

Ultimate Destination Wedding Guide



By Beaumont Hotel in Ouray, Colorado

Ultimate Destination Wedding Guide Colorado Edition

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Welcome to the **Ultimate Destination Wedding Guide: Colorado Edition**. Whether you're envisioning an intimate elopement amidst towering pine trees or a grand ballroom celebration with breathtaking views, this guide is your trusted resource. You'll find everything you need to plan your perfect wedding in Colorado — from comprehensive checklists to insider tips and local insights you won't find anywhere else.



Planning a destination wedding can feel overwhelming, but with expert advice from local coordinators and step-by-step guidance, you'll create a celebration as unique and memorable as the Colorado landscape itself. Get ready to dream big and plan with confidence — this guide is your key to turning wedding visions into reality.





Why Choose Colorado for Your Wedding?

- **Beautiful Mountain Scenery:** The majestic Rocky Mountains create an awe-inspiring backdrop for your special day, with snow-capped peaks, lush forests, and vibrant wildflowers.
- **All-Seasons Destination:** Whether you desire a winter wonderland, fiery fall foliage, blooming wildflowers in the spring, or the warm, sunny vibes of a summer wedding, Colorado offers unique beauty year-round.
- **Unique Experiences:** Take your guests on unforgettable adventures — soak in natural hot springs, hike alpine trails, or explore historical towns like Ouray, often called the “Switzerland of America.”
- **Outdoor Adventures for Guests:** Let your wedding double as a vacation. From white-water rafting to horseback riding, Colorado is perfect for adventurous couples and guests who want to explore.
- **Historic Venues and Modern Luxury:** Choose from a range of unique venues, from historic hotels like the Beaumont to modern luxury lodges, blending old-world charm with contemporary amenities.
- **Starry Skies and Intimate Moments:** The clear, high-altitude skies make for magical nighttime experiences — imagine toasting under a blanket of stars on your wedding night.

A person is sitting on a rocky ledge, looking out over a vast mountain range under a twilight sky. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt and shorts. The mountains in the background are silhouetted against the darkening sky, with some peaks catching the last light of the day. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

About the Coordinator

Meet **Esther Vancil**, your destination wedding expert and the experienced Wedding Coordinator at the **Beaumont Hotel** in Ouray, Colorado. With years of experience as a wedding planner and caterer, Esther has been the guiding force behind countless unforgettable celebrations. Her deep understanding of the unique challenges and stunning possibilities of Colorado weddings makes her the perfect source of wisdom for your destination wedding planning. This guide distills her insights, local knowledge, and practical advice into a valuable resource to help you create the wedding of your dreams.

1. Benefits & Challenges

Destination Weddings





Why Choose a Destination Wedding?

Planning a destination wedding isn't just about the stunning locations — it's about creating a truly immersive experience for you and your guests. Here are some key benefits that make destination weddings a memorable choice:

- 1. Quality Time with Family and Friends**A destination wedding often turns into a multi-day celebration, giving you more opportunities to connect with loved ones. This extended time together allows for bonding and shared experiences that go beyond a typical one-day wedding.
- 2. Getting Married in a Unique and Scenic Setting**Imagine saying "I do" with a backdrop of snow-capped peaks, vibrant fall foliage, or a charming historic venue like the Beaumont Hotel. Colorado's natural beauty enhances the romance and magic of the event, making it unforgettable for you and your guests.
- 3. Feels Like a Vacation for Everyone**A destination wedding creates a "wedding-moon" vibe for all your attendees. Guests can explore the local area, relax, and enjoy the destination — making it feel more like a getaway than just a single event.

Challenges of Planning a Destination Wedding — and How to Overcome Them

Planning Logistics from Afar

Organizing a wedding remotely can be overwhelming, especially if you haven't seen the venue or met the vendors in person.

Coordinating details from a distance requires trust and clear communication.

✓ **Solution:** Work with a trusted local planner or a full-service venue like the Beaumont Hotel. They'll handle logistics, ensuring every detail matches your vision.



"Couples are planning wedding details for a venue they have never seen, trusting someone they don't know to fulfill their dream wedding. A wedding planner or full-service venue are great resources to guide you through all the little details."

— *Esther Vancil, Wedding Coordinator at the Beaumont Hotel*

Working with Unfamiliar Vendors

Selecting and trusting vendors you haven't met can be challenging.

✓ **Solution:** Use vendor recommendations from your venue or planner. Schedule video calls, review portfolios, and check references to ensure a good fit.

Navigating Legal Requirements

Marriage licenses, insurance, and state laws (like liquor licenses) can complicate planning.

✓ **Solution:** Partner with a venue or planner experienced in local regulations.



Esther Says: “Knowing the local liquor license laws is essential. Adjust your plans as needed based on these requirements”

Managing Guest Travel and Expectations

Coordinating travel logistics, especially for guests unfamiliar with the area, can be tricky

✓ **Solution:** Share travel information early, including accommodation options, transport, and activities. Consider group travel options to make things easier





3. Choosing the Perfect Colorado Destination

Choosing the right destination for your wedding is a balance of scenery, logistics, and finding a venue that captures your vision. Colorado offers a wealth of stunning locations and venues, from luxurious lodges to historic hotels, but there's one standout that deserves special mention:

Top Destination Wedding Venues in Colorado

🏆 The Beaumont Hotel in Ouray, Colorado

We might be a bit biased, but the Beaumont Hotel in Ouray truly offers a storybook mountain wedding. Imagine stepping into a fairy tale — only instead of a carriage, it might be a Jeep ride up to a breathtaking waterfall.

