

# BEACH *brides*

ONE HAPPY ISLAND | ARUBA



# One happy day

Anyone who's visited  
Aruba can tell you,  
it truly is a One  
happy island



## Top Reasons to Say "I Do" in Aruba:

- Stunning natural beauty
- Cooling Caribbean trade winds
- The warmest people in the world

You walk down an aisle made of pristine white sand surrounded by the crystal-clear waters of the Caribbean. You exchange vows bathed in the glow of a spectacular Aruban sunset and celebrate all night long at one of our top-rated resorts. The next morning, you wake up to your honeymoon in paradise, with nothing left to do but relax on the beach and make memories that will last a lifetime.

## Planning Your Wedding

Aruba is home to world-class planners and wedding professionals who can assist you with all the details of your big day. Our local wedding experts will help customize your dream wedding according to your desired style and budget. Opt for an independent

wedding planner or work with your resort's planner to handle everything—from hair and makeup to flowers, cake, and music.

## Getting Here

Aruba's weather is beautiful all year long. We're located outside the hurricane belt and have very little rainfall, so you're practically guaranteed to have perfect weather on your big day.

Our happy island is easy to reach with direct flights from many major cities in North America. Queen Beatrix International Airport (AUA) is just a few miles from most hotels. Once you're here, we have more than 30 top-rated hotels and resorts to suit every budget, with incredible restaurants, spas, pools, and amenities.

Find your flight at [aruba.com/flights](https://www.aruba.com/flights)

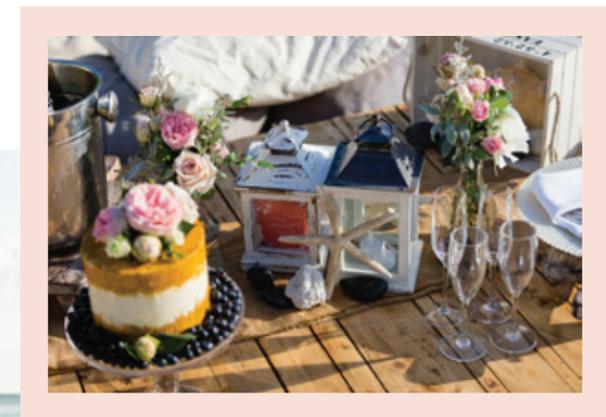
# Décor Inspirations

Aruba's breathtaking island landscapes provide gorgeous backdrops for your destination wedding. Whether your taste is on the less-is-more side of the aisle, choosing to let the setting speak for itself and using minimal flowers and décor, or you adore a bit of sparkle and glam, Aruba's florists and wedding/event planners can help the two of you create a look that uniquely represents your vision. Hundreds of spectacular destination weddings are celebrated on the island every year. Here are just a few to inspire your destination wedding on Aruba!

## Beach Bohemian

Photographed by Demian Gibbs Photography  
(Instagram:@demiangibbsphotography)

The on-trend bohemian style was made for Aruba's pristine, powder-soft beaches. This intimate reception for the bride and groom and their two witnesses was created with a simple piece of pallet board serving as the central anchor, surrounded by cozy piles of pillows. The understated natural color theme was embellished with unpretentious vases of pink and white flowers and rustic décor items.





## Trimmed in Gold

Photographed by Demian Gibbs Photography  
(Instagram:@demiangibbsphotography)

Gold (and silver) can be added to just about any other color theme for a touch of elegance and sophistication. Here, gold is paired with white for a clean, crisp look, with touches of gold sequins that sparkle by day in the sun and glow in the evening with the right lighting.



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## Shades of Blue

Photographed by Demian Gibbs Photography  
(Instagram:@demiangibbsphotography)

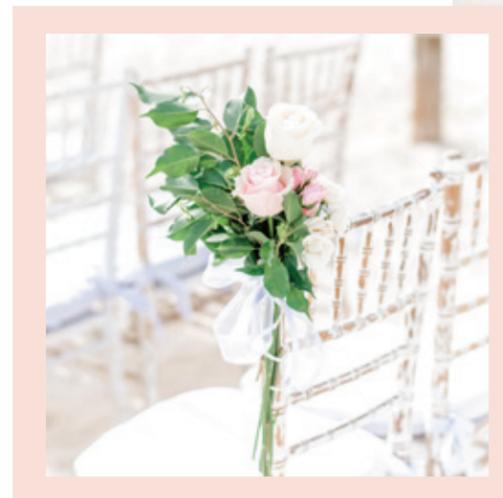
Aruba's coastline boasts a palette of blues, making this soothing color a popular choice for island weddings. Sheer turquoise draping frames the altar for the nuptials, while aqua table runners parallel the same color theme. White roses and lanterns accent the ceremony, and affordable centerpieces with beach sand and shells complement the look for the reception.



