

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What does a wedding planner really do?**

A wedding planner is in charge of all the planning process of your wedding. Our job consists on planning the wedding you have always dreamt of, not just another wedding. Among our activities, we help you creating your wedding style, managing and controlling your budget, recommending quality vendors who will comply with your requirements and controlling the wedding day from start to finish. We do this in an organized, planned process so the planning period runs as smoothly as possible, making it an amazing experience for our couples. This way you will enjoy not only the wedding day, but the whole planning behind it.

## **My family and friends are helping me with the planning process. Why do I need to hire a wedding planner if they are already in charge?**

A wedding planner is an experienced, qualified professional who manages weddings all year long. Weddings are the reason wedding planners exist; it's their world and their passion. We have the knowledge, the hands on training, the contacts and above all, contingency plans. We are used to deal with the stress, the due dates, the million details and keeping a great relationship with the bride, the groom and their families, all at the same time. Family and friends are your guests, your special people who should be enjoying the wedding with you, not working for you. Additionally, without discrediting their will to help and abilities, they must not have the wedding planning burden over their shoulders. That's what wedding planners are for.

## **What is your experience and qualifications?**

I have an Associate's Degree on Public Relations, an international certification on Wedding & Event Planning and Wedding Design from the United Kingdom Academy of Wedding and Event Planning (UKAWEP) and several small courses from the Association of Bridal Consultants (ABC) on Destination, Jew and Luxury Weddings. I have been planning weddings and events for 10 years now, both through my own business Gaudium Group, and from my former employer, a worldwide oil services company where I had the opportunity to plan a great variety of corporate events like tech forums, VIP meetings, family days and Christmas parties. Both, qualifications and hands on experience is what I believe benefits the most to any couple who is considering hiring a wedding planner for their big day.

## **With how much time do we need to contact you in order to plan our wedding?**

The sooner, the better! I recommend at least 10 to 12 months before the wedding. This way we have a good time frame for the planning process and also for availability of vendors. If you are considering a destination wedding, I recommend contacting and hiring us 12 to 15 months before the wedding.

## **How do you charge for your services?**

We charge a fixed fee for our services depending on the number of guests for your wedding. It is not the same planning a wedding for 50 people and one of 300 people. Our fee does not depend on your budget and it will not change unexpectedly or if you decide to reduce/increase it. Our fee includes transportation costs if your wedding is up to one hour away from Quito, Ecuador's capital. If the selected venue is located more than 1 hour trip from Quito, the applicable costs of transportation and accommodation will need to be added to our fee.

### **I want to work with you. How do we start?**

That is great!! First of all, I need to hold your date, to do this I need a 25% deposit of the service you wish to hire and your confirmation by email. The next step is signing a services agreement which includes all our duties and responsibilities during the planning process and the wedding itself. The remaining 75% of the cost of the service needs to be paid until one month before the wedding. If you need, we can work on a payment schedule and include it in the agreement, so that way we all know how the payment will work.

### **How can I pay for your services? Do you accept credit cards?**

You can pay on cash, a check, a wire transfer or any app that makes it easier for you to make payments worldwide. For now we do not accept credit cards but remember we can work on a payment schedule that fits your needs.

### **Would you be in charge of all the planning process and during the wedding day?**

Yes, I am in charge of all the planning process, so I will be working closely with you for several months. On the wedding day, I have at least 1 additional assistant who works with me to ensure everything runs smoothly.

### **Do you plan weddings in other city than Quito?**

Yes I do! I can go to any city or country where you wish to get married. I love to travel and experience new cultures and places, so sure, count on me!

### **Do the costs of your services increase if the wedding is outside Quito?**

Just a tiny bit, but this is due to transport and accommodation costs only. I love to travel by land, so if I can get to the location in my car, I will do it. I travel by plane just when it is absolutely necessary. Nevertheless, if your wedding is a Destination Wedding, we will know this in advance, so by the time you receive our proposal, these costs will already be part of the final price (duly described) so you will not have any surprises along the way.

### **We want to travel to Ecuador and get married there. How can I contact you to start planning our wedding?**

Meeting you is fundamental to start working together. So the first step will be scheduling a conference via Skype with both, you and your fiancé. We will coordinate date and time for the conference via mail or phone. During our first conference, we will go over the legalities needed to travel to Ecuador and the alternatives I can offer you for your wedding. After our first conference, and if you decide to work with me, we will have several more conferences during the planning process so you will always know how everything is going.

### **We live in Ecuador and want to get married in another country. We definitely need to hire a wedding planner. Can you do the job?**

Of course! And it will be my pleasure. A professional, certified wedding planner is capable of planning a wedding in any destination you desire. Additionally, due to our experience and education spaces, we are in constant contact with other wedding professionals around the world, who are always willing to cooperate whenever a couple wants to get married at their homeland.