

# 30 Must-Know

## Wedding Planning Tips for Your Dream Day



Planning your dream **destination wedding**? Whether you're tying the knot in Italy, France, or your hometown, there are things every bride should know to make the planning process smooth and stress-free. We've gathered 30 expert-backed tips to help you cover every detail — and enjoy every moment.

## 1. Start with the Guest List

Begin planning by creating a guest list. The number of guests affects everything — from your wedding venue to the overall budget. For example, if your venue holds 100 people, don't invite 120. Make sure your guests have room to dance, mingle, and enjoy the day without feeling cramped.

## 2. Choose Your Wedding Date Carefully

Before booking, check for local events — festivals, political gatherings, or big conferences — that might complicate logistics or inflate hotel prices. Also, some venues offer discounts for weekday weddings. Want a popular date like 08.08 or a symbolic holiday? Book early!

## 3. Always Check the Weather Forecast

If you're planning an outdoor wedding, weather matters. For hot days, consider holding your ceremony later in the evening — you'll avoid the heat and capture golden-hour photos. Always have a Plan B in case of rain, and don't forget bug protection like citronella candles or insect nets.

## 4. Use Your Wedding Budget Wisely

Paying for a wedding? Use a credit card with points or cashback bonuses. Many banks offer travel miles or wedding-related rewards, which can help you save money for your honeymoon.

## 5. Right Ratio of Staff to Guests

As a rule, hire 1 waiter per 12–15 guests. If you have a bar, 1 bartender per 50 guests is enough. But if you're offering complex cocktails, increase that number to avoid long lines.

## 6. Ask for Vendor Recommendations

Great vendors know other great vendors. Your photographer may recommend a florist, and your venue manager might suggest an experienced DJ or celebrant. Don't be afraid to ask!

## 7. Trim the Guest List

Did you know half of your wedding budget may go toward the reception? Be selective. Invite only those you truly want by your side. A smaller guest list creates a more intimate atmosphere — and saves money.

## **8. Meet Your Vendors in Person**

Before hiring anyone, schedule in-person (or video) meetings. Book trial sessions with your photographer or caterer, and ask for tastings — not just for desserts, but for cocktails too.

## **9. Decide How to Handle Kids at the Wedding**

Will you invite all kids, only those of close family, or make it adults-only? Whatever you choose, stay consistent to avoid misunderstandings. If inviting kids, consider entertainment options or hiring an animator.

## **10. Feed Your Vendors**

Photographers or coordinators working full-day weddings need a real meal. Vendors working under four hours? A light snack may be enough. Clarify this with each team member in advance.

## **11. Stay Organized**

Create a wedding email account to keep vendor communications in one place. Use a digital planner or printed wedding organizer to manage your budget, seating chart, and meetings.

## **12. Budget for the Unexpected**

Set aside 5–10% of your budget for surprise expenses: last-minute guests, rain umbrellas, or backup transportation.

## **13. Don't Forget Sound for the Ceremony**

Guests in the back rows deserve to hear your vows! For large weddings, invest in a microphone and audio setup for your ceremony space.

## **14. Ask Questions and Break Traditions**

There are no silly questions. Talk openly with your vendors about your vision and budget. They may have cost-saving ideas or seasonal alternatives to expensive trends.

## **15. Don't Book Too Soon**

There's a fine line between early and too early. Book venues and key vendors 6–12 months in advance — but only after you know your guest count and budget.

## **16. Get Everything in Writing**

Always confirm changes in email or text. A verbal promise to keep your venue until 2 a.m. may be forgotten — written proof avoids confusion.

## 17. Skip the “+1” Rule

Only extend plus-ones to married or long-term couples. Seat single guests together so they feel included and comfortable.

## 18. Allow Time for Decor Setup

Ask your florist and designer how long it takes to decorate each area — and adjust your timeline. If possible, set up the day before.

## 19. Send Invitations on Time

If mailing invites, send them well in advance and confirm they're received. For a modern twist, try digital invitations or personalized video messages.

## 20. Expect Some Declines

Typically, around 20% of invitees can't attend. This depends on your date, location, and travel needs — so invite early, especially for destination weddings.

## 21. Prioritize Your Guest List

Rank your guests by closeness. That way, if you need to reduce numbers, you can cut from the bottom of your list without overthinking.

## 22. Follow a Logical Planning Order

Book your venue before hiring entertainment. Finalize your guest list before ordering a cake. Structure your planning steps to avoid unnecessary stress.

## 23. Book a Honeymoon Suite

Treat yourself! Many hotels offer perks for newlyweds — a suite upgrade, breakfast in bed, or a bottle of champagne.

## 24. Provide Clear Directions

Send guests a detailed map or link to Google Maps. Share parking info and shuttle options, especially for rural or international weddings.

## 25. Registering Your Marriage Abroad

If you're getting legally married abroad, check the specific requirements for submitting documents. Rules vary greatly by country — don't assume anything.



## 26. Know What Matters to You

Break down your budget by priorities. If you dream of a designer dress and gourmet menu, consider saving on flowers or stationery. Spend where it matters most to you.

## 27. Understand Venue Rules

Want to plant a tree during your ceremony? Your venue may not allow it. Always ask. The same goes for drone photography, fireworks, or dancing past midnight.

## 28. Keep Vendor Contacts Handy

Have all your vendors' numbers on hand — or give them to your planner. It's easier to solve delays or changes if you can reach the right person fast.


## 29. Don't Dress Alone

Bring someone you trust when shopping for your dress. After a few fittings, you'll need help remembering which gown felt just right. A second opinion is priceless.

## 30. Be Realistic and Kind to Yourself

Even with the best plan, unexpected things happen. Focus on what you *can* do, and delegate the rest. Let your fiancé make the playlist, or ask your planner to confirm vendor details. Your wedding isn't about perfection — it's about love.

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