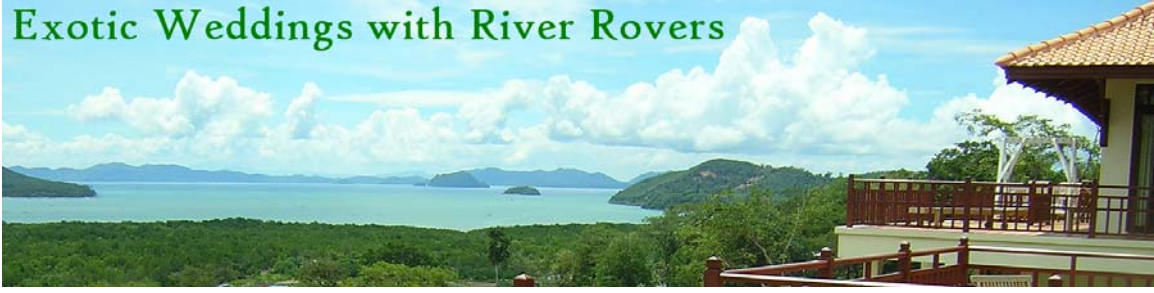


Exotic Weddings with River Rovers



An Exotic Wedding Service by River Rovers.

Hello Bride and Groom Too Be,

Congratulations on coming to this point in your relationship and on wanting to go to the next level. Your wedding marks the start of transition from where you are now as man and woman to where you can be as husband and wife and I welcome the opportunity to be part of that new beginning with you. Here are some thoughts and ideas for you to consider as you approach your wedding and I look forward to discussing them and your ideas with you to help you make your wedding event a special, memorable, significant, and joyful celebration.

The concept of marriage has three aspects:

Love relationship
Public Declaration/proclamation
Legal Recognition/Endorsement

Love Relationship

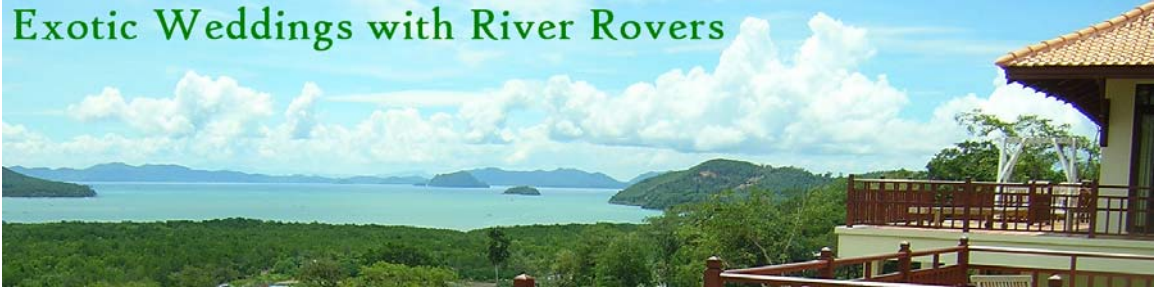
This idea is as broad and varied as there are people and couples and brings with it a mystical sense of rightness and wonder that you have found each other and discovered a desire to be together in a way that transcends friendship, physical attraction, and any other single aspect of relationship. However, as well as the absolutely unique and unrepeatable aspects of your relationship, there are many common and predictable patterns and principles which are relevant to a successful marriage regardless of culture, race, or time.

Whatever the details of your experiences to bring you to this point in your relationship, the next step into marriage should be taken seriously and thoughtfully for the sake of your own well being and happiness.

Public Declaration

This relates to your desire to establish your relational status and standing in your own hearts and before your friends and family – your community. It may also include your recognition of a spiritual aspect to your relationship by way of content which refers to God and/or spiritual recognition or writings etc.

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Marriage is not a contract. It is instead a covenant from each of you to the other. A contract is an agreement between two (or more in business) people where the obligations and requirements of each depend entirely upon the fulfillment of the obligations and requirements of the other for the contract to be completed. A covenant is a one sided commitment from each of you to the other in regard to what it is you bring and offer to the other and it can only be fulfilled by you alone.

In Thailand, most Thai people see this as the most important step to establish their marriage status through the wedding party which may or may not include a spiritual aspect by way of the participation of Buddhist monks in the service.

It is this aspect of establishing marriage that is most relevant to your wedding service and the elements of it should be considered carefully so that when you look back to your wedding day, the things you did and said to each other have special meaning and significance for you always.

