



THE COST OF A

Wedding

AROUND THE WORLD

Introduction

We wanted to know how much it costs to get married in the UK compared to gorgeous long-haul destinations like the Caribbean and Indian Ocean and how these costs compared to those in Europe. We therefore hired an external party to gather the costs of venues, photographers, florists, DJ's and all the little extras that come together to create the perfect wedding day. After gathering several quotes for each cost, in 22 different countries around the world we put together the averages for each so we could compare everything like for like.

IMPORTANT! For the purpose of this research we have compared everything like for like so the costs of flights and accommodation are not included, however, if you were to plan your destination wedding with us the venue, flowers and photographer etc is already likely to be included so there would be not additional cost for this, therefore the costs of many of these destination weddings will actually be substantially cheaper. See example [destination wedding packages](#).



About This Report

This research report was carried out by an external agency to ensure the data remained unbiased. We partnered with our friends at Virgin Atlantic in order to bring you these findings.



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Summary



A wedding day is one of the most important days of many people's lives and often comes paired with dreams of grandeur. Unfortunately, the wedding day tends to be the most expensive days of your life as well. Costs start to add up if a large wedding is planned. Some of these costs include those incurred by the wedding essentials, such as the photographers, videographers, flowers, decorations, catering, and of course, the venue which can be the most expensive part if you get married in Europe.

Destination weddings now tend to lighten the burden of costs on the couples willing to tie the knot and can reduce the cost of the big day by over 54%. Mauritius is the cheapest wedding destination in the world. The wedding packages in Mauritius start at £12,492, followed by £12,857 in Sri Lanka and £13,106 in Maldives. Our research showed that France, Italy and the UK are the most expensive places to get married in the world. Wedding packages in France starting at £26,059, followed by £24,738 and £23,141 in Italy and the UK respectively.

		MOST EXPENSIVE	CHEAPEST
		France	Mauritius
	Venue	£9,398	£511
	Photography	£1,734	£888
	Videographer	£2,388	£485
	DJ/Band	£1,128	£294
	Florist	£786	£381
	Officiant	£704	£171
	Make Up	£166	£89
	Hair	£256	£174
	Extras	£9,500	£9,500
Total		£26,060	£12,493



The Cost Of A Wedding Around The World

The key findings report that the cheapest places to get married in the UK are Tyne and Wear (£16,025), Rutland (£16,311) and North Yorkshire (£16,700). The most expensive places to get married in the UK are not so surprising with Greater London and the City of London being at the top of the list, this is then closely followed by Somerset. Getting married in these destinations cost between £20,201 and £23,806.



Methodology

For the purpose of this study, we have calculated the [Cost Of A Wedding Around The World](#) by sourcing individual quotes for each aspect of the day. **We have not considered the cost of wedding packages** as we required like for like prices for each aspect of the day. The total cost of a wedding in each country was calculated by sourcing individual quotes in each destination and working out the average.

Findings from this report are sourced by an independent party to keep the results fair. Therefore, the **figures don't take into account the discounts SN Travel can obtain with our trusted suppliers.**

We have only covered the cost of the actual wedding day in our data analysis. There will inevitably be other costs associated.

We calculated the average cost of the wedding dress, grooms suit, bridesmaid dresses, groomsmen suits, rings, wedding cake and stationery at £9,500. This would be the same worldwide as you, assumably, would source these items beforehand and take all of them with you to your chosen destination. Destination weddings obviously come with the added cost of flights and hotels. But, if you are planning on eloping, a tropical destination could still work out much cheaper than a wedding in Europe. And, if you have your wedding and honeymoon in the same place, you don't have the added cost of a honeymoon.

All statistics in this data analysis have been collated using open data from:

- The Wedding Wire
- BrideStory
- MyWed
- Hitched
- WedMeGood
- TripAdvisor



Facts About The Costs Of Getting Married

From the research we completed, across 22 countries around the world, these are some of the most interesting facts we uncovered....

- Mauritius is the cheapest place to get married in the world (and one of the most beautiful) with the average wedding, with everything included, costing £12492.
- You can reduce the cost of your wedding by up to 46% by getting married outside London.
- The average cost of a wedding venue in Europe is a staggering £6501 compared to the average Caribbean wedding venue cost of £944, couples can save an impressive £5811 by getting married in the Dominican Republic.
- The average cost of a wedding in the UK costs £23,141 with Tyne and Wear being the cheapest and Greater London being the most expensive.
- France is the most expensive destination to get married. Couples can expect to pay on average £26,059 to get married in this popular European destination. This is 209% higher than the cost of getting married in Mauritius.
- The cost of a venue for wedding in the UK is likely to start from £1,000 which is around £1,500 cheaper than a wedding venue in Portugal.

