosphere, Secrets Playa blanca does not take reservations in any the Restaurants at any time, and we work under the first come first serve policy.

*\*Restrictions Apply.*

*\*\* Ask your planner for updated costs, prices can change without prior notice.*

*Terms & conditions: Is very important your onsite wedding planner is aware of your interested of booking pre or post events. Locations will be subject to availability & confirmed once we have final number of attendees and the wedding couple have hire a determinate event.*



Should I write my own vows?

It is a very personal decision. This may add some extra unnecessary stress to the planning or can be the most romantic act of love! If you do not mind much about writing your own, the wedding official will provide you with those, as well as guide you through the entire ceremony. If you decided to move forward with the romanticism Copy and paste the prompts below into a new document and spend a little bit of time on each one. Have fun with it and do not force anything:

- How I felt when we first met:
- How I knew it was forever:
- What I love about my partner:
- What my partner loves about me:
- What makes us laugh:
- What makes us tick:
- What I see in our future:
- How I will help us get there:
- Five things I promise:

Can I bring in my own vendors?

Absolutely, but you need to consider that we work with highly qualified professionals; always have and always will, and that To avoid future complaints that may involve our image, the hotel works just with qualified vendors, outside and non authorized vendors are not permitted to provide services in the hotel such as flower vendors, and décor vendor etc.

**OUTSIDE FLORIST/FLORAL SERVICE IS NOT PERMITTED. No exceptions can be made.**

**OUTSIDE DJ Services\*/Audio visual\* IS NOT PERMITTED. No exceptions can be made.**

We can make exception for the following cases:

- We make exceptions with External Photographer/Videographer & Hair Stylist/Makeup Artist
- \$600 USD It allows 1 photographer or 1 videographer (or two of either one) to enter the Resort.
- To each additional member, the fee is \$150 USD to enter the Resort
- Food and beverages for them are NOT INCLUDED. The price per meal is \$75 USD.
- External Wedding Planner are welcome to coordinate the events. Entrance fee \$250USD per person

**\*\*Please note when they are staying at the resort as part of the room block, the vendor fee is not applied\*\***

Can I bring My décor?

Fabric Flowers & petals for the ceremony are not permit, they might fly into the ocean, and since it could act as a contaminant in a protected area this is a no-no. We can, however, arrange for natural petals, we can also work flowers based on your budget.

Anything else you look forward to bringing with you needs to be notify in advance to your onsite coordinator as we need to quote you the setup fee and plan accordingly. A detailed list and pictures may be required. The staff will also not be responsible of any damage your décor can suffer.

We recommend bringing everything related to Stationary with you as may be more accessible to bring it form home; in the case you prefer to be ordered thru us we can personalized it and quote it with a professional in the area.

**\*Restrictions apply.**

Set expectations with family, friends, and your vendor team.

Speaking of expectations...if one thing can throw off a wedding day, it's those people who you love so much. When you visualize



your day, try to think about your family & friends. How can they contribute to your day in a positive way? Do they know your needs — both practically and emotionally? What's the vibe you're going for? It's important to communicate these things to your crew so everyone is aware of how you want your day to flow and what could potentially cause you stress.

## What Happens When I arrive In Mexico?

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You will be greeted by a person from the wedding team to welcome you to paradise & confirm meeting day, which will be held at the Weddings Office, next to the lobby. This will be a quick meeting and walkthrough of all the final details... more likely a final check list, if needed provide your blood work (Legal Ceremony) at this moment. All we need is approx. 30 min to an hour of your time and then is all about relax and enjoy your Wedding week!

After the check in, settle down & unpack get ready to welcome in your family & friends! It will be a fantastic time!

If you brought anything with you (cake topper, guest book, wedding sand ceremony, stationary or frames) make sure to get it ready to bring it with you to your meeting with the Wedding Team.

\*If there is any remaining balance from the wedding contract this will need to be taken care right after the meeting. Please bring your credit card to the meeting as once we finished you will need to take care off at Front Desk.

### Do A Hair and Makeup Trial

This is especially important if you are hiring a hairstylist and makeup artist or spa services. This will give you the opportunity to meet your wedding day crew and try out your desired look. Scheduling a trial will also give you extra reassurance and confidence in your makeup and hair choices. If you don't feel like you still have time to switch things up—this will save you from a wedding day beauty disaster.

