



Devoted Ohio Weddings

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Thousands*

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**TIPS ON CHANGING
YOUR LAST NAME**

**THE BEST WAY
TO TRAVEL
POST PANDEMIC**

*Wedding
Bouquets*

Shapes, Seasons, & Types

**Wedding
Planning
Guide**

Fall/Winter 2021-2022



Year at a Glance

2022

January

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Letter from the editors

Like our name—Devoted—we're DEVOTED to helping you with planning the wedding of your dreams.

As Ohio's number one regional wedding resource—now in Columbus, Cincinnati and Dayton—we are more Devoted to helping all engaged couples in Ohio plan their dream wedding. Some of the Devoted resources available to you include blog posts full of wedding inspiration, private Facebook groups, wedding shows, Wedding Resale Market events, online wedding vendor directory, money-saving discount coupons, online education, planning, resale market shoppe, podcasts and so much more. Planning a wedding will present many challenges, but we are Devoted to helping you and your fiancé plan the wedding of your dreams.



Jamie M Rapavy
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DevotedColumbus.com



Kathy Piech-Lukas
Wedding Specialist
DevotedCincinnati.com

Photo by Luxe & Art Michael Bambino

Congratulations!



Finding the person you want to spend the rest of your life with is the best cause for celebration!

While this is a very exciting time, the planning process can be overwhelming. Where do you even begin? Look no further! This guide focuses on matching you with great Ohio-based vendors and giving you helpful tips and inspiration.

Let's get started

Not sure where to start your wedding planning adventure? Here is a list of the top 10 things to kick start your planning process!

1

Call your parents, siblings, and closest friends.

Personally call or pay a visit to your closest family and friends to tell them the exciting news. This is a major milestone in your life and should be shared with your loved ones in a personal, intimate way. After the most important people in your life have heard the news, it's time to post about it on social media, change your relationship status to "engaged," and watch tons of likes roll in!

2

Get your ring insured and sized.

The last thing you want is your engagement ring slipping off your finger, so be sure to have it properly sized. The jeweler you purchased the ring from can assist you with this. In addition, you'll want to make sure that you insure your wedding ring in the off chance it is lost, damaged or stolen. This way, you can replace it without having to purchase a new one.

3

Celebrate your engagement!

Take a few weeks to relax and enjoy this time before the craziness of wedding planning begins. Whether it's taking a little vacation with your new fiancé or planning an engagement party with your closest friends and family, make sure to take time to celebrate your love!

5

Discuss and plan a budget.

Talking about money can be uncomfortable, but this is one of the most important steps when it comes to planning your wedding. Have an open and honest discussion with your fiancé and your families to establish a budget you can all agree on. Doing this will help save time and put you in the right mindset for planning your wedding.

7

Research wedding venues.

You won't be able to pick a date until you know your dream venue is available and within your budget. If you already have an idea of where you want your wedding to be, give them a call to find out the availability, pricing, and other important details. If you aren't sure yet, do some research online and see what is out there.

8

Pick a style and gather inspiration.



Once you have booked your venue and team of vendors, it is time to start choosing your colors, decor and music for the wedding. Create inspiration boards on Pinterest to stay organized and brainstorm ideas.

4

Determine your wedding size.

Talk with your fiancé and your respective family members that may be contributing to the wedding budget. Determine who is paying for what and how many guests. If others are providing money toward the wedding they should have a say in who is invited.

6

Take engagement photos.



Engagement photos can be a great memory to have with your fiancé! Many photographers offer great packages to help you save money, and it's a great way to become comfortable in front of the camera. Plus, you and your partner can pick a location or certain shots that are special to the two of you!

9

Interview vendors and/or planners.

Now that you have set your budget, it's time to start planning! Some brides want to plan every detail themselves, while others decide to hire a planner to help them with the process. If you decide to hire a planner, ask around for referrals, do online research, and conduct interviews to find the perfect fit for you. This process applies to other vendors as well. The sooner you are able to get your vendors booked, the better.

10

Think about your wedding planning timeline.

When you're ready to jump into planning, make a timeline of everything you need to accomplish for your big day. This will ensure everything gets done in plenty of time. Flip the page to check out our suggested timeline!



Wedding Planning Checklist

1+ year

- Purchase engagement rings
- Decide on type of wedding (formal/informal-big/small)
- Select a wedding date and time
- Discuss & set budget/who will pay for what expenses
- Choose your wedding party
- Estimate total number of guests
- Start your guest list

10 months

- Send engagement announcement to local newspaper
- Decide on roles for wedding party
- Reserve reception location
- Select caterer if one is necessary
- Reserve ceremony location
- Determine who will officiate at the ceremony
- Begin researching honeymoon spots
- Start looking for wedding dress
- Order the bridal gown and accessories
- Decide on premarital counseling
- Start health and fitness program
- Plan color scheme
- Book a photographer
- Get engagement photos taken
- Decide on wedding insurance
- Order and send the save the date notices

8 months

- Prepare budget for honeymoon
- Consult travel agent about honeymoon
- Book honeymoon
- Purchase wedding rings
- Start planning your reception
- Select ceremony and reception music (DJ and/or band)
- Reserve blocks of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests
- Research invitations, thank you notes and wording
- Book your videographer
- Select a florist, choose floral arrangements and pay your share of florist's bill
- Select decor and lighting professional
- Reserve rental items
- Book rehearsal dinner location

