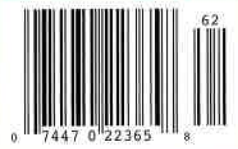


# Gulf Coast bride

JUN-JUL 2018  
GULFCOASTBRIDE.COM



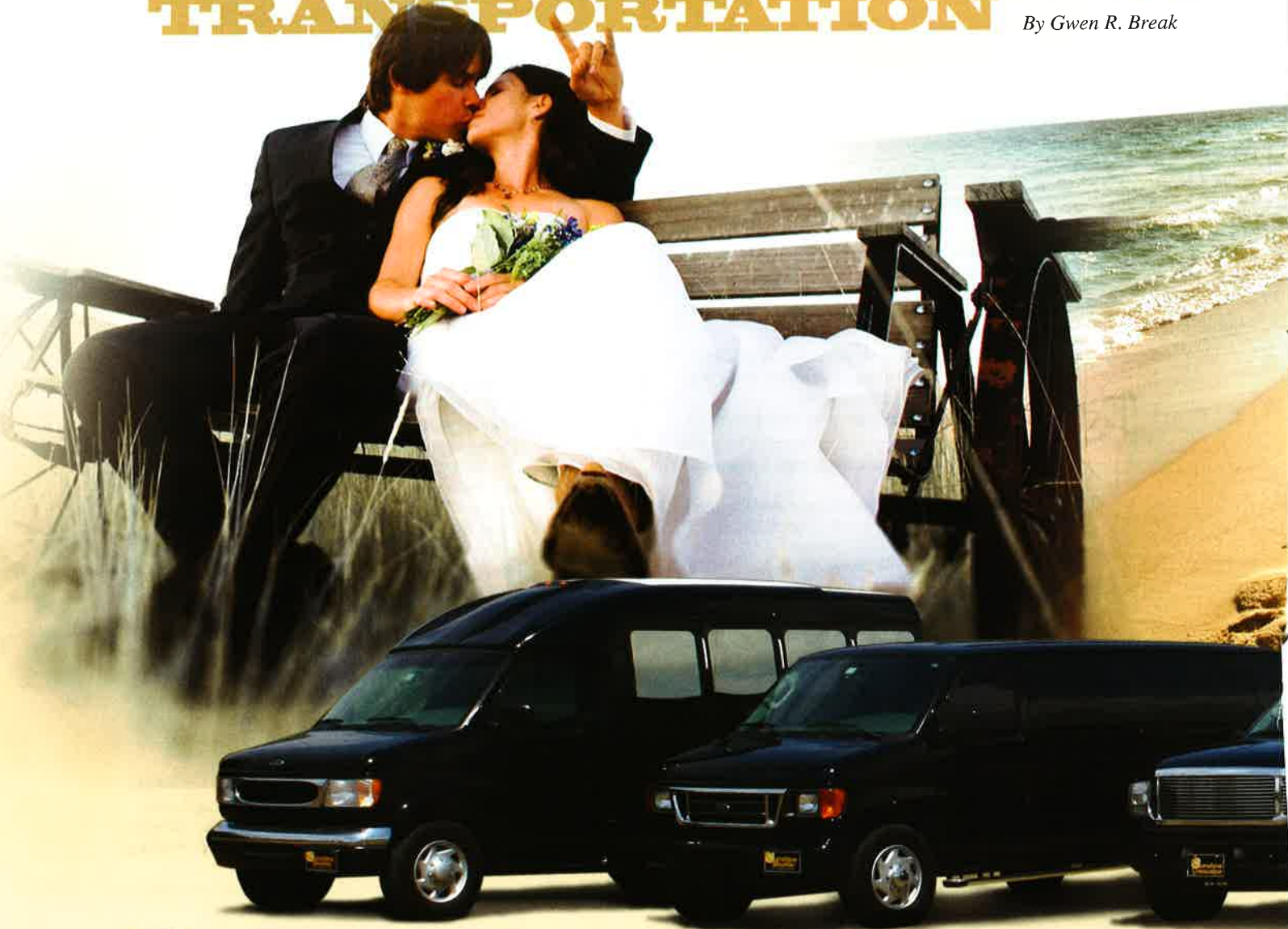
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COMPLIMENTARY  
COASTAL LIFESTYLE  
ATTACHED

# WEDDING TRANSPORTATION

By Gwen R. Break



One of the most difficult and confusing details of a wedding is getting everyone where they need to be when they need to be there.

Working with a planner helps, but ultimately the choices the bride and groom make determine the level of efficiency and level of sophistication of the entire wedding event.

## PRE-PLANNING

- When you fly in to make arrangements have the company you are considering pick you up at the airport. Was the chauffer waiting when you arrived?
- Was he in uniform, meaning something other than flip flops and a Grateful Dead T-Shirt?
- Did you smell smoke in the vehicle? Was it clean?
- Did the driver know where he was going?
- Was he some one with whom you would not be embarrassed (or afraid) to have your 90-year-old Aunt Bessie be alone?



*Photography courtesy of: Sunshine Shuttle*

## ASSESSING YOUR NEEDS AND...

- How much money can you spend?
- The bride is expected to pay for transportation to and from ceremony and from the ceremony to reception for guests and members of her wedding party.
- The groom pays his and the best man's transportation to the ceremony and for the groom's family.
- Beyond these basics it's up to you, how much. Wow! you want to provide your family and guests.

