



the *wedding* gateway

## 12+ Months

First, have fun announcing your engagement! Throw an engagement party, picnic or small gathering depending on your personal preferences and style.

- Choose a date (or up to 4 so you can be flexible)
- talk budget and decide who will be contributing to what.
- Discuss prenuptial agreement(marriage contract)
- Start compiling a guest list
- Choose your wedding party:  
maid of honor, bridesmaids, best man, groomsmen, flower girl and ring bearer.
- start to explore ceremony and reception venue options after you've established an estimate budget and guest list.
- It's important to have an idea of budget and your guest list as this will largely determine the venue you choose
- start doing research on wedding pros: planner, photographer, bridal designers, videographer, caterer, florist, and musicians.
- Browse wedding designers, dress and veil styles
- Create mood and style boards on Pinterest. Follow [The Wedding Gateway Sa](#) and online bridal magazines for inspiration and ideas.
- Make a shortlist of venues to visit and appointments to visit them.
- Get engagement photos taken If you want them on your wedding invites or save the dates, otherwise engagement photos can be taken at a later stage.
- start browsing save the date designs to find your favorite type and style. Decide between sending online or postal.
- Start browsing photographers and decide on photography styles that you like the most, documentary style, journalistic or lifestyle to name a few.
- Add more of your own below
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## 6-7 Months

- explore wedding day hair and makeup styles.
- Meet with officiant to discuss plans for ceremony.
- reserve rentals: chairs, linens, lighting, décor, etc.
- Choose cake style and schedule tastings.
- Decide on groom and groomsmen attire.
- Hire DJ/band for your reception.
- hire ceremony musicians.
- Book wedding car and any other transportation needed to and from the venues.
- Book any entertainment for your wedding day.
- Purchase wedding bands.
- Send out wedding invitations.
- Start to plan your honeymoon.
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## 4-5 Months

- Choose décor and flowers according to theme
- Finalize dress style and bridal accessories
- Book honeymoon flights and hotels.
- Book room for wedding night.
- Order wedding cake.
- Plan welcome baskets for out-of-town guests.
- Follow up on RSVP's and finalize wedding guest list
- Finalize food menu and go for a tasting
- Plan rehearsal dinner
- Book rehearsal dinner/lunch venue.
- Decide on guest wedding favors
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## 3 Months

- Finalize honeymoon plans and ensure all documents are in order.
- Plan ceremony and reception seating.
- Experiment with hair and veil with stylist.
- Finalize readings and speeches
- Purchase garter x 2(one for throwing & one to keep)
- Purchase flower basket, ring pillow, knife for cutting the cake, photo booth props or any other additional items
- Purchase wedding shoes, earrings and hairpieces
- Order guest wedding favors or start making if handmade items

# 2 Months

- Review ceremony details with officiant
- Go for marital preparation classes if this is part of your officiant's marriage requirements
- Begin writing vows
- Go for dance classes if you're in need
- Lay out the content for wedding Programs.
- Apply for marriage license if your officiant does not do this for you
- Finalize seating arrangements.
- Finalize playlists with musicians.
- finalize fittings for wedding party and parents.
- Create wedding day timeline and send to your vendors, officiant MC and wedding party.
- Finalize bridal party attire
- Finalize bridesmaids & flower girl dresses
- Decide "something old, new, Borrowed, Blue."
- Book spa and beauty treatments for you and your bridal party.
- Purchase bridal Robes & Slippers
- Purchase gifts for bridesmaids
- Ensure marriage contracts are finalized
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# 1 Month

- Call vendors to confirm date, times and location.
- Confirm honeymoon reservations.
- Pick up wedding rings.
- Get engagement ring cleaned and polished
- Pick up marriage license if officiant does not
- Discuss wedding timeline with your MC
- final dress fitting (with shoes, veil & jewellery)
- Do bridal registry
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# 2 Weeks

- Pick up wedding stationary
- Give final count to caterer.
- Do bridal makeup and hair trial
- Begin breaking in wedding shoes.
- Make arrangements for the caring of pets and plants while on honeymoon.
- Send playlists to DJ/band/ceremony musicians.
- Delegate wedding day duties: gift table, guestbook, etc.
- Delegate someone to pick up groom's suit, tuxes and rentals
- Send directions and times to limo/transportation driver.
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# 1 Week

Relax a bit you're almost there!

- Prepare final payments to vendors
- Pick up your wedding dress
- Give photographer and videographer your image and video requests.
- Go for spray tan
- Prepare wedding day emergency kit.
- Go for spa treatments, you and the bridal party.
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## the day before

- Deliver welcome baskets.
- get mani/pedi/massage.
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- attend wedding rehearsal
- have fun at the rehearsal dinner/lunch
- get to bed at a decent hour!

## day of the wedding

Have the most fabulous day!

- Eat a good breakfast!
- Have a look at our [10 Tips For Your Wedding Day](#) blog Post
- Allow yourself plenty of time to get ready.
- Give wedding rings to best man.
- Relax, smile, and soak in every incredible moment.

# after the wedding

## Wrap things up...

- Ensure tuxes and rentals have been returned.
- Get wedding dress to cleaners or return if hired
- Send out thank you cards or messages to your guests
- Write down all gifts received person's name so you can thank them for your gift
- Freeze left over wedding cake and have a piece on your first wedding anniversary
- Preserve your bridal bouquet or some wedding flowers as a keepsake
- Write down some of your own notes below

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