



## Frequently Asked Wedding Questions

### **What time should my ceremony start?**

Most photographers familiar with Cheeca recommend 1.5 hours prior to official sunset time. This allows for good lighting still available for post ceremony photos. Your Catering Professional keeps a sunrise/sunset calendar or you can visit [www.sunrisesunset.com/calendar](http://www.sunrisesunset.com/calendar).

### **What time will my reception end?**

Our outdoor events end by 9pm. We can make arrangements for a private indoor venue for an After Party.

### **Where does the sun set?**

Cheeca is situated on the Atlantic (east) side of the island and the sun set on the Florida Bay (west) side of the island. You will, however, see beautiful pink and purple skies close to sunset. This is an advantage, as the beaches will be shaded and your guests will not be sitting in direct sunlight during the ceremony.

### **Why do you have a Guestroom Requirement?**

Many of our 199 guestrooms are privately owned. We have an agreement with that ownership to sell guestrooms when we sell private venue space.

### **Are you ever flexible with the Guestroom Requirement?**

Sometimes we can book weddings and other social events without guestrooms. It will depend on other activities in the hotel, and the season of the year you are looking to book your wedding.

### **What are your beaches like?**

The Florida Keys do not have truly natural beaches. We import sand. Cheeca's sandy beaches are perfect for outdoor events as our sand is packed so your feet will not sink into it. The beaches are level because of our coral rock wall making it a wonderful setting for tables to be set. We recommend if the bride will be wearing shoes, to look for a heel that is somewhat chunky.

### **Can you swim in the ocean?**

You can! We recommend you take a snorkel and mask to view the Coastal Seagrass Environment and perhaps water-shoes as the ocean floor is very soft. The best way to get in the water is to take our Daily Snorkel Trip.

### **Why are there no waves?**

The Coral Reef line is 4.5 miles (7.2 kilometers) from the coast. The water between the coast and the Coral Reef line is very shallow - at the deepest points only about 15 feet (4.5 meters). After the Reef line there is a drop and there are waves, however, by the time they travel the 4.5 miles (7.2 kilometers) to the coast, they have dissipated.

### **Will we be the only wedding that day?**

Sometimes we do have more than one wedding. It depends on the size of each wedding. If we have a large wedding over 60 guests, we may agree to do a small wedding for less than 50 guests, or vice versa. The weddings would not cross paths and you will not hear the other wedding. The start times are also staggered by 30 minutes.

### **Please explain the Food & Beverage Minimum.**

This is the minimum you are required to spend per person for your wedding.

### **Do you charge a site fee for each venue we use?**

Typically we will only charge one site fee for your wedding. However, we do restrict which venues you can use based on your anticipated guest count and the best flow for your guests. If you decide to do additional events such as rehearsal or wedding breakfast, there will be no additional site fees. If you request unusual setup or services, we will negotiate additional fees. For example, if you want to provide white lights to be hung in the palm trees, we will charge you an additional \$20 per tree to hang the lights.

### **Do I really have to pay that site fee for my small wedding?**

For small weddings, we recommend considering a Monday through Thursday wedding date. In this case, we will be able to negotiate the site fee. We are not able to negotiate site fees for Friday, Saturday and Sunday events.

### **Where will the restrooms be for my guests if we are outside?**

There are restrooms located in the Main Lodge and at the Spa. We also recommend that you reserve a guestroom in one of the buildings near your outdoor event.

### **Can we rent a golf cart?**

For liability reasons we are unable to rent our golf carts. Our Bellmen will be happy to drive guests wherever they need to go on property.

### How can I get my dress/suit steamed, pressed, dry cleaned?

There is one dry cleaner in Islamorada. We suggest you consult the dress shop where you purchased your dress for the recommended method of refreshing your dress after travel. You will need to contact the dry cleaner at 305-664-5060 before arriving at Cheeca to confirm their hours of operation and how much time they need to refresh your wedding dress.

### Do I need to hire a wedding planner?

This is your choice. We, as Catering Professionals at Cheeca, can do just about everything a wedding planner can do, including conducting a rehearsal of the ceremony. There is no charge for this.

### Where do I get ready on my wedding day?

Brides typically get ready in their guestroom, or in that of a family member. We will send a Bellman to escort the bride and bridal party to the staging area of the ceremony.

### What is the weather like?

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. High	76°	77°	80°	84°	86°	88°	90°	90°	88°	85°	80°	77°
Avg. Low	62°	64°	67°	70°	74°	76°	77°	77°	76°	74°	68°	64°
Mean	68°	70°	74°	77°	80°	82°	84°	84°	84°	80°	75°	71°
Avg. Precip.	2.1 in	1.9 in	1.8 in	2.0 in	4.5 in	7.8 in	3.6 in	4.6 in	6.3 in	5.8 in	2.6 in	1.8 in