

The Ultimate WEDDING PLANNING *Checklist*

11 - 12 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

- ☐ Consult with a wedding planner
- ☐ Draft a budget
- ☐ Start collecting ideas for your wedding
- ☐ Book your Venue
- ☐ Book your Photographer and Videographer

Consult WITH A PLANNER

When you have just gotten engaged, you ask yourself, 'Do I need a Wedding Planner?' And the answer is 'Yes!' Wedding planners make planning and arranging your special day SO much easier. Contrary to popular belief, they actually help you save money on your budget as they have all the inside information and trusted suppliers.

Not much of a reader? No problem! Watch this video of [Why You Need a Wedding Planner](#).

Getting a [wedding planner](#) is a good investment, but it is understandable that you still prefer to plan your own wedding. Regardless of whether you have a planner, your wedding day will still be magical but they do take the stress out of having to do any last minute things yourself and ensure everything runs smoothly on the day.

If you are still not 100% sure whether a wedding planner is a good fit for you, here are some important questions like, do you:

- ☐ Know EVERYTHING that goes into planning a whole wedding?
- ☐ Know how many guests you want to invite?
- ☐ Have a venue in mind that will meet all of your requirements?
- ☐ Have a theme in mind?
- ☐ Have a realistic budget set out?
- ☐ Know how much everything actually costs for a wedding?
- ☐ Know which services you have to book first?
- ☐ Know what to look out for in a service contract?
- ☐ Know how to set up a proper timeline for the service providers on the day?

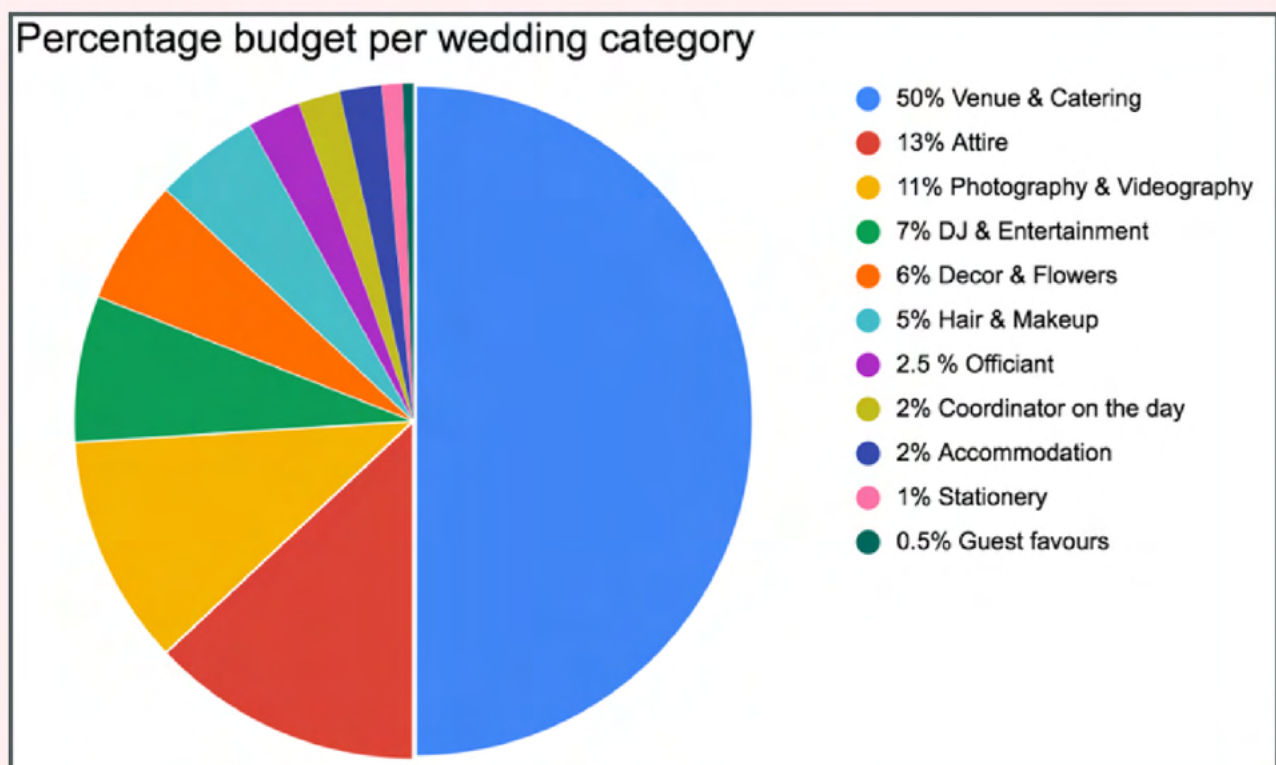
Work Out YOUR BUDGET

It's very important to have a realistic budget, and stick to it as much as you can as you plan your wedding. If you don't monitor your expenses, you could end up running out of money or landing in debt.

There is no set budget layout as no one wedding is ever the same. For one couple the attire might be more important than the flowers where another couple might put the flowers and décor above attire and so the list goes on.

Remember family members also tend to offer to pay certain elements of the wedding or contribute. It's best to have a family meeting after your engagement party to discuss this before starting to plan and pay any deposits.

Here is a pie chart we put together of a standard budget breakdown guideline. We hope you find this useful!



Work Out YOUR BUDGET

Now take your budget, say for example R100 000 and break that down into the percentage value. Once you see the rand value you will immediately get a feeling on whether you want to spend more or less on a certain element:

Category	Rand value
Venue and Category	R
Attire (Dress, suit, shoes, veil etc)	R
Photography and Videography	R
DJ & Entertainment	R
décor and Flowers	R
Hair and makeup	R
Marriage officiant	R
Coordinator on the day	R
Accommodation	R
Stationery	R
Guest favours	R
TOTAL	R

Here are our Top 5 Tips for your Wedding Budget:

1. Get quotes from at least 3 different suppliers to make sure you get the best price possible. When you have quotes for every aspect, select the suppliers you want to use to determine a rough amount that you will need.
2. Try to find a venue that supplies most of your furniture needs. Ensuring you choose a venue with adequate chairs, tables, cutlery, crockery and basic décor items will save you from having to hire it in.
3. Keeping your guest list limited to close friends and family will keep your budget under control. Keep in mind that most venues and caterers charge per head, so the bigger your guest list, the larger your bill.
4. Do as many décor DIY's as you can – this will shave the Rands off of your bottom line.
5. Consider getting married on a weekday or during winter to get discounts.

Work Out YOUR BUDGET

BE CAUTIOUS! Watch out for those hidden costs that might creep up one or two weeks before the wedding. You might forget a few things here and there, it's not uncommon. Have a small savings amount for emergencies.

Here is a very famous quote we hear all too often, "What you thought you were going to spend on your wedding. Times that with three."

Budget Checklist:

- ☐ Have you determined your wedding budget
- ☐ Do you have a small savings amount on standby should you require it
- ☐ Have you discussed who will be contributing to the wedding
- ☐ Have you got at least three quotes for each category and compared them
- ☐ Have you met with suppliers/vendors and checked their quality of work
- ☐ Have you gone through their contracts and ensured all is in order
- ☐ When compiling your budget breakdown does it fall within your desired budget

THE NOTE PAGE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Collect IDEAS FOR YOUR THEME

Once you decide on the theme you want, you'll see that everything else will just magically fall into place. This is because the theme will dictate so many other elements in your wedding – the colour scheme, the look and feel, the type of furniture you'll use, etc. There have been plenty of weddings lately which boast the same themes over and over again, so we encourage you to be brave and try something unique to you and your fiancé.

