

A man and a woman are relaxing in a white hammock on a wooden deck. The woman is wearing a white wedding dress and high heels, and the man is wearing a white shirt. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a tropical beach with green foliage and a white sandy beach.

DESTINATION WEDDINGS

Your ticket to  
*paradise*

Why not have your dream day at a place you've always dreamt about ...

## Travelling abroad?

When heading overseas, whether for your wedding or honeymoon, there are a few essentials to get sorted before you take off:


→ To marry OS, contact the embassy of the country you've chosen for paperwork and relevant info. Check that a marriage there is legally recognised in Australia – you may have to have a civil ceremony at home or in that country first. Cross-check this info with the Australian consulate and stay up-to-date with any changes.

→ You won't get far without a valid passport. If yours is out of date or has disappeared, you can get the info and forms you'll need to renew or replace it at [www.passports.gov.au](http://www.passports.gov.au).

→ You need a visa to enter another country, but the specific requirements vary (see [www.dfat.gov.au/visas](http://www.dfat.gov.au/visas)). Contact the embassy or consulate of the countries you're visiting for up-to-date visa information.

→ Travel insurance is a must-have. What could be worse than getting to your wedding destination only to break your leg ... and have to fork out up to thousands of dollars for care? Chat to your travel agent about insurance, or head to [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au) for tips on choosing the appropriate cover for your trip.

→ Even if you're not going to an exotic location, make an appointment with your GP for a general check-up and vaccinations six to 12 weeks before going OS – [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au) has info on travel health; [www.traveldoctor.com.au](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au) has health alerts and suggested vaccinations.

→ Read up on local laws and traditions. You don't want to be fined for wearing a mini or arrested for chewing gum! Be wary of unofficial sites, and contact the embassy of where you plan to visit for the facts. **Alix Nicholson** 



## WISH YOU WERE HERE ...

Hiring a videographer? Ask them to make a short, edited DVD you can give to friends who couldn't make it. Make this a different copy to your original – so you don't lose footage!

## Questions to ask:

If you're going through a hotel for your wedding, make sure you get all the information you need before making your decision. Enquire about the following:

- \* If they have wedding packages on offer and what these include for the price (for example, coordinator, DJ, decorations ...).
- \* What isn't included – you don't want to find yourself slapped with an extra cost for your best friend's vegan meal.
- \* The depth of planning that their coordinator takes care of.
- \* If the hotel offers a discount for large group bookings or for guests of the wedding so you can pass on any savings info to your family and friends. If you find the right package for you, ask the hotel to email all this information, so that you have it on file.

## Web essentials:

[www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au) – An extensive travel guide, including great tips and places *not* to go on your trip.

[www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com) – Read what others have said about your chosen holiday spot.

[www.embassy.gov.au](http://www.embassy.gov.au) – Contact details of Australian embassies worldwide.

[www.flightcentre.com.au](http://www.flightcentre.com.au) – Flight enquiries, hotel bookings, car hire and more.

[www.lastminute.com.au](http://www.lastminute.com.au) – Great deals on last-minute hotel bookings, flights and gifts!

[www.marrymeabroad.com](http://www.marrymeabroad.com) – If you're looking at a wedding in France, Greece or Italy, this site takes care of everything for you.

[www.weddingdestinations.com.au](http://www.weddingdestinations.com.au) – From Vegas to the Cook Islands, Malaysia to Mauritius, this has every kind of destination ... even marry like a princess at Disneyland!

[www.resortweddings.com.au](http://www.resortweddings.com.au) – Island resort wedding packages for here and OS.

[www.globalweddings.com.au](http://www.globalweddings.com.au) – Packages to Vanuatu, Thailand, Fiji ... the list goes on.

[www.holidayweddings.net.au](http://www.holidayweddings.net.au) – Great packages on the Sunshine and Gold Coasts, they can also design one tailored to you.

[www.takeusto thailand.com](http://www.takeusto thailand.com) – With turquoise waters, golden sands and a rich culture, Thailand is an idyllic setting for your wedding.