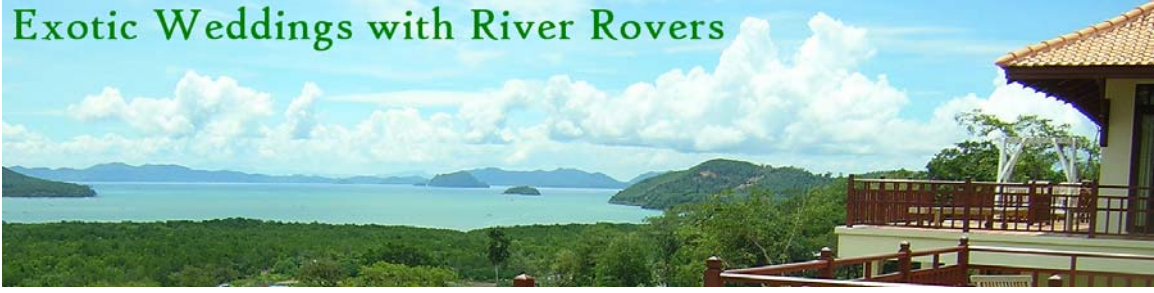
Legal Recognition

In Thailand, this aspect of marriage is addressed by the Thai authorities only by way of the amphur's office. If you wish to have your marriage legally recognized in Thailand, you will need to comply with the Thai marriage requirements. There is good information on the web in this regard or your hotel staff may provide valuable assistance to make sure you can fulfill your legal compliance prior to your wedding service.

You can have a representative from the local amphur's office on hand to witness your wedding and sign all the necessary papers and certificates for you immediately following the wedding service. Once you have received your marriage certification in Thailand, it is recognized internationally.

Here are some suggested items for you to consider including in your wedding service. I hope they are helpful to you at this time.

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Master of Ceremonies

Suggested Wedding Service Details

Welcome

We are here today for the marriage of [Groom] and [Bride]. [Groom] and [Bride] would like to welcome you and thank you for coming to witness their marriage, to share their joy and celebrate their love for each other.

The intention of marriage is that a man and a woman may grow together in love and trust and that they may be united with one another in heart.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in the delight and tenderness of union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives. It is given as the foundation of family life in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find security, strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love.

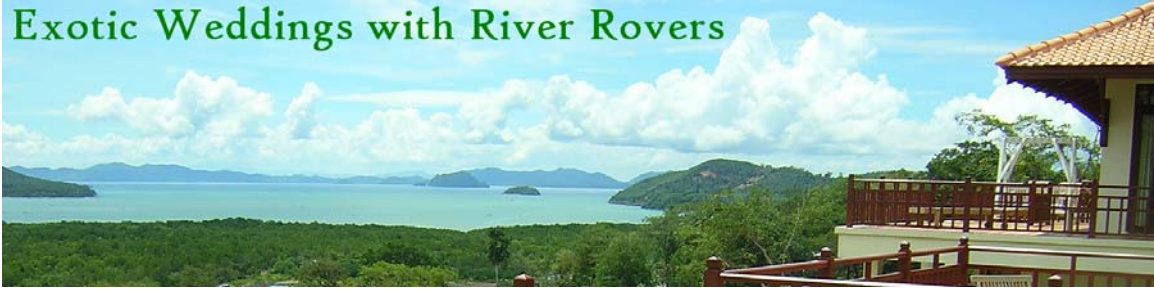
Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honor. It enriches society and strengthens community. No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly but reverently and responsibly.

Firstly, marriage is designed for family, for husband and wife, where children can be born and brought up in the security of the family.

Secondly, it is intended for the expression of love and affection that the natural instincts and desires we all have should be ordered in a holy and lawful relationship.

Thirdly, it is precious and to be highly valued for the companionship, help and comfort that husband and wife give and receive from each other both in prosperity and in distress.

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Purpose of Wedding Service

The MC says to the bridegroom

[Groom], will you take [Bride] to be your wife? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

He answers

I will.

The MC says to the bride

[Bride], will you take [Groom] to be your husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and protect him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

She answers

I will.

