



# Destination *Awesome*

A destination wedding might seem like an easier, cheaper alternative to a big Hong Kong banquet, but far-flung celebrations come with their own set of challenges. We caught up with **Sonya Yeung**, director of Bliss Creations destination wedding planning service, to help you plan like a pro. By **Kate Springer**



**Q** What types of couples tend to choose destination weddings?

**Sonya Yeung:** It's usually those who love to travel and want to spend more than a few hours with their guests in a place that is beautiful, unique and meaningful. We also see a lot of couples who have lived in many countries and want somewhere "in the middle," where guests can come together.

**Q** Is a destination wedding in Southeast Asia cheaper than Hong Kong?

**SY:** Yes and no. It really depends on where you are going, the number of guests, and the style of wedding you want. In general, Hong Kong is quite expensive, so anywhere else in Asia Pacific will likely be cheaper for the couple. You'll probably find more affordable venues and suppliers, plus the guest list tends to be smaller - the fewer the guests, the lower the price tag.

That said, it will not necessarily be cheaper for the guests, who will have to pay for flights and accommodation. If you choose a place with easy direct flights with low-cost airlines, then that can also make it more affordable for guests.

**Q** Which destinations are really picking up momentum right now?

**SY:** Specializing in the Asia Pacific region, we have seen lots of growth in countries like the Maldives, which is popular among couples who seek the ultimate luxury dream beach wedding. In terms of more affordable options, we have been very impressed with Vietnam recently. A few years ago Vietnam had limited venue options and service providers. But now, places like Hoi An and Danang have some wonderful venues - overlooking the sea or set inside charming gardens. With only a flight time of two hours from Hong Kong, Vietnam is an absolute bargain for couples.