Here are 8 things to consider when deciding on your theme:

- The venue

If you've already chosen a venue, take a look at what it has to offer. Pay attention to its features and ambience, and choose a suitable theme to go with it.

- Your favourite colours

Think about your favourite colours and see if they pair well. Or, you can start browsing different colour combinations to see if any will catch your eye.

- Delve a little deeper

You need to get into the details. If you want to have a vintage-themed wedding, decide on a specific period, like the 1920s or 1960s. If you like rustic décorations, which kind of rustic? The elegant or rugged kind?

- Consider the season

Don't forget about the season, especially if you're planning an outdoor wedding. You can't have a garden wedding in the winter, can you?

- Look into your roots

If you'd like to pay tribute to your family's cultural heritage, why don't you add a dose of tradition to your wedding celebration? These days, traditional weddings aren't necessarily long-winded affairs. Modern-day couples often combine multiple traditions and their own personal style.

Collect IDEAS FOR YOUR THEME

- The event's formality

What kind of celebration did you imagine? What will your guests wear? If it's a formal black-tie occasion, a grandiose ballroom wedding is the obvious choice. If you want something more laid-back, opt for a garden party or beachside wedding.

- Mind your budget

As always, be realistic and stick to your wedding budget. An indoor garden-themed wedding party might not be the best choice if you're on a budget, as filling a ballroom with flowers will be very costly. Instead, why not opt for an actual garden that doesn't need too many extra décorations?

- Be true to yourself

There is no better wedding than one that reflects the couple's character, so you need to stay true to yourself when deciding on a wedding theme.

This is not a process you need to rush. If you have a wedding planner they will be able to make this very easy for you and present you with amazing mood boards; however, Pinterest will always be your best friend! Create your own boards of inspiration and when you start looking at flowers, décor and furniture hire you should show the same boards to the company so they can show you items that will fit your theme.

Wedding Theme Checklist:

- ☐ Create Pinterest Boards for different wedding categories
- ☐ Start following brands and companies that inspire your wedding ideas
- ☐ Follow Pink Book's [YouTube Channel](#) for Weekly Inspiration

Book YOUR DATE & VENUE

The wedding venue is the most important element of any wedding day. Be it a big or small wedding, we know you've had your perfect wedding planned out from the start.

5 Questions To Answer Before You Choose Your Wedding Venue:

1. How many guests will I have?
2. How much am I willing to spend?
3. What is stated in the venue hire contract and terms and conditions?
4. What do I want to have included? – cutlery, staff, catering, etc.
5. Do they offer accommodation?

There are many more questions you need to consider, like:

1. How do the glasses, cutlery, crockery and linen look if it is included?
2. What furniture is included?
3. How long do we have to set-up and breakdown?
4. Does the venue have a generator incase of load shedding?
5. How expensive is the cash bar?

Now ask yourself: How do we get all this information? Email them.

You do not only ask for the date on your first email. You send them a list of all your questions. Ask them if your date is open. If not, ask if they have alternative dates open followed with the list of your questions. When they then get back to you, you can make an informed decision and create a short list of venues to view.

Venue capacity:

When the venue states 100 guests maximum don't try for 120. You will have cramped spaces and an uncomfortable wedding. Only view venues that you can afford, that are available, and answer all your questions.

Ensure the venue fits with your wedding theme and colour selection. There is no use in looking at country style venues when you would like to go with a modern, black and white wedding theme.

Book YOUR DATE & VENUE

On the Pink Book website, we have an easy to use Venue Type filter where you can select the style you are going for like: **Wine Farm Venue**, **City Venue**, **Garden Venue**, **Bushveld Venue**, **Country Venue**, **Forest Venue** and **Beach Venue**.

Wedding Venue Checklist:

- ☐ Have you gone for a venue viewing
- ☐ Is the venue in your budget range
- ☐ Can it accommodate your guest total
- ☐ Is it available on your date
- ☐ Does it have a covered area for the ceremony should it rain
- ☐ Does it have proper parking facilities for your guests
- ☐ Is the bathrooms of decent standards
- ☐ Is the kitchen in working condition and up to health standards
- ☐ Is the venue hire contract up to standard with your requirements
- ☐ Will it compliment with your wedding theme
- ☐ Does the ceremony, pre-drinks and reception area have space for the DJ setup
- ☐ Does the venue include everything you require (cutlery, crockery, tables)
- ☐ Does it have accommodation on site (if applicable)
- ☐ Is it the perfect venue that ticks all the boxes for you as a couple

Book PHOTOGRAPHER & VIDEOGRAPHER

You really need to make sure the **photographer** you choose is going to be best suited for you and your partner. There are three important factors you need to remember when deciding on a photographer.

1. Cost – We all have a budget which we need to consider
2. The Style of photography that the photographer produces
3. The Photographer's personality – Is he or she going to bring the best out of you and your partner on the day, do they make you feel at ease and comfortable?

It's important to set up a meeting with a potential photographer and talk with them to get to know them; **come prepared with list of questions**. Choose a photographer that you feel understands the vision of your day and is there to capture all the things and moments that are important to you. It is always good to let the photographer know of little moments they need to be aware of, like a gift for the groom or a special person so they can make sure they are ready for that moment.

A lot of companies these days offer both photography and videography services which is great! Here are four reasons why you should definitely hire a **wedding videographer**:

- You'll get to see all of the special moments that you may have missed on the day. We're talking about the look on your partner's face as soon as they see you, your bridesmaids walking down the aisle or your friends and family together at the pre-dinner drinks. Wedding videography ensures you don't miss a thing.
- Photographers can't capture absolutely everything. A photo is worth a thousand words, but with a video and audio clip, you can recall those words verbatim.

Book PHOTOGRAPHER & VIDEOGRAPHER

- The day really does go by so quickly. All the months-long planning that leads up to your wedding day, and in the blink of an eye, it is over. You might be unsure about it at first, but trust us – in 5, 10 or even 20 years, you'll be thankful you hired one!
- Memories might fade, but the video will last forever. Even if you don't watch your wedding video that much in the beginning, you'll have it forever. Wedding videography will transport you back to your special day and allow you to relive all the special moments.

Here is a very insightful video on [10 Questions to ask your videographer](#).

Photographer and Videographer Checklist:

- ☐ Determine the look and feel you want for your photos and videos
- ☐ View various packages that are available
- ☐ Is the team available on your wedding date
- ☐ Have you gathered at least three quotes within your budget
- ☐ Meet with the photographers/videographer in person
- ☐ Go through their contracts and ensure all is in order
- ☐ Decided who you would like to book

THE NOTE PAGE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. The overall appearance is that of a clean, unused piece of stationery.

The Ultimate WEDDING PLANNING *Checklist*

9 - 10 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

- ☐ Compile your guest list
- ☐ Book your marriage officiant
- ☐ Book your caterer
- ☐ Book your stationery designer
- ☐ Start suit & dress shopping
- ☐ Finalise your wedding theme
- ☐ Send out Save the Dates

Compile YOUR GUEST LIST

Some couples may want to invite every single family member, friend, colleague, next-door neighbour and spin instructor to their wedding. Other couples are looking for a more intimate affair with their closest friends and family. Finalising your **guest list** may be a tough, and often argumentative, process.

