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*The Ultimate Guide to*

# DESTINATION WEDDINGS IN ROMANIA

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**The Modern Couple's Guide to Planning and Enjoying their  
Destination Wedding in Romania**

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## Congratulations!

First of all, congratulations on your engagement! I am very happy you are considering hosting your wedding in Romania.

Whether one of you, both of you or neither of you are Romanian, our country has everything you will need to host an amazing event.

As far as landscapes go, we have the sea, the mountains, and everything in between: the Danube and its Delta, beautiful vineyard covered hills and lakes. Weather wise, we have the four seasons, including great summers, snow in winter, beautiful foliage in fall and blooming trees in spring.

In terms of original locations, Romania has wonderful Saxon villages, castles, off the grid lodges and medieval cities. And the best thing: the people. The quality of services and vendors you can find is great, whether you are thinking of decor, photographers, planners or entertainment.

With the help of this guide, you will be able to really understand what your options are in terms of venues in this beautiful country but also what the steps are to planning and enjoying your beautiful wedding. You will notice that some of the locations in this guide are off the beaten path or off the grid completely, others close to big cities.

There is also a chapter on special locations close to Bucharest. The capital city can offer some wonderful few days of fun, including a wedding party by a lake, in a barn, on top of the old city or in a historical venue.

## About the Author



Ten years ago, my sister and I opened Hadar Chalet, a completely off-the-grid boutique hotel in the heart of the Carpathians. Two years later, we added a wedding barn on the property. I would have never guessed what amazing moments we would be able to create for our dear guests. While managing a hotel is wonderful work, the almost 200 weddings that we have been able to host and be a part of in the past eight years have been the highlight of my career so far.

Hadar and its Barn were pioneers, launching the idea of destination weddings and rustic chic throughout Romania, in a time when hotel ballrooms were regarded as the best option and the normal guest count was closer to 300. We are proud of igniting change and being an inspiration, proving to clients and the entrepreneur community alike that Romania too can be like the fairy tale places we saw in movies and Pinterest boards.

At this time the Hadar Chalet property is undergoing renovations and is not currently booking weddings, but this guide will definitely provide you with plenty of options! New, modern venues are opening all around the country and couples are starting to increasingly choose the wedding of their dreams, including destination weddings, straying away from the expectations of parents or others.

My intention for this guide is to be an important source of information and help for the couples that want their most wonderful days to be just like them: adventurous, beautiful, original and thoughtful. It is also a tribute to all of the locations and their people and the work put in to offer guests from Romania and all over the world a great experience and memories for life.

## About this Guide

In order to be able to choose the venues to present in this guide, a thorough search was done among wedding planners, photographers, friends and by searching the internet. The resulting list contains most of the possible venues for an event, big or small, that would be able to provide the couple with an interesting landscape as backdrop to their party. Some of the names are already "classics" when it comes to such a wedding.



Some have the possibility to host events but have not yet advertised too much. And then there are a few that are beautiful and would like to host their first such experience. Depending on your needs, taste and appeal for adventure, contact those that you find interesting and find out more.

This is, in no way, a complete list. I am sure beautiful places have escaped us and others are being built right now. We will keep updating the roster, as long as new properties fulfil our criteria.



## About this Guide (continued)

Please also excuse possible errors and wrong information – details and offers change often and we have done our best to inform correctly and to keep the guide updated.

Before you reach the beautiful hotels and venues, you will also see some words of advice. What I meant to be only few ideas turned into a few dozen pages of tips that I would share with my best friend before planning their own destination wedding. Brides and grooms from all over the world have already trusted me and my team to provide them with beautiful memories for a lifetime.

I hope the information that I have learned and then shared here will be helpful in your journey. I thank everyone involved in this project and would also like to extend a special thank you to my editorial assistant, Anita Cojocar.

