

Guide to Planning Your Wedding at Caneel Bay

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS CULTURE

Although we live under the same American flag, our local culture is quite different and widely diverse. Due to our climate and laid back lifestyle, you may find that things are different here in the tropics. So kick back, slow down and you will find the relaxed island rhythm will work its magic.

It has always been customary etiquette to preface each meeting with "Good morning", "Good afternoon" and "Good evening." This is one of the enduring pleasantries of island life, so don't be shy in your greetings! The response will delight you. Join us in celebrating our difference both collectively and individually. By the end of your stay, you will be positively enriched by the diversity you have experienced.

If you are getting married surrounding a holiday, please call the U.S. Virgin Islands Superior Court in St. Thomas prior to making your travel arrangements to ensure that they will be open and operational during your dates. The U.S. Virgin Islands Territorial Court will be able to assist with the exact dates.

APPLICATION FOR MARRIAGE LICENSE

You are responsible for filing your application for marriage license *directly* to the U.S. Virgin Islands Superior Court, no more than 90 days and no later than eight (8) days, prior to your arrival. When you mail in the application, be sure to include contact information, so the court can reach you if any questions arise. A copy of the license can be found at www.caneelbay.com under "Weddings & Romance." If you need to contact the court please call them at 340.774.6680, extension 6434, and facsimile 340.777.8254.

The U.S. Virgin Islands government has an extensive holiday closure schedule. If you are getting married close to a local holiday such as the St. Thomas Carnival in late April/May or St. John Carnival in early July, please check with the court prior to making your travel arrangements to ensure opening dates.

You must personally appear before the clerk of the court, prior to your wedding ceremony, to obtain your marriage license. Most couples will need 4-5 certified copies of their license for purposes of name changes, insurance and other legal matters. When you sign your paperwork at the court, you can order additional copies of the marriage license to be sent to you 3-4 weeks after the ceremony. The cost is \$2.00 per copy.

CANEEL BAY - TRANSFERS, ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE INFORMATION

When you arrive at the St. Thomas airport, check in at the Caneel Bay airport lounge. They will assist you in arranging transportation to the courthouse then to the boat to Caneel Bay and St. John. When you arrive at the courthouse, please have government issued photo identification with you.

Transfers from St. Thomas Airport to Caneel Bay via our scheduled ferry are **\$110.00 per person**, round trip. The transfer charge includes taxi transfer from the airport to the waterfront and ferry to Caneel Bay's dock. This charge includes unlimited transfers back to St. Thomas on the regular scheduled resort ferry.

CHECK IN & CHECK OUT TIMES

Check-in time is after 3:00 pm and checkout time is 11:00 am.

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ON-PROPERTY TRANSPORTATION

Private shuttles are required to transport any non-resort guests to and from your ceremony and reception sites. Outside transfers to and from Caneel Bay start at **\$20 per person**. On property transfer fees start at **\$8 per person** excluding a room block with Caneel Bay.

SERVICES & AMENITIES

The aforementioned rates are also inclusive of the following:

- Welcome in-room island rum on arrival
- Unlimited use of sunfish sailboats and kayaks
- Unlimited windsurfing
- Unlimited use of snorkel gear
- Unlimited use of tennis facilities
- Nightly feature movie presentations
- Exercise facility

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Should there be rain or windy conditions, we will relocate the ceremony to an alternate location on the resort property. The “back-up” plan will be discussed with you further along during the planning stages of your wedding.

WEDDING CAKE

All wedding cakes are created by our on-property Pastry Chef. All requests for wedding cakes must be submitted 30 days in advance of your wedding. Wedding Cake costs are subject to re-pricing depending on the detail of the work involved.

FLORAL ORDERS / REQUESTS

We will make every effort to meet your wedding day floral requests. A few things to keep in mind - flower availability in the Caribbean can be unpredictable due to unforeseen weather or fluctuation in the overseas market of supply and demand. Caneel Bay is please to arrange a consultation with our preferred local florist, however please note that we are not responsible for the actions of independent contractors, such as airlines, floral wholesalers and ground transportation. We reserve the right to substitute any flower due to uncontrollable circumstances. We are not liable for any inconvenience caused to our clients by reason of such substitution. The following is a list of our most frequently used varieties. These are highly suggested varieties due to circumstances created in the Caribbean, including humidity, temperature, and long distance shipping:

- Tropical Flowers: Dendrobium orchids (white and purple), Gerbera daisy, Anthurium, Alstromeria, Bird of Paradise, Cymbidium orchid, Ginger (red and pink), Heliconia (orange, red)
- Traditional Flowers: Rose, miniature rose, stargazer lily, calla lily, casa blanca lily (white), delphinium, Stars of Bethlehem, Alstromeria, Chrysanthemum, Spider mums, Freesia

All final requests must be given to the Wedding Coordinator 30 days prior to your wedding date. Please be specific in your floral request taking into consideration your wedding party, parents and extended family. You are welcome to send photos of your preferences.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographers working with Caneel Bay will take images of your wedding ceremony and post ceremony pictures. Typically, we do most shots at the wedding location, including but not limited to combinations of the couple with their family, wedding party and friends. Once the various group photos are concluded we will take the newlyweds to the beach and/or Sugar Mill Ruins for photographs. If you would like the photographer to take pre-wedding photos, please let us know in advance so we can appropriately schedule the photographer's timing. All final requests must be given 30 days prior to arrival. On the day of the wedding, should you wish to extend the hours of the photographer, over time fees may apply.

VIDEOGRAPHY

All final requests must be given 30 days prior to arrival. The final video will be delivered to the resort within 3 days following the ceremony. If your video is not deliverable prior to your departure, it will be shipped to you. On the day of the wedding, should you wish to extend the hours of the Videographer, overtime fees may apply. If you have specific music you want in the background of your wedding DVD, you are welcome to bring it with you and provide to the Videographer.

MUSIC

Caneel Bay offers a wide variety of musicians to choose from. Whether you are looking for a classical, elegant event or true departure from the norm; you will have many options to choose from here in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Options are anywhere from classical guitar and violin at your ceremony all the way to a deejay or calypso-reggae band at your reception. The choice is yours. Your Caneel Bay Wedding Coordinator will assist you in choosing the appropriate music for your special event.

PRESSING/STEAMING WEDDING ATTIRE

Hand held steamers are available, should you need to refreshen up your wedding attire on the day of the wedding. Caneel Bay staff is not able to steam the garments for you.

M'OCEAN STUDIO

M'Ocean Studio, with its tranquil spectacular views, is Caneel Bay's wellness center. Choose from a range of activities which include Yoga, Pilates and Zumba. Enhance your stay with meaningful lasting experiences and a renewed sense of self.

MASSAGES

Enhance your stay at Caneel Bay with a massage; see what services are available at: www.caneelbay.com/wellness.html