- The costs of wedding venues range wildly with the most expensive being almost 20 times more expensive (France) than the cheapest (Mauritius).
- A venue for wedding in Greece or Italy prices starts around £3,000, which is

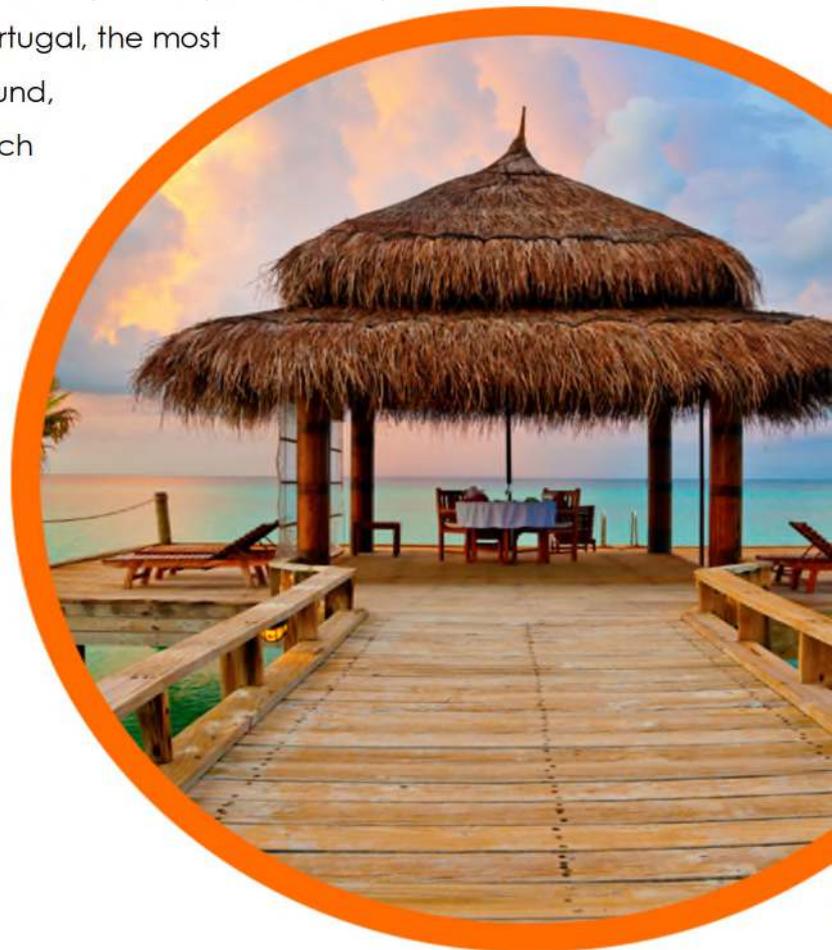


£2,000 more expensive than the starting price for a wedding venue in the UK.

- The cost of hiring a photographer was cheapest in Sri Lanka at £480 whereas hiring a photographer for the same wedding in Italy would cost more than 4 x this cost.
- The cost of a band or DJ for your wedding in Europe will cost you at least 50% more than the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Asia, Africa or South Pacific.
- The cost of flowers in the most expensive county (Italy) were 10 x more expensive than the cheapest destination which was Fiji.

An officiant will cost an average of £920 in the UK which was the most expensive of all the countries we looked at, whereas an officiant in Kenya will be 10 x cheaper in Kenya at just a mere £90.

