

OVERSEAS BOOKING GUIDE



HOW DO THE EXPENSES WORK?

We appreciate that it can be intimidating to sort out the expenses for the band. The reason we don't include these as part of a lump sum in our initial quotes is because if we when paying the expenses up front we'd be obliged to charge VAT on top of these expenses and also a buffer to cover the possibility of inflating costs, which we might not use. So, you're saving money by paying everything at cost, and we don't risk underquoting - it works better for sides!

If the expenses are covered directly by you, the client, then you have the assurance that you are paying no more than the exact cost of getting the band out to the destination, and don't worry we'll still do the admin!

That said, if you would like us to handle it all and forget about it, then we absolutely can! The cheapest option however would be to pay for the expenses directly yourselves, but let us guide you on appropriate flights, accommodation and equipment hire etc.

The client is responsible for covering the following expenses:

- **Accommodation** (One room per band member - single is fine, must be well-reviewed)
- **Flights + Luggage** + Transport of brass instruments and guitars (this may require buying an extra seat for these instruments)
- **Food + Drink** in Destination Country and at the outgoing airport - each meal to be either provided by client or compensated.
- **Transfers** in destination country *From airport to hotel, and from hotel to venue + returns. We may need multiple vehicles!
- **Technical/instrument hire** at venue (we are able to help advise what you will require, but we must sign this off with your supplier!)
- **VISAs** (Uncommon in most countries)



WHY BOOK A BAND ABROAD?

QUALITY - Time and time again, this is the principle reason cited to us as the reason for making the investment of flying a band out of their native country. UK event bands are unparalleled in their quality compared to the global competition.

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL - If you book a band for the evening, rather than needing to fly out another batch of musicians to cover the rest of the day's entertainment, you can have us perform in different iterations throughout your event. It's not uncommon for us to have say 9 musicians cover an entire 3 day event, be it as an interactive roaming band, a romantic ceremony trio or DJ/Sax for the pool party the following day.

MEMORIES - After our performance, on countless occasions, the feedback we've received is that the band made the event what it was. When we fly out, we aim not to just perform a range of songs but to create special moments that you'll never forget. Destination weddings have a unique, close-knit feel about them, and we always come home feeling like we've shared something truly unique with our clients and guests that we can't replicate at home.

All this said, we do often suggest that at least one element of your entertainment could involve local musicians. If you're in Greece, there's nothing we can do that would beat a local bouzouki band under the olive trees, or a local classical guitarist in the sun in Spain!

AIRLINES

We usually chat with our clients before booking flights to come up with the most reliable plan, as some airlines can be really difficult with the transport of instruments, and some of the airlines simply aren't very reliable. Because each airline has a different policy on baggage and instrument portage, what looks like the best flight at first glance, may not actually be.

Where possible we really try to avoid RyanAir; once you add baggage it's not actually cheap normally, they have very little flexibility on luggage sizes for instruments and to top it off, they love to cancel last minute!

We encourage our clients to provide the most humane itinerary possible. Whilst events abroad can seem like a paid holiday on the face of it, they can sometimes be the most challenging and exhausting if managed wrongly, and we want to give you nothing but good vibes and high energy! Given that many of the musicians perform the following day after their return, it's paramount that they are able to sleep before their return flights, because when people return from gigs abroad with no sleep they often get ill immediately after! So we just ask you to account for sleep time and down-time during the day as much as is possible.

We have a brilliant reputation among musicians of providing good working conditions, and we expect to be able to uphold these standards for all events we work on.

SOUND & LIGHTS HIRE

Sourcing local technical services in European countries isn't necessarily straightforward. The reliable suppliers are often very expensive compared to the UK and US, and the ones that are cheap are often cheap for a reason, so please let us know if you need help finding a more affordable supplier that can also be trusted.

We are part of a small cooperative of bands that share details on the best suppliers abroad for tech hire, so we can give you plenty of guidance in this department.

What do I need for technical hire?

PA hire generally involves the following: 2 x Speakers, 2 x Subwoofers, 2 x Amplifiers, a number of microphones, stands and cables, a mixer, an English speaking sound engineer, in ear monitors for the band and then great lighting to hit the stage and the dance floor. It's also a good idea to get a quote for a stage from the same people. We will provide a specific 'rider' for each line up of our band that details exactly what we require to get accurate quotes from tech companies.

Instrument hire: if you have the following in your band lineup, you will need to have the instrument hired in – keyboard, drums, percussion, DJ decks, amplifiers; these are obviously just too big to fly with! String players, and horn players (sax, trumpet, trombone) prefer to fly with their instruments and it's really not likely the local hireables will be up to scratch. Guitarists and bass guitarists also prefer to fly with their own instruments, however there are a number of instances where it simply makes more sense to hire them in. Bass guitars, cellos, trombones and guitars they CANNOT be checked in, and must either be bought a separate seat as they won't be allowed overhead (except on a very small number of airlines). Alto saxophones, violins and trumpets can go overhead usually.

If the sound company is unable to provide a fluent English speaking sound engineer, it's essential we can fly one out, because having a communication barrier here is simply not worth the cost saving!

In our professional opinion, it can cost between £3000 – 7000 to get the standard provision for the band sorted. If the lighting provided is considered to be very high end and is coupled with bespoke staging, dance floor and other decorative elements, it can cost up to £20k and more. Anything less than £1500 is possibly worth worrying about. Keep us in the loop, either way!



ESSENTIAL HIRES

- **High Quality Sound System** - There is no situation where the sound is worth compromising on. If you are flying us out, you don't want to be worrying about cheap speakers!
- **English-Speaking Engineers**
- **Staging** - Nothing elevates our performance like a bit of physical elevation!
- **Ambient lighting** - we require at least a front wash, so you can see us, and some simple ambience to create a vibe.