- **Why Choose the Beaumont?** This historic gem has it all under one roof: an elegant Grand Ballroom, scenic courtyard, and cozy accommodations for a seamless wedding experience that's hard to beat. The Beaumont's team acts as your wedding concierge, bringing charm and expertise to every detail.
- **Experience the Best:** It's nestled in the heart of the "Switzerland of America," offering both stunning views and a sense of mountain luxury.

[Historic Beaumont Hotel & Spa](#) | [Luxury Hotel in Ouray, CO](#) [Learn More >>](#)



Aspen

- **The Little Nell** A premier spot for luxury weddings, offering mountaintop views and elegant settings. Picture yourself exchanging vows on a deck overlooking the Continental Divide. For a blend of sophistication and alpine beauty, this venue delivers on every level.



Telluride

- **Telluride Ski Resort Venues** Telluride's iconic venues provide endless options, from a rustic mountain lodge at Gorrano Ranch to the stunning San Sophia Overlook, boasting 360-degree views of the San Juan Mountains. Perfect for both large celebrations and intimate elopements.



Vail

- **Grand Hyatt Vail** World-class amenities and an alpine charm make this venue a dream for those seeking elegance with a view. Host your ceremony on the Creekside Terrace or celebrate in style at their lavish ballroom.
- **Manor Vail Lodge** With its al fresco ceremony options and intimate spaces, this venue offers a quintessential Vail experience, complete with beautiful photo opportunities on a charming wooden bridge.



Estes Park

- **Della Terra Mountain Chateau** Nestled in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, Della Terra's stately chateau provides a romantic setting for year-round weddings. With its window-wrapped reception hall and 14 luxury suites, it's an all-in-one venue that combines beauty and comfort.
- **Wild Basin Lodge and Event Center** A family-run retreat offering rustic charm and multiple ceremony locations, from meadow peaks to riverside settings



4. Checklists



Checklist 1: Questions to Ask Venue

Pricing and Packages

- What is included in the rental fee?
- Are there all-inclusive packages?
- What additional services (tables, chairs, linens) are included?

Vendor Policies

- Do you have an in-house catering team, or can we bring in outside vendors?
- Are there preferred vendors we must use, or can we choose our own?

Logistics and Restrictions

- What are the start and end times for events?
- Are there noise or alcohol restrictions?
- Is parking or transportation provided for guests?

On-Site Accommodations

- Are there on-site rooms available for the bridal party and guests?
- Do you offer special room block rates for wedding guests?

Decor and Customization

- What decor restrictions do you have?
- Can we use candles, confetti, or other unique decor elements?

Wedding Coordination

- Is there a day-of coordinator included, or do we need to hire one separately?
- How will your staff assist on the wedding day?

Payment and Cancellation

- What is your deposit policy?
- What are the terms for cancellations or rescheduling?

Checklist 2: How to Pick the Right Venue

Budget Considerations

- Is the venue within your budget, including additional fees for rentals or services?
- What services are included that might help you save costs elsewhere?

Weather Backup Plan

- Does the venue offer alternative indoor spaces in case of bad weather?
- Is the space equipped with heating or cooling depending on the season?

Review Real Weddings at the Venue

- Check out photos and testimonials from previous couples to see how the space comes to life.
- Are there reviews on vendor sites or wedding blogs?

Visit the Venue in Person

- If possible, schedule an on-site tour to see the venue and meet the staff.
- Take note of how responsive and accommodating the staff are.

Consider the Distance and Travel Logistics

- Is the venue convenient for guests to travel to?
- Are there accommodations nearby for guests who are traveling?

Ensure the Venue Reflects Your Personal Style

- Does the venue have the right vibe for your dream wedding?
- Will it create the atmosphere you want for your celebration?

Budget Planning and Cost-Saving Tips

Planning a destination wedding involves balancing your dream celebration with practical financial management. Below, we integrate some of Esther Vancil's expert advice into actionable tips and include a comprehensive checklist to guide you through the budgeting process.





Esther's Budgeting Tips



"Establish a realistic budget and prioritize spending on what's most important. Lock in vendors early to secure the best rates, and be mindful of local fees, taxes, and hidden costs. Planning well in advance allows you to manage your budget more effectively."— *Esther Vancil, Wedding Coordinator, The Beaumont Hotel*

Checklist 3: Budget Breakdown

Establish a realistic budget by considering all the major components and potential hidden costs. Use this checklist as a guide:

Guests

- Factor in guest shuttles, car rentals, and parking fees.

Florals and Decor

- Flowers, centerpieces, lighting, and any DIY elements.

Photography and Videography

- Consider both the base price and any extra travel fees for vendors.

Vendor Travel and Accommodation

- For destination weddings, don't forget to budget for vendor travel and accommodation if they are coming from out of town.

Permits and Insurance

- Required for many venues and outdoor locations.

Esther's Top Tips for Budget Planning

Choose Your Destination Wisely
Compare the costs of different locations and factor in exchange rates if marrying abroad.



