

# WEDDING PLANNING GUIDE: A BASIC OVERVIEW

The Wedding Realist: Expert Wedding Planning Insights from Kate

## 12+ Months Out: The Big Picture

- Set a preliminary **budget**. ✨
- Dream up your **guest list**. 💌
- Choose a **date range**. 📅
- Envision your **wedding style**.
- Brainstorm potential **venues**. 🏰

This is the time to start big. Discuss your budget with all contributing parties to get a clear understanding of what you can realistically spend. Consider the number of guests you'd like to invite. Decide on a date range, keeping in mind seasonal considerations and venue availability. Gather inspiration from magazines, blogs, and social media to define your wedding style. Begin researching potential venues, considering location, capacity, and amenities.

## 8-12 Months Out: Making it Official

- Book your **venue**. 📝
- Secure your **wedding planner** (if using).
- Choose your **wedding party**. 🐱🐱
- Research **photographers** and **videographers**.
- Start **dress shopping**. 🧑‍🤝‍🧑 ♀

With the big picture in mind, it's time to start making official bookings. Your venue sets the stage, so prioritize securing your dream location. If using a wedding planner, their expertise will be invaluable. Choose your wedding party, and let them know of their important roles! Begin researching and contacting photographers and videographers whose style aligns with your vision. And of course, the dress! Allow ample time for shopping and alterations.

## 6-8 Months Out: Details, Details!

- Send **save-the-dates**. ✉️
- Book **caterer**, **florist**, and **entertainment**. 🎉
- Plan your **ceremony**. 💍
- Design your **invitations**. 🎨
- Arrange **accommodation** for guests. 🏠

With the major bookings complete, shift your focus to the finer details. Send out save-the-dates to give your guests plenty of notice. Secure your caterer, florist, and entertainment, ensuring they understand your vision. Plan your ceremony, including readings and music. Design your invitations, reflecting your wedding style. And arrange accommodation for out-of-town guests, offering them convenient options.

## 4-6 Months Out: Getting Personal

- Plan **honeymoon**. ✈️
- Choose **wedding rings**. 💎
- Finalize **guest list**. ✅
- Book **transportation**. 🚗
- Plan your **cake**. 🍰

Start planning your dream honeymoon! Select your wedding rings, symbols of your commitment. Finalize your guest list, sending it to your caterer. Book transportation for yourselves and guests, if needed. And of course, plan your cake, choosing flavors and design.

## 2-4 Months Out: Almost There!

- Send **invitations**. ✉️
- Plan **seating arrangements**. 🪑
- Confirm **vendors**. 📞
- Plan **rehearsal dinner**. 🍴
- Apply for **marriage license**. 📄

Send out your invitations, requesting RSVPs. Plan your seating arrangements, considering guest relationships. Confirm all vendors, ensuring they have all the necessary details. Plan your rehearsal dinner, a special gathering for your wedding party and family. And don't forget to apply for your marriage license!

## 1 Month Out: Final Touches

- Finalize **details** with vendors.
  - Confirm **RSVPs**.
  - Create **wedding timeline**. 🕒
  - Prepare **payments**. 💰
  - Pack for **honeymoon**. 🧳
- Finalize all the details with your vendors, ensuring everyone is on the same page. Confirm all RSVPs, providing a final headcount to your caterer. Create a detailed wedding timeline, sharing it with your wedding party and vendors. Prepare all final payments. And pack for your honeymoon – adventure awaits!

## Week Of: Relax and Enjoy!

- Confirm all **appointments**.
  - Delegate **tasks**.
  - Practice **self-care**. 🧘♀️
  - Attend **rehearsal dinner**.
  - Get **married**! ❤️
- Confirm all appointments. Delegate any remaining tasks to trusted friends or family members. Practice self-care, getting plenty of rest and relaxation. Attend your rehearsal dinner, celebrating with loved ones. And most importantly, get married and enjoy your special day!

This checklist is designed to guide you through your wedding planning journey. Remember to take deep breaths, enjoy the process, and don't be afraid to ask for help. Congratulations on your upcoming nuptials!