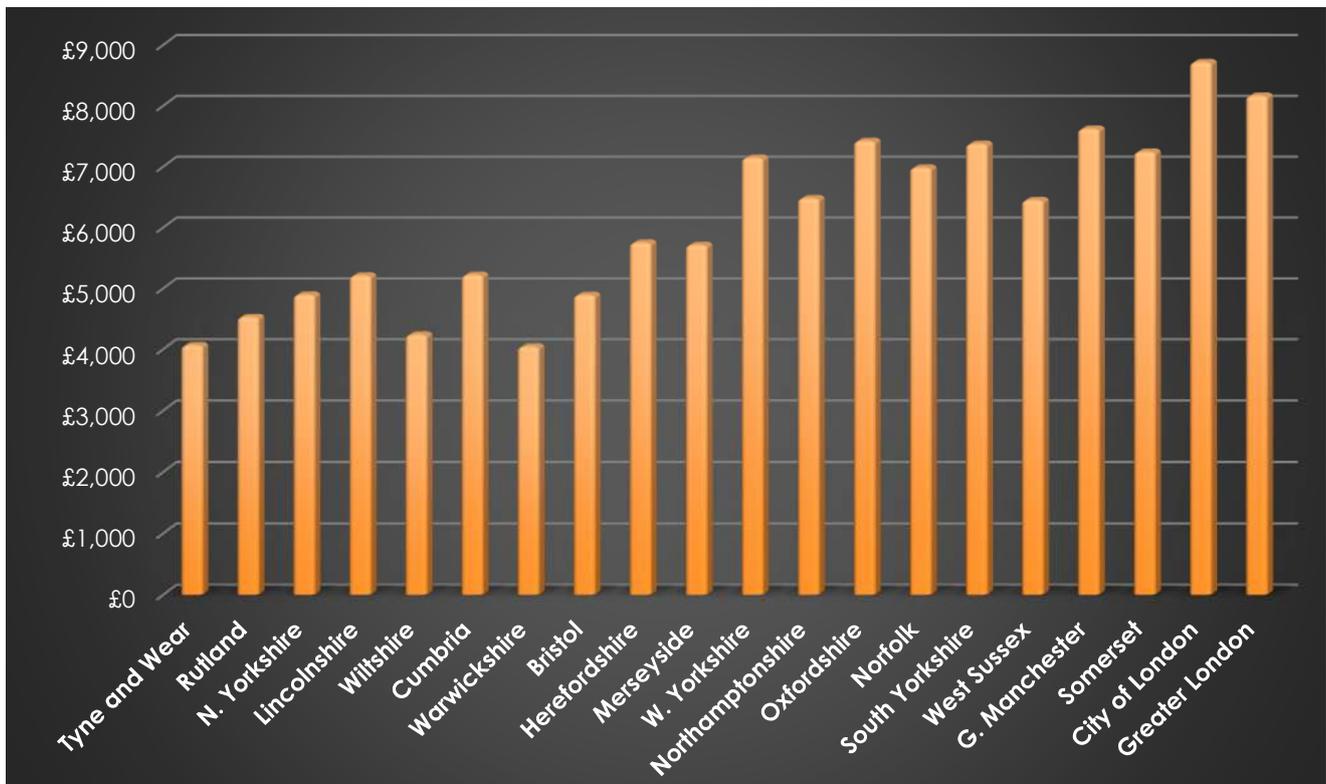
- Brides to be wanting to get their makeup done professionally will pay an average of £210 in Portugal, the most expensive destination that we found, compared to £51 in Sri Lanka which came in at the cheapest.
- Venues in the UK are cheapest in Warwickshire, Tyne and Wear and Wiltshire and most expensive in London, Manchester and Shropshire with a difference of up to £4675 in price between the most expensive and the cheapest.