Reading(s) [see on the following page]

Details of what each loves about the other – provided by Groom and Bride

Vows - the most important promise of your life

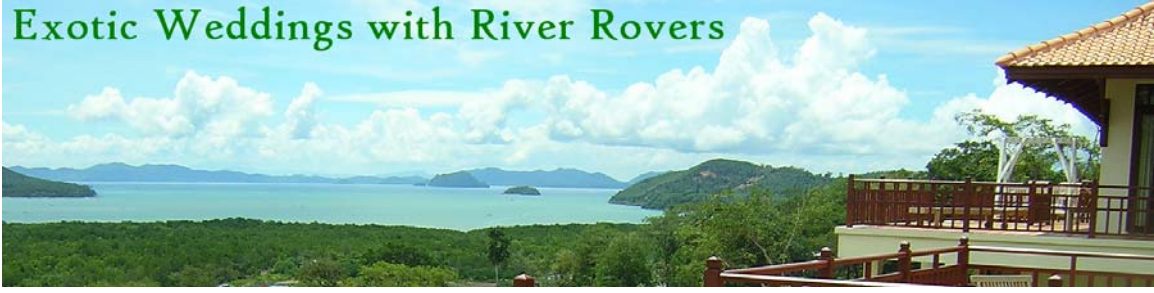
The MC asks the bridal couple to join their right hands and then the bridegroom says after the MC:

I [Groom] take you [Bride] to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to care for, till death parts us and this is my solemn pledge to you.

Then the bride says after the MC:

I [Bride] take you [Groom] to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and care for, till death parts us and this is my solemn pledge to you.

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Explanation of rings meaning and significance

A ring has no beginning and no end. It has long been an almost universal symbol of eternity or forever. Let it be to each of you a symbol of unending love and faithfulness to remind you of the vow and covenant that each has made to the other today.

The bridegroom takes the ring for the bride and puts it on the third finger of the bride's left hand. He holds it there and says after the MC:

[Bride], I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage, as a symbol of unending love and faithfulness and a constant reminder of my vow and covenant to you today.

If the bride is giving the bridegroom a ring the same procedure is followed and she says the same words after the MC.

[Groom], I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage, as a symbol of unending love and faithfulness and a constant reminder of my vow and covenant to you today.

Proclamation

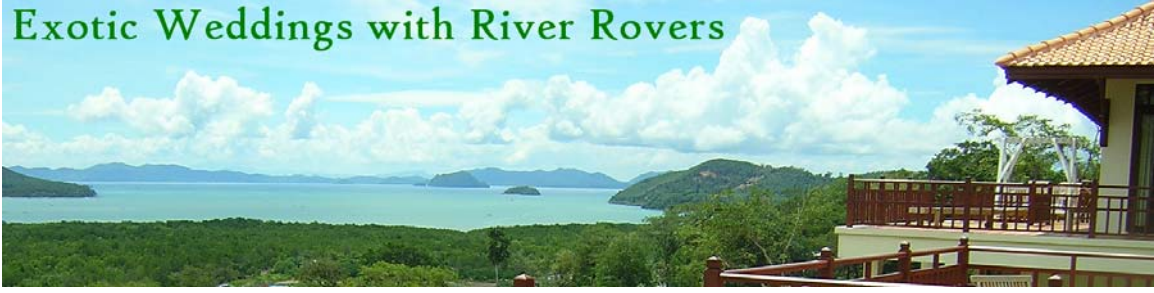
In the presence of these witnesses and before your friends and family gathered here today, [Bride] and [Groom] have given their consent and made their marriage vows to each other. They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of rings. I therefore proclaim and we all recognize that they are now husband and wife.

Readings Etc.

Love Never Fails

What if I could speak all languages of humans and of angels? If I did not love others, I would be nothing more than a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. What if I could prophesy and understand all secrets and all knowledge? And what if I had faith that moved mountains? I would be nothing, unless I loved others. What if I gave away all that I owned and let myself be burned alive? I would gain nothing, unless I loved others. Love is kind and patient, never jealous, never boastful, never proud, or rude. Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do.

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Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil. Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting. Love never fails! For now there are faith, hope, and love. But of these three, the greatest is love. (Bible – 1 Corinthians 13)

The Four Loves

The Greek language is far more articulate than English when it comes to expressing clearly what one means by love. They have four words to express different aspects of love:

Eros – one we can all understand because we get the English word erotic from it. It describes and relates to the physical touching romantic aspects of love between two people who are 'lovers' and is most often the meaning of love when expressed in Hollywood style presentations.

Philia – a word that means friendship or affection. This word conveys the depth of connection and oneness at a soul level and can be applied to any kind of friendship relationship. Once established, it is more likely to last a long time.

Storge – this word is about familiarity like a favorite pair of old shoes. In relationship, it conveys ease, comfort, and security in being together with another and it becomes a very important part of being together over time, not so much at the beginning when everything seems so much more exciting..

Agape – this word describes the unselfish giving other focused meaning of love, wanting and seeking the highest good for the other, not as a trade but as a covenant, a one-sided commitment and passion for the good of another or others.