



2021  
*Bridal Planner*



# Ultimate Wedding Planning Checklist

The beauty and elegance of this gorgeous NEW wedding planner are surpassed only by its features and function. To help you plan your Perfect Wedding Day, we've put together a comprehensive wedding checklist. Within this booklet you'll find a timeline based on a 16 to 9 month engagement with helpful hints along with area businesses that can help you with your special day. *Congratulations!*

## ✦ Sixteen to Nine Months Before

- Start a wedding folder or binder.
- Begin leafing through bridal, lifestyle, fashion, gardening, design, and food magazines for inspiration.
- Work out your budget. Determine how much you have to spend, based on your families' contributions and your own.
- Pick your wedding party.
- As soon as you're engaged, people will start wondering who's in.
- Start the guest list. Make a head count database to use throughout your planning process, with columns for contact info, RSVPs, gifts, and any other relevant information. (Want to keep costs low? It may be brutal, but the best way to do it is to reduce your guest list.)
- Hire a planner, if desired. A planner will have relationships with—and insights about—vendors.
- Reserve your date and venues. Decide whether to have separate locations for the ceremony and the reception, factoring in travel time between the two places.
- Book your officiant.
- Research photographers, bands, florists, and caterers.
- Keep their contact information in your binder.
- Throw an engagement party, if you wish. But remember that your invitees should be on your wedding guest list as well.

## ✦ Eight Months Before

- Hire the photographer and the videographer. No need to talk specifics yet, but be sure that the people you hire are open to doing the shots that you want.

**CHECKLIST** cont pg 4

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**CHECKLIST** *cont from pg 2*

- Book the entertainment. Attend gigs of potential acts to see how they perform in front of audiences, then reserve your favorite.
- Meet caterers. If your wedding venue doesn't offer its own catering service, look for one now and hire the service this month or early next.
- Purchase a dress. You'll need to schedule time for at least three fittings. Veil shopping can be postponed for another two to three months.
- Reserve a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests.
- Pick three hotels at different price points close to the reception venue. Register.
- Sign up at a minimum of three retailers.
- Launch a wedding website. Create your personal page through a free provider such as weddingchannel.com. Note the date of the wedding, travel information, and accommodations. Then send the link to invitees.

**✦ Seven to Six Months Before**

- Select and purchase invitations.
- Hire a calligrapher, if desired. Addressing cards is time-consuming, so you need to budget accordingly.
- Start planning a honeymoon. Make sure that your passports are up-to-date, and schedule doctors' appointments for any shots you may need.
- Shop for bridesmaids' dresses. Allow at least six months for the dresses to be ordered and sized.
- Meet with the officiant. Map out the ceremony and confirm that you have all the official documents for the wedding (these vary by county and religion).
- Send save-the-date cards.
- Reserve structural and electrical necessities. (Book portable toilets for outdoor events, extra chairs if you need them, lighting components, and so on).
- Book a florist. Florists can serve multiple clients on one day, which is why you can wait a little longer to engage one. Plus, at this point, you'll be firm on what your wedding palette will be.
- Arrange transportation. Consider limos, minibuses, trolleys, and town cars. (But know that low-to-the-ground limos can make entries and exits dicey if you're wearing a fitted gown.)
- Start composing a day-of timeline. Draw up a schedule of the event and slot in each component (the cake-cutting, the first dance).

**✦ Five to Four Months Before**

- Book the rehearsal and rehearsal-dinner venues. Negotiate the cost and the menu.

**CHECKLIST** *cont pg 6*

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# Things to consider when choosing a wedding party

Making the important decision to get married can fill couples with joy and excitement as they imagine spending the rest of their lives together. Naturally, brides- and grooms-to-be are anxious to share the good news with others and include family and friends in the festivities. One way couples exemplify inclusion is by asking their closest acquaintances to be part of their wedding parties.

Being asked to serve as a bridesmaid or groomsman is an honor. Some couples may be tempted to ask every friend, sibling or cousin they have to be in their wedding parties, and some do. In fact, ancient Roman law required 10 witnesses to be part of the wedding ceremony. However, the larger the wedding party, the more people couples have to coordinate and the more personalities they must manage.

