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2024



# Fall Bridal Guide

THE NEWS SUN | THE HERALD REPUBLICAN | The **Star**



# FLOWERS BY SEASON

Year-Round			
Calla Lily	Gardenia	Orchid	Stephanotis
Carnation	Lily	Ranunculus	Succulent
Freesia	Jasmine	Rose	Veronica
Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Cherry Blossom	Astilbe	Anemone	Amaryllis
Daffodil	Cosmos	Aster	Anemone
Dogwood	Dahlia	Astilbe	Dendrobium Orchid
Forsythia	Daisy	Autumn Leaves	Eucalyptus
Hellebore	Delphinium	Chrysanthemum	Evergreen
Hyacinth	Gladiolus	Dahlia	Forced Bulbs
Lilac	Hollyhock	Hydrangea	Hellebore
Muscari	Lady's Mantle	Marigold	Holly
Peony	Larkspur	Nerine	Juniper
Quince	Marigold	Seasonal Berries	Paper-white
Sweet Pea	Scabiosa	Sunflower	Poinsettia
Tulip	Snapdragon	Verbena	Snowberry
Viburnum	Violet	Zinnia	Stephanotis



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# Music is an important component of wedding celebrations

## BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Few things set the mood of a wedding more effectively than music. Beautiful songs often are incorporated into wedding ceremonies, and romantic or upbeat songs intermingle to create a festive mix at receptions.

Playlists curated specifically for weddings can be found online to help couples narrow down their options. According to Wedding Forward, a wedding planning guide, wedding planning experts and modern couples agree that wedding playlists should have a 60/40 split of classics and new wedding songs.

Music is a personal choice, but couples may benefit by considering who will be in attendance at their weddings. In so doing, couples can ensure the music played at their weddings reaches as many people as possible there:

- **Wedding processional song:** The wedding processional is the moment the wedding party walks down the aisle. Music may be a



traditional hymn, classical music or a favorite contemporary song.

- **Bridal processional song:** In many traditional wedding ceremonies, the bride walks down the aisle separately, with her father or both parents. She customarily will have a different song from the rest of the

wedding party. While “Bridal Chorus/Wedding March” is a traditional choice, some brides may prefer a different tune.

- **Wedding recessional song:** Again, depending on the ceremony location and choices, the recessional may be a classical piece or a hymn. Some couples choose

an upbeat song for their first official promenade as a married couple.

- **Wedding party entrance song:** Couples can ask their music vendor to put together the majority of the songs for their reception, but they may want to choose their own wedding party entrance. This song typically

is a fast-paced, upbeat song that gets the crowd pumping and ready for a fun night. Think “Dynamite” by Taio Cruz or “Can’t Stop the Feeling!” by Justin Timberlake.

- **First dance:** The first dance song is another personal choice for the couple. Slow songs traditionally are chosen, but couples who want something a little different have increasingly selected faster songs and paired them with rehearsed choreography. “Thinking Out Loud” by Ed Sheeran has become a popular first dance song.

- **Other songs:** Couples also will select songs to complement dances with their parents, cake cutting, garter toss, and any other special traditions or moments. They also can make requests to include songs of different eras to appeal to guests of all ages.

Music is an important component of wedding celebrations and deserves some extra consideration to ensure everyone has a great time while cutting a rug.

## 7 ways to incorporate some personality into your wedding

## BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Weddings present an opportunity to embrace time-honored traditions. However, couples can be as tradition-minded or as unique in their wedding details as they desire. There’s certainly room to let personalities shine through during both the ceremony and the reception.

Increasingly couples are seeking ways to set their celebrations apart from the scores that came before them. While one may not want to banish all customs, there are several ways for couples to inject their own personalities into the proceedings. Here are seven ways to inject some person-

ality into a wedding.

1. **Have custom-designed rings made.** Couples can work with jewelers to have rings made to their specifications rather than buying only what is available in the cases. Furthermore, the rings do not have to be matching sets. A couple can select ring styles that complement one another but may be slightly different in design.