## Chic Vintage

Photographed by Pixit Photography  
(Instagram: @pixitphotography)

This couple wanted a vintage-themed wedding, using two vintage Volkswagen vans—one is a bar and the other a funky photo booth—to set the tone for the evening. Classic string lights and on-trend bulb signage added to the vintage vibe.



## Beachy Blush

Photographed by Deborah Ann Photography  
(Instagram: @deborahannphotography)

Pale shades of pink create a classic wedding palette and add simple sophistication to a beach wedding. Here, a weathered white paint effect is added to Chiavari chairs to complement the overall look.

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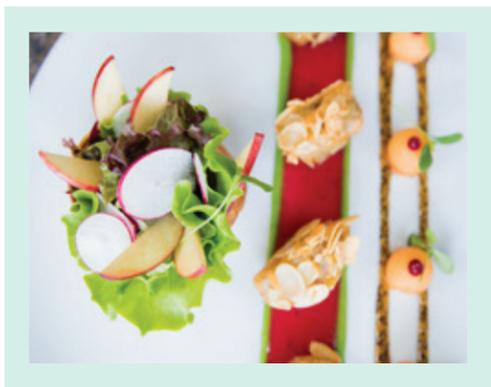


Yes, You Can Have a Vegan Reception in Aruba!

Planning a wedding reception menu that has variety and appeals to the majority of guests can present challenges, particularly if accommodating vegan diets is a priority. Here on Aruba, the vegan dining scene is growing every day, with many island restaurants adding plant-based dishes to menus.

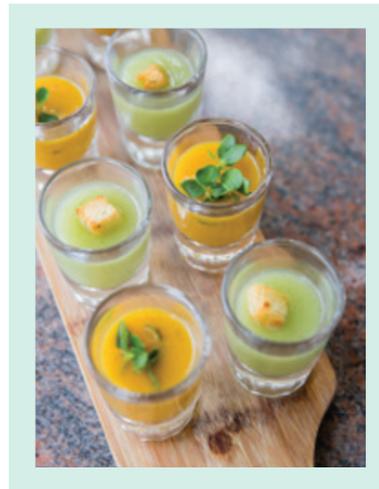
One of the first restaurants to explore gourmet plant-based cuisine is Ike's Bistro at Manchebo Beach Resort, offering vegan breakfast, lunch, and dinner options. The resort's prime location on the shores of Eagle Beach attracts many couples wishing to say their I do's on this pristine beach, and Ike's Bistro is making sure that vegans have creative and delicious plant-based options for receptions.

Chef Sandro shares a few of the newest dishes that will be popping up on wedding reception menus.



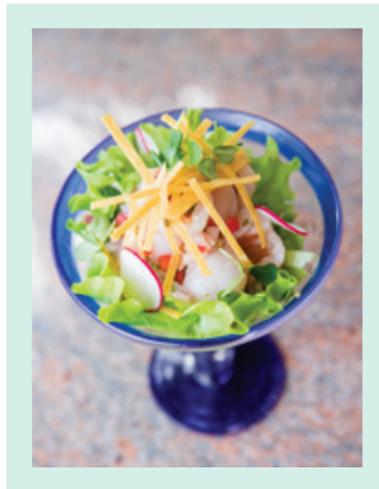
### Jackfruit Fritters

Crisp garden greens, fresh apple slices, and shaved radishes drizzled with agave poppy-seed dressing create a delicate nest for almond-breaded jackfruit fritters.