6 months

- Order bridesmaid dresses and accessories
- Discuss gowns with mothers
- Give guest list to bridal shower hostess
- Shop for trousseau
- Set up formal wear options for the groomsmen
- Book the rehearsal dinner location
- Investigate wedding day transportation
- Select a wedding cake
- Select and order invitations, prepare maps if necessary
- Purchase ceremony accessories
- Start wedding registries
- Purchase reception accessories
- Send hotel reservation information to out-of-town guests
- Shop for wedding bands and get ideas for engraving
- Finalize the guest list
- Secure necessary travel documents, such as passports
- Meet with ceremony officiant & begin planning ceremony
- Decide on new living arrangement for after wedding day

4 months

- Purchase bride accessories
- Schedule hair stylist and/or make-up artist
- Measure groom and groomsmen for tuxedos
- Confirm that bridal attendants have purchased/rented attire
- Schedule bridal gown fittings
- Purchase groom accessories
- Research money matters for after the wedding
- Address and mail invitations
- Order wedding favors
- Schedule taste-testing and decide on reception menu
- Purchase gifts for fiancé, bridal attendants and parents
- Decide who will be reading and/or performing in wedding ceremony
- Decide where bridal party will dress/get ready
- Book boudoir shoot





1-2 weeks

- Schedule mani/pedi for the day before the wedding
- Schedule groom haircut
- Arrange bridesmaids/groomsmen to pick up formal wear
- Have dress cleaned and pressed
- Leave honeymoon itinerary with someone in case of emergency
- Reconfirm honeymoon reservations and details
- Give final headcount for rehearsal dinner to location
- Finalize number of guests with planner
- Finalize seating chart for reception
- Pack for honeymoon
- Designate people to be responsible for wedding day errands
- Purchase items for out-of-town-guest gift bags
- Begin assembling place cards in alphabetical order
- Provide your family and wedding party with a schedule for the wedding day

The day before

- Attend pedicure and manicure appointments
- Gather bridal accessories and emergency items
- Set aside gratuities in separate envelopes for vendors
- Arrange for officiant to be paid
- Take marriage license to rehearsal
- Attend rehearsal and rehearsal dinner - don't forget bridal party gifts
- Take favors, place cards, guest book, etc to the ceremony site
- Settle any last minute financial matters so you don't have to deal with them on wedding day

The day of!!

- Try to greet every guest
- Have fun and enjoy your day, because it will go by quickly!
- Don't sweat the small stuff

After the wedding

- Have gown and veil cleaned and preserved
- Change your name if applicable & notify important parties
- Have bouquet preserved
- Make arrangements for all tuxedos to be returned along with any rental items
- Mail wedding thank you notes within 3 months
- Send announcement and wedding picture to the newspaper and mail announcements
- Mail vendor thank yous
- Review your vendors online

2 months

- Be fitted for bridal gown
- Send rehearsal dinner invitations
- Make sure bridesmaids have gowns ready
- Find out how to obtain a marriage license in your state
- Do trial-runs of hair and make-up
- Plan bridesmaids' luncheon
- Finalize honeymoon details
- Select readings and songs for ceremony
- Write vows
- Write thank you notes as you receive shower and/or wedding gifts - keep a careful list of all gifts received
- Begin writing ceremony program
- Arrange for a babysitter, if necessary
- Get pre-wedding haircut
- Begin receiving RSVPs in the mail
- Obtain marriage license (must be within 60 days)
- Select person to handle guest book & pass out programs
- Order liquor and wine, if not provided by facility
- Pick up wedding bands
- Finalize decor
- Schedule final food tasting with facility/caterer

1 month

- Review & confirm with florist - give final centerpiece count
- Schedule final bridal gown fitting
- Remind maid/matron of honor and best man to prepare toast
- Book wedding night location
- Prepare a must-have photo list for photographer and/or videographer
- Prepare must-play and do-not-play lists for DJ or band
- Wrap attendant gifts and attach a note of thanks
- Have bridesmaid call all guests who have not RSVP'd
- Create seating chart and room layout
- Order seating chart frame or escort cards
- Have wedding program & table number/names printed
- Plan out-of-town welcome bags & thank you notes
- Finalize wedding vows
- Write speeches for rehearsal and wedding dinner
- Finalize details with all wedding professionals
- Buy wedding night & honeymoon lingerie



How Much Alcohol to Buy

Typically guests will drink two beverages per person during cocktail hour and one beverage per person per each additional hour that the bar is open



Beer

For beer, it is safe to assume that the typical beer drinker will have at least four beers! So multiply the number of beer drinkers by four to decide how many cups, bottles, or cans you will need!

Liquor

For liquor, the recommended amount is three 750ml bottles of each spirit per 50 people!



Wine



For wine, you can get about four glasses from each bottle so the recommended amount is four bottles of red wine per 50 people and six bottles of white wine per 50 people.

It is also recommended to have 100 lbs of ice per 50 guests!

Information provided by Ohio Bartenders for Hire.



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Ways to Save on Your Big Day

1

Decide What is Most Important

Pick your top three priorities and allocate a little extra money for them (like your gown, catering, and band). Next, pick the three things that come lowest on your priority list and budget accordingly.

3

Pick a Different Date

Saturdays are prime time for most weddings. Try to have your wedding on a Friday night or Sunday afternoon. Also consider having your wedding during off months (Nov-April).