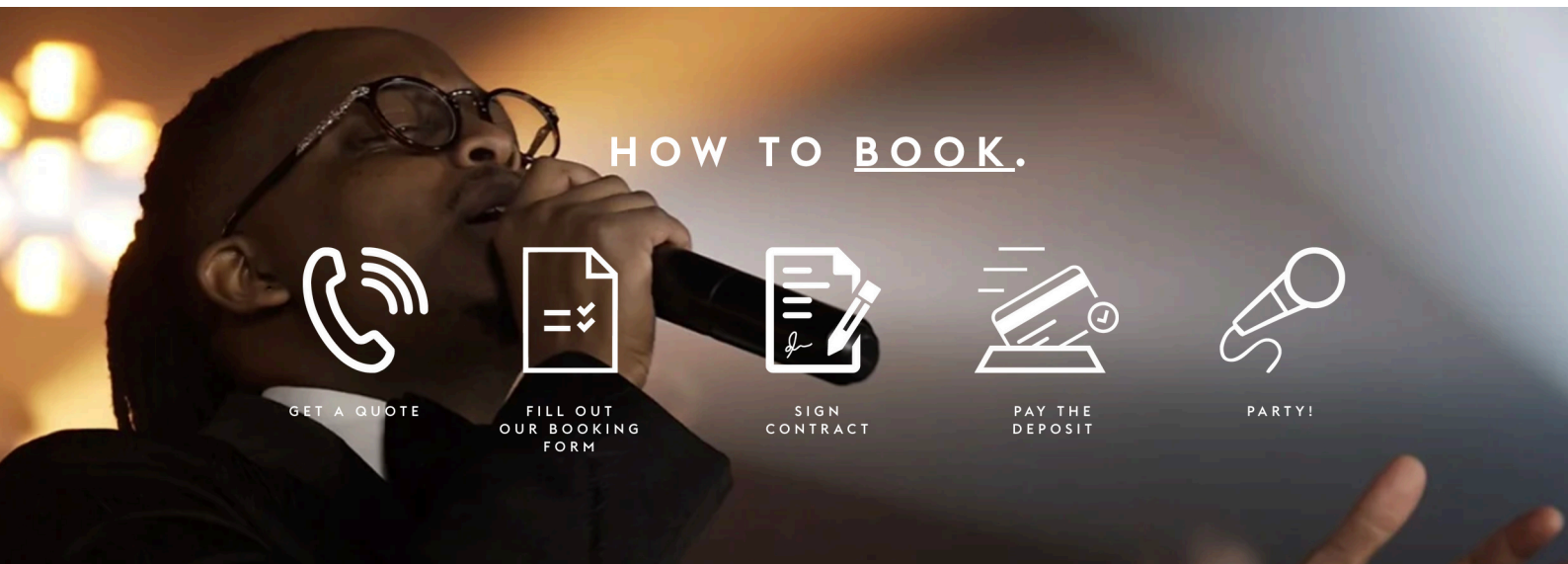
OPTIONAL HIRES

- **Dynamic lighting** - vibes, vibes, vibes. The sky is the limit, so we encourage you to spec it to budget, as the more you spend on lighting the grander the lighting design will be.
- **Tiered bespoke staging** - a proper stage design can really enhance the visual and performative impact of the band.

FINALISING THE BOOKING

When you've decided what lineups you want for your event, then just let us know. You'll be asked to summarise everything you want within our booking form, where the total cost will be clarified. We then use the details to put together a contract which we will send alongside a deposit for the invoice (usually 50%). When you're happy with everything, sign the contract and pay the deposit and your booking will be fully confirmed.

Only once the contract is signed AND we have received the deposit are we able to begin booking musicians to fill the slots. We try to respect our performer's need to work regularly by not asking them to 'pencil' dates. We can check their availability for you, but the individuals will only be sent confirmation of a booking once it is confirmed our end. We believe strongly that if we don't mess people around, it's a lot less likely that they'll mess us around, and reliability is something we hold very valuable.



WHAT NEXT?

Some of you may have booked us in a hurry - in that case you'll hear from us very soon! Those of you on the other end of the spectrum that book us 2 years in advance, please reach out as and when you want, and we'll be very happy to answer any questions you may have about how we'll slot into your event. If you're keen and want the admin done early, that may well suit us as well, just know that if you don't hear from us in the long layover between booking and a few months before the event - fear not, your booking is safe! We are that we honoured all 158 postponements that were requested due to covid, and as such have NEVER had to let a client down!

What we'll need from you:

- **Music choices.** Including your special request, we'll talk a bit about this too verbally, to map out the night, we like to get a good sense of you and your guests to make sure we nail this all important part!
- **Information on the performance area.** We need to make sure we have enough space to perform. Power requirements and figure out stage requirements if applicable.
- **Check the sound limit.** Hopefully there isn't one, but if there is we need to know the limit and how it's enforced.
- **Information about the venue.** Where our break-out room is to chill and store instruments + parking and loading information.
- **Dress code.** Let us know if there's a dress code you'd like us to follow.
- **Schedule.** This is the most important bit, from both a logistical side, and from the perspective of getting the flow right in your party. We really recommend involving us in the planning of the schedule, because we have some great nuggets of advice here.
- **Contact for the day.** i.e. your planner or organiser, in case we need to reach someone without disturbing you.
- **Add ons.** Remember, we offer a lot of entertainment options and upgrade, from bespoke lighting and staging, to jazz trios/dinner roaming, if you fancy adding something to the booking, we can easily quote and amend your contract for you.

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