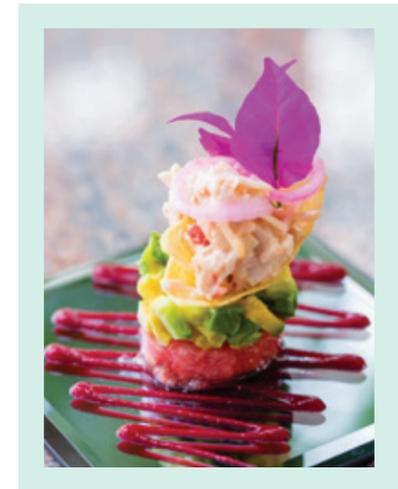
### Fresh Soup Shooters

Soup shooters are popping up on reception menus everywhere. Chef Sandro offers a colorful trio of plant-based shooters: carrot and ginger with a hint of lemon-grass; sweet potato and corn chowder; and green gazpacho with honeydew, cucumber, sea salt, and herbs from the garden of Ike's Bistro.



### Lychee Ceviche

A refreshing addition to an island reception is this vegan take on ceviche. The sweetness of lychee is matched with a fresh squeeze of lime juice. It's a perfect warm-weather dish.



### "Crab" Salad

Chef Sandro transforms pulled jackfruit into a vegan crab salad dolloped on a crisp tortilla chip and garnished with fresh watermelon, avocado, and sweet curry aioli.



### Trio of Vegan Sliders

Crispy quinoa patties, vegan grilled fish, and pulled jackfruit make up a trio of on-trend sliders that are perfect for a reception setting.

Manchebo continues to creatively expand the plant-based options for their guests, sourcing local fresh produce whenever possible. Menus can be crafted to suit varying dietary restrictions.

For more information, visit their website at [www.manchebo.com](http://www.manchebo.com)

TRENDING NOW

# The "Getting Ready" Party

One of the most exciting times during any wedding journey will likely be those hours leading up to the big event. While preparing for the walk down the aisle, couples are often surrounded by family and the bridal party, and it's a great time for reminiscing over memories while



sharing in the excitement of the start of a new chapter.

Brides often mark this special time with a little pre-party, celebrating over flutes of champagne while getting dressed or enjoying a bit of pampering at a spa. Matching robes or pajamas add that fun slumber-party feel to the trending tradition.

Even the boys are getting in on the action, sipping bourbon or local beer, and perhaps even enjoying a Cuban cigar before heading to the altar.

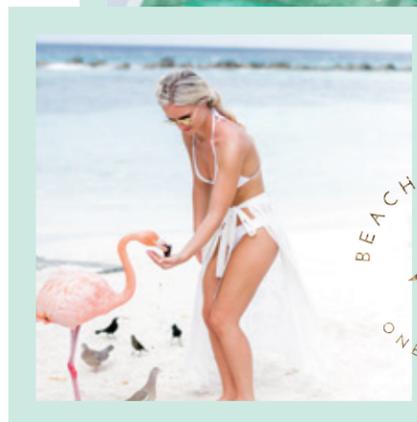
# Barefoot Elegance

on the Shores of Palm Beach

Deborah Ann Photography (Instagram: @deborahannphotography)

New Jersey couple Amelia and Brian knew from the start that they wanted a destination wedding. Having visited Aruba together several times, they knew that a wedding on the shores of this Caribbean island would be a perfect match for their nuptials. Amelia and Brian wanted a ceremony and reception that oozed romance, but also wanted to infuse personal touches. A soft canvas of blush pink, white, and gold set the tone for casually sophisticated barefoot elegance on the shores of Palm Beach at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino.

Although planning a long-distance wedding can be stressful, the couple worked closely with the wedding and events team at the Aruba Marriott. Amelia shared images of the various décor and flowers she had in mind with the Marriott team, which carefully chose the appropriate local vendors that could turn the couple's vision of their destination wedding into reality.



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## The Flowers

Local floral designer Shar's Flowers utilized a combination of several rose varieties in white and blush, as well as clusters of hydrangeas and white matthiolas, set off with ruscus for greenery. Snap dragons were added to the mix in the table centerpieces.

## The Décor

Letz Aruba provided the natural bamboo wedding arch draped in sheer white fabric and decorated with the chosen flower theme. White Chiavari chairs with a rustic, weathered look were set up for the ceremony seating by local event company The Perfect Team, who also added large white lanterns to the aisle area. The couple held the reception in the lushly landscaped garden area by Marriott's H2Oasis pool, continuing with the chic décor theme.