For any feedback and venue proposals, please contact me at [hello@oanatomy.com](mailto:hello@oanatomy.com)



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## Tips for planning your dream destination wedding

1. Decide on what your dream wedding is
2. Consider hiring a wedding planner
3. Find the perfect place
4. Plan with guests in mind
5. Find your perfect vendors
6. Pleasing the palate: food options
7. Tying the knot: wonderful ceremonies
8. Bringing everyone together
9. Turn it into a great trip
10. The stress-free budget

### *Why destination weddings are different*

How are destination weddings different than classic wedding receptions in a city? Many times, there are more details to take into consideration, as you will be responsible for your guests for a few days, rather than a few hours. You will also be planning an event in a location that is far away from where you live.

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## 1. What does your dream wedding look like?

When you imagine yourself saying YES, what do you see? What is there around you? Who is there to celebrate with you? How does it feel? Many of us have grown up imagining ourselves at our wedding, perhaps in a grand luxury hotel ballroom or on a beach. Maybe we took as reference Hollywood movies, a relative's local party or an image we saw in the press or a storybook.



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*Ask yourself*

After getting engaged, now you really have to think hard and decide: in a world of options, where do you want to get married and celebrate with your friends and family?

Until not long ago, weddings had only one particular way of happening – for most people, they still do. There is a specific way or even a specific restaurant in town where everyone you know hosts their party, done mostly to announce their marriage to society but also to raise money for the new life the couple is starting.

However, as times are changing, brides and grooms wish to do things differently, exactly as they envision it now, as adults: some couples want to elope, to get married in secret. They let everyone know later, maybe through a social media post. Some want to do it in a wonderful place, in their country of origin, if they are now living abroad, hosting a traditionally inspired celebration for their foreign friends to enjoy. There are also couples who prefer to choose a new country altogether and invite everyone there for a great experience in a beautiful backdrop that they have been dreaming about or in a place of great significance for the bride and groom.



The options are truly endless and it is up to both of you to decide where, when, how and with whom you want to celebrate.

## How do you decide?

In my experience, the best way to start is with an honest conversation with each other. Things to take into consideration: your dream locations, your country(ies) of origin, who you do not imagine hosting your wedding celebration without and your approximate budget.

I found that many times, the most important factor is the people you want close to you on that day – and what this means logistically. A destination wedding in Bora Bora is a wonderful idea, unless you live in Europe and want at least 30 guests, among which your grandparents, who do not or can not fly. A number of the weddings that we host at Hadar started as elopements in the Seychelles or beach weddings in Greece – they moved it back to Romania because they wanted a larger number of guests or they couldn't ask the older relatives to travel for too long. They still got their amazing destination wedding and extraordinary memories, but in a place that accommodated their location needs.

I have also seen a lot the opposite: transforming the wedding into a trip so that they have the perfect excuse to invite less people. Because hosting it in their city would have meant the guest list was closer to 2, 3 or even 400+ relatives, business partners or colleagues, friends or people invited by the bride's and groom's parents, a getaway was their best case scenario to invite 100 or even just the close family. Our smallest wedding was a party of... 6.





The country of origin – if one or both of you are from Romania but live abroad – is a great place to start. This means you can cater to older relatives and also include certain traditions or places that mean something to you. It's also a wonderful opportunity to show your friends around and turn it into an amazing trip for everyone, by extending the wedding party by at least a couple of days.

Romania is also a great option if both of you are from a different country but would love to create for yourselves and for your guests an original experience while experiencing a new place and beautiful surroundings.

Romania has a lot to offer in terms of landscapes and hospitality and it is a great alternative to Greece, Portugal, Italy or France, for example.

A dream location would usually be a specific hotel or a specific landscape or type of place: the mountains, the beach, a castle, a farm, a barn, by a lake, etc. If it is a specific hotel, then it's just a matter of budget and logistics – if, however, you decided on just a country (Romania) and maybe a landscape, the second part of the guide is for you!

Last but not least, the budget is normally of great importance, as the costs add up quickly when you take into consideration travel, accommodation and most probably more than one night of celebrations. For more details and tips, check tip 10.



