



How to plan a wedding?

A guide by

ZIGZAG & ZOOM

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Congratulations, they asked and you said yes!

It can be stressful planning a wedding, so start with these three essential elements which will lead you onto the rest of the planning; the style of the wedding you want, the number of guests you want to invite and the size of the budget you have to achieve it. Once you know what that is, you can start checking venues and suppliers. It can seem daunting but remember that this is your day and don't be afraid to speak up to get exactly what you want.

Who to invite

Weddings nowadays have seen a shift from family and then friends to now be friends first followed by family. Whatever your priority is, do sit down with your betrothed and work what you want from the day, how many people do you each have to invite. Think if you want to invite children, how many day guests and evening guests. Will you be allowing plus1's for single guests and will your parents want to invite any friends. Once you've made the initial list don't be afraid to cut it down if numbers have got too large.



Finding the perfect venue

When thinking about your venue you also want to think about your style of wedding, do you want to keep traditional, go bohemian, be small and intimate, elegant and refined, cool and quirky, have a full weekend party or go to some far flung destination. Once this had been decided you can then follow this throughout every aspect of your wedding, from the setting, food, music or flowers. Now you have the foundations in place, with this in mind you can search for the perfect venue. There are a lot of venues out there and it can seem a bit of a mind field, however it is easier than you think to narrow the options down. First decide on the geographical area that you want to get married in, then look for venues that fit with your style and finally check that it can hold your full guest list. There are many venue finding website out there; Coco Wedding Venues being an excellent one to check out. If you are having a religious ceremony you will want to check proximity of the venue to your church or place of worship.

So what next?

The budget is in hand, the guest list is finalised and the venue is booked. Now comes the finer details to plan and book.

First and foremost

Caterer – will your venue be providing food, if not you need to line up a caterer as soon as possible.

Photographer/Videographer – think about the look you are after and check out their work to make sure it is in line to what you want to capture. As they can only do one wedding a day, you need to book them up asap.

Flowers – even if you just want a bouquet and a buttonhole, popular florists are soon booked up.

Invitations – now that you have your guest list it is time to confirm your stationary supplier, you can send “save the date” cards 1 year in advance but many couples send invites 6 months advance. A fabulous bespoke service is offered at The Wedding Emporium by Dreamcatcher Events

Music – whether you are looking for a band or a DJ, a harpist or a string quartet, if music is important to you then start checking out your options now.

Dress – when choosing the dress many stores use sample dresses and the actual dress will be made to order, this can take many months, so leave yourself plenty of time. However there are many “ready to wear” dresses available and they really don't have to cost



Cake – use the likes of Instagram and Pinterest to get inspiration and have pictures ready to show your cake maker, so they understand what you are looking for.

Groom's suit – the majority of grooms hire their suit or kilt, however if they are having them made remember to leave plenty of time for them to be made. There are a lot of hirer's available and a quick google search will show you where they are to you. Don't forget to check out the independents who offer great customer service.

Bridesmaids and ushers – ushers' suits can be sourced fairly quickly whereas the bridesmaids can take a bit longer to sort, what with choosing styles, cut and any alterations that may be needed to suit each bridesmaid individually.

Bride's shoes, jewellery, bridal lingerie and veil – today's bride looks for comfort as well as style and when on your feet all day it is important that the shoes are perfect. Many brides are choosing to customise Converse or have shoes designed and customised for them, Zigzag and Zoom offer a bespoke customising service, be it

personalised Converse or having your own shoes designed to meet your needs, they offer a fantastic service. There are many bridal shops and independents that offer beautiful and unique jewellery and veils. Bridal lingerie is available to buy from all the main high street stores and as wedding season approaches their collections become larger.

Decoration, details and design – The last few months is when you narrow down the finer details, deciding on the décor, hiring any items like a photobooth, sweet carts, postbox, casino etc. This is also when you firm up your music playlist, first dance, vows, stationary of the menus, place names, order of service and any other fun elements.

Hair and Makeup – if you are doing your own makeup and hair it is a good idea to trial a few styles before hand, decide on the look you are after and decide if you can create that yourself. However many brides decide to have their makeup and hair professionally done so they can just relax and enjoy the moment. If you are getting a professional in, get a trial booked in and make sure you book them for your day.



Transportation – this includes everything from the bridal car to guest transport. If you need to get transport to your venue, think about what the weather could be like, it may be a dream to have a horse drawn carriage but maybe not in the middle of winter, check your options. If you are supplying transport for your guests then ensure coaches are booked well in advance as they do get booked up fast.

Gift list – with so many couples living together before they get married they often have everything they need already, a gift list can be a great way to help people to know what to get. Gift lists do not have to be the traditional household purchase, it is possible to set up a honeymoon fund or a charitable fund.

Remember every wedding and couple is different, there is no right or wrong way to have a wedding. It is all about sharing your love as a couple, it is a sharing of togetherness with all those you hold dear, a day of celebration.