While large wedding parties are in style, there isn't any one-size-fits-all formula to decide which size party is right for a particular situation. Trends vary based on geography and culture. These tips can help couples decide on the size of their wedding parties.

- **Match it to scope and style.** Wedding planners may use a standard ratio for a proportion of guests to wedding party members. That ratio is one pair of wedding attendants for every 50 guests. This creates a balanced feel where the more people in attendance, the larger the wedding party and vice versa.

- **Consider your expenses.** Wedding party members may be asked to spend



considerable amounts of money to be in the wedding, but the couple will have certain expenses tied to the wedding party as well. These can include limousines to ferry people between the ceremony and reception, photography costs to arrange and photograph large wedding parties, the cost of boutonnieres and bouquets, attendants' gifts, as well as extra mouths to feed at the rehearsal dinner. Small wedding parties can be easier on couples' budgets.

- **Know your expectations.** Couples should discuss what they expect from their wedding parties. Do couples want their loved ones to be very hands-on or waiting in the wings? For those who want a lot of input from their wedding parties, asking distant friends or family to be included may be impractical.

- **Select reliable, easygoing people.** Wedding party members should be people couples can rely on, and it only helps if wedding party members are not prone to overreacting. Choose a wedding party that can be trusted and people with whom you get along.

Wedding party sizes are up to the couple, but bigger isn't always better.

**CHECKLIST** *cont from pg 4*

- If you're planning to host a day-after brunch for guests, book that place as well.
- Check on the wedding invitations. Ask the stationer for samples of the finished invitations and revise them to suit your needs.
  - Select and order the cake. Some bakers require a long lead time. Attend several tastings before committing to any baker.
  - Send your guest list to the host of your shower. Provided you, ahem, know about the shower.
  - Purchase wedding shoes and start dress fittings. Bring the shoes along to your first fitting so the tailor can choose the appropriate length for your gown.
  - Schedule hair and makeup artists. Make a few appointments with local experts to try them out. Snap a photo at each so you can compare results.
  - Choose your music. What should be playing when the wedding party is announced? During dinner? To kick off the dancing? Keep a running list of what you want—and do not want—played.

**✦ Three Months Before**

- Finalize the menu and flowers. You'll want to wait until now to see what will be available, since food and flowers are affected by season.
- Order favors, if desired. Some safe bets: monogrammed cookies or a treat that represents your city or region. If you're planning to have welcome baskets for out-of-town guests, plan those now too.
- Make a list of the people giving toasts. Which loved ones would you like to have speak at the reception? Ask them now.
- Finalize the readings. Determine what you would like to have read at the ceremony—and whom you wish to do the readings.
- Purchase your undergarments. And schedule your second fitting.
- Finalize the order of the ceremony and the reception.
- Print menu cards, if you like, as well as programs. No need to go to a printer, if that's not in your budget: You can easily create these on your computer.
- Purchase the rings. This will give you time for resizing and engraving.
- Send your event schedule to the vendors. Giving them a first draft now allows ample time for tweaks and feedback.

**✦ Two Months Before**

- Touch base again with all the vendors. Make sure any questions you or they had on your first draft have been answered.

**CHECKLIST** *cont pg 8*

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# Cool and Unique Ideas for Couples' Wedding Tattoos

If you want to commemorate your big day (and your love) with something more lasting than a diamond ring and if never worrying about losing your ring because it's tattooed on sounds like a good idea, you might consider a set of wedding tattoos.

However, take a moment to step back and really think about it before you get your new ink — especially if it will serve as a unique wedding ring. No one wants to contemplate the idea of the “Big D” word. But, just entertain the hypothetical for a moment—if you do end up parting ways with this person, you likely won't want that permanent reminder on your skin. Although you can get it removed, the process is expensive, painful, and doesn't completely get rid of the tattoo.