- Firstly, How Do You Envision Your Wedding Day?

What do you envision for your big day? If you want a romantic and intimate wedding in a small forest with draped fairy lights, you may want to invite fewer guests. However, if you are planning on having a grand-affair in a castle-like venue, it may be a better idea to invite more guests as they will fill up the room and ensure that the venue doesn't look like a big empty space. The type of atmosphere you want goes hand in hand with the number of guests you should invite.

- Start Off By Creating Separate Lists

It's generally a good idea for you and your fiancé to make separate wedding guest lists and compare them. Work together to create a master list that includes absolutely everyone you want to invite, and remember to be willing to compromise.

- Create A Draft Before Accepting Any Financial Help

We know that creating your wedding guest list may get a bit messy, especially when both sets of parents are involved and want to contribute to the wedding financially. This is why you should be clear about your expectations before accepting any financial help. Even if you're paying for the wedding yourselves, it's a good idea to get the families together and talk about the guest list.

- What Are Your Limitations?

There is a maximum capacity which your wedding venue will allow – be this for 100 guests or 300 guests. Ensure that you are aware of your limitations before starting with your guest list. Also, consider the number of guests that you are able to afford. Ask your caterers about the price per head and see how many guests can fit into your budget.

Compile YOUR GUEST LIST

- Who Absolutely Must Attend

Your immediate families and closest friends? It will be easier editing your guest list later once you've established who the most important guests are. This is where you and your fiancé can also ask each of your parents who they would love to have there.

- With That Being Said – Don't Let Your Parents (Or In-Laws) Get You Down

This isn't the case with all families, but we know that many families really like to get involved in their children's weddings. This means that they will want to invite who they want at your wedding. You might feel that you want to keep everyone happy but just remember that at the end of the day, it is your wedding.

- Reduce Your Guest List By Cutting On Plus Ones

Adding a plus one to your single friend's invitations can increase your overall wedding guest list numbers. Feel free to make some rules when it comes to plus ones, or you could adopt the phrase that they use over in America: No ring? No bring!

Guest List Checklist:

- ☐ Confirm the capacity of your venue
- ☐ Meet with your families to confirm who they wish to have at the wedding
- ☐ Create separate guest lists with your partner and compare
- ☐ Create an A list and a B list incase some guests on the A list can't attend

THE NOTE PAGE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Book YOUR CELEBRANT

So your marriage officiant has got a couple of things to do before, on and after your official wedding day. Love is amazing and if you want to stand in front of your friends and family or you just want to elope and stand on a beach and say to each other, "I love you," none of it is legal if not done through a marriage officer.

So what are the parameters that you need to work inside for a legal or lawful marriage in this country?

Under the Civil Union Act, there are only a couple of things that you need to do:

- You need to be over 18
- You need to be single. That means if you were married before you need to have a divorce decree and you need to check with home affairs in South Africa whether you are still legally married under their population register or not.

There are various steps to follow when getting married and you are:

- Both South African citizens
- One foreign citizen
- Both foreign citizens

The marriage officer will be able to assist you and guide you in exactly what to do and the procedure you have to take to ensure a legal, binding marriage!

Marriage Officiants Checklist:

- ☐ Determine the overall feel you want for your ceremony
- ☐ View various packages that are available
- ☐ Have you gathered at least three quotes within your budget
- ☐ Go through each contract and ensured all is in order
- ☐ Meet with the marriage officiant in personal

Book YOUR CATERING

People will remember two things about your wedding – the food and the party. Your wedding caterer needs to be an experienced professional, capable of dreaming up incredible menus to suit your needs perfectly. From Canapes to Desserts and everything in between, you need a wedding caterer to make your taste buds tingle!

6 Things to consider for your wedding catering: **Things to consider for your wedding catering.**

- Budget

You're looking at a rough budget of about R550.00 excluding VAT per guest

- Booking Your Caterer

You do have some brides that feel they have to do it one year in advance. We personally would say 9 - 10 months in advance is more than enough time.

- Tasting

We suggest doing a tasting where you would taste three or four different menu items. You can then explain what you do like and possibly don't and work together with your caterer to finalise your wedding day menu.

- Seasonal Produce

Seasonality plays a very big role in personalised menus. The import and export of products play a vital role so it is important to look at the season and what is available and obviously, you'd want to support small and local businesses at this time.

- Personalise Your Menu

A great **wedding caterer** should be able to take your personality into account and incorporate that into the menu with little things like your favourite meals or something that you ate when you first met each other or something that holds a dear memory to you two.

Book YOUR CATERING

- Colour Scheme

It is very nice to see your colour scheme on your wedding menu. This can be done in the way your wedding catering is presented. Whether it is during canapés with little edible flowers that matches with your bouquets or colourful plates during your plated main meals or buffet.

Catering Checklist:

- ☐ Determine the overall taste, look and feel you want for your catering
- ☐ View various caterers in the area or that are willing to travel
- ☐ Ensure they are available on your wedding date
- ☐ Have you gathered at least three quotes within your budget
- ☐ Meet with the caterers in person
- ☐ Ensure they are comfortable making your desired dishes
- ☐ Go through the contracts and ensure all is in order

Book STATIONERY

You should never underestimate the importance of your Wedding Stationery. They say first impressions last and this is also true for the invitations and stationery.

Your Save The Dates and Wedding Invitations is the ideal opportunity to set the tone of what friends and family can expect when they attend your future wedding. Stick to the theme you decided on and make sure you use the wedding colours and elements when you design your invitations. A great wedding stationery designer can help you achieve that wow factor that every bride wants and help you to dazzle your future wedding guests with unique, yet beautiful designs.

Stationery items you need for your wedding from start to finish:

- Save the Date
- Wedding Invitations with RSVP cards
- Bachelor and Bachelorette/Kitchen Tea
- Programs
- Hymns of Worship (If applicable)
- Seating Plan
- Name Tags
- Table Numbers
- Menus
- Thank You Cards

Stationery Designer Checklist:

- ☐ Determine the look and feel you want for your wedding stationery
- ☐ Are your preferred stationery designers available
- ☐ Have you gathered at least three quotes within your budget
- ☐ Ensured they're comfortable with your desired design

Start DRESS & SUIT SHOPPING

Every girl grows up dreaming of walking down the aisle in a beautiful wedding dress. It is no wonder that the moment women get engaged, they start looking at wedding dresses.

Important Considerations:

- Rent or Buy?

If you're sentimental, there will be no doubt that you should buy. But the hard facts are that you would realistically only wear the dress for one day. Rentals might have a stigma, but going this route might mean you save a pretty penny that can be spent on other elements.

- What should I budget for my Dress?

How long is a piece of string you might say... The possibilities are endless, but your budget is most probably not. First determine what your total wedding budget is and then look at the big, hard costs like your venue, catering and photography.

- Catalog Dress or Custom Made?

Everyone wants to look and feel unique, but unique comes with a big price tag. Custom Made Wedding Dresses can go from R50 000 to millions!

What Style, Colour & Fabric?

- Short or Long? Sleeves or Sleeveless?

