

MARRIED IN CABO

BY CRYSTAL · MARRIEDINCABO.COM

FREE

THE STARTER
GUIDE

is Cabo right for your wedding?

THE FREE STARTER GUIDE

The honest case for Cabo, the ten questions to answer first, the money truth, and how much time you really need — from the bride 2.8 million people watched say “I do.”

FREE · SAVE IT · SEND IT TO YOUR PERSON



FIRST, THE DREAM — WITH CLEAR EYES

why we said yes to Cabo

Hi, I'm Crystal. I married my husband at The Cape in Los Cabos — 44 guests, three days, and honestly the best weekend of our lives. But before all of that, we were exactly where you are: *should we even do this?*

Here's the honest case for Cabo, the things that made it an easy yes for us:



350+ sunny days a year. The weather risk is genuinely low if you pick your month well — late May, June, and November are the sweet spots. (Avoid August–October: hurricane season is real.)



Short, direct flights from most of the US. Cabo is one of the easiest international wedding destinations for American guests — no connections, no jet lag, phones just work.



The scenery does half your decor. Ocean, desert cliffs, golden-hour light, El Arco on the horizon. Our “backdrop budget” was \$0.



Three days instead of five hours. A destination wedding isn't one event — ours was a welcome party, the wedding, and a yacht send-off. You get a whole weekend with the people you love most.



And the honest other side: it asks more of your guests, more of your budget than the brochures admit, and more planning discipline from you. That's what the rest of this guide is for.

with love, Crystal

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THE HEART OF THE DECISION

10 QUESTIONS TO ANSWER FIRST

Sit down with your person and go through these out loud. If most answers come easy, Cabo will love you back.

1 Can your must-have people actually get there?

Passports, mobility, budgets, babies. If someone you can't imagine the day without can't travel, that answer matters more than any venue. *Our take: make this list of names first — it decides more than you think.*

2 Will you be okay if not everyone can come?

Plan on it: when a wedding means a flight and a hotel, some invited guests — often 1 in 4 — will say no. The upside is real, though: **the ones who come are the ones who truly want to be there.** *Our 44 were the exact right 44.*

3 Adults-only, or kids welcome?

Destination weddings make adults-only feel natural — travel, late nights, yacht days. But it can also decide who comes (see question 1). *Our take: decide this before invitations, announce it gently and early, and never make exceptions you can't defend at dinner.*

4 Is your date flexible?

Best months: late May, June, November. Avoid August–October (hurricane season). And check which days have **direct flights from your city** before you lock anything — from ours, you couldn't fly nonstop Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

5 Who's paying for what — and do your guests know?

You pay for the wedding; guests pay travel and rooms. Being clear early (and choosing a range of room options) is the kindest thing you can do. *Our guests even chipped in ~\$150 each for the yacht day — people want to show up for you.*

6 Can you plan from a distance?

You will need a local planner — that's not optional in Cabo. If handing logistics to a pro sounds like relief, you're fine. If you need to touch everything yourself, budget extra trips.

7 Are you okay marrying legally at home first?

Here's the secret nobody explains: most US couples do the legal paperwork at home, then have their real-feeling ceremony in Cabo. It's simpler, cheaper, and your Cabo day loses nothing. *My husband's childhood best friend officiated ours.*

8 Does your budget have breathing room?

Not "can you afford the quote" — can you afford the quote **plus roughly a third more?** (Page 4 explains.) If the answer is only-just, shrink the guest list before you shrink the experience.

9 Do you have enough runway?

Cabo's best venues and vendors book far ahead. There's a full timeline on page 5 — the short version: 12+ months is comfortable, under 8 means compromises.

10 When you picture it... where are you standing?

Close your eyes. Hometown ballroom, or golden hour over the Pacific? *You already know. The rest of this guide just makes sure you say yes with your eyes open.*

THE PART THE BROCHURES SKIP

THE MONEY TRUTH, GENTLY

You don't need a full budget yet — you need three honest facts, so the number in your head is a real one.

1 A destination wedding is not automatically cheaper.

Smaller guest list, yes — but resort pricing, imported vendors, and a weekend of events add back what the headcount saves. Plan for “different,” not “less.”

2 Nearly every quote grows about a third before you sign.

In Cabo, quotes usually gain 16% VAT plus around 18% service and gratuity — and not every vendor prints that on page one. This was the single biggest surprise of our planning:

The food & beverage quote we were shown	\$32,000
+ 16% VAT	\$5,120
+ ~18% service & gratuity	\$7,900
What we actually paid	≈ \$45,000

3 Whatever number is in your head — hold it loosely.

We walked in asking, “*can we do this for \$45K?*” The real total ended up more than double — mostly taxes, fees, and “one more thing” costs, not extravagance. Keep a 10–15% cushion from day one, and budget from **after-fee** numbers, never the quote.



Our exact total — every line, all 44 guests, the payment playbook, and the vendors we'd book again — lives inside **The Bride Binder (\$27)** at marriedincabo.com. When you're ready, it's all there.

THE QUESTION EVERYONE ASKS NEXT

HOW FAR IN ADVANCE?

Here's the honest answer: for a Cabo wedding you really want to be booking **12–16 months out** — the best venues and vendors go fast, especially for the sweet-spot months (late May, June, November).

12–16 months

WHERE YOU WANT TO BE · FULL
CHOICE OF EVERYTHING

9–12 months

VERY DOABLE · MOVE FAST ON THE
BIG BOOKINGS

under 8 months

POSSIBLE · EXPECT COMPROMISES
ON DATES & VENDORS

BOOK THESE FIRST — THEY SELL OUT FASTEST

1 · YOUR PLANNER

Before anything else. A local planner isn't optional in Cabo — and the good ones only take so many weddings a year. Your planner then helps you win the rest of this list.

2 · YOUR VENUE

The date-setter. Prime golden-hour Saturdays in the good months are the first thing gone. Venue + date lock together — check your city's direct-flight days before you sign.

3 · PHOTO & VIDEO

The best ones book a year out. There's only one of the photographer you fell in love with, and she can only be at one wedding that day.

4 · DJ & LIVE MUSIC

The quiet sell-out. Cabo's top DJs and musicians are shared by every wedding, resort party, and event in town — they disappear faster than anyone expects.

5 · HAIR & MAKEUP

One team, one morning. A great HMU team doing you plus your bridesmaids is a full-day booking — the beloved teams calendar out months ahead.



The **full month-by-month schedule** — every contract to sign, decision to make, and deadline to hit — lives inside **The Bride Binder (\$27)**. Like: start dress shopping **10+ months out** (custom gowns need time to arrive plus 3–4 alteration sessions) · don't let your groom wait on the tux — it's not as quick as it sounds · and if skincare or cosmetic treatments are part of your plan, that timeline starts **12 months out**. It's all mapped for you at marriedincabo.com.

still picturing golden hour? then it's time.

You now know more than we did when we booked. When you're ready for the next layer — our real budget line by line (yes, the actual total 🗝️), the legal steps, the payment playbook, and the little black book of vendors we'd rebook tomorrow — that's **The Bride Binder (\$27)**.

And the chat on our site is really me — trained on everything I learned.
Come ask your what-ifs.

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with love, Crystal · xoxo

Our real experience as one couple — not legal, tax, or financial advice. Marriage requirements, customs rules, taxes, and pricing change; confirm current specifics with licensed professionals and the proper authorities before booking or traveling. © Married in Cabo.