If you end up deciding to show off your love with new tattoos, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Choose your placement and design wisely. Go for thin lines, simple shapes, and not too much detail. (BRIDES TIP: Instead of the tattoo being on your actual ring fingers, consider getting a matching design elsewhere on your bodies, like a wrist or forearm).
- Research your artist. Check out their portfolios and have an in-person consultation if you like their style.
- Be prepared for a little pain. Since there are so many nerve endings in your hands, this placement is among the least pleasant. However, if it's a simple design, they can often be wrapped up in a matter of minutes.
- Plan accordingly, and pay attention

**TATTOOS** cont pg 9

**PIERCINGS**

**TATTOOS**

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**CHECKLIST** *cont from pg 6*

- Meet with the photographer. Discuss specific shots, and walk through the locations to note spots that appeal to you.
- Review the playlist with the band or deejay. Though you probably won't be able to dictate every single song played, you should come prepared with a wish list.
- Send out the invitations. The rule of thumb: Mail invitations six to eight weeks before the ceremony, setting the RSVP cutoff at three weeks after the postmark date.
- Submit a newspaper wedding announcement. If you're planning to include a photograph, check the publication's website: Some have strict rules about how the photo should look.
- Enjoy a bachelorette party. Arranging a night out with your girlfriends generally falls to the maid of honor. But if she hasn't mentioned one to you by now, feel free to ask—for scheduling purposes, of course!—if a celebration is in the works.

**✦ One Month Before**

- Enter RSVPs into your guest-list database.
- Phone people who have not yet responded.
- Get your marriage license. The process can take up to six days, but it's good to give yourself some leeway. If you are changing your name, order several copies.
- Mail the rehearsal-dinner invitations.
- Visit the dressmaker for (with luck!) your last dress fitting. For peace of mind, you may want to schedule a fitting the week of your wedding. You can always cancel the appointment if you try on the dress then and it fits perfectly.
- Stock the bar. Now that you have a firm head count you can order accordingly.
- Send out as many final payments as you can.
- Confirm times for hair and makeup and all vendors.
- E-mail and print directions for drivers of transport vehicles. This gives the chauffeurs ample time to navigate a route.
- Assign seating. Draw out table shapes on a layout of the room to help plan place settings. Write the names of female guests on pink sticky notes and the names of male guests on blue sticky notes so you can move people about without resketching the entire setting.
- Purchase bridesmaids' gifts. You'll present them at the rehearsal dinner.
- Write vows, if necessary.
- Get your hair cut and colored, if desired.

**✦ Week of the Wedding**

- Reconfirm arrival times with vendors.

**CHECKLIST** *cont pg 10*

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## **TATTOOS** cont from pg 7

to care guidelines. For your wedding ring tattoo to look its best on your actual wedding day, get your ink at least a week prior and make sure to follow your artist's aftercare routine so everything heals properly.

- Choose a design that means something to both of you. Your wedding tattoo should have some sort of understood meaning that symbolizes something you both know and will love looking at.

*Here are examples of what real couples chose for their wedding tattoos.*

- ▶ **Simply Drawn Hearts.** Simple and thin-lined hearts go a long way. Placed further down the finger, wedding rings can still be worn without hiding the ink.

- ▶ **Tiny Pinky Promises.** Matching pinky promises symbolize your life-long vows. Tattoos placed on the arms will last much longer than on the finger, especially with more intricate designs.

- ▶ **Modern and Delicate Triangles.** Triangles are emblems of strength, luck, and balance. What better shape to symbolize a lasting union? When placed on the wrist, the two come perfectly together while holding hands.

- ▶ **Grounding Anchors.** A sweet reminder that you are each other's anchors. Matching tattoos on the inside of a finger rather than on top is a subtle way to express your commitment.

- ▶ **Extra Tiny Eyes.** The super-small eyes are nothing flashy, but pack a powerful meaning when placed on the ring fingers. A dainty symbol between the second and third knuckles makes the perfect accessory to a wedding ring.

- ▶ **Saturn and Its Moons.** The meaning fixed to Saturn and its moons is "seeds sewing," which is all too wedding-appropriate.

- ▶ **Wedding Date in Dots.** As a creative take on inking the wedding date, this couple put it in dots. At a glance, it

appears to be a simple geometric design, which makes it a great option if you like to keep your tattoos a bit more ambiguous.

- ▶ **Bow and Arrow.** Your couples tattoo doesn't have to mean identical. Get something that goes together, like a bow and arrow, to show you complete each other.

- ▶ **Traditional Wedding Ring Tattoo.** A simple, no-frills band around the ring fingers in tattoo form put a modern (and permanent) twist on the classic wedding ring. Be sure to take proper care of your finger ink and get periodic touch-ups to keep it looking fresh.

