



Helpful hints and tricks

to help you

choose the perfect

venue to say "I do"!

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CONGRATULATIONS!!!

The question has been asked, the ring is on your finger and the date has been chosen. It's time to choose where to hold the most important day of your life!

Where you have your wedding ceremony and reception will be something you remember forever. After your wedding day has come and gone, it will be captured forever in your photos, so choosing a meaningful venue will serve you well in the years to come.

Let your wedding vision lead the way

It goes without saying that you want your wedding day to have an overall “vibe”, right? So if you're wanting a laid-back, all-natural ceremony with just a few close friends, you probably wouldn't choose a modern art gallery as your venue.

And on the other hand, if you're looking for a very elegant, polished wedding day, dragging chairs through the sand on the beach probably won't work. Use your wedding vision as a starting point to narrow down the list of venue possibilities.

Once you've got an idea of how you want your wedding to look, feel and be remembered in photos, the next step is to find a wedding venue that fits your style. Here are some ideas to get your creative juices flowing.

TRADITIONAL
NOTHING IS MORE BEAUTIFUL
THAN A WEDDING THAT LETS
THE COUPLE'S RELATIONSHIP
SPEAK FOR ITSELF.
TRADITIONAL WEDDING VENUES
EVOKE A SENSE OF HISTORY
AND LEGACY, AND LET THE
SPECIAL DAY SHINE WITHOUT
FUSS OR DISTRACTION. A
BEAUTIFUL CHURCH, COUNTRY
CLUB OR GOLF COURSE MAY
PROVIDE THE PERFECT
BACKDROP FOR A COUPLE
WANTING A TIMELESS AND
CLASSIC FEEL TO THEIR
WEDDING DAY.





MODERN

CLEAN, CRISP AND MINIMALIST ARE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE A MODERN WEDDING CEREMONY OR RECEPTION. LOOK FOR VENUES WITH ELEGANT, OPEN SPACES WITHOUT A LOT OF “BUSY” BACKDROPS. ART GALLERIES, MODERN RESTAURANTS, LOFT VENUES AND WAREHOUSES CAN PROVIDE A BLANK CANVAS KIND OF SPACE FOR YOUR WEDDING VISION TO COME TO LIFE.



NATURAL
FOR A MORE BOHEMIAN VIBE,
GET OUTDOORS. AN AL FRESCO
WEDDING GIVES YOUR
NUPTIALS A FRESH, ORGANIC
FEEL THAT WRAPS YOU AND
YOUR GUESTS IN THE BEST
THAT NATURE HAS TO OFFER.
THINK ABOUT AN OCEAN-FRONT
CEREMONY ON YOUR
FAVOURITE BEACH OR A
BEAUTIFUL WEDDING UNDER
THE STARS AT HOME. HIRE A
CLEAR ROOF MARQUEE FOR A
WEATHER-PROOF GUARANTEE!



The background image shows a rustic wedding reception venue. The ceiling is made of dark wooden beams with string lights and greenery hanging from them. The walls are also made of wood, and there are more string lights. The tables are set with white chairs, white tablecloths, and various glassware and candles. The overall atmosphere is warm and elegant.

RUSTIC
FOR A MORE DOWN TO EARTH
FEEL, A RUSTIC VENUE CAN
PROVIDE SIMPLE ELEGANCE
FOR A WEDDING CELEBRATION.
WITH THE FLEXIBILITY TO BE
BOTH INDOORS AND OUT, A
RUSTIC VENUE ALLOWS YOUR
PERSONALITY TO SHINE
THROUGH. THINK BARN VENUES,
FARMS, GARDENS AND
WINERIES.



VINTAGE

A COUPLE WITH AN OLD SOUL WILL APPRECIATE THE DETAILS THAT AN HISTORIC VENUE HAS TO OFFER. THE INTIMATE SETTING OF AN OLD MUSEUM OR THE MANICURED LAWNS OF THE BOTANICAL GARDENS REMIND PEOPLE OF A SIMPLER TIME. A WEDDING IN A VINTAGE LOCATION IS CHARMING AND NOSTALGIC.