Open Back or Halter Neck? Strapless or Spaghetti Straps? There are so many styles to choose from. If it is summer, then dress appropriately. A Strapless, sleeveless light, airy fabric and breathable dress will be the wise choice. Remember, comfort is as important as your looks!

- What style of Skirt?

Trumpet or Flare, Ball Gown or Straight. Every woman knows her own body. Choose something that will not only flatter your body shape, but also be easy to wear and move around on the day.

Start DRESS & SUIT SHOPPING

- Next up is the waistline

Will you go in a boxy dress with no waistline; a normal waist or a higher than normal waist line. A great tip for this decision is to have a look at photos of yourself in different style dresses.

- Location

Getting married on a beach? Make sure you wear something light, especially the skirt. You'd be silly to wear a ball gown that collects sand and takes forever to dry, should you accidentally get wet.

- Colour

Believe it or not, but brides only started wearing white gowns in 1840 when Queen Victoria popularised it at her wedding. But times have changed. No longer do brides listen to these guidelines applied by society. Today the determining factor of the colour of your dress is skin tone and complexion.

Wedding Dress Checklist:

- ☐ Decide whether you'll be hiring, buying or having your dress designed
- ☐ Finalise your wedding dress budget
- ☐ Book an appointment to go dress fitting at a boutique
- ☐ Limit your options to 3 maximum

Start DRESS & SUIT SHOPPING

All men look amazing in well-fitted suits – so why shouldn't your partner? Picking out the grooms' wedding suit is just as important as picking the perfect wedding dress. You want the groom to look dashing and handsome to compliment the beautiful bride.

5 Things To Consider For Your Suit:

- Should you hire or buy your suits?
- Choosing a suit style
- Choosing a suit colour
- Ties and other accessories
- Suits for your groomsmen

Wedding Suit Checklist:

- ☐ Decide whether you'll be hiring, buying or having your suit designed
- ☐ Finalise your suit budget
- ☐ Book an appointment to go suit fitting at a boutique
- ☐ Limit the suit options you are going for to 3 maximum

Finalise WEDDING THEME

A few months have passed and you should be able to select your wedding theme and colours now. Exciting times!

We recommend putting your best images together on one page and using this as your main reference when moving on to the next step: Booking your florist, décor, furniture and lighting.

Examples:



Send Out SAVE THE DATES

Sending your guests a **Save the Date** for your upcoming wedding is a great way to notify them of the big day and also gives you and your partner an opportunity to showcase your personalities and even point out the theme of your wedding day!

Save the Dates are a very personal way to make your guests feel important and build up excitement. When starting to think about your Save the Dates, the best place to start is to think of your personality as a couple – the things and places you love and who you are together, or think of the overall wedding theme and design them accordingly – guests like to feel in the loop of your wedding!

Check out these free resources to create your very own Save the Dates!

[Canva](#)

[Greetings Island](#)

[Vecteezy](#)

Save the date Checklist:

- ☐ You and your partner's name
- ☐ Wedding Date
- ☐ Wedding Venue
- ☐ "Formal invitation to follow"
- ☐ A link to your wedding website (if applicable)
- ☐ Will you be printing or sending digitally
- ☐ Get the design/prints from your stationery designer

THE NOTE PAGE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

The Ultimate WEDDING PLANNING *Checklist*

7 - 8 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

- ☐ Have your engagement shoot
- ☐ Book your florist and décor elements
- ☐ Ask your bridesmaids and groomsmen
- ☐ Start shopping for bridal party attire
- ☐ Book your hair and makeup artist
- ☐ Book your wedding DJ and entertainment
- ☐ Send out Invitations

Have YOUR ENGAGEMENT SHOOT

Almost every photography package comes with a free engagement shoot included and if it doesn't we highly recommend you book one with your wedding photographer.

Reasons an engagement shoot is important:

- Become comfortable in front of the camera

It's important to get a "test run" before your wedding day where the photos will likely feel more significant. Not everyone feels comfortable in front of a professional photographer, especially when it comes to taking candid or romantic shots with your partner, and an engagement session should be seen as practice. Having an engagement shoot, you'll learn how to relax and look less tense and awkward in your real wedding photos.

- Get to know your photographer

Establishing a relationship with your photographer before your wedding will make a difference in the outcome of your wedding photos. Spend about an hour or two getting to know them, listen to them, have fun with them, and then get photographed. They'll take note of how you interact with each other, your individual personalities and even your quirks. These details will help them capture moments on the wedding day that are unique to just the two of you.

- You and your partner can reconnect

Have your engagement photos taken at a location that has some significance to the two of you. Some locations to consider: hometowns, the college where you met, a favourite restaurant or bar, a museum, the zoo, a movie theatre or even your own home. Pick a meaningful spot and your images will feel more special—and you'll also likely feel more at ease in an environment you're familiar with.

- Images for your Invitations

You will have professional images that you can use for your invitations and website which will give that WOW factor to your guests.

Book YOUR DECOR & FLORALS

There's a misconceived idea from brides about the budget for their wedding flowers. If you've got this Pinterest picture it's almost certain that it will cost a lot of money to recreate. Any budget can work, but you need to be willing to accept the type of look your budget will allow. If you are very serious about a certain look, you would have to cut/plan your budget better in other departments. Here are a few ways to do this:

Budget & Managing Your Expectation

- Invite less guests to your wedding

The money you save on drinks, stationery and food can be put towards your floral budget.

- Use round tables instead of rectangular tables

Round tables require only a centrepiece of flowers where a rectangular table requires flowers and décor from one end to the other.

- Use flowers that are in season and native to the country

Using native flowers is more cost-effective than importing flowers from around the world. Flowers that aren't in season are also more expensive as more effort goes into sourcing them. Have a look at which flowers are in season for **summer and autumn**.

Quote

When requesting a quotation be sure to send enough reference images of the overall look and feel you want and the flowers you desire.

Logistics Fees

There are logistics fees included in any floral quotation. Most brides try to overlook this, but please don't! Don't forget the florist must order, tend to and deliver the flowers with a team to make sure the flowers don't get damaged on the way to your venue.

Book YOUR DECOR & FLORALS

DIY Brides Do's and Don'ts

Some brides want to do their own wedding flowers but this is not recommended. Professional florists are trained on exactly how to treat the flowers so that you receive perfect, fresh flowers. It takes the entire week to prep your flowers for the wedding day.

For décor, go onto various décor hiring companies' websites and view their catalogues. See what items they have to offer and whether it fits into your aesthetic. Once you have decided on which items you like; the company should send you a comprehensive quotation with total cost from line items to delivery, setup and collection.

For lighting advice we recommend watching this video on our YouTube channel called [Lighting For Your Wedding 101](#).

Flowers and décor Checklist:

- ☐ Determine the overall look and feel you want
- ☐ View various florist, décor, furniture and lighting
- ☐ Ensure the company and items are available for your date
- ☐ Have you gathered at least three quotes within your budget
- ☐ Meet with the florists and companies in person
- ☐ Ensure they are comfortable doing your setup
- ☐ Go through their contracts and ensure all is in order

Ask

YOUR BRIDAL PARTY

Sometimes it is quite difficult to choose your bridal party, especially if you are someone with a very big group of friends and close family members. Your cultural and religious tradition might also play a massive role in choosing your bridal party.

