

Couples from around the world beat the pandemic, by getting married in Gibraltar

CHLOE LODDO investigates

As Covid-19 continues to sweep across the globe leaving businesses destroyed in its wake, it would seem that the local wedding business continues to remain as solid as our great 'Rock', becoming a hub for international couples to tie the knot.

It is surprisingly easy to get married in Gibraltar as there are no registry restrictions. Couples can marry within 48 hours under a special licence provided they have the all the right documentation. The marriage is recognized worldwide, with their marriage certificate arriving in the

post 3 weeks after the wedding.

POPULAR

Speaking to a representative from Sweet Gibraltar Weddings, I asked how weddings in Gibraltar have become so popular amongst visitors: "We have been running a very successful business since 2008 but this year between Brexit and the pandemic Gibraltar has very much been in the spotlight".

With couples unable to marry in their own countries due to the pandemic they are making the journey to the Rock from places like Russia, China, the UK and the USA. According to the New York Times, "Many of the marriages being celebrated in Gibraltar involve an



Chamaine Cruz

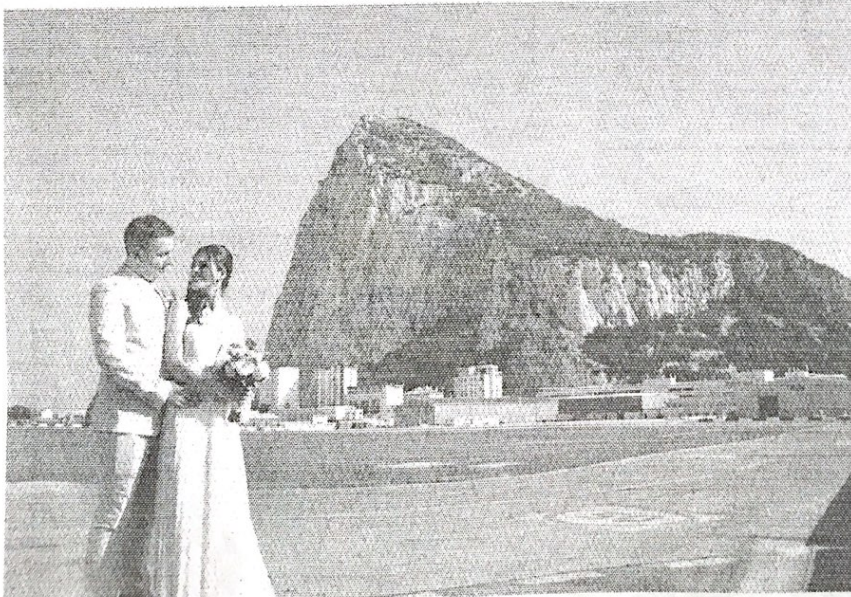
American citizen marrying a partner from another country, because of the numerous hurdles the Trump administration has placed on immigration and travel". Once married the ban on entering the US no longer applies.

The couples that are venturing from around the globe are generally travelling on their own

or with a couple of close relatives. Weddings are small and intimate due to the pandemic but it has made couples even more determined to get married. Sweet Gibraltar Weddings plan the entire day and build-up to the day down to the tiniest details for their couples and are committed to ensuring more than ever that their day is special.

PEAK

Gibraltar weddings have become more than ever hugely international. Chamaine Cruz, director and founder of Sweet Gibraltar Weddings is thrilled to have appeared in the New York Times, the Daily Telegraph and even on ABC News Station in the USA. The company usually hits 300 weddings per year but this year they are already at 400 weddings and having to turn business away: "We could easily organise another 400 weddings if more slots become available". The peak wedding seasons in Gibraltar are usually between March-June and August-November as flights and hotels are generally cheaper at these times of the year and the heat is less intense. However it has been peak season since the lockdown lifted as



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