### Get your wedding attire steamed at the resort

Yes, this service is included in the three main wedding packages. Please be aware, however, that for this service we need to allow 24h (no service on Saturday and Sunday) to make sure your attire will be back on time.

Wedding couple attire will need to be drop off at the wedding office. We recommend bringing it with you at your appointment with your on-site coordinator.

### Will a separate room be provided for one member of the couple for the night before the wedding?

Yes, but since this is based on availability & upon request, please review this option with your wedding coordinator in your first meeting. We also recommend you having plan B ready, maybe you will need to ask the parents or close friend to share the room with one of you to get ready at.

Option 1. Complimentary room to sleep at. Room will be available from 6pm the night before to 12pm the next morning.

Option 2. Complimentary room to get ready at. Room will be available from 1pm until the ceremony time. Make sure you leave everything packed & call bellboys to grab your stuff and storage it or delivery in your original room.

## The day before the Wedding | & Your Wedding Day

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### Lean On Your Wedding Vendor Team

Before your wedding day, communicate and sort out last-minute details with your wedding planner and even wedding party. They're there to help make your day the best it can be. Communicate wedding day duties that will give you the opportunity to be present with your partner on the big day. The less you have to deal with logistically, the more you'll be able to enjoy



I want everything to be perfect. Can I trust you with my dream wedding?

Whether it is a simple, elegant wedding to an exotic theme night, we will do everything in our hands (and if needed, we will go above and beyond) to make this day stress-free, unforgettable, flawless and the best of your life.

### Stay Ahead of Schedule

There is nothing more stressful than running late, especially on your wedding day. From the strict getting ready timeline to the coming and going of visitors—it's easy to become overwhelmed. We recommend getting an early start to the day, leaving ample time to soak up every moment. A calm wedding morning and more relaxed timing will allow you to be present and intentional.

Congratulations! Is wedding day!

Turn off your phone.

We know, we know. You want to take selfies with your crew, a boomerang popping champagne, and maybe send a text or two to your partner letting them know you can't wait to see them. But of all the days to say yes to less screen time, your wedding day should be on the top of the list. Designate a few bridesmaids or groomsmen to be in charge of text, message, calls & take those behind-the-scenes photos and find a napkin to doodle that love note on. Pro tip: Make sure someone saves that handwritten note to frame later on!

Remember what your wedding day is all about.

After it's all said and done, you're getting married. Look into the eyes of your forever person and get lost in that moment. Really think about the words you're saying and listen to the ones said to you in return. This is the best day of your life because it's the start of eternity with your favorite person. And that's all that really matters.

We recommend starting the day with a healthy breakfast & lots of water, you will be very busy getting ready and food might be last thing you will think of once all the fun start!

### Sample Wedding Day Timeline

- 1:00 pm — Weather call at the wedding office
- 1:00–4:30 pm — Vendors arrive for set up | your wedding coordinator will take care of.
- 2:30 pm — Wedding party photos
- 3:30 pm — First look\*
- 4:50 pm — Guests arrive for wedding & pre-ceremony music starts
- 4:55 pm — Wedding party line-up
- 5:00 pm — Ceremony starts
- 5:30 pm — Ceremony ends
- 5:30 pm — Cocktail hour starts
- 6:15 pm — Move guests into dinner
- 6:30 pm — Introduction of wedding party and Wedding Couple
- 6:35 pm — First dance
- 6:40 pm — Parent dances
- 6:50 pm — Dinner served
- 7:45 pm — Cake cutting/toasts
- 8:00 pm — General dancing music starts
- 9:00 pm — Garter/bouquet toss\*
- 9:25 pm — Last song of the Night will be played
- 9:30pm — Reception ends

\*If applies



## Cocktail Hour and Wedding Portraits

Cocktail hour could last anywhere from 1-2 hours, depending on if you added extra hours to the one hour already included in your package.

The cocktail hour is typically the start of most wedding receptions and typically begins immediately after the ceremony. Not only is the cocktail hour the best transition from ceremony to celebration, it also serves as passing time for guests while you're away capturing photos with your wedding photographer. Despite the name, the cocktail "hour" can actually last as long as you want. We do recommend it's at least an hour to give all your guests plenty of time to settle in and prepare for your big arrival.

