

# *The Rayavadee Wedding Guide*



## *ANSWERS TO THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RAYAVADEE WEDDING EXPERIENCE*

### **What sets a Rayavadee wedding ceremony apart from so many others?**

Rayavadee offers a rare combination of exotic locale, attentive, personalized service and a choice of unique venues in which to celebrate your memorable day. Situated on Krabi's stunning Phranang Peninsula on the edge of Krabi Marine National Park, Rayavadee is framed by beautiful beaches and the crystal clear waters of the Andaman Sea and set against a backdrop of dramatic limestone cliffs. Built on the site of a former coconut plantation, the resort blends well with its natural environment and its two story pavilions are hidden discreetly amidst the jungle scenery and tropical gardens. Rayavadee is only accessible by boat, adding to its unique and exotic feel. From the moment you and your guests arrive, you will be looked after by our attentive staff who work hard to make every detail of your special day seem effortless.

### **How many guests are you able to accommodate?**

At Rayavadee we specialize in small, intimate group affairs ranging from 2 up to 50 persons. Keeping the groups small allows us to devote more personalized attention and care to your needs while at the same time maintaining a high level of service at all time for our other resort guests.

### **What is the weather like throughout the year in southern Thailand/When is the best time to get married there?**

The period from November to April is traditionally considered to have the best weather conditions with blue skies, warm sunshine, cool breezes and little rain. From May to July, the weather is warmer with an occasional shower while the 'green' months from July to October are characterized by short bursts of rainfall followed by sunshine. As for which period is best for you to hold your wedding, it is very much a personal decision. The most popular months tend to be November through May.

\*Kindly note that in order to be able to offer you the very best personalized care and attention throughout your wedding event, we do not accept bookings for weddings between 20 December and 10 January during the resort's annual peak holiday period.

### **Can we hold a religious ceremony at Rayavadee? Do you have a celebrant there?**

Rayavadee's wedding ceremonies are normally non-religious, with a senior member of the resort's management conducting the ceremony and vows. Bridal couples wishing to have either their rabbi or a priest conduct the vows are welcome to do so and can make the arrangements as desired.

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## **Could we have a traditional Thai or a Buddhist ceremony? How close is the nearest temple?**

We do offer the option to hold a traditional Thai water pouring ceremony ‘Rod Nam’ and we can also invite Buddhist monks to come and perform a blessing ceremony for you. Kindly note that a blessing by Buddhist monks can only take place before 10:00hrs according to tradition so you may need to keep this in mind in relation to the timing of your special day. The ceremony normally takes about 45 minutes.

Actually Thai people do not get married by monks at a temple. They are married with the traditional water pouring ceremony and will go to make an offering at the temple or they may invite monks to their home for a special blessing ceremony. Please let us know if you would like to know more about these options. Our wedding coordinator would be happy to explain the meaning behind these ceremonies as well as the details and costs involved with arranging them.

## **Can we get married legally at Rayavadee and in Thailand?**

Yes, you can but there is a rather lengthy paperwork process that needs to be completed before you can be legally married in the Kingdom.

In order to complete the process, the bridal couple will need to spend a few days in Bangkok prior to the ceremony to fill out the affidavit paperwork at each of their national embassies. This paperwork will guarantee that you are single and eligible to marry. You must provide your embassy with death or divorce certificates in the case that you were married previously. The amount of time this will take varies from embassy to embassy and it is best to enquire carefully before your arrival in Thailand.

Once the affidavit paperwork is in hand, the documents will need to be translated into Thai. There are a number of companies that provide this official service in Bangkok. Once the translations are complete, the documents need to be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok.

After the documents been acknowledged by the Foreign Ministry, you may fax them to the resort and we will submit them for you at the local district office in Krabi town and make an appointment on your behalf with the District Officer to attend your ceremony as a legal witness. We require the documents to arrive at the resort seven working days prior to the ceremony. You will need to provide the original documents upon your arrival at the resort. Kindly note when selecting the date for your wedding that the district officer is only available to attend your ceremony on a working day (Monday – Friday).

Due to the process and time involved with completing all of the necessary steps, you may prefer to marry legally in your home country and simply hold the wedding ceremony at the resort.

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## **What does a Rayavadee wedding look like? Will the resort help to design the ‘look and feel’ of our special event?**

A Rayavadee wedding is both simple and elegant drawing on the resort’s natural surroundings for its inspiration. Our design team and stylists create floral arrangements, table settings and stunning backdrops for your ceremony to perfectly compliment Rayavadee’s own unique design scheme. The classic Rayavadee wedding employs an elegant white and green colour scheme, with white representing the purity of your love and green, the abundant nature of the resort’s spectacular setting. Our wedding coordinator will work closely with you to ensure that your special day looks just like you always dreamed it would.

## **How formal is a Rayavadee wedding? How should we dress?**

You can be as formal or relaxed as you like. Whether you prefer a long formal gown and tuxedo or a barefoot beach wedding, the choice is yours. However, as most of our wedding venues are outdoors or semi-outdoors, we normally suggest a relaxed elegance suitable for a tropical wedding near the beach.

## **What sorts of floral bouquets and arrangements are available?**

Our signature Rayavadee bouquets and floral arrangements are white and green with orchids and roses mixed with local flowers and tropical plants. Other colors and flowers are possible and our wedding coordinator will discuss your requirements in detail with you.