Esther's Note: "Exchange rate fluctuations can impact your budget. Consider locking in rates early for large payments."

Plan Well in Advance

Book venues, vendors, and accommodations as early as possible to secure lower rates and availability. Monitor flight prices and look for package deals.



Esther's Note : "Booking early not only secures your date but can help lock in rates before prices increase."

Negotiate with Vendors Don't hesitate to communicate your budget clearly with vendors. They may be able to customize packages to fit your needs.



Esther's Note: "Communicate openly about your budget expectations. Many vendors appreciate transparency and will work to meet your needs."

Track Your Expenses Use a detailed spreadsheet to keep track of deposits, balances, and remaining payments. Being organized will help avoid surprise costs.

Set Aside a Contingency Fund

Always budget a little extra for unexpected costs or last-minute changes.



Esther's Note: "An emergency fund will give you peace of mind if something comes up — whether it's bad weather or a vendor cancellation."

Checklist 4: Hidden Costs to Watch Out For

When planning a destination wedding, hidden costs can quickly add up. Use this checklist to ensure nothing is overlooked:

Local Taxes and Gratuities

- Check the contracts for additional taxes or service charges on catering, decor, and other services.

Permits for Outdoor Ceremonies

- Many outdoor locations require permits, which can add unexpected costs.

Currency Exchange Fees

- Lock in exchange rates early if paying international vendors.

Additional Setup Fees

- Clarify if the venue charges extra for setting up or tearing down.



Checklist 5: Saving Money Without Sacrificing Quality

All-Inclusive Venue Packages

Venues that offer bundled packages for catering, decor, and rentals can be cost-effective. The Beaumont Hotel, for example, provides comprehensive packages that eliminate the need for extra vendors.

Off-Peak Dates

Consider a weekday or off-season wedding to access lower rates for venues and accommodations.

DIY Where You Can Resource List for DIY Projects

Here are some fantastic DIY wedding sites to explore for inspiration, tutorials, and budget-friendly decor ideas:

1. **Best for Bride:** Offers ideas for easy-to-pack, destination-friendly decor that can be transported with minimal hassle.
2. **Brides.com:** Comprehensive gallery of DIY wedding decorations that cater to different styles and themes.
3. **Today's Bride:** Focuses on unique ways to personalize your wedding, from custom favors to creative guest experiences.
4. **Wedding Hashers:** Detailed guides on everything from DIY signs to send-off decor ideas ([Wedding Hashers Blog](#)).
5. **The Budget Savvy Bride:** Tips and tricks for planning budget-friendly weddings, plus a curated list of top affordable wedding decor websites ([The Budget Savvy Bride](#)).
6. **Prudent Penny Pincher:** Specialized in DIY centerpieces and cost-effective decor options to create stunning visuals on a budget ([Prudent Penny Pincher](#)).

Using these resources will help you explore creative options while keeping costs in check!

5. Legal and Logistical Considerations

Planning a destination wedding comes with its own set of unique legal requirements and logistical challenges. Understanding the local laws, securing the proper paperwork, and coordinating with vendors are crucial steps to ensure your wedding day goes smoothly. Below, we'll break down some key considerations and include checklists to help you navigate the process with ease.

Understanding Local Wedding Requirements

Understanding marriage requirements is crucial for any destination wedding. In Colorado, specific marriage license rules apply, and additional permits may be needed based on your event's size and nature.

Marriage License in Colorado:

- You can obtain a marriage license from any County Clerk's office in Colorado.
- There is no waiting period; you can get married the same day.
- **Cost:** The license fee is approximately \$30 (confirm the exact fee as it may vary slightly by county).
- **Requirements:** Both parties must be present with a valid ID. No blood test or residency requirement is needed.
- **Expiration:** The license is valid for 35 days.

Event Insurance:

- Many venues require event insurance, which protects against

unforeseen issues such as cancellations, vendor problems, or accidents during the event. You may need to purchase this policy from a company based in the state where your wedding is being held.



Esther's Note: "Contact your insurance company for event insurance. You may have to get a policy from an insurance company in the state of your event."

Liquor Licensing:

- Make sure you understand the state's liquor laws. In Colorado, some venues may require a special permit if you're serving alcohol. Check with your venue to see what is allowed and plan accordingly.



Esther's Tip: "Understanding what the liquor license law is in that state and planning accordingly is essential. You may need to adjust your plans based on what's allowed."



Checklist 6: Legal Requirements

Permits and Local Regulations

- Check if your venue requires any special permits for outdoor ceremonies or large gatherings.
- Verify noise ordinances or curfews that may apply.

Event Insurance

- Contact an insurance provider in your event's state to secure coverage.
- Review what the policy covers (e.g., cancellations, vendor issues, liability).

Vendor Contracts

- Carefully review all vendor contracts and look for hidden fees.
- Ask questions if any terms are unclear.
- Ensure all details, including setup and teardown times, are noted.

Alcohol Licensing

- Confirm if a liquor license is required.
- Determine who is responsible for obtaining it (you or the venue).
- Verify restrictions on serving times or types of alcohol.

Sample Timeline for Pre-Wedding Legalities

Use this timeline to ensure you're on track for all the legal and logistical aspects of your destination wedding.

