

THE WEDDING VENUE GUIDE TO THE

Emerald Coast

COURTESY OF *SunQuest*
BEACH WEDDINGS



Explore

DESTIN, FL WEDDING VENUES

You're engaged and dreaming of a wedding on the Emerald Coast! Whether you celebrate in Fort Walton Beach, Destin, Miramar Beach, or along 30A, the Emerald Coast is home to the most beautiful event venues in the country. We hope that you enjoy SunQuest Beach Weddings' complimentary guide to the most sought after venues.

Need more help choosing a venue? We're here for you! Our Venue Scouting service allows us to do the legwork for you, presenting you with the best possible venue options for your event.

Work alongside our team of event experts for every aspect of your event. Ask us about our full-service wedding packages!

FULL-SERVICE *wedding packages*

PLANNING & COORDINATION

EVENT DESIGN

CATERING

FLORAL DESIGN

VENUE SCOUTING

EVENT LOGISTICS

BEACH BONFIRES

REHEARSAL DINNERS

SunQuest
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CLICK HERE TO
VIEW WEDDING PACKAGES

WELCOME TO THE EMERALD COAST...

forever begins here!

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HOW TO USE THIS *Venue Guide*

Use this complimentary guide for the inside scoop to the Emerald Coast's most sought after event venues. This is a great launch point as you begin to research and ultimately select the best venue for your event.

SunQuest Beach Weddings' team has compiled our favorite venues from across the Emerald Coast. All of these venues are perfectly paired with a full-service wedding package from SunQuest to include wedding planning & design, event coordination, catering, decor, and more. For more information about full-service wedding packages, visit SunQuestBeachWeddings.com.

Our team has also included countless resources for you in this guide, such as questions to ask venue managers, advice on what to look for during your site tour, and how to book the best wedding vendors in the area.

Does researching event venues have you overwhelmed? Let our team do the legwork for you. Our Venue Scouting service matches you and your vision to up to 5 venues on the Emerald Coast. We'll present you with your best possible options to match your vision, needs, and budget. Plus, you'll also place a soft hold on your date with the SunQuest Beach Weddings team. For more information about our Venue Scouting service, continue to page 7 of this guide.

Are you ready to find the perfect setting for your happily ever after? Have fun and happy venue searching!

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING AN EVENT VENUE

Keep these factors in mind when searching for your event venue...

GUEST COUNT

How many guests can the venue accommodate? Be sure to ask if that capacity number is seated or standing.

VENUE CAPABILITY

Can the venue accommodate both ceremony and reception? Is there a rain back-up plan? Is the space wheelchair accessible? How many restrooms are available? Are tents included if needed? Is table and chair set-up included? Is there a catering kitchen?

VENUE RESTRICTIONS

Are sparkler exits allowed on site? Can you hang decor on the walls? Are open flames allowed? Are there noise ordinances? What is required to rent from the venue? Can the venue serve liquor? Are additional event permits required?

PRICE FLEXIBILITY

Are Sundays more cost efficient than Saturdays? Summer dates vs. winter dates? Is there an increase in price if more guests RSVP than originally anticipated? Holiday pricing?

PREFERRED VENDORS

Are you free to hire any vendor of your choice? Does the venue have a list of vendors that you must choose from? What insurance does a vendor need to be permitted at the event?

INCLUDED AMENITIES & AVAILABLE UPGRADES

What is included in the venue site fee? Tables and chairs? Linens? Catering? Bar? Is set-up and break-down included? Is a day of coordinator available/required?



QUESTIONS TO ASK THE VENUE MANAGER

You're ready to take a tour! Be sure to ask these questions while visiting (either in person or digitally!)

PRE-EVENT SERVICES

- Does the venue have a space for the bridal party to get ready? Is it best to arrive with some prep already done? Can we enjoy pre-ceremony snacks and drinks in this space?
- Is any level of wedding planning included in the venue fee?
- Is event set-up and break-down included? How much time is allowed for set-up and break-down of the event? Are we able to send a floorplan to the venue for set-up? Who is responsible for this?

CEREMONY SPACE

- Where is the ceremony space? Are any ceremony details (arbor, seating, music) included?
- Is there a rain back up plan?
- Are restrooms available nearby for guests?
- Is the ceremony space wheelchair accessible?
- How should guests travel from ceremony to reception?
- Are additional event permits required?