## WANTS

- **Guest Arrivals**  
It isn't absolutely necessary to pay for transportation to and from the airport for your guests beyond the actual wedding party. However, if it is within your means why not do it? "Coordinating the arrival of out-of-town guests with a shuttle or van service eliminates a lot of duplicated efforts and expense for your guests," says John Finch, owner of Sunshine Shuttle and Limousine. "If your guests are staying at a resort or walkable community (such Seaside, Rosemary Beach or Alys Beach in Walton County), they can rent bicycles and pretty much get to where they want to be without having to rent a car."

# WEDDING TRANSPORTATION

## TRANSPORTATION HIRING CHECKLIST

John Finch, owner of Sunshine Transportation & Limousine, suggests these questions as a starting point for your discussion with any transportation company you are considering for your wedding event.

### Basic Info

Company Name  
Contact Person  
Address  
Phone  
Email  
Website  
Price Quoted  
How long in business?  
How many total vehicles do you have?  
Can you be contacted 24 hours?  
How do you contact your working drivers?

### Vehicle Info

What kind of vehicles do you offer?  
What kind and color vehicles are available on my event date?  
How will you coordinate all my needs? Airport transportation, rehearsal, wedding, ect.  
What is the minimum amount of time to rent a vehicle?  
Are the vehicles non-smoking/smoking?  
Is there a CD/MP3 system in the car?  
Is the vehicle heated and cooled?  
How familiar are your drivers with the area?  
Do they wear uniforms?  
What happens if there is experience mechanical trouble the day of?

### Wedding specific

Do you have wedding packages?  
Discounts for multiple vehicles?  
Do you offer special amenities for wedding rides (champagne, red carpet, signage)?  
What if I need to keep the vehicles longer than what I originally booked for?

### Payment & Charges

Is gratuity included in the quoted price?  
How is overtime charged and billed?  
Are there any additional charges (parking, tolls, fuel, cleaning, etc)?  
How much deposit do you require?  
What is your cancellation policy?  
Can I get a written contact specifying all the details?  
What kinds of payment are expected?

## CHECKLIST FOR WEDDING TRANSPORTATION

Finch says organization is key to making your wedding day run smoothly. Here is a checklist of the things he says are most important to consider.

### When to Book

Four to six months is optimum. Try to avoid times when you know transportation is going to be in high demand such as prom night. Add transportation and accommodation info to your "Save the Date" information and Web site

### Who to Transport

For most weddings:

- Bride and Groom.
- Attendants
- Both sets of parents
- Siblings not in the wedding party
- Grandparents
- Officiant if invited.
- If it is a destination wedding, all guests and party members to the ceremony and reception, and members of the wedding party to the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.

### Needs

These are items the bride/groom are expected to pay for. Put numbers, times and places to the following events. Who is arriving when and where? Where are they being transported?

- Wedding Rehearsal
- Rehearsal Dinner
- Wedding Ceremony
- Reception
- Bride & Groom Departure

### Parties!...The Out-Of-Towners

Many friends and family will either come early or stay late and incorporate a mini personal vacation into the wedding events. The thoughtful bride and groom will make sure all their guests can see more of what the Emerald Coast offers with a pre-wedding get together somewhere away from the wedding location. It can be a local restaurant, nightclub or private venue, just someplace away from the actual nuptial location so everyone can enjoy the dream-like destination the bridal couple has selected.



## In Conclusion

Providing transportation for this get together ensures your guests will arrive at the right place at the right time -- no lost party members. It also eliminates the need for multiple rental cars, a problem at some private venues, and the possibility of one of your celebrants misjudging his driving abilities after multiple toasts and becoming involved in an auto accident. It also makes getting there easy for families with children or those with special needs, such as an elderly family member or others with limited mobility.

## Bachelorette/Bachelor Parties

All-night celebrations. Drinking and driving. Getting lost and winding up somewhere you did not even want to be. Need we say more?

## The Day Before

The girls go to the spa. The guys go fishing or to the golf course. The wedding party that travels together arrives together. The bride and groom have enough to worry about without trying to figure out how to pick up their best buds for a day of R&R before the big event.

Getting to and from may seem like a simple thing but making it work requires detailed thinking and planning. A good transportation plan means no drinking-and-driving worries, no guests phoning in for directions and eliminating the need for multiple rental vehicles parked on premises, an issue at many "wedding homes."

"I recently had a bride who could not understand why we could not use one bus for 300 guests to get to and from the reception dinner. The dinner was only four minutes away but when you think about picking up all those people, the time it takes for them to load and unload, now it's a 45-minute trip. It's a very labor intensive process," said Jennifer Warwick-Lewis, owner of It's A Shore Thing, Santa Rosa Beach. "That's the nice thing about Sunshine Shuttle. They will just handle it for you."

Planning is key for you and your guests.

Be sure to include transportation information in your Save-the-Date, advises Finch. "You want guests and members of the wedding party to know what to budget for and what options they have. You don't want them to be surprised, or worse, get lost on the way. Making adequate arrangements transports your wedding from an obligation or burden, to a fun filled production that everyone will remember for who knows how long. It is the difference between being pressed into service and treated like an honored guest."

# Sunshine Shuttle

& LIMOUSINE



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**Second date.**



**Save the date.**

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