5

Extend Your Engagement

Give yourself more time to save money by extending your engagement. You will also have more time to plan & compare pricing.

7

B.Y.O.B.

Book a facility that allows you to bring your own alcohol.

9

Keep it Simple with Flowers

Instead of a large bouquet, consider one or two large blooms, like tulips or sunflowers. This will cut down your flower budget and still allow you to have beautiful flowers on your wedding day. You can also re-purpose your flowers from ceremony and use for reception. Consider tossing one of your bridesmaid's bouquets instead of ordering one.

2

Passed Hors d'oeuvres

Have your hors d'oeuvres passed instead of doing food stations. Guests will eat less and you save more money this way. Keep the fruit, cheese and veggie trays to a minimum. Most guests just nibble on these and a lot goes to waste.

4

Centerpieces

Think of favors for your guests that can double as a centerpiece. This way, you have multiple uses out of them and guests can take them home and off your hands when the reception is over. Potted flowers, flowers in glass cubes, picture frames, candles, wine bottles and glasses with fruits are some examples. Use what you are given at your facilities and enhance it. Also, think about renting your centerpieces from your local rental company.

6

Borrow

Friends and family come in very handy for this. Jewelry, shoes, decorations, candles/candle holders are just some examples of things you can ask to borrow and will cut down on your spending.

8

Get Crafty

Buy your own fabric and make your own overlays or runners to add a touch of elegance.



10

Cut the Guest List

We know it's tough, but one of the fastest and most effective ways to lower your wedding cost is to cut down the invitees. Get out that red pen! At \$100 a head, taking 10 guests off the guest list saves \$1,000! Also, consider the size of your wedding party: gifts and transportation are cheaper for 4 versus 12.

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So, what's the average cost of a wedding in Ohio?

Flowers 7-9%

Ceremony Site: \$50-800
Reception Site: \$800-2000
Bride's Flowers: \$100-200
Flower Girls: \$30-60
Bridesmaids Flowers: \$50-100 each
Mens Boutonnieres: \$15-20 each

Reception Music 6-9%

DJ: \$600-2,000
Band: \$1,500-10,000

Other/Misc 10-12%

Cake: \$1.50-10/person
Videography: \$1,000-5,000
Transportation: \$500-2,000
Bridal Suite: \$0-300

Attire 7%

Gown: \$1,000-3,000
Headpiece/Jewelry: \$150
Shoes/Accessories: \$100
Groom's Formal Wear: \$200-300
Bride's Gift: \$200-400
Attendant Gifts: \$200-600
Favors for Guests: \$200-600

Ceremony 2%

Site Fee: \$75-200
Marriage License: \$65
Officiant Fee: \$150-350
Ceremony Music: \$125-625
Decoration: \$100-500

Reception 45-55%

Food/Drink: \$45-60/person
Rental Fee: \$0-5,000
Service Charges & Tax: 18-25%

Photography 9-10%

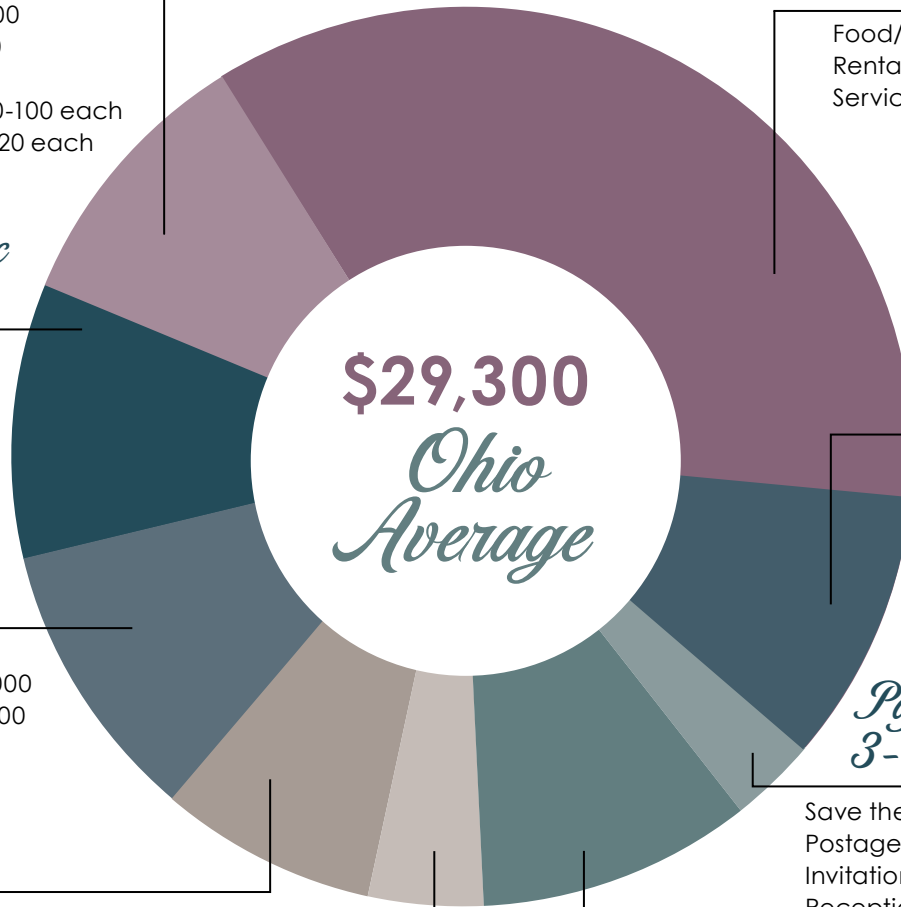
Engagement photos: \$300-2,000
Wedding day photos: \$1,500-7,000

