

**MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SELECTING THE WEDDING DESTINATION AND HOTEL**



**COST** ▶ 89%



**WEATHER** ▶ 88%



**DINING** ▶ 84%



**TIME OF YEAR** ▶ 79%

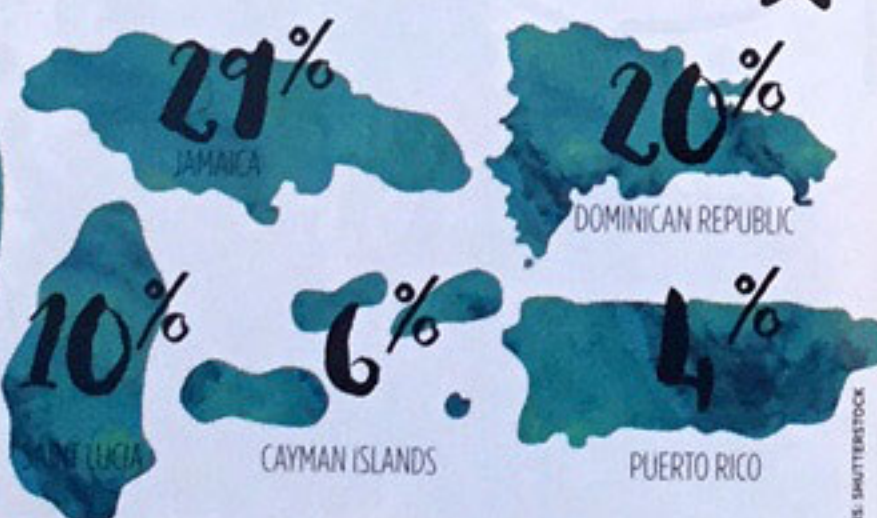


**RESORT AMENITIES** ▶ 73%



# Caribbean!

DWH READERS' TOP INTERNATIONAL WEDDING LOCATION. MOST POPULAR ISLAND — JAMAICA



*Best splurge? The room, says Laurie Keith of Romantic Planet Vacations. "I got married at The Beloved Hotel in Playa Mujeres, Mexico. Guests looked past the flowers, but the moments my spouse and I spent in our beachfront room will last a lifetime."*

**MONEY-SAVING TIPS**

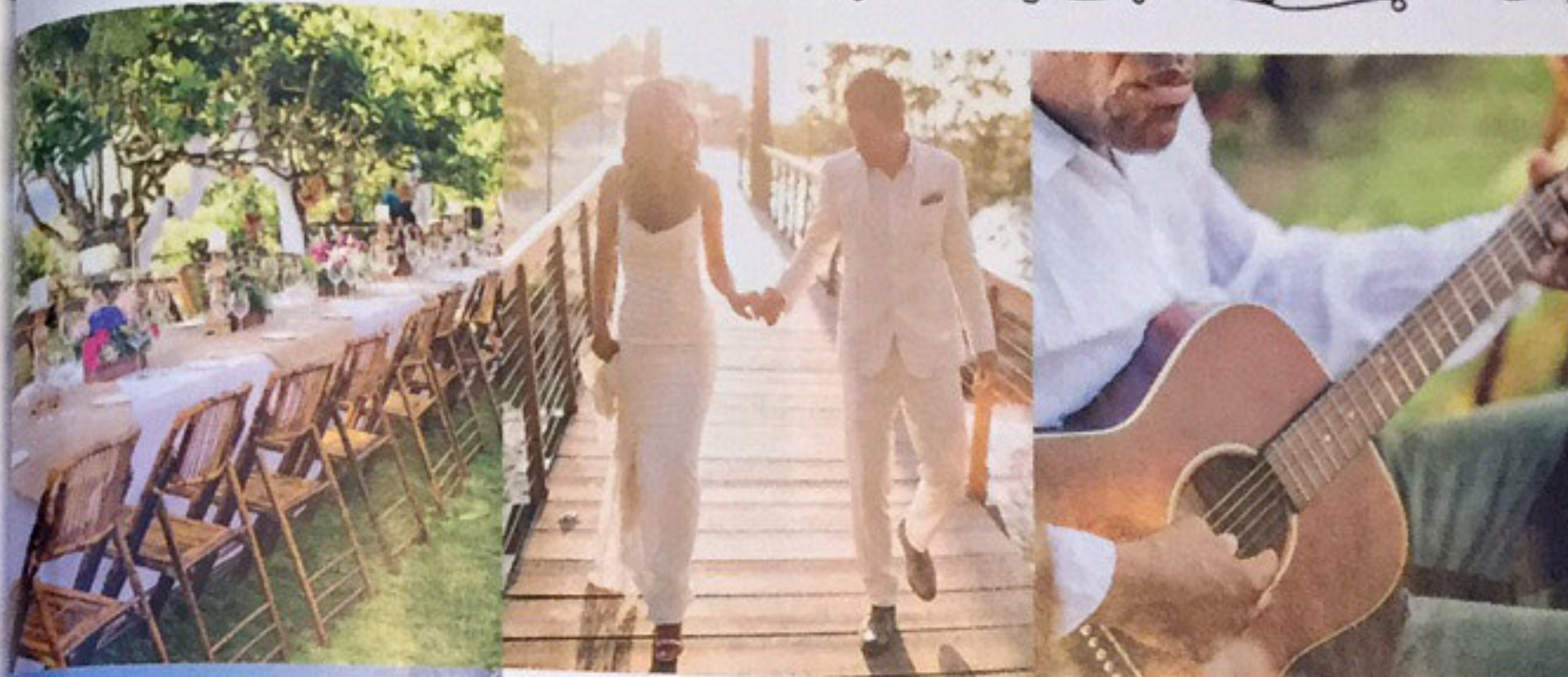
**1 TRAVEL DURING SHOULDER SEASON** "For tropical destinations like the Caribbean and Mexico, this includes April and May, October and November." — Keith