- ▶ **Ring Finger Dots.** Dainty and subtle, ring finger dots can take the place of wedding rings, or lie underneath. Tiny dots are also a great option for those with an aversion to needles—you'll be done in minutes, if not seconds.

- ▶ **Arrow Wedding Bands.** A simple arrow wrapped around the ring finger makes a sweet and delicate alternative to wedding rings. And they look great as an addition to other finger tats.

- ▶ **Lock and Key.** The meaning of the lock and key tattoo can be twofold. He forever holds the key to her heart (especially when the lock is heart-shaped). And as there is only one key for a lock, he is the only one for her.

- ▶ **Open Arms.** For the couple who loves the traditional tattooing style, a quote that spans your bodies can be so striking. If you're opting to add a little color, the arm will lend itself to greater longevity than a finger.

- ▶ **'Til Death Do Us Part.** Matching skulls play off the wedding adage "'Til death do us part." Roses soften the piece with a touch of romance.

*Visit "source" [brides.com/couples-wedding-tattoos-4847261](http://brides.com/couples-wedding-tattoos-4847261) to view photos and additional tattoo ideas.*



# Introducing “Manymoos”—the Only Thing Better Than One Long Honeymoon

When it comes to newlywed trips, the more the merrier. Today’s couples are getting impressively creative on the honeymoon front. And why shouldn’t they? Not everyone has the time or budget to stick to tradition—you know, taking a roughly two week trip somewhere far-away right after the wedding.

The latest “moon” in the bunch is one you’re really going to love: “manymoos.” Instead of a single postwedding vacation for a longer period of time, some newlyweds are choosing to take several shorter excursions sprinkled throughout the year after their wedding. This way, they’re not obligated to take weeks off from work or feel stuck in one place for too long (not that two weeks at a beach resort is a bad thing, but it’s not for everyone). It’s also a great way

to keep the excitement, spontaneity and romance of newlywed travel alive long after the wedding. Why get it all over with at once?

If work, budget or simply your indecisive wanderlust is keeping you from finding the right honeymoon plans, why not toss the rulebook and take a few smaller, equally awesome trips together? If neither of you can decide between a spa week, the beach or museum hopping, a unique locale, and there’s no time for all four at once—you need a manymoon.

Everyone knows a honeymoon as the celebratory first trip you take together as newlyweds. But now that earlymoons, tiny moons and buddymoos are in the mix, it’s hard to tell which honeymoon

**MANYMOON** *cont pg 17*

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# 21 Charming Country Wedding Ideas

Dreaming of a country wedding? Go all out and give your wedding day some rustic flair, complete with cowboy boots, hay bales, lace, burlap, homemade pies, and mason jars. Or incorporate a detail here and there to give off that homespun vibe. Explore our list below to discover 21 charming country wedding ideas that are sure to create the look you had in mind for your special day.

1. **WOOD PAPER.** Wood accents belong at every country wedding. Label your reception tables with Western-themed table numbers.

2. **BOOTS & ROOTS.** Honor your country roots with local or homemade wedding favors like boot-shaped sugar cookies.

3. **WILD BOUTONNIERES.** Add bright and whimsical wildflowers to your lapel. (Bonus points if you pick them yourself.) Flowers: Craspedia, hy-

pericum berries and wildflowers

4. **WOOD ARCHES.** Say “I do” beneath a wood wedding arch covered in greenery and overgrown flowers. This country wedding idea will really bring home the look you’re going for on your big day.

5. **BRAIDED LOCKS.** Embrace your inner country with a half updo and waterfall braid. Finish with simple blooms, like baby’s breath, for an elegant touch.

6. **BURLAP DIRECTIONS.** Nothing says “country” quite like burlap signs to point your guests to the ceremony, cocktail hour and reception. And the best part? It’s easy and affordable to master this country-style wedding decoration.

7. **WAGON WHEEL CHANDELIER.** On a budget? There are a lot of ways to save on décor if you’re working with a rustic style. String mason jars on an antique wagon wheel for a chandelier to light your elegant barn reception.

8. **MASON JAR CENTERPIECES.** Place your florals in classic mason jars wrapped in burlap and lace for low centerpieces with a vintage spin. Add in wildflowers, dried grass and moss for an eye-catching display.