Paper Products 3-4%

Save the Date: \$.75-2.00
Postage: \$.50/.71/.92
Invitations: \$1.50-10.00
Reception Cards: \$.75-1.50
Thank You Notes: \$.75-1.75
Place Cards: \$.65-2.00
Programs/Menu Cards: \$1.25-3.50
Envelope Addressing: \$.45-2.50

Wedding Planner 9-11%

Hourly: \$25-300
Wedding Weekend: \$1,000-3,000
Full Service: \$2,000-10,000



Typically Not in Budget

Wedding Insurance: \$150-550	Gown Preservation: \$250-700
Honeymoon: \$4,000	Flower Preservation: \$150-700
Rings: \$2,000-6,000	

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Wedding Pro Tip



Know that every wedding is perfectly imperfect and that at the end of the day, you are marrying your best friend. Smile and have fun – stop every hour and take in the love and fun that is around you. Plan the day out ahead of time and delegate everything to a wedding coordinator or best friend. Choose the right professionals who can be a big help during the planning through to the end of your event. Give your phone to your maid of honor, and enjoy your day!

At your final fitting, try on all of your accessories with your dress. Then put them into a container and have everything you want to be photographed (earrings, necklace, bracelet, wedding bouquet, garter, shoes, invitation, and all wedding rings) ready for your photographer when she walks into your getting ready location. (Extra tip, if your dress is lace, avoid bracelets and shoes that can easily catch on your dress.) Bonus tip: Attach your marriage license envelope to your dress bag.

Pottinger
Photography

Tip provided by: Brenda Pottinger, Pottinger Photography
www.pottingerphoto.com



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Wedding Bouquets Shapes, Seasons, and Types

If you do not have a lot of experience with floral design, choosing the flowers for your wedding can be a stressful experience. You may have ideas about colors you want to feature, or even specific blooms you like. One area many couples struggle with is choosing the shape of their bouquet. To make life easier for you, here is an overview of some of the most common bouquet shapes.

Pageant bouquets are known for their striking presence – these are big, beautiful bouquets are easy to carry because they are design to lay in your arm. These bouquets typically are made with spiky greenery like baby blue eucalyptus, olive branches, and italian ruscus, and feature long stemmed blooms like roses, delphinium, and calla lilies.

Crescent shaped bouquets are just like they sound – subtly arched bouquets. These bouquets can be whimsical and asymmetrical, or more straightforward, depending on the flowers and your personal aesthetic. These bouquets tend to feature lots of cascading ivy and hanging amaranthus. These bouquets strike a dramatic silhouette and appear very voluminous without being as heavy as other bouquets like the pageant bouquet.

The most well-known bouquet type is the round bouquet. Round bouquets tend to feature round blooms like roses, anemones, and dahlias. Greenery is usually very minimal. This style is a common choice for very traditional and formal weddings.

Hand-tied bouquets are extremely popular for rustic weddings. These bouquets have



a relaxed vibe and are an excellent choice for DIY. These bouquets tend to feature lots of greenery, with a focal bloom at the center, with others spiraling out around to make an oval-shaped bouquet. There are no rules or limits with hand tied bouquets – just pick your favorite blooms and let your imagination run wild!

Cascade bouquets have been trendy for the past five or so years. This huge, draping bouquet gives a dramatic appearance and slimming effect. These bouquets tend to feature lots of greenery like eucalyptus and israeli ruscus. For a classic look, choose traditional flowers such as peonies and garden roses. For a more boho style, blooms like lilies, queen ann's lace, billy balls, and dahlias.

A nosegay is a small, classically elegant bouquet that usually focuses on one focal flower with several smaller blooms flanking it. It typically skips greenery and is a popular selection for bridesmaids' bouquets. With its small size, it is budget friendly and easy to DIY too.

Posy bouquets are the next size up from a nosegay. Like a nosegay, posy bouquets usually skip greenery and instead focus on the blooms. These small, round bouquets are perfect for petite brides. They are designed to be held in one hand, so some brides love the ease and feel of these streamlined bouquets. Ranunculus, gerbera daisies, and sunflowers are commonly featured in posy bouquets.

These are some of the more popular and traditional bouquet styles. These styles are consistently seen at weddings and for good reason!

Written By AnnaBeth Feltner



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Wedding 911 Kit

This kit should be packed with all the essentials to ensure that if any little thing goes wrong or is forgotten; you have a back up. Below is a list to make sure you are prepared for a smooth trip down the aisle.