But it's up to you, experts say you should choose between some of your closest friends, siblings and family members. People who you have been with for a long time and who you trust to be there for you on the biggest day of your life.

People to Consider:

- Your BFF – a friend who you've been with for a really long time and who you see in your future
- A sibling or family member – someone who is close to you
- Someone older – someone more experienced, who can help with advice and planning

The Size of Your Bridal Party

How do you feel about having a lot of people around you? Some people want a large retinue with all their closest friends and family members. Others choose to only have 1 or 2 bridesmaids. Or even none! Remember you don't need to have a matching number of bridesmaids and groomsmen. If you only have 1 or 2 bridesmaids while the groom has 5 groomsmen, that's okay! And don't let gender-roles limit you.

Always remember, the bigger your bridal party, the more it will cost because you have to keep in mind that someone has to pay for everyone's hair and makeup, dresses and suits.

Preparations with a big bridal party

Having a large retinue for your wedding can become a bit more stressful. There are more costs to consider. And many more opinions and voices to be heard. Some of your friends might not get along which might cause a lot of tension and added drama during the wedding planning process.

Ask

YOUR BRIDAL PARTY

Make sure you choose a group of people who will put their differences aside and be there as your support structure on the day. If you decide on a big bridal party, it is recommended to have two preparation rooms on the wedding day. One where you as the bride/groom can relax, get calm and prepare. And another for your bridesmaids/groomsmen preparations.

Having NO Bridal Party

It is becoming more of a trend for brides/grooms to not have a bridal party in the traditional sense. Rather than a set list of bridesmaids/groomsmen, they have a bigger group of friends and family who help fill the rolls.

In this instance, you can still have all the fun opportunities like doing a dress reveal with some of your close friends and a few glasses of champagne. You just won't have someone specific who needs to walk down the aisle before you. If you aren't a stickler for tradition this might be a great choice for you.

Why it is important to choose the right bridal party

It does happen sometimes that the bridesmaids cause more stress and drama for the bride. This can make it feel like your wedding day ends up being about them and not about you. That is why it is important to make sure you choose the right members for your bridal party.

Avoid people who generally don't want the best for you, people who are jealous and also family members who put too much pressure on you.

Bridal Party Checklist:

- ☐ Decide on the amount of bridesmaid and groomsmen
- ☐ Plan a nice way to ask them to be part of your wedding

Start Shopping FOR BRIDAL PARTY ATTIRE

An infinity dress, also known as a convertible dress, is a dream of a gown that can simply be styled differently in 27 DIFFERENT ways without having to disclose sleeves, without a use of a belt or even adding any accessories. Infinity dresses are an excellent way to vamp up your wardrobe without needing to fork out a fortune. Each dress is custom made and uniquely styled to suit your body type and can be worn either as a skirt or dress. They sculpt to your body shape perfectly!

These garments consist of a floating skirt and two long straps of material that you can conveniently shape around the upper half of your body. **Infinity Dress South Africa** makes use of fabric that is equally smooth and light. This is to prevent creases as you layer in, yet strong enough to stay in place all day. Using only these two straps, you can shape them around your body to create 27 different styles! Halter, sleeved, one shoulder, twist halter, strapless and so much more!

For the groomsmen the following applies as for the groom once again:

1. Should you hire or buy your suits?
2. Choosing a suit style
3. Choosing a suit colour
4. Ties and other accessories

Bridesmaids and Groomsmen Checklist:

- ☐ Discuss who will be paying for the attire
- ☐ Set a budget
- ☐ Go shopping!

Book

YOUR HAIR & MAKEUP

When you are a bride-to-be you need to look for the type of hair and makeup you would like to have done for your wedding day. Some artists makeup more heavily-handedly while others work more naturally. So be sure to ask yourself whether you want a more natural look or do you want the more heavy dramatic makeup?

When it comes to references; it's considered more important than a portfolio. Your best friend for example, won't send you to someone that did a bad job on them right? They will always tell you, "...go to this person. She made me look so beautiful!" Rather go on reference or go meet the makeup artist and have a trial.

Any professional hair and makeup artist will have a back-up plan in place and you should be sure to confirm this with them before paying your deposit. It's hard because it's something that is out of their hands, they can't help it if they get sick but it's also out of your hands and your wedding is taking place on that day regardless.

The artist has to know what skin you have and what hair type you have. It comes back to an artist that might not be that confident in working with ethnic hair and darker skin tones.

When it comes to paying for the bridal hair & makeup and that of the bridal party 80% to 90% of the time the bride pays for hair and makeup. Sometimes the mother of the bride or the mother of the groom will pay for it and in 10% of the cases the bridal party pays for their own hair and makeup.

Hair and makeup Checklist:

- ☐ Determine the overall look and feel
- ☐ Are your preferred hair and makeup artists available on your wedding
- ☐ Have you gathered at least three quotes within your budget
- ☐ Ensure they are comfortable doing your desired look

Book

DJ & ENTERTAINMENT

Choosing a **wedding DJ** to play the right music will ensure your guests will be entertained! Music is a key element – from the ceremony to your **first dance song**. Without the beats getting your guests' feet moving, it'll be a pretty boring party. From deciding if you and your bride-tribe will walk down the aisle on the same song to **throwing your bouquet** on any song; every moment needs a song.

There are entertainment companies who can provide ballet and fire dancers to unique performance acts. It has become quite a craze for the bridal couple to ensure that there are activities available for young and old during their wedding celebrations. There are many different ways to keep your guests entertained and classic Wedding Games are the perfect icebreaker, like:

1. Giant Jenga
2. Cornhole a.k.a Bean Bag Toss
3. Ring Toss
4. Giant Chess
5. Croquet
6. Giant Dominoes
7. Boules
8. Badminton
9. Ladder Golf

DJ and entertainment Checklist:

- ☐ Determine the overall feel you want created on your wedding day
- ☐ View reviews and packages of DJs and entertainment you'd like to use
- ☐ Are your preferred DJ and entertainment available on your wedding
- ☐ Have you gathered at least three quotes within your budget
- ☐ Ensure they are comfortable with your music and entertainment selection
- ☐ Go through their contracts and ensured all is in orde

Send Out YOUR INVITATIONS

Not sure whether to go digital or traditional print? Read this [informative blog on our website](#).

The Structure Of An Invite:

- The Host Line:

The host line states who is hosting the wedding. You can be flexible with this one- in the old days, the bride's family was responsible for hosting (and paying for) the wedding -luckily those days are over! Today, many couples pay for the weddings themselves so they don't include a host line. Most couples opt for a "Together with their families, Emma Baker and Chris Richards cordially invite you..."

- The Invitation Line:

This is where you actually invite your guests. "The honour of your presence" is traditionally used to denote a religious service while "The pleasure of your company" is used to denote a secular one. You can use any phrasing you want, feel free to set the tone with anything from "Invite you to share their joy as..." to "Want you to come party with us when..."

- The Names:

If their names haven't been included in the host line, the name of the bride and groom should still take centre stage a few lines down. Traditionally the name of the bride always precedes the groom's name. For a same-sex marriage, you can choose to go in alphabetical order or choose what sounds better.

- The Action Line:

What are you inviting people to share in? Traditionally, with the bride's parent's hosting, this line read something like "At the marriage of their daughter," but your line might read "At the celebration of their marriage," "As they exchange vows of love and commitment," or "As they finally tie the knot."