2. **Cut out the cake.** Many couples just aren’t fans of traditional sponge cake with buttercream or fondant overlay, so why have that expensive, multi-tiered confectionary creation at the wedding? Instead, serve a more popular dessert. Dessert artists can

whip up many impressive options and present them in dramatic (or cake-like) fashion. What about a tower of decadent brownies or a stack of fruit-and-cream-filled crêpes?

3. **Write the vows.** Vows present an excellent way for couples to let their personalities shine through. Couples can showcase humor, compassion, quirks, and more with the messages they share with one another.

4. **Customize table numbering.** Seating cards traditionally guide guests to numbered tables around the reception hall. There is no rule that the tables have to be organized by numbers, however. Those who like movies can name

the tables by movie titles. A couple that loves to travel can make the tables destinations around the world. Keep in mind the catering staff may ask that numbers also accompany the alternative system for ease of serving dinners and keeping orders straight.

5. **Make a grand entrance.** Couples need not feel beholden to taking a limousine to and from their weddings. Fans of the movie “Batman” can rent a Batmobile replica. Those who couldn’t get enough of “Breaking Bad” may want to roll up in an RV. There’s also the option of a horse-drawn carriage or a sports car.

6. **Serve custom**

**cocktails.** Traditional drinks can be given custom names that pertain to details of the couple’s lives or how they met. If someone is a microbrewer or makes his or her own wine, these boutique beverages also can be served.

7. **Create a monogram.** Use the monogram on save-the-dates, invitations, the home page of a wedding website, the ceremony program, and even on cocktail napkins at the reception. The continuity will help set the tone for the wedding.

Couples can allow their creativity and personality to shine through on their wedding day.



# The wedding party lends helping hands

## BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

It's been said it takes a village to raise a child, and it also can take one to plan a wedding. Despite most weddings only filling one day, many, many weeks of planning and various tasks are involved in creating magical and memorable events.

Bridal parties can prove invaluable during the wedding planning process and the wedding day if couples utilize their talents. According to the wedding resource The Knot, a typical wedding party consists of roughly four to five people on each side. That means around 10 individuals can provide extra help a happy couple needs. Here's how the wedding party can assist future newlyweds.

- Assisting with choosing vendors
- Helping to pick out attire
- Putting together invitations
- Planning and hosting parties, like the engagement



party, shower, and bachelor/bachelorette parties

- Helping the bride and/or groom dress
  - Participating in photography sessions
  - Serving as moral support for the couple, and helping to tame nerves or serving as a sounding board
- Two members of the

wedding party may go above and beyond the others in their roles. These include the maid/matron of honor and the best man, traditionally. However, there are no rules dictating that a bride needs to have a woman as her close attendant nor the groom a man. These roles can go to whomever the

couple desires, regardless of gender, and the title can reflect couples' choices.

The maid/matron/man of honor is the bride's right-hand person. This person handles many wedding day details, including signing the marriage license and helping the bride get situated before

walking down the aisle.

The best man/woman acts as the groom's personal advisor and assistant. This person is a master of ceremonies and presides over the other groomspeople. He or she will be the other signature on the wedding license.

Both of these individuals will provide speeches at the wedding reception and may also offer words at other events throughout the wedding-related activities.

The parents of the couple also will enjoy roles of prominence during the wedding. They can provide support and share their own experiences. They may help offset the costs of rehearsal dinners or other pre-wedding parties. Parents may share their own special toasts and can participate in wedding day traditions, such as first dances.

Wedding party members can ask the couple which tasks they can manage and the bride and groom should feel comfortable delegating to alleviate some wedding planning stress.

## The pros and cons of two popular reception meal options

### BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Couples planning a wedding undoubtedly know that the food and drinks served at wedding receptions are major factors in how much guests enjoy the celebration. After all, hungry, thirsty guests will not be having fun.

According to the resource Wedding Forward, the national average cost per head at wedding receptions in the United States is \$90. The wedding planning resource The Knot estimates that roughly 29 percent of a couple's budget will go toward catering.