Food and Drinks

- Snacks
- Caffeine
- Alcohol
- Bottled Water
- Bottle Opener

Hair

- Hair Ties
- Comb/Brush
- Hair Spray
- Headband
- Bobby Pins
- Curling/Flat Iron

Miscellaneous

- Rubber Bands
- Goo-Gone
- White Chalk
- Flip Flops
- Super Glue
- Hand Sanitizer
- Phone Charger
- Needle Nose Pliers
- Tampons/Panty Liners
- Batteries
- Door Stop
- Lighter
- Scissors
- Straws
- Wet Ones
- Sharpies/Pens
- Tool Kit
- Double Sided Tape
- Smelling Salts
- Contact Solution
- Wash Cloth

Wardrobe

- Corsage Pin
- Hem Tape
- Safety Pins
- Panty Hose
- Iron/Steamer
- Straight Pins
- Stain Remover
- Black Socks
- Wrinkle Release
- Fabric Glue
- Bleach Pen
- Lint Roller
- Sewing Kit
- Body Tape
- Cuff Links
- Earring Backs

Makeup

- Lip Gloss
- Powder
- Foundation
- Mascara
- Setting Spray
- Makeup Remover

During the Ceremony & Reception

- Wedding Music
- CD Flower Girl Basket
- Ring Bearer Pillow
- Bluetooth Speaker
- Something Blue
- Mini Pack of Tissues
- Fake Rings
- Garter
- Pens for Guest Book
- Candles

Outside

- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Hand Fan

First Aid

- Band-aids
- Advil/Tylenol
- Neosporin
- Burn Cream
- Eye Drops
- Antacid/Imodium
- Allergy Medicine
- Blister Treatment
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Cough Drops

Beauty

- Nail File
- Deodorant
- Tweezers
- Q-tips
- Clear Nail Polish
- Perfume
- Floss Picks
- Cotton Balls
- Lotion
- Mouthwash
- Gum/Mints
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Disposable Razor
- Nail Polish Remover
- Blotting Tissue
- Nail Clipper
- Hand Mirror



Stylized Shoot



Vendor Team

- Venue: The Luxe
- Flowers: The Flowerman
- Attire: Lace Bridal Couture and Folchis Formalwear
- Catering: Village Pantry
- Rentals: Prime Time Party Rental
- Marquee Lettering: Totally Lit Events
- DJ, Uplights & Photo Booth: JM Entertainment
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Wedding Pro Tip



Picking your music can seem like a DAUNTING task, but there are places for most of your favorite tunes to be included. You'll pick (or give opinions on) music for when guests are arriving for your ceremony, for your cocktail hour, for dinner, and for the dancing portion of your evening. Do you love metalcore and ska? There's probably a string quartet version of some of the more popular songs to include in the prelude. Do you love indie rock and alternative? Those songs probably aren't well-suited for dancing, but they'd be a great fit in a similar playlist for cocktail hour or dinner or both. Once you get to the dancing portion of your evening, your DJ will likely appreciate being given flexibility to include songs that are requested (within reason, of course) and songs that they know will fit and work. Do you hate Montell Jordan and Lady Gaga? Put those artists on the 'Do Not Play' list and we'll make sure they're avoided at all costs. You're hiring a professional: let us act as gatekeepers for the music that evening. We'll ensure Uncle Chuck's request of The Chicken Dance doesn't ever see the light of day.

Tip provided by: Chris Ortleib, Premier Entertainment
www.prement.com

Honeymoon Travel Post Pandemic

Traveling for your wedding or honeymoon? The pandemic has made travel even more complex than it was, but travel agents are here to help!

Your travel agent will be able to familiarize you with the rapidly changing COVID-19 related restrictions and requirements of the place you're going from and to, down to the letter! Compass Travel can even offer suggestions on where to get a COVID-19 tests for travel in the Columbus area, based on what location you'll be going to.

Also, purchasing travel insurance is now more important than ever! Many countries and types of travel now require a very specific level of travel insurance; a good travel agent with knowledge of travel insurance will be able to assist you with these.

Currently, there are a couple of big trends that are disrupting travel plans: flight changes and increased costs. Airlines are changing flight schedules and cancelling flights like crazy right now! Expect that your flight times will change several times, from the time you book to the time you step on the plane, be prepared for seat assignment changes to needing to switch airlines completely at the "last minute."

Unfortunately, gone are the days of cheap travel we saw in 2020. Travel suppliers are looking to recoup losses and have increased prices a lot in 2021, especially for domestic travel. Plus, many international destinations still have caps on hotel occupancy, leading to diminished availability. A good travel agent can talk you through your options and let you know where you'll get the most value for your money, especially if you're flexible on locations and dates.

Compass Travel can help you navigate the intricate world of pandemic travel and curate your dream honeymoon or destination wedding!

Written by: Jennifer Kon
Compass Travel



Honeymoon packing list

Health

Hand Sanitizer
Protective Mask
Anti-Bacterial Wipes
Prescriptions
Band-Aids
First Aid Ointment
Pain Relievers
Cold/Flu Medication
Vitamins
Anti-Diarrhea Pills
Anti-Malaria Pills
Antacids
Tissues
Antihistamine
Bug Spray



Documents

Passport
Driver's License
VISA Documentation
Tickets (Plane, Train, Etc.)
Credit Cards
Bank Contact Information
Local Currency
Insurance Card
Photocopy of your passport/I.D.
Proof of Vaccination
Local Embassy Contact Info

Clothing

Long Sleeve Shirt	Underwear
Short Sleeve Shirt	Bras
Tank Top	Socks
Shorts	Sandals/Flip-Flops
Skirt	Sneakers
Swimsuit	Formal Shoes
Day Dress	Purse
Formal Dress	Backpack
Pants	Hat
Dress Pants	Scarf
Dress Shirt	Gloves
Coat	Sunglasses
Light Jacket	Rain Gear
	Jewelry