- The Information:

Stick to the basics. Give the date, the time, the location and the dress code. Nice and easy!

Send Out YOUR INVITATIONS

- The Party Line:

Here, you can give your guests an idea of what to expect. It could say “Dinner and dancing immediately following,” or if you are changing venues you could say “Party to follow at 7 pm at Laurent.” You can also use this line to get a little bit more creative and set the tone for the celebration. “Wild celebration to follow,” “Confetti and magic to follow,” Here, the sky really is the limit.

- RSVP Details:

Remember to set a RSVP date and email or number they need to RSVP to. It is also very important that you mention they need to inform you should they have any allergies or dietary restrictions for catering purposes.

Invitation Information Checklist:

- ☐ The host line
- ☐ The invitation line
- ☐ The Names
- ☐ The Action Line
- ☐ The Information
- ☐ The Party Line
- ☐ The RSVP Details
- ☐ Will you be printing or sending digitally
- ☐ Get the design/prints from your stationery designer

THE NOTE PAGE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slightly textured appearance and is set against a dark background.

The Ultimate WEDDING PLANNING *Checklist*

4 - 6 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

- ☐ Plan your menu and drinks
- ☐ Choose your suit & wedding dress
- ☐ Appoint the Master of Ceremony
- ☐ Start planning the honeymoon
- ☐ Book the wedding cake
- ☐ Finalise wedding favours
- ☐ Choose wedding bands and other accessories
- ☐ Finalise wedding day transport
- ☐ Research and Book Accommodation

Plan

THE MENU & DRINKS

When finalising your menu and having your tasting with your caterer be sure to take the following into account.

During canapés you need to ensure there are at least 4 - 5 canapés for each guest AND service provider.

If you are doing a harvest table look at doing 150 grams of protein per guest and service provider and 1.5 slices of bread. For harvest food inspiration watch this video by [Johnny Hamman from Slippery Spoon](#).

Any allergies or dietary requirements guests or suppliers might have.

Catering Checklist:

- ☐ Have you confirmed any allergies or dietary restrictions
- ☐ Finalise your canapé selection
- ☐ Finalise your starters
- ☐ Finalise your main option/s
- ☐ Finalise your dessert/s
- ☐ Will you include a late night snack

Plan

THE MENU & DRINKS

Majority of wedding venues have bar structures and offer their own bar services with staff but there are companies that offer these services as well.

It is standard that the couple pay for the guests drinks during canapes where the following rule applies:

Ensure you have 3 drinks for each guest during canapes (2 alcoholic and one non-alcoholic).

During reception it is the couples choice on whether they would like to have a:

- Cash bar

This is when the guest pay for their own beverages.

- Open bar

All the guest drink for free and the couple settle the bill at the end of the night.

- Run a tab which switches to a cash bar

The couple runs a tab at the bar of say R5 000 where the guests can drink until the money is spent. When the money runs out the guests need to start paying for their own drinks.

Choose YOUR SUIT & WEDDING DRESS

Now is the time to say YES! To the dress and suit. At this point you have decided to either hire, buy or custom design your attire for the wedding.

Regardless of your choice; with four to six months left the process of alterations and fitting the piece to your body type starts now!

Appoint YOUR WEDDING MC

The wedding MC is like the host of the wedding. It's their job to keep the day running on time and making sure that everyone is having a good time.

It is up to you as the couple to tell them exactly what you'd like them to do on the day. It is important that you meet with them well before the wedding day. Give them a list of jobs they need to do, some stories you want them to share with your guests and any topics that are off limits.

Introduce your MC to the suppliers so they know who to go to should they have a question.

You can ask your MC to help on the day with:

- Gathering guests for photos
- Helping guests find their seats
- Announcing the arrival of the newlyweds to the wedding reception
- Announcing the first dance
- Introducing speakers at the reception
- Explaining to guests how meal service will occur

Start Planning YOUR HONEYMOON

As a couple, decide on a budget. If you haven't yet explored your own country, this might be the ideal opportunity to dig into the cultural goodness that is available locally. South Africa has some of the best honeymoon destinations available!

Check whether you are able to put in leave from work. Decide on how long you are going away and what documentation you might need to be able to travel.

It would be a great idea to make use of a travel agency or travel professional to help plan your ideal getaway. They will be able to think of every nitty-gritty detail and ensure that everything goes according to plan.

Booking a honeymoon package usually includes the meal and drink options, a minibar, room service, a fireplace, balcony or a romantic large bathtub. These are all things that could add that extra edge to your honeymoon celebrations.

Honeymoon Travelling Tips:

- Use your maiden name. You might not have the time to change your name if you leave soon after the wedding. If you won't be going away for too long, stick to what is still on your passport and personal documents.
- Make time for yourselves. Don't commit to too many activities, you can always go exploring on another trip. During your honeymoon, your free time is what it is all about.
- Your ring might be very precious to you, but rather take it off and place it somewhere safe when you are doing some adventurous activities. Losing your ring on your trip would be a disaster!
- Check for travel packages and special honeymoon offers! You could get a great deal for anywhere in the world.
- Make your bookings from the same number. To keep things stress-free make sure that the communication process is easy. The hotels and resorts should be able to contact you directly should there be any problems.
- Take more spending money than you think you might need. These will be some of your best memories and the last thing you would want is the awkward 'Do we have enough money' conversation.

Book

YOUR WEDDING CAKE

Whether or not you have a sweet tooth, finding the perfect wedding cake is without a doubt one of the most exciting and delicious parts of planning your wedding! Not only are wedding cakes incredibly tasty, they are also very beautiful and add an extra little bit of magic to your big day.

Here are 12 different wedding cake patterns that you can consider:

1. Ruffle Pattern
2. Textured fondant
3. Bas relief
4. Appliqué
5. Cake Piping
6. Lace designs
7. Beading Pattern
8. Geode Slice
9. Hand Painted Textures
10. Edible Prints
11. Wafer Paper
12. Stencilling

For visual references have a look at our blog: [12 Different Wedding Cake Patterns](#).

We also have a great video discussing the [top wedding cake flavours](#) on our YouTube channel.

Wedding Cake Checklist:

- ☐ View reviews and work of bakers you'd like to use
- ☐ Are your preferred bakers available on your wedding
- ☐ Have you gathered at least three quotes within your budget
- ☐ Meet with the bakers you'd like to use in person
- ☐ Ensure they are comfortable with your desired wedding cake look

Finalise

YOUR WEDDING GIFTS

Giving a unique wedding favour gives you the opportunity to showcase your personality as a couple and to share something that you love with your guests, but also to sincerely thank them for sharing your most special day. It can be part of your table décor, something to keep your guests busy, a 'going home' gift at the end of the night or an accessory to make them feel part of your wedding theme. We've rounded up a couple of unique wedding favours to get you inspired.

- Local is Lovely

Eating local and sustainable food is a popular choice which has given rise to excellent locally produced products. Check out your farmer's market to see what is available in your area, and then personalise it with a handmade label and a ribbon to complement your theme.

- Wearable Favours

You can give sunglasses as a favour before the ceremony if you're going to be in the sun, you can give the ladies a beautiful pashmina in a shade that goes with your theme or give out a lovely variety of bow ties.

