

Record numbers of couples are heading abroad for their weddings in a bid to avoid the spiralling costs and unpredictable weather associated with UK weddings.

Researchers polled 500 engaged couples and found 35% have booked a wedding abroad - which is a 15% hike compared to figures for previous years. Meaning as many as 80,000 Brits will shun the UK in favour of a foreign wedding over the next 12 months.

The average cost of a UK wedding has topped more than £18,500 and a rate rise from the Church of England will see 40% added to the cost of church weddings from January next year.



The study asked engaged couples why they will ditch UK shores to marry. It found three in ten said 'saving money' was one of the biggest reasons behind the trend. Being able to invite fewer guests and combining the wedding with a hen and stag do, were also cited as further helping to drive the cost of an overseas weddings down.

One in three couples said a ceremony away from home was a great excuse for avoiding unwanted guests. When asked how much they thought they could save by heading abroad, 30% of couples predicted that they would be up to £5,000 better off. One in three of the couples getting married abroad revealed they had deliberately cancelled UK wedding plans as a result of the increase in costs. It is expected that the number of weddings in the UK will fall to an all-time low next year.



Italy was cited as the most popular destination, with 22% of the couples questioned revealing they have booked a wedding venue in the country. It comes as a recent rise in the value of the Pound has knocked nearly 9% the cost of a wedding in the Eurozone.

It means that couples getting hitched in Paris, just over two hours on a train from London, could save nearly £1,000 off the cost of a £10,000 wedding in the UK. And the onset of budget airlines has brought hundreds of romantic destinations within easy and cheap reach. 20% of couples are heading to Las Vegas with the Caribbean and Hawaii also being common destinations. For more information on marrrying abroad click HERE