**2 USE A TRAVEL SPECIALIST** "They know how to negotiate special deals and perks. This is why they exist, so why not utilize them?" — Keith

**3 LOWER YOUR GUEST COUNT** "Take a good look at your list and pare it down to the people whom you have to have there." — Jamie Chang of Mango Muse Events

**4 CHOOSE AN AFFORDABLE DESTINATION** "For those on a tighter budget, destinations like the Dominican Republic and Mexico are wallet-friendly." — Keith

**5 BUY LOCAL** "Choose local favors to avoid the shipping costs of bringing those items. Plus, with a naturally beautiful location, you won't need to add much decor." — Chang



## Jamaica

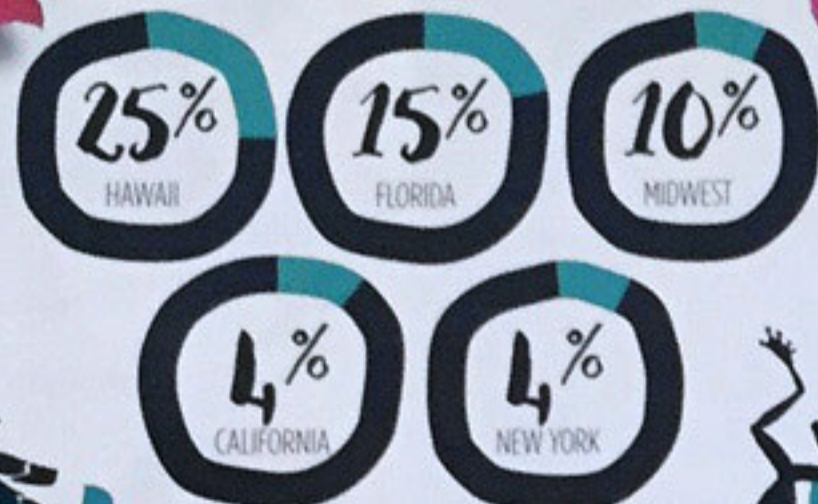
**BEST FOR WALLET WATCHERS**

**BEST WEDDING MONTHS OCT.-MAY**

Experts agree: English-speaking Jamaica is tops thanks to its affordable all-inclusives and direct flights — not to mention its legendary food and music scenes. "It's an absolutely beautiful island, with many secluded beach locations and a rich culture," says Bussen. Montego Bay, Jamaica's second-largest city, is a major wedding hub, with resort brands like Sandals, Iberostar, Secrets, Hilton and Hyatt. Negril is also popular for its sunset-facing position, but planner Tracy French of The French Connection Events favors Ocho Rios: "It offers a variety of great resorts, nightlife and things to do nearby." Regardless of your chosen locale, keep your event in line with jerk chicken, live reggae and waterfall climbing.



DWH READERS PLANNING TO MARRY IN THE UNITED STATES CHOSE ...