ROMANTIC
SOFT, TWINKLING LIGHTS AND
CASCADING FLORALS WHISK
YOUR GUESTS TO THE
FAIRYTALE WEDDING YOU'VE
ALWAYS DREAMED OF.
ROMANTIC VENUES AMPLIFY
THE LOVE THAT YOU'RE
CELEBRATING ON YOUR
WEDDING DAY AND GUESTS
WILL SWOON WHEN YOU
CHOOSE TO HAVE YOUR
WEDDING IN AN ELEGANT
BALLROOM OR BUILD YOUR
WEDDING VENUE FROM THE
GROUND UP.



DESTINATION

**IF YOU'RE DREAMING OF A
DESTINATION WEDDING WE
CAN'T BLAME YOU! REMEMBER
THAT GUESTS MAY BE
TRAVELING A VERY LONG WAY.
A SMALLER GUEST LIST MAKES
DESTINATION WEDDINGS
INTIMATE AND MEMORABLE,
NOT TO MENTION THE
UNFORGETTABLE PHOTOS
YOU'LL HAVE FOREVER! WANT
THE DESTINATION WITHOUT
THE STRESS OF LONG TRAVEL?
LOOK TO OUR BORDERING
REGIONS LIKE 1770. THAT WAY
YOU CAN STILL ACCESS A
LARGER CHOICE OF VENDORS!**





YOUR GUESTS MATTER

When you are choosing a wedding venue, your guest list will play a big role in where you ultimately tie the knot. The biggest factor your guests will play is how many people can actually fit into your venue space.

A guest list that's pushing 200 people won't work in an intimate country hall. Your guests may not all be able to physically fit inside the hall. If you do manage to fit everyone inside, chances are they would be squished together into pews or tucked into corners on folding chairs. They'll be uncomfortable, and they came to see your wedding, not the back of someone's head or a support beam of the building. Plus, you don't want your wedding photos to show your guests piled into a venue like sardines.

When you have your guest list narrowed down to the most important people, have this number ready when you make your venue tour plan. By calling ahead and finding out how many people can be accommodated, you'll know right away whether or not a venue will work.

Another way your guests can affect which venue you choose is by assessing the venue's accessibility. If some of your important guests can't easily walk down a forest path or aren't able to sit outdoors comfortably, you must think about how your venue can accommodate these needs.

Your guests' comfort is another thing to consider. If you choose an outdoor space, is there shade available in case the sun is very hot? Is there an alternate space in case of inclement weather? Will guests be able to see your ceremony and reception events from every angle in the venue or are there some obstructed viewpoints?

Making sure your guests have a good time is important, but don't let that be the only thing you think about when choosing a venue. It's your big day, after all! Look to find a balance between the things you want and accessibility for your guests.



DO SOME RESEARCH

As you begin your search for the perfect venue, some simple online research may help you narrow the field.

Not sure where to start? Wedding forums are a great way to see what other brides have done and what has worked well in different types of venues. These sites can spur your imagination and help you visualise what you want your wedding day to look like.

Once you have a “potential venue list”, search for real weddings that have taken place at those venues. Try doing a quick Google images search by entering “venue name + wedding” into the search bar. You should start finding photographs of past weddings held at the venue location. If you do some more digging, you might even discover links to the vendors these past couples used for their special day.

Looking at real weddings will further help you understand the logistical elements of the venue, as well as give you some photography ideas. Photographers will also post images of weddings they’ve photographed in various locations.

Bonus tip: If you find images you love from a particular venue, keep them in a file on your computer or create a Pinterest board to show your photographer later!



THINGS TO CONSIDER

Lighting

Make sure your venue has ample lighting for each stage of your wedding day. You want your photographer able to capture all the important moments. You also want ample lighting in car park areas for guest departure. A great night can be ruined with a trip to emergency because it was too dark and a guest had a fall. If there isn't enough lighting, ask the venue if they provide it or if you'd need to rent equipment separately.

