FIELD GUIDE 01

THE ACCIDENTAL GRINGO / CANCÚN WEDDINGS



OCTOBER 2026

17

Questions Before You Pay a Cancún Wedding Deposit

A practical editorial checklist for comparing resorts, private venues, Catholic options, beach setups, guest logistics and real contract terms.

BEFORE YOU PAY

Compare the full cost, the exact guest and vendor rules, the real weather backup, and what the plan asks of your guests.

Before the deposit

The package headline is only the beginning of the comparison.

Destination weddings are easy to fall in love with visually. The harder questions are operational: what the contract excludes, how guest access works, who owns transportation, what happens in bad weather, and which promises are actually written down.

Use this guide the way an editor would use a reporting checklist: ask the same questions of every option, save the answers, and compare like with like.



Pretty is easy to see. The logistics take reporting.

FIVE RED FLAGS

1. “We can confirm that later” on a budget-critical issue.
2. A rain plan with no actual backup space, capacity or timing.
3. No written explanation of taxes, service charges or mandatory fees.
4. A “private beach” claim with no explanation of access or event rules.
5. A package that sounds complete but never clearly states what is excluded.

1 Ask the same 17 questions

2 Save important answers

3 Compare the full cost

4 Verify property-specific rules

QUESTIONS 1-6

01 Start with the commitment

Clarify what kind of wedding you are booking before you compare price, venue or package details.

01 If we want a legal marriage, what is included - and what is not?

Why it matters: Legal/civil services are separate from symbolic ceremony and production services.

NOTES

02 If we want a Catholic wedding, what church or parish requirements apply?

Why it matters: Church timelines and approvals are separate from the resort or reception contract.

NOTES

03 Can our ceremony be on the beach, in a chapel, at the resort or at a private venue?

Why it matters: Ceremony-location rules can change logistics, privacy and cost.

NOTES

04 GET IT IN WRITING

What are the exact deposit, payment and cancellation terms?

Why it matters: The contract timeline is where your financial protections live.

NOTES

05 What is included in the advertised package - and what is not?

Why it matters: A package headline is useful only when exclusions are clear.

NOTES

06 GET IT IN WRITING

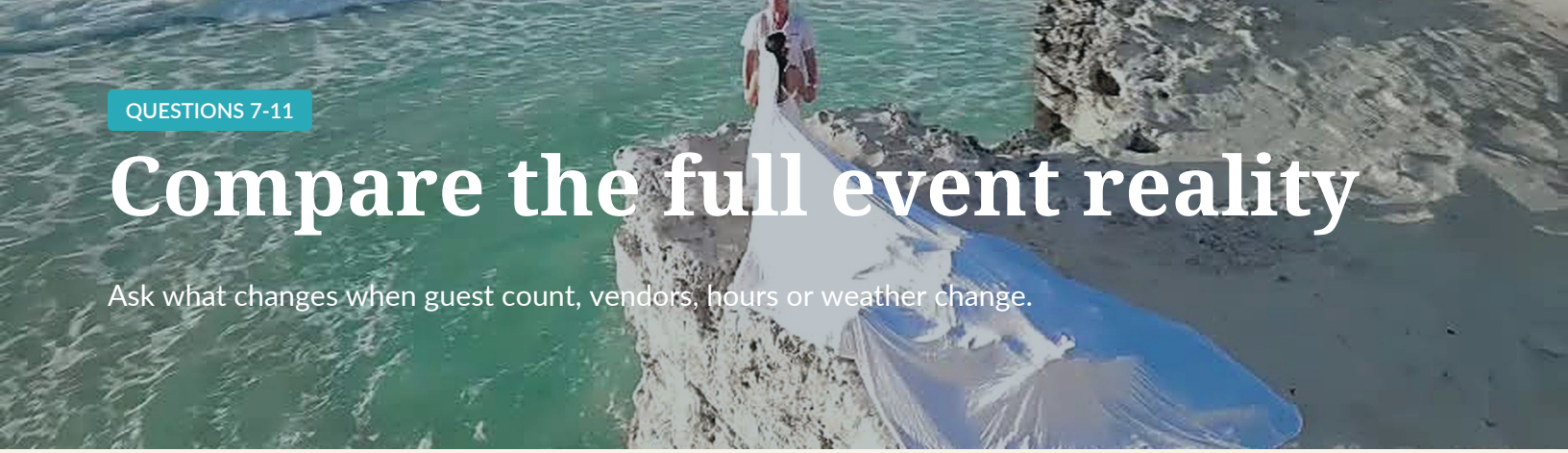
What taxes, service charges, overtime or mandatory add-ons should we expect?

Why it matters: Late-added fees can erase the apparent savings of a package.

NOTES

EDITORIAL RULE

Legal marriage, Catholic ceremony, venue rental and wedding production are separate planning paths. Keep those costs and requirements separate before you compare anything.



QUESTIONS 7-11

Compare the full event reality

Ask what changes when guest count, vendors, hours or weather change.

