

DIRECTORY

Make the venue memorable

Whether it's a boat, a beach or a historical site, an unusual wedding venue can add character to a couple's happy day. Landmark buildings, sprawling vistas or ancient heritage sites are among the options that can make a wedding stand out, but they often require a more complex set of logistics.

Such venues are typically located in places that are difficult to reach or have limited facilities. These might include an absence of washrooms, kitchen equipment and even electricity, which would require portable toilets, a generator and cooking gear to be shipped in, says Sonya Yeung, founder and wedding planner at Bliss Creations.

Décor may also be an obstacle, but one that can be overcome with creativity and flexibility. "If you are choosing an atypical venue, it is likely that there is something about that place which makes it significant for you, such as the landscape or the architecture so this should be a feature. Regardless of the venue, there are

Unusual wedding locations require complex planning



Bliss Creations organised a beach wedding on Lantau Island (left) and another celebration in the Maldives (right).

always décor solutions to help enhance the uniqueness of the location while also considering the personalities of the clients," Yeung says.

Bliss Creations once organised a wedding on a beach on Lantau Island with no vehicle access, and the gathering

required a beach permit. "Because Lantau Island has restrictions on outside vehicles, many considerations had to be made, including guest transport on and off the island, the types of vehicles used for delivery of goods, and additional manpower for moving goods by trolley



to the venue," Yeung says. Venues that appear to be ideal for a destination wedding can still require a great deal of coordination. For example, in the Maldives each resort sits on its own island, so goods need to be transferred from the capital by air or sea, which in some cases can take

up to seven days. "Being a remote island chain means there aren't abundant options for services and décor, so you need to get quite creative and be prepared to bring in or ship goods before getting to your resort. Even flowers need to be imported, so a good-quality vendor is important," Yeung says.

Before settling on a venue, couples should consider the amount of time they will spend at the location and decide if the challenges warrant the effort. "Sometimes the logistics needed to make something work creates more unwanted stress," Yeung says.

"It is important to pick the basic requirements such as electricity, water and washroom facilities. Transport to and from the location will dictate what is or is not possible."

Yeung also recommends visiting the site before booking a wedding planner or production team, "to ensure they are able and willing to accommodate the challenges that they may face".