RECEPTION

- How many guests can the reception space accommodate? Seated? Standing?
- Is there a rain back up plan? Are tents included in the site fee if needed?
- What is included in the site fee? Tables, chairs, linens, staff, china, glassware?
- How many restrooms are available to guests? Where are they located?
- Is the space wheelchair accessible?
- Is there a noise ordinance that we should be aware of? What is the latest that the event can end?
- Is there a catering kitchen onsite? Is there a specific caterer that we must use?
- Is there a cake cutting fee?
- Is day of coordination included in the site fee? Is a coordinator required by the venue?
- How early can we access the space for set-up? How long do we have access to the space?
- Do you have a list of preferred vendors? Do we have to book vendors exclusively from this list?
- Do you allow sparkler exits? Candles/confetti/fireworks/animals/lawn games/food trucks?
- Are we allowed to bring in our own decor? Can we use glass onsite?
- Are there nearby accommodations for guests from out of town?
- Can the venue provide beer, wine, and liquor? Is a bartender required?
- Is service staff included?
- Are linens included? If not, what size linens work best for any provided tables?
- Which chairs are included in the base package? Are upgrades available?
- Do my chosen vendors need to provide proof of insurance prior to the event?

OTHER

- What deposit is required to secure the space for my event?
- What is the tax and service charge?
- Is security included/required?

VENUE SCOUTING

WHAT IS IT AND WHY DO I NEED IT?

Venue Scouting is often an additional service offered by wedding planners and full-service event vendors. Especially helpful for couples planning their event from a distance, venue scouting relieves couples from the time and stress of researching event venues.

It all starts with a consultation call to review the couple's wants and needs. Do you imagine an intimate celebration or a wild and fun affair? Should the space be able to accommodate a wheelchair? Is a sparkler exit a non-negotiable must have? After an in-depth consultation, our team then reaches out to prospective venues for all of the details that a couple may need while making their decision. This information includes the price for the desired date(s), amenities included, preferred vendor requirements, permit requirements, hidden costs, and more. Wedding Planners also have more negotiating power with venues, as they often connect couples with the venue.

We'll present you with up to 5 venues with all of the applicable information you need to make an informed decision. We'll also coordinate tours (in person or digital) and any further appointments needed while you review the venue options. Ready to book? A \$200 retainer is set aside to apply to a full-service wedding planning package of your choice with SunQuest Beach Weddings.

Venue Scouting

No Strings Attached Soft Date Hold
Phone Consultation to Review Vision, Needs, & Budget
Presentation of up to 5 Venues to include Pricing, Photos, Logistics, & Information
Coordination of Venue Tours and Appointments
Coordinate Proposals & Booking Venue of Choice
\$200 Applied to Full-Service Package of Choice upon Booking

\$400



WEDDING PLANNERS VS. VENUE MANAGERS

Do you need to hire a wedding planner when the venue manager will be there on event day? The venue manager works with the venue everyday, so they know what works best within the space, right? When the venue manager offers a Day of Coordination service, why hire a wedding planner? We're breaking down the difference between wedding planners and venue managers, and how they'll impact your big day.

WEDDING PLANNER

- Usually an additional cost and should be budgeted for in initial planning stages.
- Hired by YOU. Most likely has your best interest in mind and wants to bring your vision to life.
- Included in both ceremony and reception planning and execution.
- Manages your other hired vendors, leads and manages event design and coordination, usually logistics experts.
- Knowledgeable in unforeseeable problems should they arise. Dedicated problem solvers.
- Creates timelines, floorplans, and set-up/break-down plans.
- Will manage set-up and break-down on behalf of client.
- Oversees the overall timeline of the event. Connects the dots between the DJ, caterer, and other vendors. This includes toasts before dinner and the final grand exit.

VENUE MANAGER

- Often included in the venue site fee, may also be referred to as "Venue Coordinator" or "Day of Coordinator."
- Hired by the venue. While they want every couple to feel catered to, they are most committed to the venue.
- Not often included in the ceremony execution, present for reception only.
- Not responsible for your other vendors, event design, or logistics.
- Usually not equipped to handle unexpected obstacles not pertaining to the venue specifically.
- Can ensure that a provided floorplan is set-up before arrival. Does not usually provide timelines.
- Will provide set-up and break-down times for client. Often not included in the set-up or break-down of an event.
- Oversees the timeline in venue provided services, such as catering and bar if provided.