Getting Married in the UK

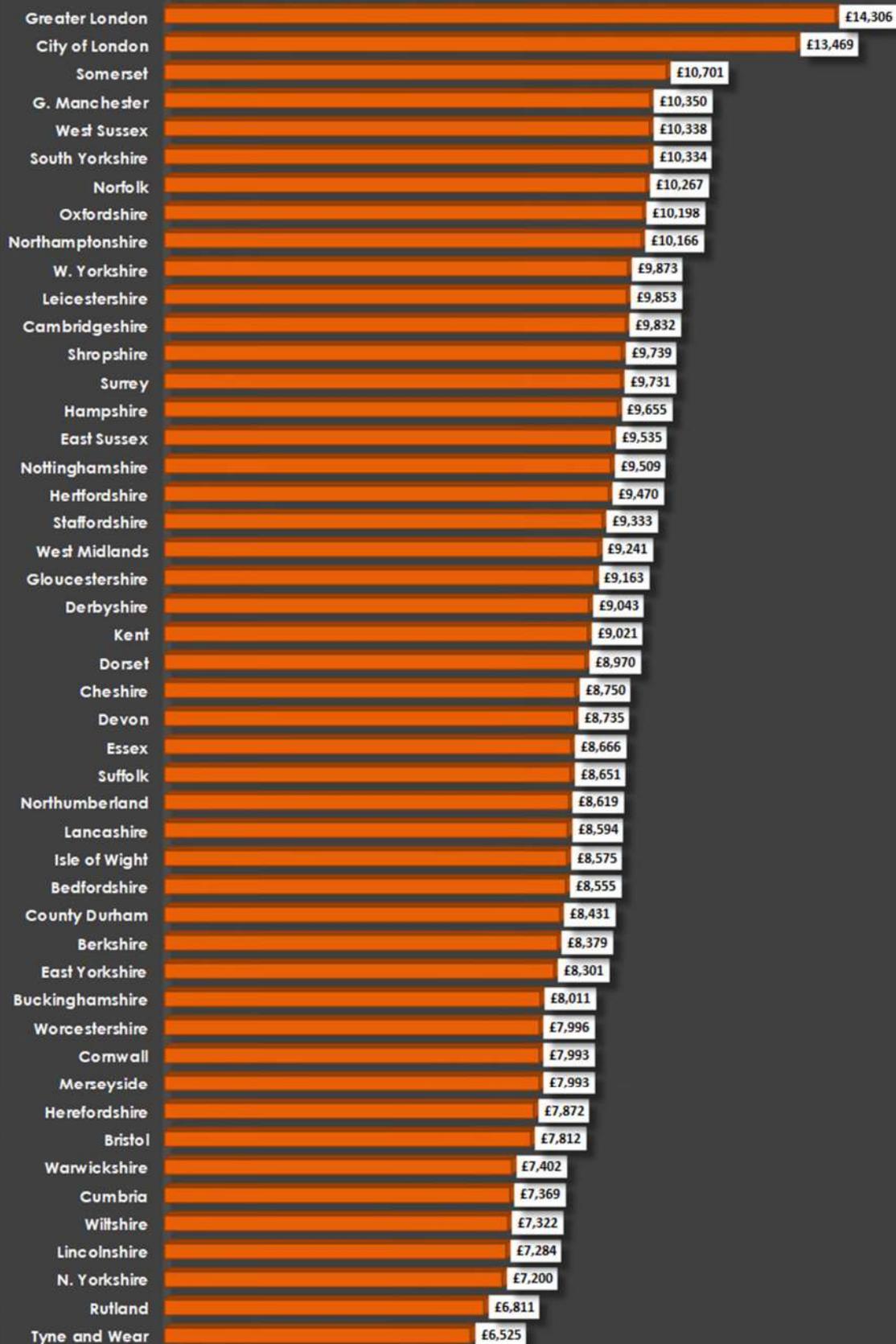
Our research revealed some vast differences in the cost of getting married in different parts of the UK, with the average wedding in the UK costing £23,141. When planning a wedding in the UK you can expect the venue to be the most expensive cost, which could set you back as much as £8717 if you get married in the City of London. A photographer in Worcestershire will cost an average of £482 but in Warwickshire you can expect to pay more than double this cost at a whopping £1090 on average. For those getting married in London, the average cost of a wedding band or DJ is £2526 which is more than 10 times more expensive than Herefordshire. We also noticed some huge differences between the cost of officiants with the cheapest from as little as £150 in North Yorkshire and the most expensive in Lancashire at £1650!

The Cost of A Wedding Venue in The UK



Graph shows the top 10 most expensive areas in the UK to hire a venue, plus the 10 cheapest.

The Cost of a Wedding in the UK



The Cost of Getting Married in the Caribbean

With incredible landscapes and some of the best beaches in the world, the Caribbean is often at the top of the list for a wedding abroad. Our research shows that a Caribbean wedding can actually shave £9521 off the total cost of a wedding, with Antigua coming in at the cheapest island in the Caribbean for a destination wedding.

The typical price of a UK wedding without the extras like the cost of the wedding dress and rings, comes in at just over £13,600. A typical Antiguan wedding will cost a fraction of the price at just £4,120 making it 69%. Saint Lucia comes in a close second place at £5664 and third is Dominican Republic, where a comparable wedding will likely cost £5740.

London venue hire tips the scales at £5,564, whereas the most expensive destination in the Caribbean is Jamaica, which is priced at £1,417. Changing Caribbean islands can push venue hire down dramatically, with the Dominican Republic priced at £690 and Barbados priced at £704. This represents a possible saving of over 87%.



Why Do Couples Get Married Abroad?

Besides, the affordability, picture perfect destinations have inspired many couples over the past few years get married abroad. Planning a destination wedding is not only stress-free, but also cost effective. Contrary to traditional UK based weddings, destination weddings can be a lot less complicated and much easier to organise as your travel agency can assist you with many of the arrangements.

Getting married abroad is becoming more popular with the Daily Mail reporting that 1 in 4 couples now opt for a destination wedding. Our research shows that you can reduce the cost of your wedding by 54% by choosing to get married abroad – that's an average saving of £10,649!