9. **HAY BALE SEATING.** Use hay bales covered in cozy blankets, pillows or a few yards of lace as country-chic (but way less expensive) seating options for your ceremony and reception. Not only will these provide comfortable seating for your guests, but they also make for great places to pose for pictures, too!

10. **A VINTAGE ARBOR.** White-washed doors are a quintessential country accent for your outdoor ceremony. Decorate your bespoke arch with colorful flowers and whimsical vines for a stunning backdrop for your “I dos.”



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**IDEAS** cont pg 13



**IDEAS** cont from pg 12

**11. STOMPING GROUNDS.** There are no rules when it comes to your wedding attire, so kick up the dust in a pair of cowboy boots under your dress. Have your bridal party wear their boots too for a full-on country ensemble.

**12. CHARMING INVITES.** When it comes to designing your save-the-dates and wedding invitations, use wood, watercolor or delicate calligraphy accents to give it a rustic feel. Use these elements for signage at your reception, too.

**13. MONOGRAMS & FLANNELS.** What better way to celebrate and primp than in monogrammed flannel shirts for the guests in your wedding party? Your friends will love this thoughtful getting-ready outfit they can wear long after the wedding.

**14. BARNYARD BAR.** Serve your signature cocktails at an outdoor bar decked out with string lights, chalkboard menus and painted signs.

**15. EASY AS PIE.** Instead of a traditional wedding cake, treat your guests to a few homemade pies (hopefully made from your grandmother's secret recipe). Tasty and on theme!

**16. BARN VENUES.** What's a country wedding without a barn party to follow? Look into barns that serve as wedding reception venues or go for a ranch-style wedding to really send home the country-wedding style vibes.

**17. RUSTIC TABLE SETTINGS.** This country wedding idea is both simple and charming. Decorate the tables at your reception with wildflowers, twigs and branches to create wild and stunning centerpieces. You could even weave them into a table runner for extra whimsical appeal.

**18. MIX AND MATCH.** The beauty of a country wedding is that nothing needs to be perfect and uniform. In fact, the more quirky, the better. Consider using mix-matched chairs at your reception and incorporating different

sets of china for your place settings.

**19. TWINKLY LIGHTS.** One of the best country wedding ideas is to add some sparkle. String twinkly lights all around your outdoor venue to create a romantic and magical feel. For a more rustic approach, set up lanterns or candles in mason jars to add more light to your country setting.

**20. COWBOY HATS.** Surprise your wedding party with cowboy hats of their own and use them as props in your wedding photos. For the ultimate country-style wedding, provide cowboy hats for all your guests to help get them in that country mood.

**21. COUNTRY TUNES.** To round out all of the amazing country wedding ideas, you'll want to make sure you have the music to match your setting! Whether you hire a DJ or a live band, add some country jams to your playlist, from bluegrass to folk music.

*source: theknot.com*



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# Engagement ring buyer's guide

Wedding planning often begins moments after couples get engaged. Once a ring is presented, a new chapter in a relationship is born.

While couples remember the sentiments and the style of their engagements forever, the engagement ring serves as the lasting symbol of that momentous occasion. Choosing the right engagement ring is complicated. Such a decision involves knowing what a future spouse desires in a ring and balancing those desires with budget.

Shopping for an engagement ring can be both nerve-racking and exciting. But there are ways to make the process go as smoothly as possible.



► Listen carefully anytime jewelry is discussed.

Getting an idea of which style of jewelry the love of your life prefers requires keeping your eyes and ears open anytime jewelry is mentioned. Subtle hints may be dropped and pages to magazines may be folded back to provide a nudge in the right direction. It's also perfectly fine to ask for your future spouse's input, particularly if you've already spoken about marriage and know that an engagement is on the horizon.

► Have a good idea on the shape of the stone. All gemstones need to be cut in particular ways so that they reflect light and sparkle. Stones are also cut in specific shapes that provide the overall form of the stone. These include round, princess, emerald, oval, marquise, and pear, among others. Many people have distinct preferences when it comes to the shape of the ring. Keep in mind that some shapes are more common than others and some may be more expensive as well. According to Long's Fine Jewelers, round cut diamonds are the most popular today and also some of the most expensive. Marquise and oval also tend

**RINGS** cont pg 15

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**RINGS** cont from pg 14

to be pricey. Princess and emerald cut diamonds may be more affordable, offers Genesis Diamonds.

