

The Top 10 Things to Remember When Planning Your Wedding

1. Agree on your priorities

Before booking anything, talk about what matters most to you both. Is it the venue, the food, the atmosphere, the guest experience, or a particular tradition? Agreeing on your priorities helps guide decisions when you have to make choices or trade-offs.

2. Set a realistic budget

Decide how much you can comfortably spend and keep a record of bookings, deposits, balances, and due dates. Include a contingency for unexpected costs, and check what each supplier's price includes before comparing quotes.

3. Make an approximate guest list

Your guest numbers affect your budget, venue options, catering, seating, and invitations. Start with an approximate list early, even if you haven't finalised every name. Remember to check whether your preferred venues have minimum or maximum guest numbers.

4. Choose a date and consider your timing

Your preferred date may affect venue availability, supplier choice, travel, accommodation, and cost. If you can be flexible, consider a few possible dates. Also think about the season, daylight, and the time you'd like the celebrations to begin and end.

5. Visit venues with a checklist

A venue can look wonderful, but it also needs to work for your plans. Ask about capacity, what's included, supplier arrangements, access, timings, payment terms, and what happens if plans change. Take notes and photos, then compare venues after your visits.

6. Read contracts and booking terms carefully

Before paying a deposit, check the contract, payment schedule, cancellation terms, and what happens if you need to change the date or details. Make sure you understand what is included and what could cost extra. Ask for anything agreed verbally to be confirmed in writing.

7. Book key suppliers early

Popular venues and suppliers can book up well in advance, especially for peak dates. Once your date and venue are confirmed, begin contacting the suppliers that matter most to you. Check availability, services, costs, and payment terms before committing.

8. Keep a record of decisions and deadlines

Use one shared planning document, calendar, or folder to keep contracts, quotes, contact details, guest information, and to-do lists together. Record when payments are due and when you need to confirm details with each supplier.

9. Plan for your guests' practical needs

Think about how guests will get to the venue, whether accommodation is nearby, and whether the venue is accessible for everyone you're inviting. Clear information about travel, timings, dress code, and accommodation can make the day easier for your guests.

10. Leave room to enjoy the day

Make a realistic schedule and decide who will handle questions and small problems on the day. Share the timeline and key contacts with your suppliers and chosen helpers, so you can spend less time coordinating and more time celebrating.

A final reminder...

Your wedding should reflect the two of you. Use checklists and advice as helpful prompts, then make the choices that suit your priorities, guests, and budget.

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