

## Beach wedding presents special challenges

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Laguna Beach has something like a dozen of them a weekend in the high season. Huntington Beach has maybe eight a year. In Newport Beach, you can't even get a permit for it. But, most beach administrators say, nobody will stop you from running out on the sand with your groom and your clergy and doing the deed in a quick 10 minutes.

If you want more than that, you're going to have to make plans and get permission and understand the unique challenges posed by the simplest and most pure of ideas: a beach wedding.

"The dream of a beach wedding is big," says wedding consultant Barbara Wallace of Corona del Mar, "but they're like whipping cream. The more you look into them, the bigger and more unmanageable they get. "But it can and should be done if that's what you want. Here are a few tips to help you do that from Wallace, from Laguna Beach wedding consultant Maria Lindsay, and **San Clemente wedding specialist Risa Provencio:**

1. Research your beach. Each will have a different application process, fee schedule and set of rules. (Few allow alcohol or amplified sound; some require event insurance; most stipulate the number of guests.) In general, know, too, that there is no such thing here as a private beach wedding. Anyone can stop and gawk, be it at a city-, county- state-or coastal-commission-regulated park.
2. Know that lifeguards and rangers aren't going to look the other way if you violate their rules.
3. While Memorial Day through Labor Day are usually safe weather bets here, have someone watch forecasts from seven days out.
4. Always have a Plan B. Reserve more time than you need at your reception site. Know what tents cost. Include alternate "rain" plans with your invitation.
5. Avoid a dress, train or veil that sweeps the sand. Think sarong, sundress, midcalf sheath, handkerchief dress. Go barefoot; wear flats.
6. Don't gild the lily. It's a beach with an ocean attached so it's already got vast beauty and boundless spirituality.
7. Know your tides, beach erosion patterns and sunset schedule. You'll want to tie the knot before the sun goes down because no one wants to get married in the dark.
8. Think through everything. Does the groom wish to kayak in? He'll be wet for the rest of the day. Is your wave-loving dog the ring-bearer? You'll want to custom design a white collar secure enough to keep your wedding bands safe before the "I do's."
9. Consider the "beach wedding" that takes place on a bluff-top, at a park gazebo or at the Ritz-Carlton.
10. Consider your guests. Day wedding? Offer sunscreen and sunglasses. On the sand? Provide foot-washing stations. You'll also need plenty of towels.