Toiletries

Corsage Pin
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Floss
Deodorant
Contacts
Eyedrops
Glasses
Razors
Face Cream
Body Lotion
Sunscreen
Tampons/Pads
Nail Clippers
Tweezers
Makeup Bag
Perfume
Cologne
Chapstick
Q-Tips
Hair Brush
Hair Ties
Blow Dryer
Curling Iron
Hair Straightener
Shampoo/Conditioner
Ear Plugs
Sleep Mask



Electronics

Cell phone (+ Charger)
Laptop (+ Charger)
Camera (+ Charger)
Headphones
Local Adapters
Tablet/iPad
Memory Cards
Extra Batteries
Portable Charger

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Dress: Twirl Bridal
Menswear: Old Navy
Flowers: Piepmeier the Florist
Catering: Calypso Cruises
Cake: Nothing Bundt Cakes
Bridesmaids' Dresses: Birdy Grey

Maddy & Alex 7/4/20

Photography: Off the Film Photography
Entertainment: The Naked Karate Girls
Hair/Makeup: Refayeance Makeup and Hair
Reception: The Steam Plant
Flowers: Oberer's Flowers
Ceremony: St. Joseph Catholic Church
Cake: Gabrielle Viens
Men's Formalwear: Jim's Formalwear
Dress: Dress for a Day
Bridesmaids' Dresses: David's Bridal



Hannah & Kyle 10/10/20

Photography: Off the Film Photography
Lighting: Cincy Lighting Service
Hair/Makeup: Chelsea Swiney Hair
Menswear: Folchi's Tuxedos and Menswear
Flowers: Sadie Blossoms
Catering: Village Pantry Catering
Cake: Heritage Tastings at the Cottage
Disc Jockey: DJ McFadden
Dress: Holly's Unique Wedding and Gowns

Chelsea & Andrew 5/30/21

Photography: Brittany P. Photography
Venue: Nazareth Hall
Hair: Jill Hawkins
Music: 56 Daze
Makeup: Hair By Jayme Hahn
Rings: James Allen
Cake: Estons Bakery
Dress: Twirl Bridal
Men's Formalwear: Generation Tux





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Tips From Wedding Pros



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If possible, only set up a wedding room block at 1 hotel. This will give you more "buying power" by directing your guests to just one location. The more rooms you can give your sales manager, the more they can do for you!

Embassy Suites Columbus

Don't procrastinate. Take care of confirming and paying all of your vendors 7-10 days prior to your event. Run as many errands as possible 3-5 days prior to your event. Designate or ask others to help. Leave the day before your wedding for you - for relaxing and rehearsing with friends and family.



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When choosing wedding vendors start with deciding if you prefer a locally owned or chain type vendor. Next look at online reviews, look for quality and quantity. Look for industry specific awards and accomplishments. Once you have cut it down to a couple of vendors, schedule appointments. Find the vendor you feel most comfortable with, particularly in long term relationships. Are they listening to you? Are they consultative? Are they trying to help you or sell you? This process will help you choose wisely and actually help you expedite the process.

Graystone Wine Cellar

Rehearsal Dinner

Check with the hosts of the rehearsal dinner about what their meal choices will be. You don't want to choose the same meals for the rehearsal as the reception.



Sandy's Elder Care

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Designate a special person to attend to the needs of elderly guests on the wedding day. Keep them away from the music speakers and close to a restroom if possible. Assist them at the buffet, and arrange a way for them to get home safely.

TLC Events & Weddings

Wedding Planning

Whether you are planning your day yourself or have hired a coordinator, be sure to add extra time for hair & makeup, getting dressed, first look and pre-ceremony photos. This gives you a buffer in case one of these runs longer than anticipated, and won't cause the ceremony to start late.

Avant Garde Impressions

Invitations

Before ordering your save the dates or invitations, be sure to know how many you will need. A good rule of thumb is to always add 25 more to the order, just in case.



Ceremony & Reception Items Checklist

When planning your wedding, there are a lot of little items that may be forgotten about. Check out this list to ensure you have everything you'll need!

Wedding Stationery

- Invitations
- Announcements
- Reception enclosures
- Maps
- Hotel cards
- Bows, ribbons, & wraps
- Lined inner envelope
- Printed envelopes
- Save the date cards
- Response card & envelopes
- Decorative seal
- Note cards
- Thank you notes
- Calligraphy pens
- Bookmarks
- Pew cards
- Programs

Ceremony Options

- Ring bearer pillow
- Unity candle/candelabra
- Flower basket
- Aisle runner
- Taper candles
- Guest book, photo book, etc.
- Guest book pen
- Pew bows
- Garter
- Gratuity envelopes
- Parents' gifts
- Marriage certificate
- Memory box/vase
- Ceremony send-off items
(bells, confetti, bubbles, etc.)

Reception Options

- Place cards
- Escort cards
- Guest book
- Cake knife & server
- Memory or photo albums
- Guest favors
- Money card box
- Up-lighting
- Toasting glasses
- Votive candles
- Glass vases for bouquets
- Ribbon
- End of evening send-off
(sparklers, luminaries, etc.)

Most Common Invitation Questions

When should we send our Save the Dates and Invitations?

Save the Dates are typically sent out four to six months before the wedding, and invitations can be sent out six to eight weeks prior to the wedding.

How long should we give guests to RSVP?