With so much money on the line and hungry guests to feed, couples face many decisions regarding their wedding day menus. Among the first questions a catering hall manager may ask is which type of dinner service couples prefer. Venues

typically offer buffet and plated options, and the following can help couples choose which style is for them.

### Plated service

A plated meal consists of all guests being seated and served a formal dinner, which usually includes an appetizer and entrée. A key benefit of this type of meal is that it ensures everyone eats at the same time. Guests sometimes pre-select their food options on the R.S.V.P, which means that catering halls have advanced knowledge of food allergies or special needs. Or they select from a predetermined menu at the reception. Plated dinners are efficient and can keep the wedding running on schedule.

Plated service features only a select number of meal options, which can be a negative for some couples. Guests cannot sample a few

other things as they might like with a buffet. More servers are needed for plated service, so staffing costs may be more for this option than they are for buffet service.

### Buffet service

A wedding reception buffet features various foods in chafing dishes at a single centralized buffet station. While guests sometimes serve themselves, typically waitstaff spoon portions onto guests' plates. There tends to be more variety with a buffet, and this option may feel more relaxing as well. Buffet meals encourage guests to mingle and provides an opportunity to sample different foods.

Some people don't relish carrying dishes of food back to tables and risking spillage on formal clothing. Buffet also is less formal than a plated dinner. Buffets may even be more costly, since catering halls need

to have a greater amount of food ready. There may be long wait times for buffet as well.

### Additional options

These are not the only meal services available. A new trend for weddings is food station service. This is similar to a buffet, but has different stations situated throughout the room to avoid bottlenecks. Food stations can be themed, with Mexican offerings at one station and French delicacies at another.

Some couples choose to eschew traditional dinners altogether. In the event of a wedding that takes place early or late in the day, a brunch or even a simple cocktail party with passed bites may be preferable.

Couples should consider food service as they plan their weddings, and choose an option that fits their wedding budgets and visions.



# Today's hottest wedding dress trends

## BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Among the items on a wedding planning checklist, choosing a wedding gown often is a top priority. While certain wedding dress trends withstand the test of time, others have shorter shelf lives. Though no one knows what the future holds for wedding gown trends, these are some that may be notable as brides walk down the aisle in the months ahead.

### Floral appliqués and 3D accents

Florals are nothing new on wedding dresses, but they're being elevated this year with new interpretations. Floral embellishments give texture and help brides make a statement. Appliqués may be on sheer panels that serve as a top layer of the dress, or grouped together to form rosettes or additional three-dimensional floral details. Florals were on display at the Fall 2024 New York Bridal Fashion Week.

### Coquette is everywhere

Flirty and feminine is the name of the wedding dress game, as many gowns showcase feminine details

like corseted tops, bows and soft colors, say the experts with Martha Stewart. Hyper-feminine looks may not be for everyone, but this style merits consideration for the bride who wants to appear romantic and approachable.

### Mini dress

Although one of the first pictures to come to mind when one envisions a wedding dress may be a floor-length gown, mini dresses continue to make bold statements on bridal runways and in magazines. The abbreviated hemlines can be flirty and fun, and are featured on various types of dresses, including fitted, strapless, flowing, and even puffed styles.

### Jacquard and other opulent materials

Lace long has been a bridal dress staple, but designers are branching out into other fabrics that lend luxury and opulence to dresses. Texture can make a wedding dress a unique visual during ceremonies and the after-party, and may help a bride

feel like royalty.

### Pearls and more pearls

Pearl necklaces and other jewelry has long gone hand-in-hand with weddings, but brides-to-be can now find pearls turning up just about anywhere. Pearls are embroidered onto dresses, veils, sleeves, and headpieces, and even can be used on wedding cakes to mirror a pearl aesthetic used elsewhere.

### Bows

Along with pearls, a growing number of designers are opting for bows in their wedding dress designs. They may be subtle, such as stitched onto the bodice of the dress, or more over-the-top, like a huge bow at the waist or near the train bustle, according to One Fab Day.

