

# CHARLESTON WEDDINGS



In essence, the place you choose to say “I do” is the mold in which you cast the memories of your wedding. The location sets the mood and acts as the backdrop for every sight, sound, smell and taste during your special day, hence the reason that destination weddings have become so popular over the years.

Destination weddings give everyone, no matter where they’re from, the chance for an unforgettable wedding at a fabulous location. And coastal South Carolina has become one of the nation’s hot spots

spot for couples who want a true island wedding. Located on the Kiawah River, this outdoor venue features a 5,400-square-foot covered pavilion where couples can celebrate their union surrounded by beautiful Lowcountry scenery. Oyster tables, bonfire pits and decking perfect for a live band give Mingo Point a rustic yet romantic feel for those couples who wish to be surrounded in the breathtaking natural environment for which Kiawah Island is known.

For those who wish to spare absolutely no



for a wedding-away-from-home.

One of the most obvious reasons is that our coastline is filled with some of the country’s most beautiful beaches. Broad sandy shores, undulating dunes and the rippling Atlantic stretching off into the horizon provide the perfect backdrop whether the bride and groom want a black-tie affair or a casual get-together.

One very popular destination wedding locale is Kiawah Island. Planned to be environmentally sound, the unique barrier island lacks the commercial development of other coastal islands making it extremely relaxing. But as tranquil as Kiawah is, the island also offers plenty to keep guests busy during the week, with over 40 miles of bike trails, 10 miles of unspoiled beaches, five world-class golf courses, tennis facilities and more.

When deciding where to wed on the island, the options range from indoors to out, pricey to very affordable. One option is Mingo Point, a wonderful

expense, The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort fits the bill. At this breathtaking seaside mansion, couples can wed on the beautiful oceanfront lawn before dining and dancing the night away inside one of the elegant ballrooms. Specially designed wedding cakes, gourmet menus and beautiful interiors add to the splendor of weddings held at The Sanctuary, and spacious ocean-view suites are the perfect way for dotting couples to spoil their guests. This sumptuous location is so well accepted that many couples opt to stay for their honeymoon to enjoy a week of absolute bliss.

While South Carolina’s beaches do draw quite the crowd, other popular wedding destinations are the historic plantations of the coast. One stunning example is the Legare-Waring House at Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site.

Rich in history, the home is the epitome of an antebellum plantation. Well-appointed bride’s and groom’s quarters are located on opposite ends

of the home to ensure superstitious couples don’t catch a glimpse of each other before the ceremony. In addition, the main floor affords plenty of space to dance and mingle, and the expansive screened-in front porch is the ideal place for guests to enjoy the confines of a rocking chair as they watch the newlyweds take advantage of their time in the spotlight.

But the house isn’t all that’s worth mentioning—the grounds are nothing less than spectacular. Glassy lagoons and pristine gardens abound, and the Grand Avenue of Oaks—the crown jewel of the grounds with its towering moss-draped oaks—supplies the perfect canopy for ultra-romantic nuptials.

But even with the picturesque beaches and plantations, some opt for the most traditional place to say their vows—within the walls of a place of worship. For couples with such wishes, most look no further than historic Charleston. Nicknamed “The

Holy City” because of the abundance of steeples on the low cityscape, Charleston is home to dozens of churches, many with a beautiful past to go along with their breathtaking architecture.

One such place is St. Michael’s Episcopal Church. Built in the 1700s, St. Michael’s is the oldest church edifice in the City of Charleston and stands on the site of the first Anglican Church built south of Virginia. But that’s just the tip of the steeple. All one needs to do is merely turn a corner to find yet another stunning example.

In the end, whether you wed within the walls of your place of worship or beneath the evening sky on a beautiful beach, the location for your wedding is a monumental factor. If you’re thinking of a destination wedding, make the decision easy by choosing South Carolina’s coast. There’s surely something to sweep both you and your special someone off your feet for as long as you both shall live.



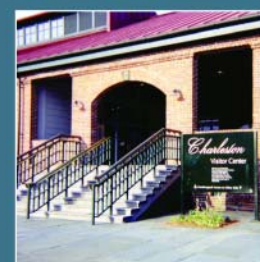
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