Set your RSVP deadline date about two to three weeks before your wedding. This will allow enough time for you to give your caterer a final count and to finalize your seating chart.

Should we include our registry information on the invitations?

No, because this can come across as rude. A better option is to include your wedding website on the invitation and have your registry information listed on the website.

How do we tell guests the dress code?

Including the dress code on your invitation isn't a must. If you do choose to include it, the most common place to have it is the lower right-hand corner of the invitation.



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Marriage License & Name Change



Obtaining Your Marriage License

Your marriage license is valid for sixty days from the date it was issued. You must get married within that timeframe or you will need to reapply for another license. Costs are nonrefundable and vary by county.

Both you and your fiancé must go to the courthouse in the county where you live OR, if you are out of state, the county in which you will be married. Many counties offer the ability to pre-register and pay online. However, you still must both go in-person to obtain the actual license.

When you go to the courthouse, bring two forms of legal ID, one of which must have a photo. Driver's license, passport, birth certificate and social security card are all valid forms of legal ID. If you are remarrying, you must also bring a copy of your divorce decree.

Changing Your Name

Do not change your name until you return from your honeymoon. The name on your plane ticket must match the name on your legal ID. (However, do make a copy of your souvenir license and show it to the hotel manager or airport attendant. You may get some free upgrades on your honeymoon!)

First, go to the social security office with a copy of your certified marriage license. To order a copy, contact the courthouse. We suggest three copies – one for your social security card, one for your health insurance carrier, and one for your safe keeping. Copies are \$2 each, cash or money order only. You can also order copies online in some counties using the State of Ohio website link provided in this article.

Next, visit the local BMV, with your new social security card, old driver's license, and a copy of certified marriage license to get your new driver's license.

Take a copy of your new legal IDs to human resources to change the status of your employee benefits and health insurance. Contact the local Board of Elections to change your name in the voter registry.

Contact your bank and any other financial institutions.

Scan this code to get information about obtaining your marriage license based on county.





Sample Wedding Day Timeline

This is the first party you, as a couple, throw for your friends & family!

Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres

Be creative and trendy with your foods. Passing hors d'oeuvres is classy and a great way to save money. Fewer hors d'oeuvres are needed as guests are less inclined to take more from a person than a station.

Special touch: have someone greet your guests with a glass of champagne or wine and show them where they can place their gifts. Some fun ideas during cocktail hour are a photo booth, flip book and Polaroid stations. You could also entertain guests with other unique fun such as caricature artists, henna body art or yard games if you have an outdoor space.

Salads

Pre-setting salads is best done with buffets, so the last table released to a buffet is not waiting too long to begin eating. It is also great if guests are coming from a different location for cocktail hour. Keep in mind dressing should be on the side if pre-set.

6:00

Guests are Invited to Take Their Seats

If you have several guests with assigned tables, a round table for your escort cards is very efficient for guests to maneuver. Make sure your writing on the escort cards is clear, not too small and alphabetized by last name.

Special touch: have someone escort guests to their table.

7:00

Announcements

More couples are getting away from a bridal party entrance and opting for just the couple. However, if you do want the bridal party announced make it fun with songs, dances, and excitement - this is the beginning of your party, get your guests excited for what is to come! If it is just the couple - they can go right into their first dance. This is a great time to first recognize parents before the couple or bridal party enter!! **Special touch:** have a family member do the announcing instead of the DJ to make it more personal!

7:15

Father Welcomes Guests / Blessings

Traditionally, the father of the bride is given the opportunity to thank your guests for joining you on this special day and give a small toast to the happy couple. This can also be done by any family member or even the couple themselves! Then ask your officiant or a bridal party member to offer a blessing before the meal. If you dare to be different - open the dance floor at this time.

7:30

7:45

Toasts



A common substitute for champagne is a wine pour during dinner, or guests can toast with what beverage they already have in hand.

Special touch: Make sure you mention to your best man to have the guests lift their glasses and toast so it is not missed.