### Shimmer and sparkle

A little bling (or a lot) never goes out of style. For 2024, many brides plan to embrace even more shimmer and sparkle as silver takes center stage in dress designs. Silver thread embroidery or even mirror-type embellish-



ments will ensure all eyes are on the bride when she makes her entrance.

### Overskirts

Many brides want a dramatically shaped dress for the ceremony, only to pare down a bit for the reception. The style experts at Vogue note an overskirt provides the flexibility to easily remove layers of fabric to unveil a more fitted silhouette.

Wedding dress styles continue to evolve, and this year's trends merit modern brides' attention.

# Unique wedding favor ideas

## BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Guests bring gifts to weddings to express their love for couples. Gift-giving also tends to be reciprocal, with couples making sure that guests leave the celebration with their own tokens of affection and mementos of the special occasion. Although favors are not mandatory, they often are included in wedding planning to make the celebration that much more special.

Favors run the gamut from simple, such as tulle-wrapped Jordan almonds, to elaborate, like crystal vases. While there are no rules regarding the type of favors couples can offer, most soon-to-be-newlyweds prefer something that is not only unique, but will have utility as well. The following are some favors to consider.

### • Food-based favors:

Guests who already have a drawer full of personalized

shot glasses, pens and drink stirrers with couple's names and wedding dates may appreciate the simplicity of a favor they can enjoy without having to store. A gourmet cookie, special jerky, small bottle of olive oil or maple syrup, or another food item that is widely enjoyed can be practical and affordable.

• **Thank-you cards:** Offer each guest in attendance a heartfelt thank-you for attending the wedding. Personalize the sentiments to each guest. If you have a photo of yourself with that guest, include it in the card.

• **Candy or snack bar:** A wedding takeaway can be as simple as letting guests fill up decorative containers with various candies and other treats displayed on a special table at the reception. For a fun twist, try to find old-fashioned candy or items you remember eating as a child to

stir up nostalgia.

• **Flower seeds or seedlings:** Sustainable gifts such as flower seeds or small seedling plants can let guests plant something as a remembrance of the day.

• **Scratch-off lottery tickets:** The opportunity to return home from a wedding with a winning ticket and a few extra dollars in their pockets can appeal to guests.

• **Charitable donation:**

Rather than giving guests favors, you may want to offer donations to a charity instead. This is a popular gesture among modern couples.

• **Temporary tattoos:** As a funny gag gift and segue to entertaining photo opportunities, give guests temporary tattoos that have your photo on them. They're clever and will not go to waste.

• **Luggage tags:** Guests

will always think of you when they travel far and wide thanks to luggage tags printed with sweet sentiments.

### • Wine stoppers:

Customized wine stoppers will keep guests' bottles of wine fresh without taking up much space in a home bar.

Unique favors will help wedding guests feel even more special at the end of the celebration.

A photograph of a wedding reception table setting with white linens, silverware, and floral centerpieces. Overlaid on the image is text for a hall rental advertisement.

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# WEDDING *checklist*

## TWELVE MONTHS+ Before the wedding

- ☐ Determine the type of wedding you want (size, degree of formality, setting).
- ☐ Select a wedding date & time.
- ☐ Plan reception & look at locations. (This should be booked as soon as the wedding date is set to ensure availability.)
- ☐ Start a wedding binder to organize all of your quotes, brochures and receipts.
- ☐ Book an officiate & determine any pre-marital requirements.
- ☐ Work out your budget & prioritize what is most important.
- ☐ Decide how expenses will be shared.
- ☐ Choose your wedding party: maid of honor, bridesmaids, best man, groomsmen, flower girl & ring bearer.
- ☐ Hire a photographer.
- ☐ Hire a videographer.
- ☐ Begin compiling a guest list. Collect names & addresses of your guests.
- ☐ Order Save the Dates.

