

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!

ALL-INCLUSIVE wedding packages

PLANNING & COORDINATION

EVENT DESIGN

CATERING

FLORAL DESIGN

VENUE SCOUTING

EVENT LOGISTICS

BEACH BONFIRES

REHEARSAL DINNERS

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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 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. Note that you do not need Venue Scouting service if you have already chosen and booked your venue(s!)

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 involved 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: **\$2,500 - \$18,000+** Flexible Pricing: **YES**

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

WHY WE LOVE IT:

The SOLARIS Yacht is an exclusive venue, unique to SunQuest Beach Weddings. Our planning services are included in any SOLARIS Yacht wedding package! With a variety of options from daytime to evening, semi-private to private, there is a package for everyone aboard the SOLARIS! Celebrate aboard the yacht after your beach ceremony or opt for a stunning Sky Deck ceremony atop the SOLARIS yacht!



THE VUE ON 30A

Max Capacity: **200** Price Range: **\$6,000 - \$30,000+** Flexible Pricing: **YES**

More Information: Vueon30a.net

WHY WE LOVE IT:

For those who want to celebrate with a beautiful meal just steps away from their beach ceremony, The Vue on 30A is for you! You have the option to reserve just the West Wing, the Main Terrace, or the entire club for your reception. The Vue on 30A requires that all food and beverage be provided by the venue and SunQuest Beach Weddings will customize your planning package to be tailored to what you need to celebrate at this gorgeous beachfront venue.



HENDERSON BEACH STATE PARK

Max Capacity: **80** Price Range: **\$1,800 - \$2,200+** Flexible Pricing: **NO**

More Information: FloridaStateParks.org

WHY WE LOVE IT:

Henderson Beach State Park is a budget-friendly option for your beach ceremony followed by a reception in their event pavilion. The state park serves as your beachfront backdrop for an evening of dancing under cafe lighting. Octagon shaped tables with picnic bench seating is included for up to 80 guests and SunQuest Beach Weddings can assist in providing additional rentals for your head table, catering tables, and more.



WATERVUE ON BROOKSTREET

Max Capacity: **75** Price Range: **\$3,600 - \$4,600+** Flexible Pricing: **YES**

More Information: WaterVue-Events.com

WHY WE LOVE IT:

This waterfront venue is tucked away right across the Destin bridge. Your beach ceremony is just down the street at John Beasley Park before retreating to this private venue. With a bridal suite onsite, WaterVue is yours for the day as you prepare for your Destin beach wedding. Bistro style chairs and tables are included, with the option to have SunQuest provide additional rentals.

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: **\$2,750** Flexible Pricing: **NO**

More Information: FriendsofEdenGardens.com

WHY WE LOVE IT:

For the couple looking for an Emerald Coast wedding, *not* on the beach, Eden Gardens State Park is the perfect ceremony and reception venue! Say "I Do!" underneath the wedding tree onsite, needing minimal decor to stand out. Afterwards, utilize their greenhouse event space for your reception, or rent an event tent to utilize the gardens as an outdoor venue.



ELEGANCE ON THE BAYOU

Max Capacity: **80** Price Range: **\$250 - \$2,175** Flexible Pricing: **YES**

More Information: EleganceOnTheBayou.com

WHY WE LOVE IT:

The white tent is a permanent fixture on the grounds, just steps away from the lawn space for your ceremony. This outdoor venue is located in Fort Walton Beach and offers a bayou front view for your ceremony. Elegance on the Bayou is a budget-friendly venue that serves as a blank canvas to be custom designed by our team.

RESORT VENUES

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



THE POINTE RESORT

Max Capacity: **75** Price Range: **\$3,500+** Flexible Pricing: **NO**

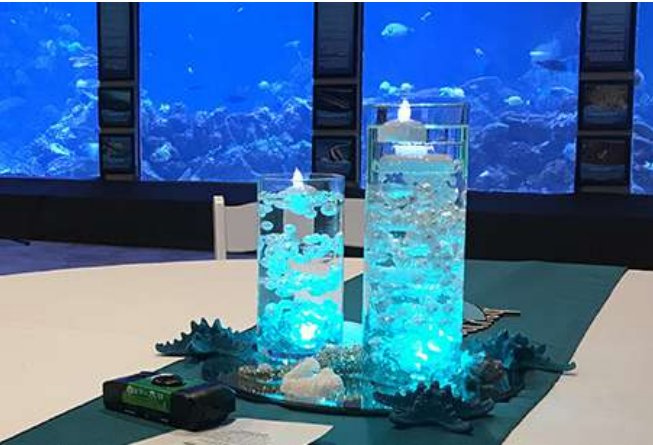
More Information: [The Pointe Venue Fees](http://ThePointeVenueFees)

WHY WE LOVE IT:

Stay, play, and celebrate all at one great resort! The Pointe opens for weddings between Labor Day and Memorial Day only. Choose between a beach ceremony or a ceremony on the lush lawn before retreating upstairs to the rooftop sanctuary for your ceremony. After the celebrations, guests can walk "home" and stay on property before waking up to a farewell brunch.

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: **\$1,050-\$1,300+** Flexible Pricing: **YES**

More Information: Gulfarium.com

WHY WE LOVE IT:

After your beach ceremony, venture back to The Gulfarium's Living Sea Room for a night of dancing and dining underwater surrounded by local aquatic species. For an added element to your event, add a dolphin or sea lion show! Your guests will never forget your cocktail hour as they get to privately enjoy the park.



POINT WASHINGTON PRESERVE

Max Capacity: **350** Price Range: **\$3,000-\$4,000+** Flexible Pricing: **YES**

More Information: PointWashingtonPreserve.com

WHY WE LOVE IT:

Tucked away in Santa Rosa Beach, Point Washington Preserve is perfect for the couple wanting to be surrounded by a more natural landscape. With a 2-bedroom suite onsite, your bridal party has plenty of room to get ready and your wedding night accommodation is included in the venue rental. This venue is truly a blank space, ready for our team to come in and make your vision come alive! Your guests can choose to dance the night away or relax by the bonfire out back!

PRIVATE BEACH HOMES

Your accommodation doubles as your event venue - a blank canvas ready to be turned into your dream ceremony & reception space!



PRIVATE BEACH HOME

Max Capacity: **50** Price Range: **VARIES** Flexible Pricing: **YES**

More Information: 360Blue.com FiveStarGulfRentals.com

WHY WE LOVE IT:

We highly recommend 360 Blue and Five Star Properties to find your perfect beach home! Our team will handle the rest - from rentals, lighting, permits, catering, decor, and more! Celebrate both ceremony and reception onsite and completely transform your beach home rental into an intimate wedding venue. Celebrating at a traditional venue? Your beach home also makes a great rehearsal dinner venue. Ask us about how our catering team can help you host your rehearsal dinner at your private beach home! No matter which home you choose, double-check that the home allows for events before booking. If you are dreaming of a bonfire reception, also check that the homeowner allows for bonfires at their property before booking.



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BEACH WEDDINGS

MYDESTINBEACHWEDDING.COM

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