07 What are the rules and fees for outside vendors?

Why it matters: Photo, DJ, beauty, decor and coordination rules can materially change your budget.

NOTES

08 How does pricing change if our guest count goes up or down?

Why it matters: Wedding costs do not always scale in a straight line.

NOTES

09 What does the rain or wind backup plan actually look like?

GET IT IN WRITING

Why it matters: A real Plan B needs actual capacity, timing, move logistics and cost.

NOTES

10 What are the room-block rules and how do they affect group benefits?

Why it matters: Some benefits depend on where guests book - not just how many attend.

NOTES

11 Can off-site guests attend, and do they need a day pass?

PROPERTY-SPECIFIC

Why it matters: Outside-guest rules and charges vary by property.

NOTES

Before you move on

Outside-vendor rules are written. Plan B is a real space. Off-site guest access is clear.

REALITY CHECK

Do not compare package headlines alone. Compare the full like-for-like budget, the real backup space, outside-vendor rules and off-site guest access.

QUESTIONS 12-17

02 Guests, weather & operations

Make the pretty part practical. Guest movement, beach realities and contingency planning belong in the venue decision.

12 How should we handle transportation for airports, hotels and the wedding day?

Why it matters: Guest movement gets complicated quickly when arrivals and hotels are split.

NOTES

13 If we want a welcome party or rehearsal dinner, what spaces and minimums apply?

Why it matters: Extra wedding-weekend events can add cost and transportation needs.

NOTES

14 How exposed is the ceremony or reception space to wind, rain, heat and seasonal conditions?

Why it matters: The prettiest view on a calm day can behave very differently in real event conditions.

NOTES



PROPERTY-SPECIFIC

Room blocks, day passes, beach access and vendor rules can differ from one property to another.

15 REALITY CHECK

What should we realistically expect about beach access, privacy and setup restrictions?

Public access and event permission are separate questions.

16

Who is responsible for setup timing, teardown, access windows and onsite coordination?

Operational details determine whether the day runs smoothly.

17 GET IT IN WRITING

What answers will you put in writing before we pay?

If it affects budget, guests, ceremony type or contingency planning, it belongs in writing.

FINAL CHECK

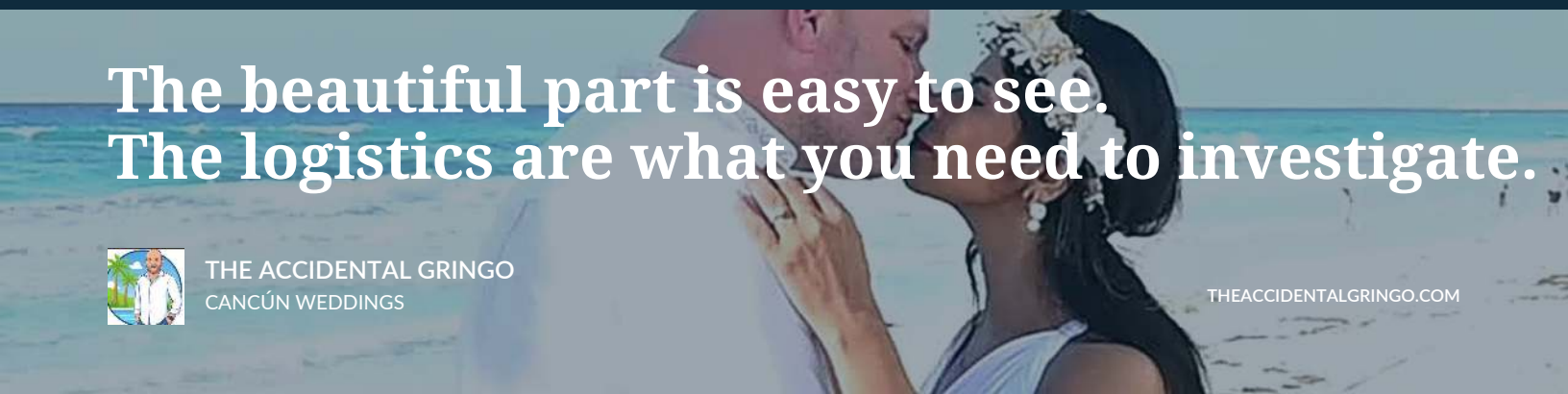
Do not send the deposit until...

Use this page after the calls, quotes and emails are finished.

- ☐ 01 Ceremony type and location
- ☐ 02 Package inclusions and exclusions
- ☐ 03 Taxes, service charges and overtime
- ☐ 04 Outside-vendor rules and fees
- ☐ 05 Room-block and day-pass rules
- ☐ 06 Rain / wind backup plan
- ☐ 07 Guest transportation responsibilities
- ☐ 08 Payment schedule and cancellation terms
- ☐ 09 Main contact for day-of coordination

THREE FINAL RULES

If it changes the budget, get it in writing. If it affects guests, include it in the venue decision. If it depends on weather, ask exactly when and how Plan B happens.



The beautiful part is easy to see.
The logistics are what you need to investigate.