

After sharing eight wonderful years together, we decided it was time to get married. We had no experience organizing such a great event but we did know that our wedding was going to be very special and most of all memorable! We wanted it to live up to the old cliché “it was the best day of our lives”!

We decided on a civil marriage as my husband and I am from two different backgrounds and went scanning through brochures for a honeymoon. We came across some brochures promoting weddings abroad and the pictures of the bride and groom on sandy beaches, over looking the most beautiful mountains, and in the African bush, the idea of getting married abroad was blossoming!

To get married abroad was a little daunting and we had decided on a small wedding to fit within our budget. A work colleague suggested we use a wedding coordinator that he had used, being recently married in Southern Africa, he recommended Timeless Weddings Company. Having offices in both the UK and in South Africa, it made communicating with them really easy.

South Africa quickly became the ideal location to wed. Sun, sea and safari! South Africa had it all. Based on the sound advice, professionalism and reassurance I received, this was enough for me to entrust our big day in someone else’s hands. Timeless Weddings revealed many breathtaking South African wedding locations to us, and we both decided on the luxury private game reserve in Kwazulu Natal called “Thula Thula” which means Peace and Tranquillity in Zulu.

We arrived at the gates of the reserve and were met by our South African wedding coordinator Noreen Swartz from Timeless Weddings and the manager of the Game Reserve. My family, which included my sisters and her boyfriend, my niece and nephew, were also there to greet us. We were taken to the lodge and had a walk around the area to choose where our ceremony was to take place. The site we chose was out on the lawns under the trees with the wild African bush only meters away! I felt very calm and stress free as we ate our lunch on the veranda overlooking the bushveld.

Noreen had booked my hairdresser and make-up artist so I could sit back and enjoy the excitement of getting ready! My clothing was a traditional Indian three piece suit of turquoise blue colour and my bouquet was a dozen peach roses with hypericum berries and a little greenery tied tastefully together with a cream organza ribbon with gold edging.

As the photographer came in to introduce herself, I took a sneak look outside to see my husband-to-be chatting to the marriage official. All the decorating and arrangements were being handled and the outdoor venue was decorated with twig balls and flower buckets for the tables, filled with the same arrangement from my bouquet! Everything was running so smoothly and it all seemed ever so slightly surreal! Here I was on my big day, out in the middle of the African Bush!

As we walked down the isle we had traditional African choir in traditional dress singing to us,

what more to top a lovely and memorable wedding! We went all the way to Africa and the singers just made our wedding the most diverse and interesting experience that any one of us had ever experienced!

Our bridal suite was out of this world, decorated in traditional African décor. It was just so special and really made us feel like we had all the privacy in the world. It was quiet apart from the wildlife in the background and the staff made us feel like a King and Queen, the service was first-class!

After we were married, we looked forward to celebrating with a private safari. We were very pleased; it was the most exquisite experience! We saw zebra, giraffe, elephants, impala, and were most amazed about the several different species of birds! We even stopped to have a drink in the midst of all the game!

Our honeymoon was in Ballito which was an ideal location for newly weds as the room opened up into a balcony overlooking the sea, it was most beautiful and so serene and romantic!

Looking back now I can say that it more than lived up to that old cliché and was indeed “the best day of our lives”! My family thought the whole experience was fantastic, they will never forget it! I don’t think you could find such an exclusive place for the great value Thula Thula offered. Everyone could afford it comfortably. Africa is so beautiful yet so affordable for anyone thinking of getting married abroad! We feel we can only say that this was due to the careful, thoughtful and very tasteful coordination of the Timeless Weddings Company team that contributed to making us very proud of our special day!

Noreen from Timeless Weddings Company says, “The ceremony began to the sounds of the African bushveld and once all the formalities were over, the choir performed whilst the certificate was signed and the photographs were taken. The setting was magically African – bushveld, African choir and romance!”