This substantial saving is obviously reason enough for many to plan a dreamy beach wedding instead of a traditional UK wedding. There are many other perks to this; only your closest family and friends will be present, you can spend quality times with everyone before the wedding and create many magical memories and best of all you don't need to travel anywhere for the honeymoon.... But where are the best destinations for a destination wedding?



Most popular destinations for weddings abroad

Mauritius

Mauritius is a stunning paradise located 1200 miles off the African coast. Not only is this paradise one of the most beautiful destinations for a wedding, our research revealed that it's also the cheapest. It's an incredibly popular destination which is not surprising; with its photogenic beaches, luxury resorts and romantic feel. Most couples opt for a beach wedding, which can take place during the day or at sunset. Couples can even splash out a little as they can reduce the cost of their wedding by as much as £10,649 by getting married in Mauritius rather than in the UK. The legal requirements are fairly straight forward with just application to marry form and birth certificate required, presuming neither bride or groom has been married previously and both have a British passport.



Antigua

Another beautiful island for a destination wedding is Antigua. It has the most stunning locations to organise wedding ceremonies and 365 incredible beaches to choose from. It's also the cheapest island in the Caribbean to get married in, according to our research. Antigua has some incredible resorts with many luxurious options in the most picturesque locations. Your Antigua wedding package can include assistance from your wedding coordinator who can assist with marriage licence and certificate, celebrant fees and even witnesses if required. Getting married in Antigua, rather than in the UK, can reduce the cost of your wedding by £951, according to our research.



Saint Lucia

This stunning Caribbean island is known for its pristine beaches, magical landscapes and wide variety of activities. Saint Lucia has gained its popularity as one of the most beautiful locations of the world for destination weddings particularly because of its stunning landscapes - so the wedding photos will be out of this world! Saint Lucia also offers great night life, impeccable cuisine and unique attractions like the world's only drive through volcano. With many jaw-dropping resorts, many couples are captivated by Saint Lucia – its not the cheapest Caribbean island to get married on but you can still save £7977 by having a destination wedding in this dreamy destination.



Jamaica

Jamaica secures a reputable rank amongst all the popular locations for destination weddings. Couples and guests may choose Jamaica for a destination wedding because the country has hundreds of thousands of churches to choose from. Jamaica ranks second to Vatican with respect to the number of churches per capita. If a couple plans to organise a religious destination wedding, Jamaica would make the best location as it has over 1,600 churches in total. Jamaica's beaches like Negril's famous 7 Mile Beach is also a popular spot for a wedding, as are weddings in the Blue Mountains with lush green rolling mountains as a backdrop for your special day. A destination wedding in Jamaica costs £6923 less than the average wedding in the UK.



Sri Lanka

Breathtaking caves, glorious gardens, alluring beaches and pristine islands combined together to make Sri Lanka a highly desirable destination for weddings. The country has immense natural beauty that makes it a popular and unique destination for wedding. The beauty and charm of Sri Lanka has caused the number of destination weddings to elevate in the country. Sri Lanka

makes the perfect destination for wedding ceremonies particularly because of its affordability. With very affordable accommodation and inexpensive flights, wedding guest will also benefit from the affordability. Sri Lanka is the second cheapest place in the world to get married, according to our research you can reduce the cost of your wedding by over 50% by getting married in Sri Lanka. The process here isn't quite as straightforward as some of the other destinations as you must get your marriage certificate certified by the Ministry of External Affairs in Colombo for the marriage certificate be legally recognised outside of Sri Lanka. You will be sent the certificate after this process is complete, but this could take up to four months.





About SN Travel

SN Travel is a travel agency in London specialising in long haul travel. We have been in business for 45 years and have extensive experience in Caribbean holidays, group holidays and special occasion holidays. Discover the most incredible destinations – without the price tag. We will tailor-make the perfect itinerary for you – at the perfect price. From cruises and affordable yacht holidays to [destination weddings](#) and luxurious honeymoons, we will take care of every detail, and you can pay in instalments. Where to next?

Get up to £500 off Your Destination Wedding or Honeymoon!

Get a personal wedding expert as well as a wedding planner in your destination as part of our destination weddings service. We will take care of everything; from private boat trips with your wedding party to champagne in your room. Our tailor-made service will take care of every detail – at the perfect price.



Enquire before 30th September to get up to £500 off.

Voucher is valid on new quotes only and can be used on weddings abroad, [honeymoons](#), holidays and cruises only. Minimum spend applies. Must mention voucher at time of quote.



SN Travel

168 Stoke Newington Road, London N16 7UY

0207 254 0136

WWW.SNTRAVEL.CO.UK

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Service Rating

★★★★★
4.6 Out of 5