► Know all the specs. Buying an engagement ring means being armed with a lot of knowledge. In addition to shape, there are the four Cs to consid-

*The first most appreciated shape of a ring is “round cut diamond”. The second one is “the princess cut diamond ring”.*

*As for the most popular metals used, white gold and platinum are the rock stars.*

er. These refer to the stone’s cut, carat, clarity, and color, and will determine

the financial value of the gemstone. Take some time to learn about each of the four Cs so you can make a more informed decision when visiting the jeweler.

► Shop around. Not all jewelers are the same, and you want to find one with whom you feel comfortable and believe you will get the best value for your money. Believe it or not, you can purchase the ring in two parts - opting to shop for a setting from one place and a stone from another. Jewelers will often do whatever is necessary to make their customers happy, so don’t be afraid to ask for customization.

Engagement ring buyers may also want to consider gemstones other than diamonds. Buyers also must know their beloved’s ring size before buying the ring. Brilliant Earth jewelry says 6 to 6.5 are the most common ring sizes.

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# Is airbrushed makeup the way to go?



Hair and makeup is an important part of wedding day planning. Brides and grooms want to look their best on their wedding days, when they will no doubt take dozens of photos, if not more. Men may apply some oil-absorbing powder to tone down shine on their skin, but women tend to pull out all the stops when selecting bridal makeup - often hiring professional makeup artists to create a signature look.

Airbrush-applied makeup is an option women may want to explore. The wedding resource *The Knot* says that makeup airbrushing is quite popular in the world of movies and modeling and is now becoming more popular among brides-to-be. When applied correctly by a professional, airbrush makeup can have a number of perks.

Understanding airbrush makeup can help brides determine if it's the best choice for them.

Airbrush makeup is comprised of a very thin liquid makeup that is applied with the use of an air gun. This produces a thin, even layer of foundation, often creating a matte finish. Makeup artists can custom-blend shades to get the right match for their customers' skin tones. And because the fine mist of airbrush makeup enables true skin tone to show through, it can appear much more natural.

Many airbrushed formulations are silicone-based, enabling long-lasting wear and water-resistant properties. This is advantageous when hugging and kissing on one's wedding day. Some airbrush makeup can last up to 16 hours.

Some airbrush formulations are water- or alcohol-based. Alco-

**MAKEUP** cont pg 20



## **MANYMOON** cont from pg 11

is which. Some can definitely overlap, and you may go on a few of them. But that's the beauty of these honeymoons.

**A tinyymoon:** A honeymoon where you spend a few additional days in the city where you get married after your wedding day.

**An adventurymoon:** An active honeymoon for thrill-seeking newlyweds who want to pack every physical activity they can into their honeymoon, like scuba diving, surfing, shark diving, cliff jumping, snorkeling, biking, hiking, zip-lining, ATV riding and more.

**A bestiymoon:** A relaxing prewedding trip (that's not your bachelorette party) taken with your favorite ladies, whether it's with your mom, grandma, aunt, sister, friends—whoever!

**A buddymoon:** A honeymoon attended by one or more of the newlyweds' friends (read more here).

**An earlymoon:** A prewedding honeymoon to relax, unwind and connect about a month or two before the wedding day.

**An elopementmoon:** An elopement and honeymoon rolled into one, if you're eloping to a certain destination and then taking your honeymoon directly from there, or staying in that area for your honeymoon.

**An engagementmoon:** A romantic trip taken shortly after getting engaged to celebrate and soak in your happy news together.

**A foodiemoon:** A trip that's primarily focused on—you guessed it—the food and drinks. Whether it's pasta in Italy, cheese in France or a wine tour in South Africa, planning out your eating and drinking takes priority here.

**A manymoon:** A series of two or more shorter trips taken throughout the first year (or so) of marriage, rather than one long trip taken right after saying "I do."

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# Cater wedding menus to guests' dietary needs

Gone are the days when wedding reception menus were limited to the one-size-fits-all offerings of meat, chicken or fish. Thanks to modern diets, couples hoping to accommodate guests may need to provide a wide array of food choices.