## The Food and Drink

Immediately after the ceremony, guests enjoyed a cocktail hour on the beach. Marriott's culinary team provided a poached jumbo shrimp cocktail display, as well as an international cheese montage with fresh fruit, breads, and crackers. Trendy noshes like lump crab meat shooters, lollipop lamb chops with mint pesto, Thai beef kebabs, and sautéed scallops and pancetta with solferino sauce were passed throughout the cocktail hour.

The garden reception was a plated dinner, opening with a salad of crisp romaine, grilled asparagus, and roasted tomato. The main course was roasted filet mignon and seared Caribbean lobster with a tarragon reduction and caramelized ginger lobster sauce, along with potato soufflé. Dessert was coconut and mango Charlotte with shaved chocolate and passion fruit coulis.

## Entertainment

The couple had a steelpan player for the ceremony, a solo singer for the cocktail hour, and a deejay for the reception.

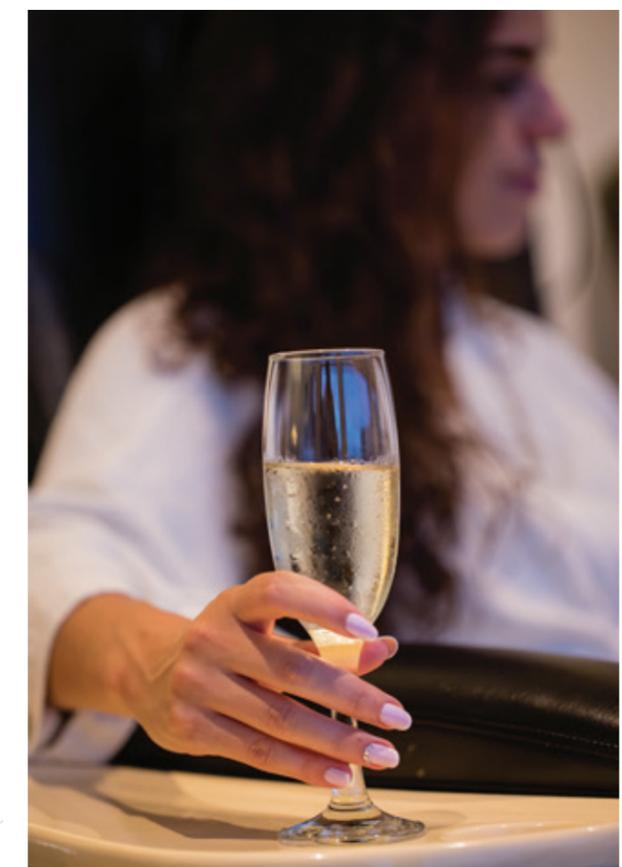
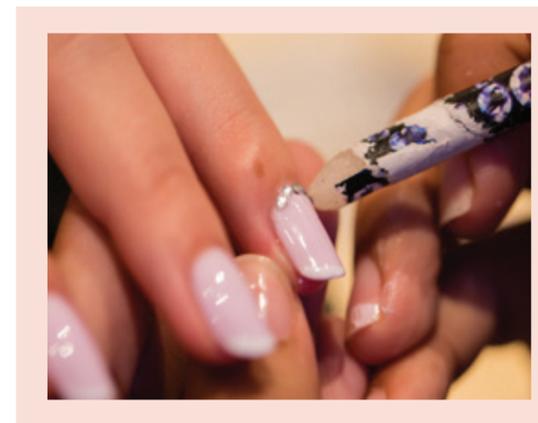
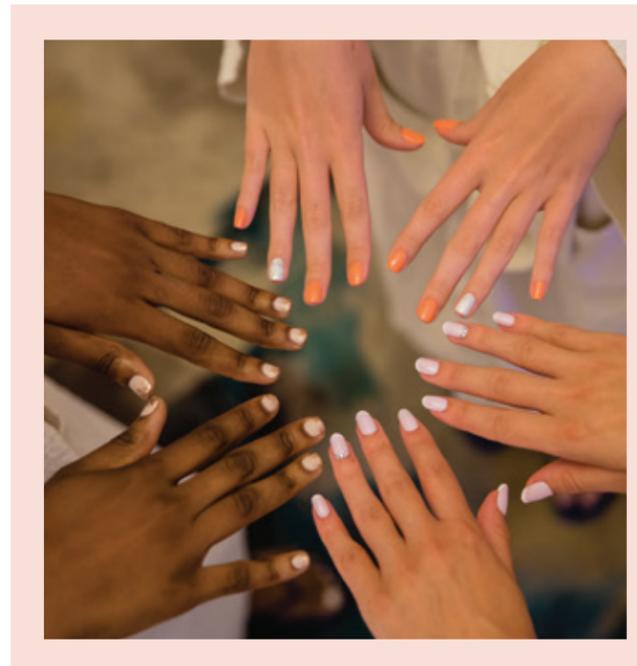
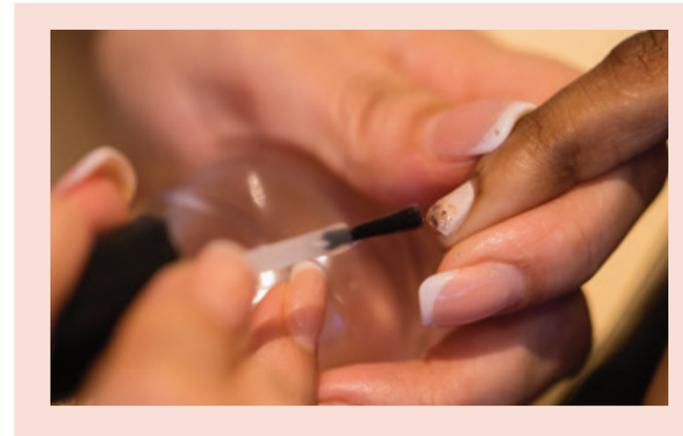
## Fun Details

