

Lots to Love

✦ Pensacola Weddings ✦

Photography Courtesy of
Meg Baisden Photography
and Tony Thagard Photography



VisitPensacola.com • (800) 874-1234
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Photo by Meg Baisden



Congratulations on your engagement!

We're delighted you're considering Pensacola for your wedding and reception, and we invite you to stay for your honeymoon. Whether you celebrate your vows on a sugar-white sandy beach overlooking the emerald-green Gulf waters or at a historic site nestled beneath sprawling oak trees, you are assured a memorable wedding day in the Pensacola Bay Area.

Since Pensacola's settlement in 1559, flags of five nations have flown over the city. Our fascinating history has influenced the architecture, culture and cuisine of Pensacola, creating a truly romantic setting.

For a gorgeous seaside ceremony, there are numerous options along our 52 miles of shoreline. Weddings are welcome at our public beaches, such as Pensacola Beach or Perdido Key.

For sweeping bay views, you can't top Sanders Beach – Corinne Jones Community Center, Plaza de Luna or Big Lagoon State Park.

To make history on the big day, plan your ceremony around historic Seville Square at the Barkley House, Old Christ Church, Lee House Bed and Breakfast Inn or Heritage Hall. Or, put on airs at the National Naval Aviation Museum.

For the more adventurous, you can exchange vows underwater while scuba diving the USS *Oriskany*, the world's largest artificial reef.

Artistic brides will love the Pensacola Museum of Art and the Pensacola Cultural Center located downtown, or for the outdoorsy-types, Naval Live Oaks and numerous city parks offer a picturesque setting.



All the "To Dos"

You deserve a wedding day filled with many happy and stress-free memories. Use this checklist to guide you.

Six to 12 Months Prior

- Decide the date, time and budget.
- Choose a wedding style: traditional, formal, green, outdoor, etc.
- Reserve locations.
- Request your attendants' participation in the ceremony.
- Schedule engagement photography and call local newspaper for guidelines.
- Order your gown, shoes, attendant gowns, tuxedos, shoes and accessories.
- Meet officiate and arrange for wedding participation; pay deposit.
- Interview photographers.
- Select and order wedding bands.
- Meet and select caterer, florist and musicians.
- Compile guest list.
- Enroll with favorite bridal registries.
- Plan your honeymoon.

Three Months Prior

- Finalize guest list.
- Call hotels to reserve guest rooms.
- Design and print invitations, thank you notes and the ceremony program.
- Finalize honeymoon arrangements.
- Select cake baker.
- Verify time, date and arrangements with all parties.
- Arrange rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.
- Schedule dress fittings and appointments for hair and make-up.
- See your physician for an examination or blood test if required.
- Rent items for reception and ceremony.
- Buy gifts for wedding party, parents and spouse.
- Arrange bridesmaid luncheon.
- Plan transportation to and from ceremony and reception.

Two Months Prior

- Prepare and mail invitations.
- Schedule an appointment for the marriage license application.
- Schedule final dress fitting.
- Discuss the ceremony seating with fiancé and ushers. Select special friends to read prayers or passages during the ceremony.
- Schedule formal wedding portrait.
- Devise record-keeping method for gifts. Write thank-you notes promptly.
- Purchase accessories: garter, cake knife/server, guest book, aisle runner, engraved toasting glasses, etc.



One Month Prior

- Consult with caterer, florist, photographer and videographer.
- Make follow-up calls to vendors.
- Obtain your marriage license.
- Make arrangements for your gown and floral preservation.
- Decide on seating assignments for rehearsal dinner and reception, and design nameplates.
- Pick up wedding rings and include them in your insurance policy.
- Relax and enjoy the fun.

One Week Prior

- Verify specific shots with your photographer.
- Remind men to pick up formal wear and double check the fit.
- Create a wedding day schedule for the wedding party and family.
- Verify marriage license receipt.



Wedding Services

We can help you with your wedding planning needs. Our services include assisting with the selection of a host hotel, caterers, banquet facilities, local attractions and other suppliers, saving you precious time and money. In addition, we can provide, at no cost, relevant information on our city to help make your most important event a complete success. A list of suppliers is available upon request. Please contact Barbara Williams at (800) 874-1234 or bwilliams@VisitPensacola.com.

For the latest information on Pensacola/Pensacola Beach/Perdido Key, please sign up for our e-newsletter at www.VisitPensacola.com.

Legalities

The following are Florida requirements prior to the issuance of a marriage license:

- Sign and read the family law handbook, available at www.escambiaclerk.com or at the Escambia County Clerk of Court, M.C. Blanchard Building, 190 W. Government St.
- There is a three-day waiting period for Florida residents between the date you apply for the license and the date you take your vows. License is valid for 60 days.
- There is no waiting period for non-Florida residents.
- Bride and groom must present photo ID and social security numbers.
- The marriage application is \$93.50, payable to the Escambia County Clerk of the Court. Pre-marital counseling decreases the fee to \$61 and waives the waiting period.
- If you have previously been divorced, you must provide the date the divorce was finalized.
- To be married by the Clerk of the Court, the fee is \$30. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., but you must arrive prior to 4:30 p.m. (850) 595-4182.
- For regulations on Pensacola Beach weddings, please contact Barbara Williams at (800) 874-1234 or bwilliams@VisitPensacola.com.