## **Do you have a hair stylist or make up artist available at the resort?**

With advance notice, we can help you to arrange this. For the best results, we recommend you have a clear idea of your preferred hairstyle and ideally, a photograph of it as a reference. Kindly note we do not provide make up and the bride should provide her own.

## **Can you arrange photography services for us?**

We would be happy to provide you with a list of photographer contact detail from which you can choose the one most suitable to your taste and budget. We can also assist with arranging a videographer to record your wedding day. Our wedding coordinator would be delighted to discuss the costs involved for these services and to explain what is included.

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## **What are the fixed costs associated with planning a wedding at Rayavadee?**

The fixed cost is the wedding package itself. The two packages ‘Celestial’ and ‘Land of The Princess’ offer you different options. You can choose the package that suits you best and then build on that, according to your needs and preferences. Please note that the packages do not include the reception dinner or accommodation.

## **Is a stay of a minimum number of nights required when holding a wedding at Rayavadee?**

Yes, we would ask that the bridal couple and their wedding guests stay with us for a minimum of 10 nights in total combined. For example, if a couple were to stay for 3 nights and their guests stay a combined number of 7 nights, this would be fine. We require this minimum number of nights in order for the Rayavadee wedding to be a complete experience for the bridal couple and their guests. We find that due to our location, which is accessible only by boat, that the best way to achieve this experience is for wedding guests to stay with us at the resort. Our wedding coordinator would be glad to discuss the minimum number of nights required with you in more detail.

## **Are group rates available on the accommodation costs when holding a wedding at Rayavadee?**

Yes, please let us know when you would like to book your wedding. We would be happy to share our group rates for accommodation with you for the period in question.

## **What sorts of menus are available for our reception dinner? What are the costs involved?**

We offer a number of delicious gourmet menus for you to choose from. From western favorites to classic Thai dishes to an add-on barbecue option, we have a menu to suit your tastes and budget. Kindly note that sit down set menu meals work best for groups of up to 30 persons. For larger weddings, we find that the buffet option works best. We would be glad to send you sample menus to give you a better idea of what we offer and the pricing of each.

## **We would like to host either a pre-wedding welcome party or a post wedding ‘thank you’ for our family and friends. What would you recommend? What about for our bridal party?**

There are a number of options available for pre or post wedding celebrations. From a simple brunch ‘get together’ the day after the ceremony to an excursion around the islands aboard one of our luxuriously appointed speedboats is another memorable activity which you can share. For your bridal party, the ladies may like to have a half day pampering session at the spa while the gentlemen go hiking, kayaking or rock climbing. Of course a cocktail reception or welcome dinner is another way to spend quality time preparing for the big event.

## **Will your location on the edge of Krabi Marine National Park mean that there are certain considerations to be taken into account when planning a Rayavadee wedding?**

In adherence to National Park policies, we are not able to set a wedding directly on the beach. If you have always dreamed of a wedding ‘on the beach’ we would like to suggest The Grotto for your venue as it offers a beach-like setting just meters from the beach and with fabulous views over the Andaman Sea. We are also not able to provide fireworks or floating lanterns as these pose a risk of fire and are damaging to the environment we work so hard to preserve.

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## Where can I hold my wedding ceremony and reception? Can you describe the venues?

We offer a number of beautiful settings for your vow ceremony and venues for your reception. The most popular choices are listed below:



### THE GROTTTO

Wedding ceremonies and/or dinner receptions are held here in this striking ancient limestone cave overlooking Phranang Beach. Suitable for up to 30 persons, The Grotto is an outdoor venue with a sand floor. Perfect for small intimate group weddings!

### THE UMBRELLA TREE COURT

A venue for reception dinners, situated next to the Grotto, The Umbrella Tree Court is an outdoor deck situated under a number of large shady trees. It is perfect for buffet dinners for between 15 and 50 persons.



### COCONUT LAWN OR NAM MAO LAWN

Suitable for ceremonies and reception dinners. These venues offer open lawns surrounded by coconut palm trees. The Coconut Lawn is located next to the main swimming pool near Railay Beach while the Nammao Lawn is located near the hotel's reception area. Both are suitable for groups of between 20 and 50 persons.

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## KRUA PHRANANG

Enjoy a cocktail reception on the lower deck of Rayavadee's traditional Thai restaurant which offers wonderful views over Phranang Beach before continuing upstairs for an intimate dinner in one of the restaurant's private dining rooms. Perfect for small groups of up to 25 persons.



## POOLSIDE

Another stunning outdoor setting for your reception dinner, here tables are arranged around the edge of the resort's free-form swimming pool. Guests can enjoy views over Railay Beach with its expansive limestone cliffs in the distance. Suitable for groups of between 20 and 50.

## PRIVATE VILLAS

Rayavadee has three exclusive, beachfront private villas with swimming pools which may be used for small group ceremonies. **The Rayavadee Villa** boasts two bedrooms, luxurious sitting and dining areas and an outdoor deck area with stunning views over Phranang Beach. It's free form pool adds to the villa's charm. This villa can accommodate from 2-20 guests. **The Phranang Villas** also offer the same lavish features and views over Phranang Beach and Happy Island. They only boast a third bedroom and can accommodate up to 30 persons. Kindly note that all Private Villa weddings are inclusive of accommodation in the villa where the ceremony is being held. They villas are not available as ceremony venues on their own. Cocktail receptions can be held in the villas, however wedding reception dinners may not.



*We hope these questions and answers have been helpful.  
Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any further inquiries.*