

A whistle stop tour of planning your wedding!

First Things First!

BUDGET

Work out your budget and prioritise what is important to you and get it booked!

WEDDING INSURANCE

Better safe than sorry. This covers you if your suppliers go bust or if you have to rearrange your wedding etc. But get it first before booking stuff as it won't cover you respectively

Where can you get married?



You can have a civil ceremony or civil partnership at:

- a register office
- any venue approved by the local council, e.g. a stately home or hotel
- a religious premises where permission has been given by the organisation and the premises approved by the local authority

Setting the Date:



You may have a preference for a winter/summer wedding or the anniversary of the day you both met but primarily your wedding date in most cases will determined by venue availability, so book asap if possible.

Giving notice (formal declaration of your intention to marry) in the UK needs to done no more than 12 months in advance before the date of marriage. A marriage cannot take place until 28 days after giving notice.

A legal ceremony in England and Wales needs to be under a fixed structure (not open air) that is licensed. In Scotland, as long as a minister is present, you can marry anywhere. Unlike in England and Wales, al fresco humanist ceremonies are already legal in Scotland.

List of approved premises (October 2016) can be found here though check with your local council also.

Should I have a weekday wedding or a wedding overseas?

YES

Costs can significantly cheaper, venue costs may be lower, better availability in the week, no weekend railway works, better weather overseas!

NO

Guests may not be to get annual leave, especially if it is term time (e.g. Teachers) or guests may leave early if they have young children/school/work next day

Guests may not be able to afford flights etc to join you overseas

Booking a wedding photographer/ videographer





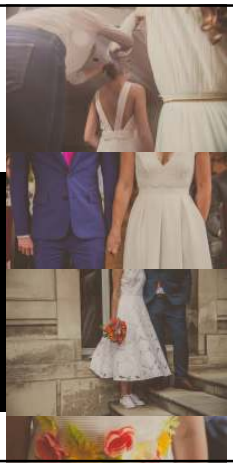


Once you know they are free on your date, meet with a photographer whose images you love in person to see if you get on with them (as they will be with you all day at the wedding), see a whole wedding and book them!

To book you will need to pay a booking fee to take date off the market and the balance closer to your wedding date.

Note that July and August are VERY popular, especially once the school holidays start and definitely the Saturday the week before August bank holiday!

Wedding Dress



Start checking out styles about 6 months ahead. Some wedding dresses have to be ordered in from the manufacturer and take time to arrive. If you are having a bespoke designed wedding dress you will need to allow time for fittings. Don't be afraid to try on a dress that might not look great on the hanger. Once it is on, you may discover it is 'the one' and you can happily say 'yes to the dress!'

Don't forget...

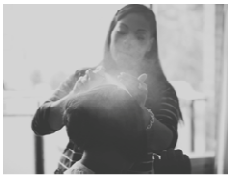
Invitations (!)
Bridesmaids/Groom/Groomsmen
Shoes/Veil
Florist
Cars/Logistics







Booking a makeup artist





Have a trial about 2-3 months before wedding to make sure you are happy with your final look.
It is not necessary for bridesmaids to have a trial.
It would be useful for you have your veil and tiara if you are having one at your trial so you can see how it fits into your final look.

Wedding Cake

Schedule a tasting/consultation, to talk through your designs and ideas. Book early and pay a deposit.
Alternatives to wedding cakes are cheeses or meringues!











Don't forget...

Reception Styling/Decoration
Entertainment/Music
Food/Drinks
Speeches
Fun!



Do I need a wedding theme?

YES
It can be fun to work to a theme, based on your favourite colour, flower or things you like e.g. a Superhero theme. It helps you laser focus on what you need for your wedding and not get distracted all the lovely items available!

NO
Do you need a table plan? Do you need your bridesmaids to wear the same dress? Do you need bridesmaids at all? Do the plates need to match? Do you need a white wedding dress? The answer is no. You can have a perfectly beautiful wedding without ever going anywhere near a theme!


Thanks for watching!
Hope that helps with your wedding planning!
URBAN BRIDESMAID
photography