- Go Green

Share your love of nature by giving your guests cute little succulents in a pretty container. Succulents are quite inexpensive and very easy to propagate.

- Grab a Cuppa

Head to your local artisanal coffee roaster or tea merchant and have them create a personal blend especially for you. You can package your special blend in a cute tin with a personal label, or keep the look natural with a beautifully printed brown paper parcel.

- Cute Keepsakes

Giving your guests something useful will ensure they will keep it, and serves as a beautiful reminder of the day. Some of the most popular ideas are Scrabble-letter words, which you can turn into magnets, or you can do personalised candles in cute little tins. For an added special touch, you can give scented candles – and just choose your favourite scent! You could also personalise shot glasses and add a tiny bottle of your favourite shot, or have fancy soap wrapped in special paper with a personal label or message on it.

Choose Your WEDDING RINGS

Wedding rings are the quintessential symbol of marriage. On the day, during the ring exchange ceremony, and every day thereafter – your wedding ring is of great importance. So when it comes to wedding ring shopping for both you and your spouse, there are a few very important things you need to know.

On Which Hand Do You Wear A Wedding Ring?

Interestingly, this actually differs from country to country. Whether you wear your wedding ring on your left or right hand is influenced by cultural beliefs and traditions where you are from. In South Africa, we wear our rings on the ring finger of our left hand.

Finalise Your TRANSPORT

It is the groom's responsibility to organise transport to get you, the bride, to the ceremony. There are companies that specialise in wedding transport.

- Book the vehicle for at least 2 hours

This way the bride can take bridal portraits with it before moving on to the ceremony and you as a couple can take photos with it during couple photos after the ceremony.

- Ensure it fits with your wedding theme

Book a vehicle that will fit into your wedding theme and colour if possible. This will create an amazing overall look and feel. Going with a soft, rustic and elegant theme, rent a White Rolls Royce Phantom III. If you're going with a beach theme go with an AC COBRA and a luxury wedding maybe a Mercedes-AMG GT.

Research & Book ACCOMMODATION

While you may not think about accommodation immediately when planning your wedding, it's worth it to take a minute to think about where your guests will sleep. With destination weddings and weekend wedding celebrations becoming more popular, many guests use the wedding as an opportunity to take a relaxing break.

If your wedding venue isn't centrally located, or you know that many guests will have to travel far for your wedding, it's a nice touch to add guest accommodation options for them on your wedding invitations. Many wedding venues also offer guest lodging, which is perfect for a weekend wedding.

Researching and booking accommodation also includes a place to stay the night before the wedding for you and your bridesmaids and the groom and his groomsmen. This should also then serve as the preparation rooms for the wedding day. It is best to have these be in close proximity to the wedding venue as advised in this Pink Book video, [Getting ready on the day](#).

Accommodation Checklist:

- ☐ Is it within 10 kilometres of your wedding venue
- ☐ Is there enough space so you and the groom won't see each other
- ☐ Is there adequate space for the bride/groom and the party to get ready
- ☐ Is the lighting good for bridal and groom portraits in the rooms
- ☐ Are there enough plugs points for hair and makeup

THE NOTE PAGE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. The overall appearance is that of a clean, unused piece of stationery.

The Ultimate WEDDING PLANNING *Checklist*

2 - 3 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

- ☐ Set up a gift registry
- ☐ The Bachelor's and Bachelorette's
- ☐ Draw up an antenuptial contract
- ☐ Arrange a table mockup
- ☐ Go for suit & dress fitting

Summary FOR 2 - 3 MONTHS

Set up a gift registry

This is a really fun part of planning your wedding! Decide whether you want cash or gifts - this is information that can be included on your Bachelor's and Bachelorette's invitations. If you are registering for gifts, decide on the store/stores where you want to register and set aside some time to browse and compile your registry.

The Bachelor's and Bachelorette's

The Bachelorette was invented for the bride-to-be to spend some time with her friends and family before she steps into married life. Planning the Bachelorette is usually the responsibility of the Maid of Honour and this can be anything from wine tasting, spa days or going out dancing.

Draw up an ante-nuptial contract

It is essential to think about a few legalities. One such decision is whether to get married in community or out of community of property and whether you will be including or excluding accrual. For more legal advice and help in setting up your marriage contracts, please contact any of our recommended vendors in our [wedding contracts and legal](#) companies directory.

Arrange a table mockup

You have chosen your theme and decorations for your wedding, keeping in mind that all the elements should work together to create a cohesive theme. Now it's time to arrange a table mockup with your vendors to see how it all comes together! Best to do this at the venue with the tables and chairs that you will be using.

Dress fitting with your wedding shoes, veil and all accessories

It is very important to make sure your veil fits with your wedding dress, that your shoes work with your dress length and that your accessories don't get caught on your dress. Bare all of this in mind when doing your dress fitting.

Suit fitting

Ensure that the suits and the colours of the wedding will match and that the suits are well-fitted. There is nothing worse than an ill-fitting suit.

THE NOTE PAGE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

The Ultimate WEDDING PLANNING *Checklist*

1 MONTH BEFORE THE WEDDING

- ☐ Send order of the day to all suppliers
- ☐ Finalise and send all music selection
- ☐ Have your final suit & dress fitting
- ☐ Wear in your wedding shoes
- ☐ Finalise guest list and seating plan
- ☐ Finalise all stationery designs
- ☐ Do your hair and makeup trial
- ☐ Book beauty treatments
- ☐ Finalise speeches and notify those responsible

Summary FOR FINAL MONTH

Send order of the day to all service providers and wedding party

When working out your wedding schedule, you should have a running order in place before you can assign times. Keeping to a schedule on your wedding day is crucial. Once all your vendors are informed and everyone knows where to be and when, the transitions between each stage of the day will be smooth and effortless.

When you've finalised your schedule, share it with your vendors, master of ceremonies and bridal party so they can ensure the order of the day is followed. A Good idea is to set up a Program board on display so that your guests know what to expect and when.

Here's an suggestion of a traditional wedding schedule:

Wedding preparations (3-4 hours)

The bride and groom usually get ready separately on the morning of the wedding. Bridesmaids, the maid of honour and mother of the bride joins the bride, while the groom gets ready with his groomsmen! If you have a large bridal party (more than four) for hair and make-up & hair, speak to your artist/s to discuss if additional time is needed.

The wedding ceremony (30-45 minutes):

Following preparations, the wedding ceremony traditionally takes 30-45. The groom and his party should also arrive at least 30-45 minutes before the start time.

Pre-drinks (1.5-2 hours)

After the I Do's & confetti shots, guests will gather for the drinks at the canapés area. This is a great chance for your guests to mingle and for group photos to be taken. This is the perfect time for you and your new partner to slip away with your wedding photographer for a few shots on your own!

Summary FOR FINAL MONTH

Wedding Reception (1.5-2 hours)

The bride and groom are announced into the wedding venue and food is served. Your venue team and caterers will be able to advise you on how long you should leave for the serving of the food. Wedding speeches usually start after the starter. The speeches should be limited to a maximum of six people and it is recommended to go no longer than three to four minutes per person.

Cutting of the cake (5-10 minutes)

This is a beautiful symbol of the bride and groom's new union and promise to provide for each other.

The First dance (5-10 minutes)

Gather your guests around the dance floor for the first dance, this signals the start of the party!