# WEDDING PLANNERS INTERVIEWS

THIS IS ONE OF FOUR INTERVIEWS WITH EXPERIENCED  
DESTINATION WEDDING PLANNERS IN ROMANIA THAT  
YOU CAN FIND IN THE FULL WEDDING GUIDE.

FIND OUT WHAT THEIR PROCESS IS AND WHY WEDDINGS  
ARE SO SPECIAL TO THEM.

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# Wedding Planner Interview Blaga Events

## WHO ARE YOU?

I am a simple woman with a very complicated mind, that's why the name of my company is so simple :). I am Alexandra Blaga, the owner of Blaga Events, a Bucharest based company producing events all over the world.



## HOW DID YOU START WEDDING PLANNING?

I started by planning my own wedding and the one of a friend, but both got cancelled. My background is working as an event assistant in the Bucharest office of an international events agency. I have worked in planning events for brands and international companies. All of the events were very creative, with big budgets, a lot of responsibilities and with procedures for everything.

## WHY DO YOU LOVE DESTINATION WEDDINGS?

I think that my lifestyle is in alignment with this job that chose me. For a long time now, my lifestyle revolves around loving, traveling, eating well, admiring beauty and art, and overall living in a meaningful and beautiful way. Over the past years, I moved the business first more outside Bucharest and then more and more abroad. I enjoy the process a lot: it is more challenging, it involves more creativity and creative solutions, and it also gives me more adrenaline.



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## TELL US ABOUT ONE FAVORITE WEDDING YOU HAVE PLANNED

I've loved all of my weddings, but now, I think it's the one that I am producing this year in Tuscany for an amazing couple. The future bride is a successful entrepreneur in a decor & lifestyle business, we've had great chemistry from the first meeting and we were in perfect sync in all of the decisions for the event. This wedding is aligned very much with my lifestyle and my way of working, putting a great emphasis on the attention to detail — from the cutlery choice, to the champagne selection and a very, very thorough preparation. I am sure it will be an amazing event.

One of my most memorable weddings in Romania was last year, when I managed a 50 person team; this was not even the challenging part: the entire event was planned in less than 6 months and it involved building a venue from scratch, in a parking lot. In the end, it was one of the greatest events that I have produced, and one that I cherish a lot today. A Matisse painting can easily describe this event.

Still, even after ten years in events, I find perfection to be utopia.

## WHAT IS YOUR PROCESS FOR PLANNING A WEDDING?

I have a "rule": I never close a contract before meeting my clients, to see and feel if we have a connection. Even if it's business, for me this is very important.

After creating the brief, I start with the scouting for venues, visiting the ones that made it on the shortlist and choosing THE one.

I make a list of vendors, based on my clients desires and the vision I created for their wedding day(s) and we make the selection. It is then a process of negotiating, contracting, making sure that everything is OK and everyone is aligned, following a pre-event calendar.



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## WHAT IS YOUR PROCESS FOR PLANNING A WEDDING?

One month before the wedding day or days (because when we talk about destination weddings, it's usually a 2 or 3 days event) everything has to be clear, perfectly organised and "spotless". Of course that most of the times something new and unexpected will appear, but in a way I always plan for "surprises" as well.

## WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN DESTINATION WEDDING PLANNING, IN YOUR OPINION?

Making and keeping a great connection with the venue management and also with the vendors.

## WHAT IS YOUR BEST TIP FOR BUDGETING SUCH AN EVENT?

Simplifying and cutting the budget. And I am being honest. For the best results, I am helping my clients to identify their priorities - what is the most important for them, in order to feel that their event was perfect. I think that this is the most important part of the planning, allowing me to align their wishes and budget with the reality of the market from the destination wedding area/country. Also, another tip in everything wedding related is the open communication & sincerity in the planner-client relationship.

To answer to your question more simply, I am cutting down on what is not necessary. For almost all the projects that I am involved in, we actually have a margin of 10% for raising the budget.



Blaga Events