On-site coordination

Many venues offer a coordinator dedicated to your event. This can be helpful for knowing the ins and outs of your venue, especially if someone needs something quickly or for vendors that have questions that you won't have to deal with. Be mindful that a venue coordinator is NOT your wedding planner.

Vendor restrictions

Ask if your venue has a "preferred" list of vendors or if you can use any vendor you like. If you must use preferred vendors, ask if there is a discount. Similarly, ask if there is a fee for choosing vendors outside the venue's vetted list. If there is a particular decorator on your "must have" list of vendors but the venue requires you to use their onsite service then you might like to continue on your search for the perfect venue.



THINGS TO CONSIDER

Catering options

If your venue has a restaurant and offers in-house catering, ask if you can have a tasting before you choose the menu. If you opt out of in-house catering, ask if there are restrictions on certain foods the venue will allow. Make sure you get a list of inclusions to be sure that your chosen caterer is properly equipped on the day to provide your chosen menu.

Exclusivity

Will your wedding be the only event hosted at the venue that day? If not, you will need adequate signage and directions to make sure your guests know where and when to find your wedding so nobody gets lost. Having more than one event at your venue could also tie up photo spots depending on how the day is scheduled or hold up your meal times.

Extend the celebration

Many couples are choosing to make their big day even bigger. Especially if you're welcoming many guests from far away, a weekend of celebrating makes the event last longer and seem even more special.

Think a welcome dinner for out of town guests or a brunch after the wedding day. If you're leaning toward hosting a bigger celebration, a venue may give you a discount or package deal for booking multiple events with them.



THINGS TO CONSIDER

Ask for a breakdown of costs

An easy way to narrow down your list of venue options is to see what fits in your budget. The venue eats up a good portion of your wedding budget, so knowing what you can spend is very important.

Try not to have your heart set on any venues that are outside of your budget. It's easy to fall in love with a venue, but if it's too expensive or doesn't have the services you need, you'll be setting yourself up for disappointment. That being said, if you're 100% decided on a particular venue, you must be prepared to compromise in other areas in order to make your dream wedding a reality.

Ask the venue coordinator for a breakdown of all of the costs associated with hosting a wedding there. Many venues don't have pricing information on their websites as an incentive for you to contact them. After a call or email they may provide basic package pricing for you, but it generally won't be a complete list of all fees and charges. It's important to ask some in-depth pricing questions to ensure a venue truly fits into your wedding budget.



THINGS TO CONSIDER

Selecting your wedding venue finalists

Once you've used your guest list and budget to narrow down your potential venue list, it's time to schedule some time to visit and tour the venues.

This is a critical step, as you won't know how a venue truly feels until you've been there. You may think you have a top choice in mind, but when visiting find out that it doesn't give you the same feeling as you had hoped for.

When you visit the on-site coordinator or property manager, make sure to ask the right questions. Compile a list of questions that you can bring along with you for each venue tour so you don't forget to ask.

Don't be pressured into choosing the first venue you tour, and don't sign a contract until you're sure you've found the right place. However, keep in mind that your date is not secured until you've signed a contract.

Bonus Tip: If you're given a top-level view of the costs, ask for a detailed, itemized list. This will help you find out if there are any extra fees you may not have budgeted for.

There are a lot of things to consider when choosing a wedding venue, but chances are you'll know when you walk in if it's right for you. Once the venue is set, the real fun begins!



LIST OF KNOWN LOCAL WEDDING VENUES



VENUES

1770 Gold Club
Baltimore's
Bargara Cultural Centre
Brothers Sports Club
Bundaberg Civic Centre
Bundaberg Multiplex
Bundaberg Services Club
Bundaberg Surf Lifesaving Club
Coral Cove Golf Club
Eleven Acres
Fairymead House
H2O Restaurant and Bar
HSG at the Gardens
In the Grove

Kelly's Beach Resort
Melbourne Hotel
Platypus Park Riverside
Retreat
Riverfeast
Riverside Retreat
Rowers on the River
Splitters Farm
Tegege Hall
The Waves Sports Club
Woodgate Community Hall

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
FEEL FREE TO SEND US A MESSAGE FOR OUR TOP PICKS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR DAY!