Dinner

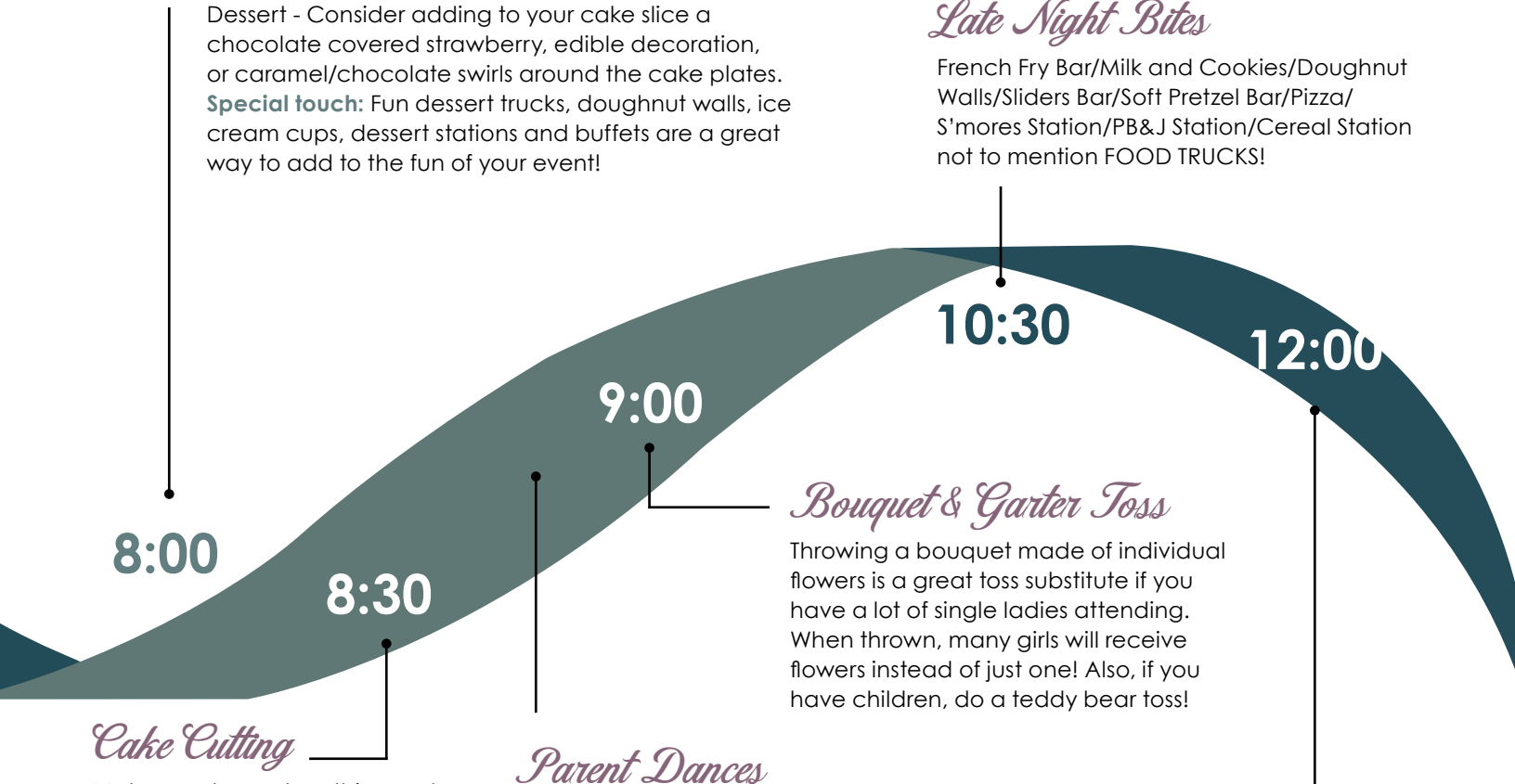
Plated - Consider a plate with 2 or 3 meats in smaller portions instead of just one on the same plate. This will save you from having to do entrée indicators for different meals. If you have a choice, remember to provide entrée indicators on your place cards that are easy for the servers to see. Some ideas may be different colored borders, cards, writing, or stickers that go along with your theme.

Buffet - No entrée indicators are needed for a buffet. Make sure guests can go down both sides of the buffet so it moves faster. Also, if you have more than 200 guests, ask your caterer for two buffets. Count is typically 1 buffet per 100 guests.

Dessert - Consider adding to your cake slice a chocolate covered strawberry, edible decoration, or caramel/chocolate swirls around the cake plates.
Special touch: Fun dessert trucks, doughnut walls, ice cream cups, dessert stations and buffets are a great way to add to the fun of your event!

Late Night Bites

French Fry Bar/Milk and Cookies/Doughnut Walls/Sliders Bar/Soft Pretzel Bar/Pizza/S'mores Station/PB&J Station/Cereal Station not to mention FOOD TRUCKS!



8:00

8:30

9:00

10:30

12:00

Bouquet & Garter Toss

Throwing a bouquet made of individual flowers is a great toss substitute if you have a lot of single ladies attending. When thrown, many girls will receive flowers instead of just one! Also, if you have children, do a teddy bear toss!

Cake Cutting

Make sure to capture this event before everyone is done eating - this way guests are still in their seats and paying attention! Make sure the person who will cut the entire cake is experienced. The knife they use is key! Your once beautiful cake could look like it has been dug out with a spoon and scooped on a plate, if not cut correctly. Too small of a cut and you look cheap, too big of a cut and you might run out.
Special touch: Don't forget about your gluten free guests, as many bakers can accommodate a smaller cake. Tip: if there is a cake cutting fee - consider cupcakes.

Parent Dances



Picking a great song is key! Slow dances are not mandatory; it may be fun to do a ballroom or swing dance.

Special touch: Parent dances can be done at the same time if you don't like to be in the spotlight or the mother/son dance can join halfway through the song.

Grand Exit / Music Ends

Consider giving favors to your guests upon departure instead of at the tables, especially if they don't coordinate. Some departure ideas are floating lanterns, sparklers, glow sticks, and a cool escape vehicle.



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Making an Exit

Check out these fun and unique items to incorporate as you leave your ceremony or reception! Check with your venue to make sure your idea is permitted.

- Sparklers
- Petals
- Glow sticks
- Paper airplanes
- Sprinkles
- Confetti
- Lanterns
- Bells
- Bubbles
- Pom poms
- Beach balls

- Streamers
- Feathers
- Rice
- Leaves
- Dried herbs



- Glitter
- Birdseed
- Butterflies
- Silly string
- Kazoos

- Popcorn
- Fireworks
- Candles
- Balloons
- Fake snow
- Color bombs
- Fun flags
- Coffee beans
- Maracas
- Cheer poms
- Ribbon wands

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