Finalise and send all music selection to the DJ

It is a great idea to make a playlist of about 20 songs to show them what your music taste is. If you don't want to worry about your playlist, you can include a "Song Preference" or "Pick Your Song" line on your RSVP card, so the guests can build the playlist!

Have your final suit & dress fitting

Move around in your gown or suit and practice some dance moves in your wedding shoes. This will help you test that the fit is right and comfortable so you can easily move around. You'll be wearing your outfit for 8 to 10 hours on your wedding day, so it has to be comfortable as well.

Wear in your wedding shoes

The most stunning pair of shoes is rendered useless if you are walking like a newborn giraffe. If you are not used to wearing heels please don't start on your wedding day. Flats or wedges can be so beautiful. Stay true to what makes you feel comfortable and confident.

Summary FOR FINAL MONTH

Finalise guest list and seating plan

There are two options when it comes to your seating plan: allocated seating or allocated tables.

Allocated seating works great when you know exactly who everyone gets along with. The other option is assigning allocated tables to a group of guests. In this scenario, you can take a group of approximately 10 guests and simply give them an allocated table name or number. Remember to send your seating chart to your stationery company!

Finalise all stationery designs and send to the relevant service provider

Order your menus, programs and thank-you notes. This way you can make sure that all of your wedding stationery matches with each other. Also, don't forget to order your welcome bag notes, favour tags, name place cards and table numbers if you are going to have them.

Do your hair and makeup trial

The trial will give you a chance to see all your ideas come to life. Just because you love a romantic updo hairstyle on someone else or a dramatic red lips, does not mean that you will love it on yourself. We recommend you have a few different options you like which will allow you and your stylist to come together to create the perfect look for your wedding day.

Book beauty treatments

Take time to relax with a massage that pays particular attention to your most tense areas. A full body massage is the perfect reward for all your wedding planning!

Decide on speeches and notify those responsible

If you have an MC at the wedding, the number of speeches can be even less, as the MC can handle most of the formalities. Traditionally, the father of the bride speaks first, often before dinner. The groom follows. The best man then responds to the groom's toast. As soon as you have decided on the speeches you can send those responsible our [Guide to Wedding Speeches](#) for some inspiration!

THE NOTE PAGE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. The overall appearance is that of a clean, unused piece of stationery.

The Ultimate WEDDING PLANNING *Checklist*

1 - 2 WEEKS BEFORE THE WEDDING

- ☐ Confirm final guest numbers with caterers
- ☐ Finalise all outstanding payments
- ☐ Arrange all deliveries and pick-ups
- ☐ Pick up suit & wedding dress
- ☐ Brief the Master of Ceremony of his/her duties
- ☐ Practice that first dance
- ☐ Take some time for yourselves!

Summary FOR 1 - 2 WEEKS

Confirm final guest numbers with caterers

By now you should have received all your final RSVP headcount. Remember to give this information to your caterer, bar tenders, and rentals company to ensure you have enough of everything you need.

Finalise all outstanding payments

Typically all payments are due 14 days before the wedding.

Arrange all deliveries and pick-ups to and from venue

Double check to make sure that your wedding party has all received their attire and have the appropriate accessories like shoes, ties, pocket squares, etc.

Pick up suit & wedding dress

When you pick up your wedding dress, you'll need to find a place to store it where your fiancé can't sneak a peek! Inspect the wedding gown when you receive it to make sure everything is perfect. Keep it in a breathable garment bag just in case your fiancé accidentally stumbles across it in the closet. If your veil is in the same garment bag, make sure it's wrapped in its own piece of plastic so it doesn't snag and tear on any of the gown's embellishments.

Brief the Master of Ceremony of his/her duties and order of the day

Practice that first dance

Get comfortable with swaying together! The more practice, the more natural and comfortable you'll be. There will be some nerves, champagne consumed, a different setting and the gown always brings another element of complication. Wear your wedding shoes a couple of times when practising to see how confidently you can move around on the dance floor in them. It's no good practising some amazing moves barefoot at home and then realising you can't actually do them the night of!

Take some time for yourselves!

Your wedding day is nearly here, and while it's natural to feel like you have a lot on your plate, don't forget to relax and treat yourself. You will look and feel your best when you are well rested. Get the bubbly, put your feet up and get ready for the best day of your life!

THE NOTE PAGE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The Ultimate WEDDING PLANNING *Checklist*

2 DAYS BEFORE THE WEDDING

- ☐ Pack an Emergency Kit
- ☐ Rehearsal ceremony at the venue
- ☐ Pack your honeymoon bag
- ☐ Pack one bag with all your accessories
- ☐ Give the rings to the Best Man
- ☐ Give your Maid of Honour a To-Do list
- ☐ Write your love notes to each other

Summary FOR 2 DAYS TO GO

Maid of Honour to pack an Emergency Kit with on-the-day essentials

We know from experience that anything can happen at a wedding! From a stain on your dress to forgotten deodorant, we've learned that it is better to rather be prepared than sorry! A wedding day emergency kit can turn any spill, snag, or headache into an easily-fixed mishap.

Here's a list for your maid of honour:

1. Stain removing Wipes
2. Wet Wipes
3. & 4. Lint Roller & Mini Brush
5. Safety Pins
6. Clear Pins
7. Compact Sewing Kit
8. Pocket Tissues
9. Flip Flops
10. Cable Ties
11. Duct Tape
12. Nail Glue
13. Baby Powder
14. Water Spray
15. Makeup Blender
16. Dry Shampoo
17. Bun Shaper
18. Mini Comb / Brush
19. Hair Elastics
20. Hair Clips
21. Eye Liner
22. Eyebrow Pencil
23. Mascara
24. Eyebrow Tweezer
25. Eyelashes
26. Facial Wipes
27. Micellar cleansing Water
28. Feminine Hygiene Products

Summary FOR 2 DAYS TO GO

Rehearsal ceremony at the venue

At the rehearsal ceremony, you will be practising walking in and walking out, and making sure that the bridal party knows where to stand. The marriage officiant is one of the first people to enter at the beginning of the ceremony, so it's not possible for the officiant to "cue" each group.

Pack your honeymoon bag

When it comes to packing for your honeymoon, it is possible to be over-prepared. Too much and luggage will weigh you down. Take too little and you'll regret leaving something behind and end up buying what you didn't bring. We do suggest leaving your work, financial and relationship stresses at home. You only get to enjoy one honeymoon together, so don't let conflict spoil your vacation.

Pack one bag with all your accessories and getting-ready outfit

Give the rings to the Best Man

Give your Maid of Honour a To-Do list

On the big day, she will have to make sure that everything is on schedule, making sure the Bride eats breakfast and stays hydrated while she is getting her hair and make-up done. She will also help the bride get dressed and assist her with shoes and accessories.

Enjoy some pampering

Make sure you focus on what is actually important and don't get too obsessed with the schedule of the day. Let those responsible handle the on-the-day coordination so that you can give all of your attention on sharing your love with the one you'll be spending the rest of your life with.

Write your love notes to each other

Think about how you felt when you first met your fiancé, what made you fall in love and when you knew you wanted to spend the rest of your lives together. Write this down and pass it to one of your bridal party members to deliver on the day of the wedding. Remember to let your wedding photographer know when this happens so that he/she can capture the special moment when your partner reads it!

THE NOTE PAGE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.