6-12 Months Before:

- Research and understand the legal requirements for marriage in your chosen state or country.
- Book your venue and ask about any required permits.
- Begin gathering necessary documents for your marriage license.
- Contact local vendors to understand their contracts and requirements.

3-6 Months Before:

- Finalize your event insurance.
- Apply for any special permits if needed.
- Schedule a meeting or video call with your venue coordinator to review logistics.



Don't worry about
tomorrow
I will take care of
myself.
I will take care of
myself.

1-3 Months Before:

- Apply for your marriage license if required by your location.
- Confirm your vendor bookings and ensure all contracts are signed.
- Review your insurance policy and ensure it covers all expected activities.



1 Month Before:

- Conduct a final review of all legal documents and vendor contracts.
- Make copies of your marriage license and other key paperwork.
- Prepare a small emergency fund for any last-minute changes or surprises.

Checklist 7: Vendor Coordination

Use this checklist to keep track of vendor coordination and communication:

Vendor

- Confirm timelines and shot lists.
- Discuss special requests or must-have moments.
- Check for any additional travel fees.

Florist

- Finalize floral selections and delivery times.
- Review setup and teardown details.

Caterer

- Confirm menu choices and dietary accommodations.
- Discuss serving times and bar setup.
- Verify any liquor license requirements.

Transportation

- Arrange shuttles or car services for guests.
- Confirm arrival and departure times with drivers.

Resources for Legal and Vendor Coordination

Colorado State Marriage License Information
www.colorado.gov

Event Insurance Providers

www.wedsafe.com

www.privateeventinsurance.com

Vendor Contract Templates and Tips

www.rockymountainbride.com/blog/vendor-contract-tips

6. Creating an Unforgettable Experience for Your Guests

A destination wedding is more than just a ceremony; it's an experience for both you and your guests. Creating an environment where friends and family feel welcomed and appreciated is key to making your celebration memorable. This section will cover practical tips, welcome bag ideas, activity planning, and a sample 3-day wedding itinerary to inspire a well-rounded guest experience.



Welcome Bags: Thoughtful and Local Touches

Welcome bags are a great way to show appreciation to your guests and set the tone for the event. Including local items not only adds a personal touch but also enhances the destination experience.

Welcome Bag Ideas for a Colorado Wedding:

- **Chapstick:** High altitude often means dry lips; include a hydrating chapstick.
- **Sunscreen:** Guests not used to the Colorado sun will appreciate the protection.
- **Trail Mix:** A nod to Colorado's outdoor culture, perfect for pre-hike snacks.
- **Souvenirs:** Incorporate small tokens like a keychain, magnet, or a postcard featuring the stunning Ouray scenery.
- **Reusable Water Bottles:** Consider branded water bottles to help guests stay hydrated at high altitude.



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Esther's

Tip: "Welcome bags are a chance to make your guests feel instantly at home. Think of what they'll need during their stay —hydration, sun protection, and a few snacks go a long way."

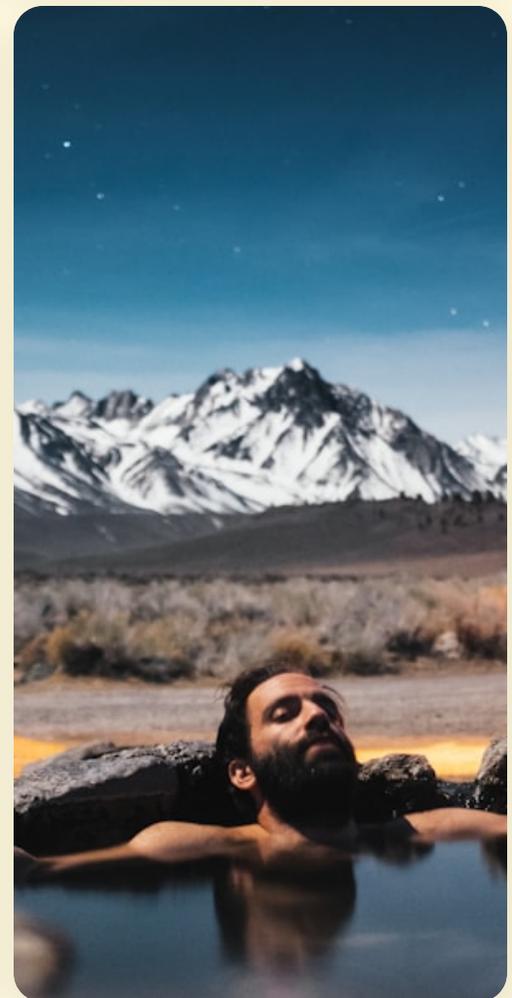
Activities: Fun and Relaxation for Guests

Providing optional activities for your guests can transform your wedding into a mini-vacation, allowing everyone to enjoy the location as much as you do. Here are some popular activity ideas for a Colorado destination wedding:

1. **Soak in the Hot Springs:** Arrange group passes to local hot springs like the Ouray Hot Springs Pool.
2. **Jeep Tours:** Hire a local outfitter to take guests on a jeep tour of the surrounding mountains.
3. **Scenic Hikes:** Provide trail maps and suggestions for easy, moderate, and challenging hikes.
4. **Ski or Snowboard Outings (Winter Weddings):** Arrange group ski passes or lessons.
5. **Spa Day:** Book a day at a local spa (or the Beaumont Hotel's own spa) for relaxation before the big day.

