

WEDDING COSTS IN BARBADOS

Estimates on vendors &
venue costs for weddings
in Barbados

2019-2020



About Me



My name is Leigh, and I own Events by Leigh- a wedding planning and design company in Barbados. The company provides design & décor services, full or partial event planning, elopements and month of coordination.

Between 2016 -2019, we have executed 30+ full service weddings within the USD\$10,000-\$30,000 range.

I've been trained by the University of the West Indies; The Wedding Planners Institute of Canada (WPICC) and the amazing Preston Bailey. I've written this e-book to help interested persons gauge the costs of weddings & events here in Barbados, as the averages done for other countries such as the US and UK do not quite apply.

I hope this helps!

XOXO,
Leigh



Background Information

There are two numbers you need to have in mind when creating your wedding budget. The guest count & the amount of budget you have for the wedding.

My average full service client spends between USD\$15,000 and USD\$30,000 on weddings that have between 60 and 125 guests. I generally cater to midrange brides but I also work with both smaller budgets and higher-end budgets from time to time!

Basically, I'd categorize the budgets as follows:

- 1) DIY- Under USD\$10,000
- 2) Budget- USD\$10,000 -USD\$15,000
- 3) Mid-range- USD\$15,000-\$20,000
- 4) High-range- USD\$20,000 USD+

*Based on 100 guests or less. Note this guide is not based on "luxury weddings" as I have more experience planning within the above parameters.

Venue Rentals

Barbados has an amazing variety of venues. From hotels, outdoor locations, plantation homes, restaurants, beautiful villas, hotel event spaces, gardens and of course, beaches.

Hotels and restaurants tend to cost the most in terms of food and beverage, but some do not have venue rental fees attached, others do. However, some of the extra costs can be offset because they come with tables, basic linens, chairs, service equipment and staff. Some plantation homes allow you to rent the grounds to use as a wedding venue for a flat fee, but you have to rent everything. Some villas allow guests with a minimum stay of 3-7 nights, and charge an additional night's rate for the event fee; and many have strict rules regarding guest count.

Price Ranges of hotel venue rental rates:

USD\$500 - \$1500

Some higher-range restaurants require minimum buyouts:

USD\$25,000-\$40,000+

Gardens/Plantation Houses/Other types of venues

USD\$800 - \$3500+

Private Villas:

USD\$3000- \$21,000+

Beaches- All beaches in Barbados are public, even if they do not have direct public access via land. To use any public parks or beaches, you need to contact the National Conservation Council for permission & rates.

They start from around USD\$35.00

Food & Beverage

Food and Beverage is the second large expense and usually takes up the bulk of the wedding budget.

There are several considerations to be made when you are considering your options. For the ranges below the caterer will supply all required staff (set up, clean up, service); cutlery and crockery.

The menu contains 2-3 canapes (for cocktail hour); and traditional items (chicken, fish, 3 starches, 2 salads, 2 desserts)

Hotels & Restaurants often also charge Service Charge (10%) and VAT (17.5%).

Price ranges (per person) for Buffet styled menus:

Independent caterers: USD\$35 - \$175

Hotels: USD\$60-\$125

Restaurants: USD\$50- \$150

Bar Services can be done according to your budget and vary widely.

However, here is an average budget for a standard bar with house rum, vodka, beer, wine and mixers. They include bar staff, ice, equipment and drinks:

Average costs:

USD\$30- \$60 per person.

High end bar services:

USD\$150+ per person

In Hotels and restaurants, the bar packages often also have time restrictions and additional rates per guest, per hour outside of the packages.

Wedding Cake

Wedding cake is a must for many couples. The prices vary widely based on many factors:

Skill level of cake designer

Flavor chosen (whether or not it contains alcohol or other premium ingredients)

Labour intensity of design (e.g. ruffles, sugar flowers)

Size of cake

Below are price ranges I've encountered for a 3 tier (6",8",10") wedding cake, based on standard flavor (e.g. vanilla).

Naked or semi-naked cake- USD\$200-400

Plain fondant with inedible decorations like ribbon or fresh flowers:
USD\$450- \$600

Fondant with sugar work: USD\$600+

Wedding Gowns

Wedding gowns are another expense that can vary quite widely. The amount you should budget for your wedding dress is significantly impacted by your personal style, budget and priority.

Below are some starting prices for different options:

"Bargain" from China/online

USD\$99+

Store bought from Big Chain (e.g. David's Bridal)

USD\$300 +

Store bought from Boutique

USD\$1000+

Custom made by Local seamstress/Tailor (not designer)

USD\$600+

Semi custom made (designer but made by factory)

USD\$1800+

True custom design (designer made and produced)

USD\$5000+

Photography & Video

The cost of photography may result in "sticker shock" for many persons. Wedding photography is a niche market for many vendors and thus the prices, which not only cover the work done on the day, but processing of the images obtained afterwards.

The length of time needed on the day and the expected number of photos delivered after the day, skill level and popularity of the photographers impact their pricing.

The range for a 6 hour package are below:

USD\$900- \$2500

Likewise, video packages:

USD\$900- \$1500

Entertainment

Entertainment costs would be those for DJ, MC, Bands, soloists, musicians and other performers you may hire for your wedding.

The DJ chosen is very important to the guest experience. Some DJs do not have their own equipment and thus have to outsource what is required, based on this alone, their prices fluctuate. Others supply lighting with their packages which can increase their prices.

Here are some sample prices that include music equipment:

DJ

USD\$350- \$1500+ (entire duration of event)

Live Band

USD\$750- \$1800 (2 30min sets)

Soloist (With recorded tracks)

USD\$250 per set

Musician (Violinist, Steelpan Player, Saxophonist)

USD\$175 per hour

Florals

The price of imported blooms in Barbados is significantly higher than in the US, due to many factors including the location of the island. All blooms tend to be shipped through Miami, bought at a price that includes shipping and mark-ups from wholesalers. Thus, by the time it gets to the florist, the price point of their raw material alone is higher.

The ranges a bride can expect to spend are as follows:

Bridal Bouquet- USD\$125- \$250

Small Bouquets (Bridesmaids)- USD\$35- \$75

Boutonnieres- USD\$7.50- \$20

Pieces for Arch- USD\$50 per foot

Small centerpiece arrangements- USD\$35- \$100

Large Centerpiece/Pedestal arrangements- USD\$150-\$450

Rentals & Decor

Unfortunately, there are few choices on island for rentals as compared to larger locations. Most suppliers have similar items for rent. Here are some sample prices for items frequently rented.

Tent, White, 40x40, with tent liner- USD\$1500

Table, 60" round or 72" long- USD\$12.50

Chairs, white folding- USD\$2

Chairs, chivari/ chameleon- USD\$6

Chairs, Rustic Style- USD\$4

Table cloths, floor length- USD\$10

Napkins- USD\$2

Dancefloor, decking- USD\$300

Decor price ranges vary significantly from vendor to vendor. They include delivery, installations, rentals and custom pieces.

The minimum a client can expect to pay is USD\$2000.00, but it may be less if some items are supplied/not required.

Other costs

Here are some other starting prices for misc. services often booked by clients. These are the lowest prices you should expect to pay.

Make Up- USD\$75

Hair Stylist- USD\$125

Photo booth- USD\$350

Limo Service- USD\$450

Other luxury Car Service- USD\$150

Guest Shuttles- USD\$10 (per guest)

Invitations- USD\$4 each

Other stationery/ Signage- USD\$150 (welcome sign, table numbers, menu cards, escort cards etc.)

Professional Wedding Planner- USD\$1500

Professional Month of Coordinator- USD\$750

Disclaimer

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