WATERFRONT VENUES

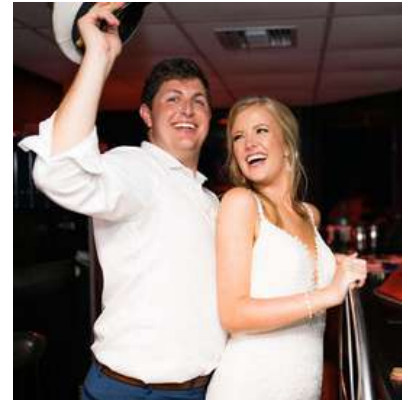
You're getting married on the Emerald Coast, so obviously you want to showcase the best that the area has to offer! Explore waterfront venues in a variety of price ranges.

SUNQUEST CRUISES - SOLARIS YACHT

Max Capacity: **149** Price Range: **\$2,300 - \$15,000+** Flexible Pricing: **YES**

Amenities: Ceremony, Reception, Wedding Planner, Bar Package, Catering, DJ, Florist, Tables, Chairs, Linens, China, Glassware, Flatware, Serving Staff

More Information: SunQuestCruises.com [Take a Virtual Tour Online](#)



WATERVUE AT BROOKSTREET

Max Capacity: **75**

Price Range: **\$3,100 - \$4,100**

Flexible Pricing: **NO**

Amenities: Ceremony, Reception, Tables, Chairs, Decorations Packages

More Information: Watervue-Events.com



HENDERSON BEACH STATE PARK

Max Capacity: 100

Price Range: **\$1,200 - \$2,175**

Flexible Pricing: **NO**

Amenities: Ceremony, Reception, Picnic Tables/Seating

More Information: FloridaStateParks.org



BEACH HOME RECEPTIONS

Max Capacity: **50**

Price Range: **Varies**

Flexible Pricing: **YES**

Amenities: Ceremony, Reception

More Information: [Five Star Properties](#)

[Beach Houses LLC](#)

[Ocean Reef](#)

[360 Blue](#)



GARDEN VENUES

After the sun and sand, you're ready to escape into the natural beauty that Northwest Florida has to offer. Browse garden venues along the Emerald Coast!

EDEN GARDENS STATE PARK

Max Capacity: **100** Price Range: **\$2,500 - \$3,500** Flexible Pricing: **NO**

Amenities: Ceremony, Reception

More Information: FriendsofEdenGardens.com



ELEGANCE ON THE BAYOU

Max Capacity: **75** Price Range: **\$575-2,775** Flexible Pricing: **YES**

Amenities: Ceremony, Reception, Tent

More Information: EleganceOnTheBayou.com



RESORT VENUES

Stay and celebrate all in one place! Explore the Emerald Coast's top resorts for weddings.

SUNDESTIN RESORT

Max Capacity: **100** Price Range: **\$500 - \$4,500** Flexible Pricing: **NO**

Amenities: Private Beach, Ballroom

More Information: [Sundestin Resort](#)



THE POINTE

Max Capacity: **75** Price Range: **\$3,500 - \$5,000** Flexible Pricing: **NO**

Amenities: Green Lawn, Rooftop Sanctuary

More Information: [The Pointe](#)



SEASCAPE RESORT

Max Capacity: **200** Price Range: **\$1,000 - \$3,000** Flexible Pricing: **NO**

Amenities: Variety of Venues, Private Beach, Bar Packages

More Information: [Seascape Resort](#)



RECEPTION HALLS

Explore popular reception halls along the Emerald Coast! Whether you're looking for a non-traditional space or a blank canvas, these reception halls are customizable to your event.

THE GULFARIUM LIVING SEA ROOM

Max Capacity: **100** Price Range: **\$950-\$1,200** Flexible Pricing: **YES**

Amenities: Reception, Tables & Chairs

More Information: Gulfarium.com

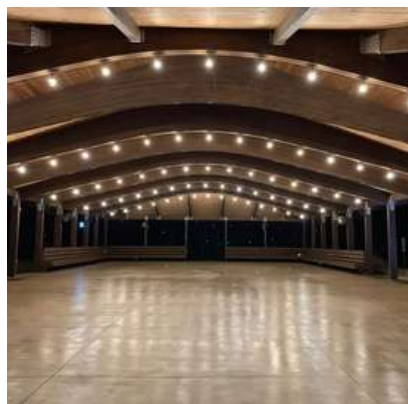


POINT WASHINGTON PRESERVE

Max Capacity: **350** Price Range: **\$1,750 - \$3,500** Flexible Pricing: **YES**

Amenities: Ceremony, Reception, Benches, Overnight Stay for Couple/Bridal Party

More Information: PointWashingtonPreserve.com





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