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Esther's Tip: “Not everyone wants a rigorous adventure. Make sure to include both active and relaxing options—think hot springs, spa treatments, and casual nature walks.”



Coordinating Group Transportation

With guests coming from different locations, organizing transportation is a thoughtful way to simplify logistics and make them feel cared for. Consider the following:

- **Shuttle Services:** Arrange shuttles between hotels and the venue to ensure everyone arrives on time.
- **Car Rentals:** If guests are staying at different locations, recommend local car rental agencies.
- **Group Activities Transportation:** Provide transportation for group activities, such as jeep tours or ski outings.

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Esther's Tip: “Don't underestimate the importance of transportation. If your venue is remote, provide clear directions and make transportation arrangements well in advance.”



6. Sample Timeline for a 3-Day Wedding Celebration

Creating a multi-day schedule gives guests the chance to enjoy the destination beyond the wedding day itself. Here's a sample itinerary for a 3-day celebration:

Day 1: Welcome Dinner and Jeep Tour

- **Morning:** Guests arrive and check into accommodations.
- **Afternoon:** Casual meet and greet at a local cafe or hotel lobby.
- **Evening:** Welcome dinner featuring local cuisine, followed by a guided jeep tour of the surrounding mountains. Include stops at scenic overlooks for sunset photos.





Day 2: Wedding Day

- **Morning:** Guests can relax, explore the town, or enjoy a spa treatment.
- **Early Afternoon:** Wedding ceremony at the chosen venue (e.g., a scenic mountain overlook or the Beaumont Hotel's Grand Ballroom).
- **Evening:** Reception and dance party in the ballroom or a tented outdoor setting, followed by a late-night bonfire with s'mores.



Day 3: Farewell Brunch and Local Tours

- **Morning:** Host a farewell brunch at the Beaumont Hotel, offering guests a final chance to connect and reflect on the celebration.
- **Afternoon:** Optional group activities such as hiking, hot springs, or guided historical tours of Ouray's charming downtown.

Esther's Tip: "A structured itinerary helps guests feel involved without being overwhelmed. Include plenty of downtime and optional activities so everyone can choose how to spend their time."

Checklist: Creating a Guest Experience Plan

Activity Coordination

- List out all optional activities with clear descriptions.
- Arrange group discounts for tours, spa treatments, or other excursions.

Transportation Planning

- Confirm shuttles and car services for the entire event.
- Create a transportation schedule and share it with guests.

Final Itinerary

- Draft a complete itinerary for the 3-day celebration.
- Include activity options, downtime, and clear directions for all locations.
- By using this checklist and incorporating local elements, you'll create a welcoming, memorable experience for your guests that highlights all the best aspects of your destination wedding location.



7. Wedding Attire and Packing Tips

Planning attire for a Colorado destination wedding requires balancing style with practicality. The state's varied weather and high altitude can surprise even the most prepared couples and guests. Below, we'll cover essential packing tips, attire advice for various seasons, and a checklist to ensure you're ready for anything the mountains might throw your way!

Destination Wedding Attire Tips: Dressing for the Colorado Climate

Consider Layers for Unpredictable Weather Colorado's weather can change quickly, especially in mountain towns like Ouray. For outdoor ceremonies, consider attire that allows for layering. Grooms and groomsmen might opt for lightweight jackets or vests, while brides can choose dresses with detachable sleeves or wraps.

- **Spring and Summer:** Early summer mornings can be cool, while afternoons heat up significantly. A formal jacket or shawl that can be easily removed is ideal.
- **Fall:** The perfect season for richer colors and heavier fabrics, but be prepared for chilly evenings.
- **Winter:** Velvet, wool, and fur accents are stylish choices that provide warmth. Brides might consider long-sleeve gowns or elegant capes.



Esther's Note: "Remember, mountain weather is unpredictable. Always have a backup plan — whether that's a cozy wrap or a pair of waterproof boots



Altitude ConsiderationsThe high altitude in many Colorado locations can affect everything from makeup longevity to fabric choices. Lightweight, breathable fabrics will help prevent overheating, and accessories like hats or parasols can offer sun protection.

- **For Makeup:** Use setting sprays and long-lasting formulas that can withstand heat and sudden temperature changes.
- **For Hair:** Humidity is low at high altitudes, so consider products that add moisture and control static.
- **Footwear Choices**Choose footwear that is suitable for the terrain. If your ceremony is outdoors, consider stylish but sturdy options, like wedges, block heels, or even dressy boots. Bring along a second pair for reception dancing or unexpected weather



Esther's Note: "Heels in gravel or grass? Not a good idea. Go for wedges or bring a backup pair — you'll thank me later!"



Destination Wedding Packing Checklist

Use this checklist to ensure you've packed everything you need for the big day and beyond:

Essentials for All Seasons:

- **Formal Attire:** Wedding dress or suit, complete with accessories.
- **Comfortable Footwear:** Dress shoes and sturdy options for outdoor settings.
- **Layering Pieces:** Shawls, wraps, or blazers to stay warm.
- **Rain Gear:** Lightweight rain jacket or umbrella.
- **Sunscreen and Chapstick:** High-altitude sun exposure can be intense.
- **Reusable Water Bottle:** Staying hydrated is crucial at high elevations.
- **First Aid Kit:** Include blister bandages, pain relief, and allergy medication.