It is impossible to pinpoint an exact number, as there are no definitive surveys classifying all dietary preferences, but there are believed to be around 7.9 million people in the United States who follow a vegetarian-based diet. Of those people, around one million are strictly vegan, according to data in *The Economist*. In addition, NYU Langone Health says one-third of Americans are trying to avoid



gluten. The Gluten Free Agency, which is a consulting group dedicated to helping advertisers, says some nine million people in Canada are going gluten-free now for medical or personal reasons. Toss in the scores of people with peanut or other allergies and even more

**CATER** cont pg 19

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**CATER** cont from pg 18

caution is needed when designing wedding menus.

Savvy couples who have guests' health and comfort in mind recognize the importance of offering a varied meal plan for wedding-related parties and receptions. The following are some ideas to consider when planning wedding menus.

▶ Consider a buffet-style service. Although couples might like the tradition and flair that a seated/plated meal offers, it creates a much more limited selection of meal options. Buffet-style dinner service often provides couples with multiple choices, and it's much more likely they can come up with a combination that caters to any food allergies or dietary restrictions guests may have.

▶ Opt for food stations. In lieu of one long buffet table, a modern approach is to have staffed food stations. Foods as well as their ingredients can be clearly stated on food table placards so guests can make appropriate choices.

▶ Offer alternatives for dessert. Wedding cake can be a challenge to someone with a gluten sensitivity or an egg or a nut allergy. While not every guest indulges in dessert, make it a point to offer an alternative to cake. Perhaps a groom's cake can be revamped into gluten-free cookie bars or a nut-free trifle.

Couples who know in advance which types of dietary restrictions their guests have can work with caterers to devise a menu that suits everyone.



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**MAKEUP** *cont from pg 16*

hol-based options can be used to cover tattoos or birthmarks.

Touchups are minimal with airbrush makeup, and the formulations can be layered to cover blemishes. Airbrush makeup also creates a pristine finish for applying other makeup.

Airbrush makeup is compatible with well-moisturized skin and takes to it well, but dry skin may flake, crack and look flat, advises Essence Designs.

Brides who end up shedding tears of joy on their wedding days might find that airbrush makeup can streak, which can be difficult to cover up.

Because it requires a certain skill-set and equipment, airbrush makeup tends to be more expensive than

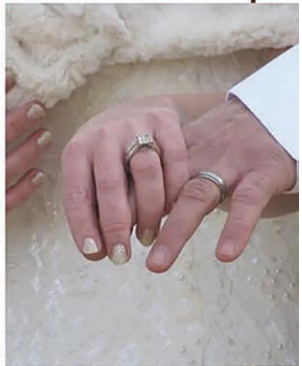
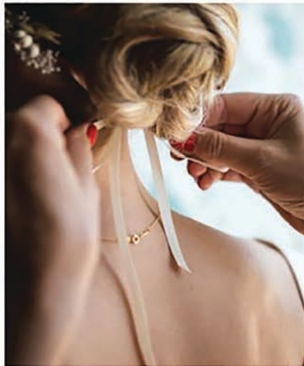
traditional makeup when done by a professional.

Airbrush makeup can create a flawless look and may be an option for brides to consider.

**SIDE NOTE:** Be sure to confirm when the wedding venue is open to the wedding party. Before booking hair and makeup appointments, couples should confirm when they will be able to access their wedding venue. Brides may want to get their hair and makeup done at the ceremony sight, but that may only be possible if the venue opens early for the wedding party. If it does not, then brides must account for transportation time to the ceremony sight when making their wedding day schedules.

