



WEDDINGS
IN SEDONA

Elegance in the Red Rocks...
Call toll free: 800.973.3762

What you *really* need to know to plan your Sedona wedding

1. Sedona is beautiful. Take advantage of it.

That means either get married outdoors, among the awesome red rocks, or in a church or other location with a view. There aren't too many of the latter, but a good planner should be able to help you find one.

The other option is to get married in one of Sedona's unique hideaways, such as the Tlaquepaque chapel (suitable for up to 35 people). This authentic Spanish style chapel is a beautiful place to have your ceremony.

2. Sedona is a year-round wedding location, but...

Know your own comfort zone, in terms of what sort of heat and cold you can tolerate. Sedona has great weather, on the whole with more than 300 days of sunshine in an average year, so your chances of getting a beautiful day are pretty good! And... it is quite a bit cooler than Phoenix, which is a good thing in the summer, and not as good in the winter! That said, we have a lot of wonderful winter days. For example, as I write this, it's early January, and the high today is 67 degrees, and it's sunny. If you avoid having your wedding outside at midday in July and August, the chances of your being comfortable at your outdoor wedding are very good.



3. This may seem self-serving, but... hire a planner!

The thing about a destination wedding is that it's not in your home town. You can't possibly know Sedona as well as a good local planner does, since we all live and work here. This is important in many areas, but especially in two: first; location, location, location. We know the locations that work, and those that don't. Since Sedona is basically a small town, with a limited number of viable wedding locations, that makes a huge difference.

Second, we know the vendors! We know who is dependable and who's not, who does a great job and who doesn't, and who's pleasant to work with and who isn't. Frankly, we think that's worth the fee in itself!

Finally, there's the added benefit that you won't have to take care of the myriad details of planning a wedding. No, it's not rocket science, and yes, anyone with half a brain and some decent organizational skills can do it. But...it's tremendously time-consuming, and can be stressful – especially if you actually have a job, and a life!

4. Sedona folks can be...well...different...

We're not sure why it is, but something happens to many people when they move to Sedona. They return phone calls more slowly (or not at all) they sometimes read their email, they may get back to you, or they may not. We call it "Sedona Syndrome". That means that you, or your planner, will have to work a bit harder to make sure that everything is in place for your wedding. Because, like it or not, you're going to be dependent on at least one person at your wedding – the officiant.

5. Beware of "The Crystal Factor".

Sedona is known as a spiritual center, and as such, it attracts a lot of interesting, creative people, who are interested in all sorts of things that would be puzzling to a mainstream American. While I feel spiritual growth is the most important thing in life, I also know that every person has their own path, and that my job is not to force my own kind of spiritual expression on someone else. In Sedona, you can find all sorts of "alternative" ceremonies, from a simple but inspiring non-denominational ceremony, to a full-blown Native American ceremony, with drumming and chanting. The planner's job is to help

you find the ceremony that most closely matches your beliefs and your personalities, not to impose their sensibilities on you.

6. Plan your wedding as far in advance as possible.

Although Sedona is one of the most popular wedding and tourist destinations in the U.S. (we get 4 million visitors every year) it's still a small town. That means that there are only so many possible locations for your wedding, and that these get booked quickly, especially in the busy seasons.

For smaller weddings, however, you have many more options, so short notice can work for smaller groups.

7. Sedona “rolls up the sidewalks” early.

There are only a few locations in which your reception party can continue loud, late and long into the night. Sedona has strict noise ordinances, and neighbors who are happy to help the police enforce them! There are, however, some locations which can accommodate a band or a DJ a little later. Your planner/consultant should know which these are.

8. The upscale wedding in Sedona will typically cost a little less than in a major city.

While Sedona is not exactly inexpensive, you'll find that the resorts and upscale locations for having your ideal wedding are a little more affordable than those of a comparable quality in or near major cities. Our current research indicates that you'll encounter pricing about 10% lower than you might find in a major metropolitan area.

9. More people will RSVP than you may expect!

The general rule of thumb for destination weddings, nationwide, is that approximately two thirds of those whom you invite will accept the invitation. For Sedona, however, expect 75 to 80% of invited guests to reply in the affirmative. That's because Sedona is such a popular and desirable vacation destination, and many of your guests will make the trip to attend your wedding into a mini-vacation.

10. A room block will make things easier for your guests.

Your wedding planner will be able to advise you on the different accommodation options for your guests, and can set up a room block for you at virtually any Sedona resort, hotel or motel. It ensures that your guests will be able to find a place to stay (especially in the busy seasons) and may even save them some money.

We're prejudiced – we think Sedona is one of the most wonderful places on the planet to have a wedding. We hope that this report will make it easier for you to plan the Sedona wedding of your dreams!