**BEAUMONT
HOTEL**
BAR-RESTAURANT
Nice ROOMS 2 up

Additional Must- Haves:

- **Bridal Emergency Kit:** Safety pins, stain remover, and a sewing kit.
- **Weather-Appropriate Footwear:** Waterproof boots or sandals, depending on the season.
- **Hats and Sunglasses:** Protect from both sun and unexpected weather.
- **Touch-Up Kit:** Hair spray, extra makeup, and antiperspirant.

Packing Tips for Your Guests

Provide this advice to your guests in a welcome letter or on your wedding website to ensure they're as prepared as you are:

1

For the Ceremony: Encourage guests to bring shawls or jackets, even in summer, as temperatures can drop quickly in the evening. Suggest layers, comfortable shoes, and sunscreen.

2

Daytime Activities: For those planning to enjoy outdoor activities like hiking or hot springs, recommend packing hiking boots, swimwear, and clothing that can be layered.

3

Winter Weddings: Remind guests that road conditions can be unpredictable and to pack appropriate outerwear, snow boots, and even traction devices for walking on icy surfaces.

Esther's Wedding Attire Pro Tips

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“Colorado weather can be unpredictable, so layers are always a good idea. Think about practicality — sturdy shoes for outdoor settings, and don't forget a jacket or shawl for chilly evenings.

The right outfit will keep you comfortable and stylish, no matter what!”—

Esther Vancil, Wedding Coordinator, The Beaumont Hotel



8. Checklist: Planning Timeline for a Colorado Destination Wedding

Planning a destination wedding requires extra coordination and careful timing to ensure all the details come together seamlessly. The following timeline breaks down key milestones and tasks to keep your planning on track, along with additional tips and advice from Esther Vancil to help guide you through the process.

12–18 Months Before:

Setting the Foundation

Start Your Guest List

- Create an initial list of invitees to determine venue capacity and overall budget. This will also help in organizing room blocks and accommodations.

Hire a Wedding Planner

- If you're planning from afar, hiring a local planner can be invaluable. They can recommend vendors, help navigate local regulations, and provide on-site coordination.



Esther's Tip: "Hiring a planner early on is key for destination weddings. They're familiar with the local area and can save you a lot of time and stress by handling logistics remotely."

Start researching local vendors, especially photographers, florists, and caterers. Compile a list of potential options to discuss with your planner or venue.



6-12 Months Before:

Locking in Your Vendors and Details

Secure contracts with your top-choice vendors, including your caterer, photographer, florist, and musicians. Confirm that they are available on your wedding date and can work at your chosen venue.

Send Save-the-Dates

Send out save-the-date cards or digital announcements to your guest list, especially since they will need to plan for travel and accommodations well in advance.



Esther's Tip: "The earlier you can communicate the date and location to guests, the better. It gives them time to book flights and hotels, and prevents last-minute RSVPs."

Book room blocks or group rates at nearby hotels to ensure your guests have convenient options. Consider a range of price points to suit different budgets.

Create a Wedding Website

Include all essential information for your guests, such as travel tips, accommodation options, and a detailed schedule of event





3–6 Months Before:

Finishing Touches and Final Decisions

Finalize your decor choices, rental needs (e.g., chairs, tables, linens), and floral arrangements. Confirm details with your vendors to ensure everything is ordered and scheduled.

Confirm Menu and Tastings

Schedule a menu tasting with your caterer if possible. Finalize menu selections and discuss any special dietary needs for guests.

Plan Additional Events

If you're hosting a welcome dinner, farewell brunch, or group activities, confirm venues and timing for each event.



Esther's Tip: "Planning additional events is a great way to extend the celebration and show your guests the best of Colorado. Think of it as curating a multi-day experience rather than just a single day."

1–3 Months Before:

Preparing for the Big Da

Schedule your final dress and suit fittings to ensure everything is tailored perfectly. Coordinate any last-minute changes with your bridal party's attire.

Finalize Seating Chart and Guest Count

Review RSVPs and work on your seating chart. Share the final count with your caterer, venue, and other vendors.

Check All Vendor Contracts

Do a final review of vendor contracts and confirm any outstanding payments or requirements.



Week of the Wedding:

Last-Minute Preparations

Include items like safety pins, extra makeup, a first-aid kit, comfortable shoes, and any last-minute touch-up items.

Vendor Confirmations

Confirm arrival times, setups, and responsibilities with each vendor.

Pack Essentials for the Day

Don't forget your marriage license, rings, and a copy of your vows. Have everything packed and ready at least a day before.

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Esther's Tip: "The week of the wedding should be about enjoying the moment. Have a detailed checklist, but don't overdo it. Make time for some relaxation before the big day."

Planning Timeline Summary

- **12-18 Months Before:** Secure your venue, hire a planner, start guest list.
- **6-12 Months Before:** Book main vendors, send save-the-dates, finalize accommodations.
- **3-6 Months Before:** Confirm transportation, finalize decor, plan additional events.
- **1-3 Months Before:** Send invitations, finalize guest count, review contracts.
- **Week of Wedding:** Final walkthrough, vendor confirmations, emergency kit prep.