# Hawaii!

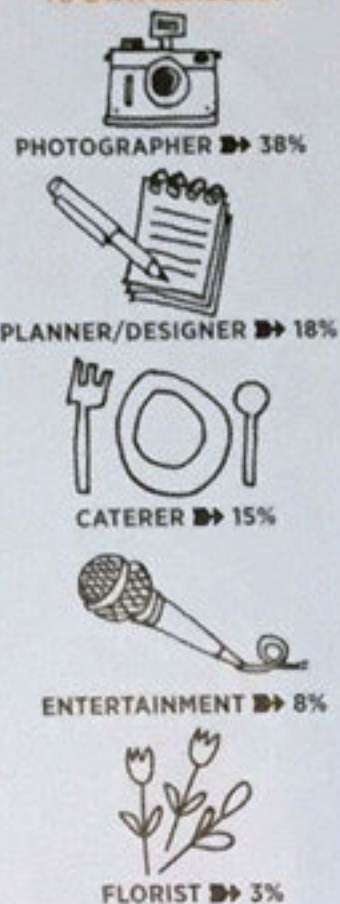
DWH READERS' NO. 1 U.S. WEDDING LOCATION

**BEST FOR NATURE LOVERS**  
**BEST WEDDING MONTHS APRIL-MAY, SEPT.-OCT.**

No passports, no currency exchanges, no language barriers, and yet an exotic South Pacific backdrop — Hawaii is your top domestic destination for a reason. “The Hawaiian Islands are famous for their aloha spirit, an attitude of friendly acceptance and way of life,” says photographer Evonne Wong of U Me Us Studios. Most couples head to the Aloha State for a beach bash, but Hawaii also offers “mountain ranges, tropical bamboo forests, rustic ‘upcountry’ ranches, historic cathedrals, traditional churches and private oceanfront estates.” Another plus: the abundance of direct flights — Hawaiian Airlines alone offers nonstop service from cities like Seattle, Portland, San Fran, LA, Phoenix, Vegas and NYC.



WHO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT VENDOR TO DWH READERS?



**FAMILY-FRIENDLY VS. ADULTS-ONLY**

When it comes to the age-old debate of to-kid or not-to-kid, you're split relatively even. For the adults-only camp, “it's always a bit of a tricky situation,” says Soloway, who recommends choosing an 18+ -only resort, spreading the news via word-of-mouth — and being prepared for certain guests to simply opt out of attending. “Providing child care is a great idea for adults-only affairs,” she adds, “although we strongly recommend it for all-ages affairs too. Your guests with younger children will be able to enjoy themselves and be present at your wedding, rather than chasing around their toddlers in a sweaty panic.”

- PLAYTIME**  
Keep the kiddos occupied during the reception to free the grown-ups for PG-13 fun.
- GO CLUBBING** “Pick a venue with a kids club that offers preplanned services and activities.” — Bussen
  - DIVIDE AND CONQUER** “Arrange a separate pizza party or movie night for the kids.” — Soloway
  - SEND REINFORCEMENTS** “Check with your venue or wedding planner for recommended baby-sitting services.” — Bussen
  - BAG IT!** “Give kids a favor package filled with activities, crayons and other age-appropriate items.” — Soloway
  - GET CREATIVE** “Have the kids work on a little art project for you.” — Chang

“The photographer is the vendor who spends the most time with the couple on location,” says Wong. “Knowing he or she can make the couple laugh and feel relaxed is priceless.” Choose one who is **self-sufficient, prompt and responsive**, says Sargent. “You don't want to have thoughts like, ‘Are they even at the airport yet?’”

### ISLAND GLOSSARY

- WHICH OF HAWAII'S FIVE MAIN ISLANDS IS RIGHT FOR YOU? JAMIE CHANG OF MANGO MUSE EVENTS BREAKS THEM DOWN.**
- OAHU** ➔ The most populated, touristy and “city like,” Oahu gives couples the most options when it comes to venues, vendors, activities and dining.
- MAUI** ➔ Maui is the most popular for weddings because it has a bit of the “city” feel of Oahu, but it's also what most couples picture when they think of Hawaii.
- KAUAI** ➔ Quieter and the most green, Kauai has a very lush look and is arguably the prettiest. It's home to Waimea Canyon, the “Grand Canyon of the Pacific.”
- HAWAII ISLAND** ➔ The Big Island, home of Volcanoes National Park, is for couples who never want to leave their resort or who like a small-town country vibe.
- LANAI** ➔ Remote Lanai is for those who want privacy, seclusion and exclusivity — there are only two full-scale resorts on the entire island (both Four Seasons).