

DIRECTORY

Navigate for wedding guests

Couples should create itinerary for those coming from out of town

Every couple wants their wedding to be a day their guests will remember. When it comes to out-of-town guests, helping them feel comfortable in an unfamiliar place can make their trip even more memorable.

Navigating a new city can cause tension, so couples should take control of the logistics, says Sonya Yeung, founder and creative director of the wedding planning company Bliss Creations.

"When guests come to Hong Kong, it is very important their logistics are sorted and that they understand where they are going and how to get there. Hiring buses to get to and from major parts of your celebration will ease their worries about getting around a foreign place," Yeung says.

A detailed itinerary including all the

event times and locations, along with a map, will ensure guests know important information before and on the big day.

"Ambiguity is the ultimate way for guests to become uncomfortable and unsure of themselves in a foreign place," Yeung says. "We also suggest having a copy of this in their rooms upon arrival with a note from the couple in case any guests left their details at home."

But be cautious about overscheduling. "Usually couples are excited that all of their closest friends and families are with them, and overschedule activities so they can spend as much time as possible with everyone. But it is important to let guests rest after events. Downtime is also important so guests can explore the destination," Yeung says.

Bliss Creations has come up with its



Communal activities can help out-of-town wedding guests feel welcome.

own solution for out-of-town wedding guests. Its Wedding Challenge is a customised scavenger hunt through Hong

Kong, where couples can feature some of their favourite areas and things to do by having their guests move through

particular areas of the city. "Trying local foods, getting palms read by a fortune teller or visiting a special spot at The Peak - the options are endless, and it is a great way for guests to get to know each other and enjoy all Hong Kong has to offer," Yeung says.

When it comes to a destination wedding, the guidelines shift to accommodate a majority of guests who are unfamiliar with the location. Communal activities such as a welcome barbecue or a recovery lunch can help guests feel they are spending time with the couple and that they are part of more than just the big day, Yeung says.

"Having small welcome packs in each guest's room including a welcome note, itinerary and a small gift are also ways to help guests feel welcome," she says. "If you can accommodate all guests within the same resort, it is nice to have guests nearby and a fun way to experience a destination with your closest family and friends."