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WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT
<b>BRIDE'S NAME:</b> _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
<b>ANNOUNCEMENT:</b> (insert bride's full name) _____ and (insert groom's full name) _____ were married (date) _____ at (insert church or location, in city, state) _____ by (name of officiant) _____ of (insert city, state) _____.
<b>BRIDE IS THE DAUGHTER OF</b> of (insert city, state) _____. She is the granddaughter of (insert bride's maternal grandparents) _____ of (insert city, state) _____ and (insert bride's paternal grandparents) _____ of (insert city, state) _____.
<b>GROOM IS THE SON OF</b> of (insert city, state) _____. He is the grandson of (insert groom's maternal grandparents) _____ of (insert city, state) _____ and (insert groom's paternal grandparents) _____ of (insert city, state) _____.
After a honeymoon to _____, the couple will reside in (insert city, state) _____.
<small>On a separate sheet you may add the bride's chosen colors, a description of the bride's gown &amp; flowers, the groom's attire, decor at ceremony location, music, name members of the wedding party, their positions, hometowns and relationship to the bride or groom, reception location, describe bride's table and bride's &amp; groom's cakes, name servers and mention pre-wedding showers and parties.                      I have included details on a separate sheet Yes ___ No ___                      I have included a photo Yes ___ No ___</small>
Please return to Harrison Daily Times, 111 West Rush, P.O. Box 40 Harrison, AR 72602-0040 or fax to 870-741-5632 <small>*Publication of wedding announcement is free, but may be subject to additional fees.</small>

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT
<b>BRIDE'S NAME:</b> _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
<b>GROOM'S NAME:</b> _____
<b>ANNOUNCEMENT:</b> Insert bride's parents' or guardians' names) _____ of (insert city, state) _____ announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, (insert bride's full name) _____ to (insert groom's full name) _____, son of (insert groom's parents' names) _____ of (insert city, state) _____. The bride is the granddaughter of (insert bride's maternal grandparents) _____ of (insert city, state) _____ and (insert bride's paternal grandparents) _____ of (insert city, state) _____. The bride is graduate of (school and university) _____ and is employed by _____. The groom is the grandson of (insert groom's maternal grandparents) _____ of (insert city, state) _____ and (insert groom's paternal grandparents) _____ of (insert city, state) _____. The groom is graduate of (school and university) _____ and is employed by _____. The wedding is planned for (time) _____, (day of the week) _____, (month, year) _____, at (church, location) _____.
Should the announcement say friends and relatives are invited to attend? Yes ___ No ___ If no, is this a private wedding by invitation only? Yes ___ No ___ I have listed additional details on another sheet of paper Yes ___ No ___ I have included a photo Yes ___ No ___
Please return to Harrison Daily Times, 111 West Rush, P.O. Box 40 Harrison, AR 72602-0040 or fax to 870-741-5632 <small>*Publication of engagement announcement is free, but may be subject to additional fees.</small>



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\*some fees may apply. call for details.



## Plan to treat guests in extra-special ways

Weddings may focus on the couples getting hitched, but weddings also are special thanks to the many family and friends couples involve in the festivities. Some of the more successful weddings are ones in which couples honor their guests and let them know how much they're appreciated. By incorporating these ideas into their wedding ceremonies and receptions, couples can let their guests know how much they're loved.

- Arrange seats at the ceremony (if practical) in a circular pattern around you so that everyone can have a great view when you exchange vows.

- Create a bathroom convenience basket for both the men's and women's bathrooms. Stock items that might come in handy, like mouthwash, toothpaste, first aid items, spare pantyoshes, hair spray, sanitary products, moisturizer, gum, and whatever other niceties you can think of.

- Provide prearranged to-go boxes so that guests can take home tasty tidbits from the meal or dessert table.

- Offer transportation between the ceremony and reception.

- Customize "do not disturb" door tags for overnight guests so they can ensure they get enough shut-eye after partying into the wee hours of the morning.

- Make sure the photographer takes photos of everyone at every table and then share those photos on a wedding website or via social media. Create a hashtag unique to your wedding so that guests can easily find the photos.

- Provide inexpensive slippers or

flip-flops so that avid dancers can rest their toes in between songs.

- If valet parking service is not included, ask for an add-on so that guests get door-to-door treatment.

- Always be considerate of special needs by seating guests in places where they're most likely to be comfortable. Keep elderly guests away from speakers and near exits to facilitate trips to the bathroom.

- Be mindful of all food allergies or requirements and have accommodations set up in advance.

- Honor those people who could not be at the wedding in a special way, including deceased family and friends.

- Include information about how guests can request songs at the reception. Pass on the information to the band or DJ.

- Encourage guests to get up and dance by making it fun. Put song lyrics from different songs on each table. When that song is played, that table has to join you on the dance floor.

- Remember to thank everyone for coming and follow up those in-person sentiments with handwritten, personalized thank-you notes after the wedding.



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