## Couples Entrance and First Dances

The couple's entrance and the first dance are typically short and sweet. They can last anywhere from 5-15 minutes depending on a few key factors: will introductions include your wedding party and how long your first dance song snippet will be.

Once memories have been expertly captured and cocktail hour is coming to an end, it's time to make your grand entrance! Whether it's just you and your partner or the whole wedding party, the reception entrance is a great way to add a unique, fun, and personalized touch to your big day.

After your grand entrance, slip on your dancing shoes—it's time for your first dance. Once you step on the dance floor, take a minute to soak in the applause while your DJ or wedding band transitions to your song. Then enjoy every second of that first dance as a married couple. Your entrance and first dance should last about 15 minutes while your guests are finding their dinner seats—if they have them—.

## Welcome Toasts

- Welcome toasts should be short, sweet, and from the heart. Take a quick 3-5 minutes to gather your wedding guests and say a few words of appreciation.

Before dinner kicks off, take a moment to stand together and thank everyone for attending. Your wedding DJ will hand you a microphone, so you don't need to shout. Your speech should take less than 5 minutes. Keep in mind, your the welcome toast should be short and sweet. The longer, more emotional toasts will come later. Depending on your faith, you or a family member can then say bless the meal

## Dinner And Speeches

- This portion is also dependent on the length of the reception and meal style you have chosen, but typically dinner and speeches will take up an hour to an hour and a half.

Now it's time to bring in the food. From formal plated meals to family style dinner, there are endless dinner catering options. If you're having a buffet, your DJ will be in charge of controlling the flow of traffic by announcing when it's time for each table to make their way to the food area. During dinner, have your DJ or wedding band play simple background music that fits your vibe but doesn't take away your guests' ability to have conversations.

Between courses—or about 20 minutes into dinner if you're having a buffet—it's time to start speeches. It's normal to have around two people make speeches. But it's your big day. Whether you opt to have best friends, close relatives, or even your officiant make a speech, be sure you ask them ahead of time so they can prepare. When you do, you should also give them a time limit, so they don't run too long. We recommend they take place back-to-back, so you only have to get the guests' attention once.

As a general rule, all of the speeches shouldn't last longer than 15 to 20 minutes. This way you will not take party time away.





## Parent Dances

- If you've decided to stick with the memorable parent dance tradition, allocate 15 minutes to honor the cherished people in your life.

This can take place right after your first dance, as eyes are already on the dance floor or as dinner is finishing up. Starting with the father-daughter or mother-son dance. Typically, the father-daughter dance happens first, but you can do these dances in either order that you prefer or even at the same time

## Dancing

After—a nice dinner—it's time to open the dance floor. Dancing will now fill up the majority of your reception timeline. A good rule of thumb is to leave 1-2 hours for dancing and mingling. We will have your DJ transition immediately into more upbeat tunes. You and your new spouse should be the first ones back on the dance floor to get the party started. Your guests will follow your lead. This would also be the time to fit in any other traditions you want to include. Dancing will typically last the rest of the night.

## Grand Exit

- And you're off. The grand exit is short, sweet, and epic. 15-30 minutes should be more than enough time to gather guests and exit the venue.

While you two are saying your final farewells, your planner & DJ should be getting your guests in place for the last song of the night. Whatever you choose, from a slow song to high beat or classic song, your exit is sure to be grand and the perfect way to end an epic wedding reception. And worry not, the party doesn't have to stop, you can simply move it over to the bar!

## A Reminder About Your Wedding Reception Timeline

Your wedding reception should reflect you, your partner, and your love. If you don't want to include any of the elements we've listed—don't. If your timeline runs over, your expert wedding coordinator can always help you get back on track. So, relax, and enjoy the best party you'll ever throw. You've earned it.

It's important to remember that your wedding day doesn't have to be perfect to be memorable. Embrace the imperfections, laugh at minor mishaps along the way, and focus on being present while soaking up the soon-to-be memories.

I can absolutely assure you that our Team here at Secrets Playa Blanca would make you a very happy couple, along with ensuring this is a day and week your guests will be talking about for years to come.