

BANYAN TREE

HOTELS & RESORTS

PRESS RELEASE

Leaders in Creating Unique Romantic Experiences, Banyan Tree highlights Top Spots to say “I do” across the World



Singapore, October 2014: Celebrating the romance of travel during their 20th Anniversary year, Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts has selected 10 unique wedding experiences across the world. Whether it’s a formal wedding, relaxed blessing or renewal of vows, the professional wedding teams across the resorts will ensure each and every occasion is as unique as it is seamless.

A Taste of Creole in the Indian Ocean

The stunning beach resort of [Banyan Tree Seychelles](#) on the main island of Mahe features its own signature blend of romance and rejuvenation, overlooking one of the most beautiful bays in the Indian Ocean. It’s no wonder Prince William and Kate Middleton chose the Seychelles for their honeymoon, contributing to its status as one of the most romantic places on Earth. Serenaded by lively Creole music as they are escorted to an altar laid out with coconut leaves, the Creole wedding ceremony at Banyan Tree Seychelles offers couples an insight into the island’s local heritage and symbolises the foundation from which marital love develops.

Banyan Tree Seychelles, located on the picturesque south-western coastline of Mahé Island, has 60 exquisite colonial-style pool villas with panoramic views of the Indian Ocean. Prices for wedding ceremonies are available upon request.

The Romance of the Desert in the UAE

The Bedouin-style tented resort of [Banyan Tree Al Wadi](#) in the heart of a desert oasis is the perfect backdrop for a very special wedding. Found in Ras Al Khaimah, just 45 minutes from Dubai, this awe-inspiring resort offers views of rolling dunes and ghaf trees dotted around tented villas, each with their own private pool complemented by the sublime, discreet service for which Banyan tree is renowned. Here, couples can channel Lawrence of Arabia by arriving to their ceremony on camel or horseback, followed by a traditional BBQ reception served to guests as they relax on Arabic carpets under a canopy of stars.

Surrounded by a 500-hectare wildlife sanctuary, this chic all-pool villa resort in the United Arab Emirates wows guests with its stunning nature reserve and hydrotherapy spa facilities. Wedding package prices start at USD 170 per person.

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On Top of the World in Bangkok

With an awe-inspiring panorama of the Bangkok skyline as a backdrop, the rooftop restaurant, Vertigo at [Banyan Tree Bangkok](#) is a perfect venue for couples seeking a unique, heart-pumping wedding experience. Sophisticated seafood dishes and premium wines from the restaurant's cellars will create a stylish celebration dinner. Couples can also opt for a royal Thai wedding, dressed in traditional attire complemented by a Thai-inspired feast at the hotel's legendary Saffron restaurant.

Banyan Tree Bangkok offers a sanctuary for the senses with unparalleled views of the cityscape, elegant guest rooms, renowned service and world-renowned spa facilities. Prices for an Eternity Wedding package featuring a traditional Thai wedding experience starts from THB 69,000 inclusive of accommodation.

Invite Colourful Reef Fish to your Wedding in the Maldives

For a wedding with a twist, the island-retreat of [Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru](#) is a unique venue to tie the knot - underwater. Being the first resort to offer this underworld experience in the Maldives, couples can enjoy a wedding surrounded by colourful coral, with tropical fish as their witnesses. The resort's underwater wedding package includes a wedding coordinator, certificate and plenty of vibrant photographs to remember the special occasion. For couples seeking a more traditional experience, a sandbank ceremony surrounded by the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean is an ideal spot to say "I do" to the most important person in your life.

Discover the romantic Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru and its private pool villas, powder white sand beach, crystal clear waters and award-winning Spa. Prices for an underwater wedding package start at USD 2,000.

A Stylish Beach Ceremony in Koh Samui

Ticking the wish list of a) expansive views of the ocean; b) powder-white sand between their toes, and c) a secluded beach; couples can enjoy a wedding that offers all three at [Banyan Tree Samui](#). A traditional Thai wedding ceremony on the beach makes this even more special. The resort's wedding coordinators are on hand to navigate the couple through age-old traditions such as *sin sod*, a dowry paid by the groom to the bride's family to prove he can feed his family in the future, (not a pre-requisite for a wedding at the resort today, however). Creating a fairytale ceremony, the Infinity Wedding Package includes champagne on arrival at the resort, a couple's spa session, cocktails served at The Edge overlooking Lamai Bay, dining at Saffron or on the beach and more.

Banyan Tree Samui reflects traditional Thai-style architecture, each villa offering views of the Gulf of Thailand. The Infinity Wedding Package starts from THB 250,000 including a dedicated wedding coordinator.