- A shoe rack was set up in the ceremony area, allowing guests to slip their toes in the sand during the nuptials.
- In lieu of place cards, a chalkboard accented with fresh flowers detailed the seating plan for the plated dinner portion of the reception, while the couple had personalized gold wooden name tags at each guest's seat.
- Guests were treated to a sweet indulgence—a donut wall!

## Pre-Party Celebrations

Amelia and her female guests spent the day frolicking with the flamingos and enjoying some girl time and fun in the sun on Renaissance Island.





### A few things to keep in mind:

- Make your appointment in advance so that you are assured a day and time that fits into your schedule of wedding events.
- If you are considering custom nail art, send images to the salon/spa to make sure they can accommodate your vision.
- There are hundreds of shades of nail polish for every color. If you have a special color shade in mind for yourself and your bridal party that you have tried at home, bring it with you to assure you have the exact shade you want. Same goes for stones and appliques for nail art—bring them with you.

# Nailed It!

Local day spa Pure Indulgence, located at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort, is a popular spot for bridal parties. The luxe spa boasts scenic sea views enjoyed right from your mani/pedi chair! Owner Angie Wallace has put together a talented team of manicurists, and shared a few manicure ideas for brides planning a destination wedding on Aruba. For more information on Pure Indulgence, visit the website at <http://www.purespaaruba.com>.

A beautiful set of nails can complete your perfect bridal look. Choosing your manicure—whether it's a classic French manicure, nail polish color that matches your wedding theme, or custom nail art with lots of bling—is an important detail to consider. Since fresh is best, it's advisable to have your nails done no more than two days prior to the big day. This usually means that brides having a destination wedding will likely need to find a local source for their wedding-day nails. Aruba's spas and salons are well-versed in all things bridal—from hair and makeup to manis and pedis.

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# One Happy Honeymoon

## Newlyweds save with Aruba's One happy honeymoon promotion!

In addition to a free night when you return for your first anniversary, happy couples will receive special treatment and great offers. Learn more in the "about" section of [beachbrides.com](http://beachbrides.com).

## What to bring for a wedding in Aruba

For brides and grooms, provide all of the following:

- Long-form birth certificates
- Negative statements of marriage
- Copy of passports or valid state-issued photo IDs
- Letter of intent for bride and groom
- Single status report
- Divorce decrees, if applicable
- Death certificates, if widowed

Requirements for witnesses:

- Two witnesses present at ceremony  
(Must be over the age of 18)
- Copy of birth certificate
- Either a copy of the passport photo page or a valid state-issued photo ID



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For more information, real wedding stories, detailed planning tips, and much more, visit our wedding blog [beachbrides.com](http://beachbrides.com).