Unique Colorado Touches: Infuse Local Charm into Your Wedding

Adding local flair to your celebration will make your Colorado wedding even more memorable. Here are some ideas to incorporate the beauty and culture of the region:

Use Native Wildflowers and Foliage

Colorado is known for its beautiful wildflowers. Incorporate local blooms like columbines, lupines, or sunflowers into your bouquets and centerpieces. For a rustic touch, use aspen branches or pinecones in your decor.

Serve Colorado-Inspired Cuisine

Highlight regional flavors by including dishes like bison sliders, Rocky Mountain trout, or Palisade peach cobbler. Consider a s'mores bar for dessert, complete with Colorado chocolate and handcrafted marshmallows.

Include Local Beverages

Feature a selection of local craft beers, or offer cocktails using Colorado spirits like whiskey from Breckenridge Distillery or gin from Leopold Bros. Distillery.

Esther's Tip: "Guests love trying local brews and cocktails. Create a signature drink named after your venue or a favorite Colorado landmark — it's a fun conversation starter!"

Plan Scenic Excursions

Take advantage of Colorado's natural beauty by offering guided hikes, jeep tours, or even group skiing trips. Arrange an afternoon outing for guests to experience the hot springs or explore a nearby ghost town.

Mountain Wedding Favors

Consider gifting guests with local treats like Colorado honey, handmade soaps, or keepsakes made from aspen wood. Include a note about the significance of each item to make it personal.



Esther's Tip: "Welcome bags and favors are a great opportunity to introduce your guests to what makes Colorado unique. A small jar of local honey or a handmade ornament can leave a lasting impression."

10. Sample Wedding Itineraries and Personal Touches

When planning a destination wedding in Colorado, your itinerary can greatly influence the experience for both you and your guests. Here are three sample itineraries to inspire a range of wedding styles—from an intimate elopement to a grand celebration in a historic ballroom. Personal touches, thoughtful scheduling, and local experiences are woven into each example to ensure an unforgettable experience for everyone.

Example 1: Classic Mountain Wedding

For couples who want the quintessential Colorado mountain experience, this wedding itinerary blends outdoor adventure with a relaxed, nature-inspired celebration.



Day 1:

Welcome and Casual Dinner

- **Morning:** Guests arrive and check into their mountain lodgings.
- **Afternoon:** Optional group hike on a local trail or a relaxing afternoon at a nearby hot spring.
- **Evening:** Host a casual welcome dinner with a campfire, complete with s'mores, local brews, and a guitarist to set the mood. Offer a mountain-inspired menu featuring bison burgers, fresh trout, and grilled vegetables.

Personal Touch: Welcome bags include trail maps, reusable water bottles, and a note with recommendations for local activities.





Day 2:

Wedding Day

- **Morning:** Begin with a yoga session or guided meditation to calm nerves and start the day refreshed.
- **Afternoon:** Ceremony at a scenic overlook, with panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. Set up a small refreshment station with lemonade, iced tea, and light snacks for guests as they arrive.
- **Evening:** Reception under a tent adorned with wildflowers, rustic wooden tables, and twinkling string lights. Include a whiskey-tasting bar featuring Colorado distilleries and a dance floor for late-night festivities.

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Esther's Tip: "For a true mountain wedding, take advantage of the scenery and let nature be your decor. Consider a minimalist style and add touches like local wildflowers or handmade wooden signs."

Day 3:

Farewell Brunch and Scenic Tour

- **Morning:** Host a farewell brunch at a local cafe or lodge. Offer a hearty menu with items like breakfast burritos, locally sourced bacon, and fresh fruit.
- **Afternoon:** Organize an optional group jeep tour or historical walking tour of the nearby mountain town before guests depart.





Example 2: Intimate Elopement

For couples seeking a low-key, romantic experience, this itinerary focuses on quality time, beautiful scenery, and simple but meaningful moments.

Day 1: Arrival and Private Dinner

- **Afternoon:** Arrive at a charming mountain lodge or cabin. Spend the afternoon exploring local hiking trails or enjoying a soak in a private hot tub.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a private chef-prepared dinner on your lodge's terrace, surrounded by candlelight and overlooking the mountains. Pair it with your favorite local wine or craft cocktails.

Personal Touch: Include handwritten love letters exchanged during the dinner for an added personal element



Day 2: Elopement Ceremony and Celebratory Picnic

Morning: Begin the day with a leisurely breakfast and a morning nature walk.

Afternoon: Exchange vows at a secluded mountain overlook or next to a tranquil alpine lake. Keep it simple with a small flower arrangement and a bottle of champagne.

Evening: Celebrate with a gourmet picnic packed by a local restaurant. Include artisanal cheeses, fresh fruit, and a decadent dessert. Follow up with a casual stroll through town or stargazing under a blanket of high-altitude stars.



Esther's Tip: "Elopements are all about intimacy. Choose a spot that feels personal and special, and consider adding custom vows, a favorite poem, or a family tradition to make the ceremony truly yours."