Step back in time with a Traditional Vietnamese Wedding

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Found in the heart of Central Vietnam on a stretch of pristine beach, [Banyan Tree Lang Co](#) offers a unique cultural insight into the heart of Vietnam. Being close to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the heart and soul of this incredible country is infused into every wedding arranged at the resort. For a unique Vietnamese experience, the traditional local wedding ceremony - Hang Thuan - can be organized for the couple. With the bride in a red Ao Dai – a traditional wedding dress - the ceremony includes a blessing from a Buddhist monk and a lantern ritual, where a lantern released by the couple takes their wishes beyond the clouds and on to heaven.

Banyan Tree Lang Co sits on the golden-sand shores of Lang Co, famed for its unspoiled natural beauty. Rates for the Superior Bliss Package featuring the service of a professional wedding planner and master of ceremony starts from USD 1,440 per couple.

Classic meets Exotic on the Tropical island of Phuket

In the heart of the first integrated luxury resort in Asia and a short drive from Phuket International Airport, the beach resort of [Angsana Laguna Phuket](#) offers a charming venue for weddings. The resort's Chapel-on-the-Lagoon, surrounded by water, has stunning lagoon views and can be opened for an al fresco ambience or closed for air-conditioned comfort. The Chapel is perfectly design for both Thai and European ceremonies for up to 50 guests, the wow factor being the arrival of the bride by boat to the altar. After the reception, the resort's beach club, XANA is the place to celebrate into the wee hours.

Couples are offered a wide choice of wedding packages at Angsana Laguna Phuket, from classical European to a ceremony with a Thai touch featuring a blessing from a Buddhist monk. The Silver Wedding Package including the use of the Chapel and seating up to 50 guests starts from THB 64,000.

Be blessed by Ancient Mayan Gods in Mexico

Step into the ancient world of the Mayans at the stunning resort of [Banyan Tree Mayakoba](#) on the Caribbean Sea. Here, the resort's wedding team can create an age-old Mayan ceremony presided by a local shaman who cleanses the altar with sacred smoke from the Copal tree whilst sounding a conch shell, all accompanied by hypnotic, mystical music from pre-Hispanic instruments and drums. The altar is decorated with flowers representing the four cardinal directions alongside sacrificial items such as corn, rice, beans, rice and fruit representing prosperity and fertility, whilst paying homage to the four Mayan gods of cosmology. After the elaborate ceremony, there are several choices of venues for the wedding reception; a party of up to 40 guests will enjoy dining al fresco by the main pool; or there's a selection of restaurants for larger parties.

A harmonious blend of nature and luxury, Banyan Tree Mayakoba, on Mexico's Riviera Maya coast, will take you to the colourful world of the Caribbean. Prices for wedding ceremonies are available upon request.

Celebrate the serene beauty of Tropical Thailand

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A serene Thai wedding ceremony at Banyan Tree Phuket, surrounded by tropical gardens under a warm sun, is the perfect start to marital life. Featuring a Buddhist monk's blessing with the sea breeze filled with music played on a traditional Khim, the tone is set for a stylish evening of feasting and festivities. The piece de resistance is the glowing Loy Kra-Thong ceremony where floating baskets of candles are released by the couple and guests on the resort's serene lagoon.

Discover the romance and beauty of Banyan Tree Phuket with its award-winning all-pool villa concept, spa and access to the beach of Bang Tao Bay. Wedding package prices start at THB 65,000.

March to your own Wedding Drums in the Maldives

Located on a nature-filled island, Angsana Velavaru offers couples an authentic Maldivian wedding, starting with the planting of a coconut tree, a national symbol of the Maldives embodying the idea of stability. The wedding couple are escorted to the Angsana Stone where the groom carries the bride three times around the threshold, it is believed in local folklore that evil spirits hide under the threshold and it is the responsibility of the groom to carry his bride to safety and happiness. The final part of the ceremony takes place at the resort's chapel, over the water, culminating with 'Bodu Beru' drummers welcoming the bridal couple into marital bliss. Setting the beat for the ceremony, the reception continues with a beach BBQ dinner as the sun sets, an ideal time for the couple to scribe wedding wishes into a coconut husk which is thrown into the ocean for perpetuity.

Angsana Velavaru serves romance and adventure in equal measure combining a tropical lifestyle with the comforts of modern living. Price for a wedding ceremony start from 650 USD per couple.

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About Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts

The leading international operator in the premium resort and spa industry, **Banyan Tree** offers a signature blend of romance and travel with a green conscience. The philosophy behind the hotels, resorts and spas is based on rejuvenation of the body, mind and soul – a Sanctuary for the Senses. **Angsana** is the ideal complement to Banyan Tree, comprising contemporary, chic and ecologically sensitive resorts. Based in areas of outstanding natural beauty and exciting city hubs, Angsana hotels, resorts and spas reflect the spirit and communities of its environment.

To date, the Banyan Tree Group manages and/or has ownership interests in over 30 resorts and hotels, 70 spas, 90 retail galleries; as well as three golf courses.