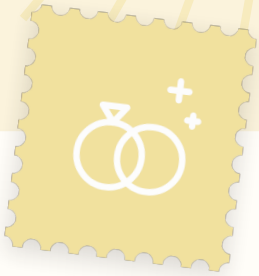
Mirjan
FILMS

VIDEOGRAPHER & FILMMAKER IN CORFU, GREECE



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The Corfu Wedding Planning Checklist

Twelve months to "I do", a printable checklist with notes

STORY — LIGHT — SEA

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This is a Corfu wedding planning checklist you can print, pin to the fridge and actually use. It runs from a year out to the weeks after the wedding, and it has the island's own quirks built in: a short and busy summer season, guests flying in to Corfu airport (CFU), July heat, afternoon breezes and a sunset that moves by more than an hour between spring and autumn.

I film weddings across Corfu, and most of the stress I see on the day comes from small things that could have been settled months earlier. Tick the boxes, write in the margins and use the note lines for names, numbers and decisions.

If your wedding is less than a year away, start at the section that matches your date and catch up on anything above it that is still open.



TIP

Corfu's wedding season is short and popular. For a date between June and September, book the venue and your key vendors as soon as you have a date, because the best Saturdays go first.

12 months or more before

THE BIG DECISIONS

- [ ] Agree the overall budget and who contributes what
- [ ] Choose a season, then two or three possible dates (a weekday can open up dates that are already taken on Saturdays)
- [ ] Decide on the ceremony: Greek Orthodox, civil, symbolic or another faith
- [ ] For an Orthodox ceremony, confirm with the parish that your date is possible before you book anything else (the church calendar has periods, such as Lent and 1–15 August, when weddings are not held)
- [ ] Write a first guest list with an A-list and a B-list
- [ ] Decide whether you want a wedding planner; a local planner can handle Greek paperwork, permits and vendors who prefer to work in Greek
- [ ] Agree on the feel of the day in a few words, so every later choice has something to be checked against

VENUE AND THE CORE TEAM

- [ ] Shortlist venues and visit them, or ask for a video call walking through the spaces
- [ ] Ask each venue about capacity, music end time and volume limits, the wet-weather option, parking, and whether ceremony and reception can happen in one place
- [ ] Book the venue
- [ ] Book the photographer and the videographer
- [ ] Book the planner, if you are using one
- [ ] Book the officiant or priest, or ask the municipality about dates for a civil ceremony

CORFU LOGISTICS

- [ ] Look up the approximate sunset time for your date and build the ceremony time around it
- [ ] Decide where most guests will stay and check the driving time to the venue at that hour; Corfu's roads are narrow and winding, so distances take longer than the map suggests
- [ ] Reserve a block of rooms or a few villas near the venue, especially for July and August
- [ ] Send save-the-dates with the date, the area of the island and a note that the airport is Corfu (CFU)

Notes

9 months before

GUESTS AND TRAVEL

- [ ] Set up a simple wedding website or shared document with travel information: flights, transfers, where to stay, what to wear
- [ ] Tell guests to book flights as soon as summer schedules are published; seasonal direct routes fill up and prices rise

- [ ] Add ferry information for guests coming through mainland Greece (Igoumenitsa is the main port across from Corfu)
- [ ] Remind Greek and international guests that mid-August, around the 15 August holiday, is the busiest time of the year for ferries, hotels and car hire
- [ ] Plan guest transport between hotels and the venue: coaches, minibuses or pre-booked taxis, and do not count on finding a taxi late at night in high season
- [ ] Ask the venue whether a full-size coach can reach it, or whether guests need smaller minibuses for the last stretch

VENDORS

- [ ] Book catering, if the venue does not provide it
- [ ] Book music for the ceremony and the party, and check the venue's music end time and volume rules
- [ ] Book the florist and decorator, and ask which flowers hold up in summer heat
- [ ] Book hair and make-up, and ask about a trial and long-lasting products for heat and humidity
- [ ] Start looking for outfits, with an eye on fabric weight for a hot day

PAPERWORK AND PERMISSIONS

- [ ] Ask the municipality, your planner or your embassy exactly which documents you need to marry in Greece and how long they take (foreign documents may need official translation and an apostille)
- [ ] If you would like photos or film at a monument or archaeological site, ask early about permission from the Ephorate of Antiquities
- [ ] If any vendor plans to fly a drone, make sure they follow EU and Greek civil aviation (HCAA) rules and that the venue allows it

Notes

6 months before

DESIGN AND PLAN B

- [ ] Agree the look: colours, flowers, tables and stationery
- [ ] Make a weather plan B with the venue: a tent, a covered terrace or an indoor room, plus who makes the call on the day and by what time
- [ ] Plan for heat: shade for the ceremony, cold water, fans or parasols, a sunscreen basket and a ceremony short enough for guests standing in the sun
- [ ] Plan for wind: weighted décor, no tall arrangements on exposed terraces, candles in hurricane glass, a hairstyle that copes with a breeze and a secure veil
- [ ] Plan the lighting for after dark: string lights, lanterns and enough light on the dance floor and the speeches
- [ ] For a remote venue, check the power supply for the band, the lighting and the kitchen
- [ ] Order the rings
- [ ] Order the invitations

FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHY

- [ ] Have a planning call with your videographer: style, key moments, the people who matter most, speeches
- [ ] Agree how vows and speeches will be recorded (a small microphone on the groom or officiant, a feed from the band or DJ desk)
- [ ] Decide whether you want a day-after shoot: an unhurried session somewhere special on the island, in your wedding clothes or something lighter
- [ ] Book your own accommodation close to where you will get ready

Notes

3 months before

- [ ] Send invitations; international guests need more notice than local ones
- [ ] Do the menu tasting and finalise the menu
- [ ] Order the cake and ask how it will survive an outdoor summer evening
- [ ] Have the hair and make-up trial, ideally in the same kind of light and heat
- [ ] Book transport for the two of you and the wedding party
- [ ] Choose ceremony music, readings and vows
- [ ] Plan the rest of the weekend: welcome drinks, a beach day, the day-after shoot
- [ ] Choose favours (Greek-style bomboniere if you like the tradition)
- [ ] Draft the day's timeline with your planner, photographer and videographer, working backwards from sunset
- [ ] Check that your documents are moving and book any appointments you need
- [ ] Put together welcome bags: water, sunscreen, a fan, a map and the timeline
- [ ] For a beach ceremony, remember that Greek beaches are public; expect passers-by and ask your planner what is needed to set up there

Notes

1 month before

- [ ] Chase the last replies; confirm dietary needs and the number of children
- [ ] Make the seating plan

- [ ] Send the final timeline to every vendor, with the phone number of a contact person on the day who is not you
- [ ] Give the photographer and videographer a list of must-have people and groups, plus one relative who knows everyone and can gather them
- [ ] Send the band or DJ your must-play and do-not-play lists, and the songs for the entrance, first dance and cake
- [ ] Final fitting; wear the shoes around the house and test them on gravel, grass and old stone steps
- [ ] Check arrival times of parents and key guests, and who collects them from the airport
- [ ] Prepare any payments due on the day in labelled envelopes and ask each vendor how they want to be paid
- [ ] Write vows and speeches and read them out loud at least once
- [ ] Confirm with the venue the time by which plan B must be decided
- [ ] For a church ceremony, ask about the dress code and keep a few light shawls for guests

Notes

The final week

- [ ] Watch the forecast from five days out and agree plan B with the venue at the time you set
- [ ] Reconfirm every vendor: arrival time, exact address, parking and contact person
- [ ] Send a map pin of the venue to vendors and guests; Corfu addresses can be vague and a pin saves a lot of phone calls
- [ ] Pack the emergency kit: sewing kit, safety pins, stain remover, plasters, pain relief, sunscreen, insect repellent, deodorant, tissues and a phone charger
- [ ] Give the rings, documents and payment envelopes to one trusted person

- [ ] Rehearse the ceremony, if you are having a rehearsal
- [ ] Stay out of strong midday sun; nobody wants sunburn lines in the photos
- [ ] Keep the evening before quiet; sleep is worth more than one last craft project

On the day

- [ ] Eat a proper breakfast and keep drinking water all day
- [ ] Get ready in a tidy room near a big window; daylight and a clear background make a real difference on camera
- [ ] Have the details in one place for the photographer and videographer: rings, invitation, shoes, perfume, bouquet, letters
- [ ] Hand your phone to someone else and let the planner or contact person deal with problems
- [ ] Keep 10 to 15 minutes of buffer between the main moments
- [ ] Make sure guests have water and shade before an afternoon ceremony
- [ ] Take a few minutes alone together straight after the ceremony
- [ ] Step away for 20 to 30 minutes of portraits in the last hour before sunset
- [ ] Look up from the dance floor now and then, and take it in



TIP

On Corfu's east coast (Kalami, Kassiopi, Corfu Town) the sun drops behind the hills before the official sunset time, so the warm light ends earlier. On the west coast (Paleokastritsa, Pelekas, Glyfada, Agios Gordios) you can watch it set into the sea.

After the wedding

- [ ] Return hired items and collect your things from the venue
- [ ] Pay any outstanding balances on time (for my wedding films, the balance is due within 10 days after the event)
- [ ] Gather guests' phone photos and clips into one shared folder

- [ ] Ask the authority that registered your marriage how to get the certificate you will need at home
- [ ] Send thank-you notes to guests and vendors
- [ ] Leave honest reviews for the vendors you loved
- [ ] Note when your photos and film are due; I deliver wedding films digitally in HD or 4K, at the latest within six months
- [ ] When the files arrive, download them and keep them in two separate places
- [ ] Book a day-after shoot if you did not have time during the wedding week

Key contacts

Venue _____

Planner _____

Officiant or priest _____

Photographer _____

Videographer _____

Florist and decorator _____

Hair and make-up _____

Band or DJ _____

Transport _____

Contact person on the day _____

Budget tracker

ITEM	BUDGET	QUOTE	DEPOSIT PAID	BALANCE DUE
Venue				
Catering and drinks				
Planner				
Photographer				

ITEM	BUDGET	QUOTE	DEPOSIT PAID	BALANCE DUE
Videographer				
Flowers and décor				
Music				
Outfits and rings				
Hair and make-up				
Transport				
Paperwork and translations				
Favours and stationery				
Other				

Let's talk about your day

If you are planning a wedding in Corfu and would like a film of it, I am happy to look at your date, your venue and your ideas, even if you are still early in the list. Message me on WhatsApp (link on the website), email info@mirjanfilms.com or visit mirjanfilms.com. I'll reply as soon as I can.



Planning something in Corfu?

Send me your date, your idea or your brief. I reply within 24 hours.

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