Day 3: Local Adventures and Spa Day

- **Morning:** Schedule a scenic jeep tour to explore off-the-beaten-path trails or visit a local hot springs for a morning dip.
- **Afternoon:** Enjoy a couples' massage and spa treatments to unwind after your big day.
- **Evening:** Cap off the trip with a casual dinner at a cozy local restaurant, where you can reminisce about the day's adventures.

Example 3: Grand Ballroom Celebration at the Beaumont Hotel

Perfect for couples who want to blend historic charm with luxurious elegance, this itinerary showcases the best of Ouray's premier wedding venue: the Beaumont Hotel.



Day 1: Welcome Dinner and Historical Tour

- **Afternoon:** Guests arrive and settle into their accommodations at the Beaumont Hotel or nearby lodgings.
- **Evening:** Host a welcome dinner in the Beaumont's Tavern. Decorate with vintage touches and Colorado-inspired centerpieces. After dinner, organize a guided historical tour of the hotel and the surrounding town, highlighting Ouray's "Switzerland of America" charm.

Personal Touch: Give guests a small booklet featuring local history and fun facts about the hotel and town.





Day 2: Wedding Day at the Beaumont Hotel

Morning: Bridal party and groomsmen get ready in the Beaumont's elegant Presidential Suite, sipping champagne and enjoying a catered breakfast.

Afternoon: Ceremony in the picturesque courtyard, with lush greenery and towering mountain views as your backdrop. Include a string quartet to add to the sophisticated atmosphere.

Evening: Move the celebration into the Grand Ballroom, complete with crystal chandeliers, high ceilings, and elegant floral arrangements. Host a cocktail hour in the adjacent room, and provide a photobooth station for guests to capture the moment. The evening continues with dinner, dancing, and a live band.



Esther's Tip: "The Grand Ballroom at the Beaumont is the epitome of timeless elegance. Opt for classic decor like white linens, silver candelabras, and crystal accents to highlight the space's beauty



Day 3: Farewell Brunch and Spa Day

Morning: Farewell brunch at the Beaumont's 1886 Cafe, featuring fresh pastries, local coffee, and a custom omelet station.

Afternoon: Guests can explore local shops, go for a scenic drive, or book a spa treatment to complete their weekend experience.

Personal Touch: Send guests home with a small memento like a Beaumont Hotel ornament or a jar of local Colorado honey



12. Beaumont Hotel & Spa: The Ultimate Destination Wedding Venue in Ouray, Colorado

If you're looking for a wedding venue that combines historic charm with luxurious amenities and breathtaking scenery, look no further than the Beaumont Hotel & Spa in Ouray, Colorado. Known as one of Colorado's premier wedding destinations, the Beaumont offers a unique blend of elegance, history, and stunning views that make it an ideal choice for couples seeking a sophisticated yet mountain-inspired wedding experience.



MONT

HOTEL



About the Venue

The Beaumont Hotel, originally built in 1886, is a beautifully restored landmark that has retained its vintage Victorian charm while incorporating modern amenities to create a seamless blend of old-world sophistication and contemporary comfort. Nestled in the heart of Ouray, often called the "Switzerland of America," the hotel is surrounded by towering peaks, picturesque waterfalls, and historic architecture that offer countless photo opportunities.

www.beaumonthotel.com

- **Historic Grand Ballroom:** The jewel of the Beaumont Hotel is its Grand Ballroom. With its crystal chandeliers, intricate woodwork, and elegant ambiance, it's perfect for hosting both your ceremony and reception. The ballroom comfortably accommodates up to 150 guests, making it ideal for medium to large weddings.
- **Courtyard and Outdoor Spaces:** For those who prefer an outdoor ceremony, the hotel's courtyard offers a stunning garden setting with a backdrop of the surrounding mountains. This space is ideal for more intimate ceremonies or cocktail hours under the stars.
- **Full-Service Coordination:** The Beaumont Hotel provides an experienced in-house wedding coordinator, Esther Vancil, who specializes in helping couples craft their dream wedding. Esther's knowledge of local vendors, combined with her ability to bring a couple's vision to life, ensures a smooth and stress-free planning experience.







Why Choose the Beaumont Hotel for Your Wedding?

- 01 All-Inclusive Packages**The Beaumont offers a range of all-inclusive wedding packages to simplify planning. From catering to decor setup, everything is handled on-site, allowing you to focus on enjoying your special day.
 - 02 Historic and Unique Atmosphere**There's something magical about getting married in a venue that has hosted celebrations for over a century. The Beaumont's history adds a layer of richness and significance to your wedding day.
 - 03 Exclusive Hotel Buyouts**For couples who want the entire venue to themselves, the Beaumont offers exclusive hotel buyout options. Imagine having the whole space dedicated solely to your event, providing a private, intimate atmosphere for you and your guests.
 - 04 Spa and Luxury Suites**With a full-service spa on-site and luxurious suites available, the Beaumont allows you to prepare for your big day in comfort and style. Couples and bridal parties can enjoy a range of treatments, from massages to facials, to ensure they're looking and feeling their best.
 - 05 Ideal Location for Adventure-Loving Couples**Beyond the wedding day itself, Ouray offers activities like hiking, hot springs, jeep tours, and ice climbing, making it a perfect destination for adventure-loving couples and guests who want to explore Colorado's stunning landscapes.
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