## NINE TO TWELVE MONTHS

### Before the wedding

- ☐ Choose a color scheme.
- ☐ Start shopping for wedding rings.
- ☐ Mail Save the Dates.
- ☐ Select wedding consultant.
- ☐ Hire a caterer.
- ☐ Select & book reception entertainment.
- ☐ Select & book make-up & hair stylists.
- ☐ Choose music & hire musicians/soloists for the ceremony.
- ☐ Get your engagement

- ☐ photos taken.
- ☐ Find 3 hotels (at different price points) for out-of-town guests.
- ☐ Record clothing sizes for all party members.
- ☐ Purchase bride's dress & headpiece.
- ☐ Choose bridal party attire & accessories.
- ☐ Schedule dress fitting & delivery date.
- ☐ Start planning your honeymoon.
- ☐ Start health and fitness program.

## SIX TO NINE MONTHS

### Before the wedding

- ☐ Refine the guest list.
- ☐ Announce your engagement in the newspaper.
- ☐ Order wedding invitations & thank you cards.
- ☐ Create gift registries at 3 national retailers.
- ☐ Send thank you notes immediately upon receipt of gifts.
- ☐ Book transportation to and from venues.
- ☐ Purchase wedding bands.
- ☐ Choose the men's wedding attire and reserve the right sizes.
- ☐ Reserve rentals for ceremony and reception (chairs, linens, lighting, etc.).
- ☐ Explore wedding day hair & makeup styles with stylists.
- ☐ Meet with officiant to discuss ceremony plans.
- ☐ Choose cake style & schedule tastings.

## FOUR TO SIX MONTHS

### Before the wedding

- ☐ Schedule dress fittings.
- ☐ Order wedding cake.
- ☐ Book honeymoon flights & hotels.
- ☐ Book a room for the wedding night.
- ☐ Choose flowers for wedding party, attendants, venues, cake, etc.
- ☐ Finalize guest list.
- ☐ Assemble rehearsal dinner guest list.
- ☐ Book rehearsal dinner venue.

## TWO TO THREE MONTHS

### Before the wedding

- ☐ Finalize honeymoon plans & ensure all documents are in order.
- ☐ Purchase accessories such as toasting flutes, cake knives and servers, ring pillow, flower basket & candles.
- ☐ Finalize reception menu.
- ☐ Order menu cards.
- ☐ Order wedding favors.
- ☐ Mail wedding invitations.
- ☐ Begin writing vows.
- ☐ Review ceremony details with officiant.
- ☐ Lay out content for wedding programs.
- ☐ Apply for marriage license (order 2-3 extra).
- ☐ Finalize seating arrangements.
- ☐ Finalize playlists for musicians.
- ☐ Finalize fittings for wedding party & parents.
- ☐ Book spa & beauty treatments for bride & bridal party.
- ☐ Book wedding day transportation.

## ONE MONTH

### Before the wedding

- ☐ Order wedding programs.
- ☐ Confirm date, times & location with vendors.
- ☐ Confirm all honeymoon reservations & accommodations. Pick up tickets & travelers checks.
- ☐ Pick up marriage license.
- ☐ Final dress fitting.
- ☐ Pick up wedding rings.
- ☐ Have final fitting for wedding attendants.
- ☐ Purchase gifts for wedding participants.
- ☐ Purchase gift for fiancée.
- ☐ Have bachelor/ette parties.
- ☐ Make a calendar of events for your wedding day.
- ☐ Print a map to direct guests to the ceremony and reception site.

## TWO WEEKS

### Before the wedding

- ☐ Follow up with guests who haven't RSVP'd.
- ☐ Give final count to caterer.
- ☐ Update registries.
- ☐ Begin breaking in wedding shoes.
- ☐ Give your photographer & videographer your image & video requests.
- ☐ Send playlists to DJ/band/ ceremony musicians.
- ☐ Continue writing thank you notes for gifts received.
- ☐ Get final haircut & color.
- ☐ Delegate wedding day duties (gift table, guestbook, etc.).
- ☐ Delegate someone to return tuxes, rentals & tend to wedding dress.
- ☐ Send directions to wedding day limo/ transportation driver.
- ☐ Plan seating

arrangements.

## ONE WEEK

### Before the wedding

- ☐ Prepare final payments to vendors & cash tips for service personnel.
- ☐ Review details on last minute arrangements and timetables with all service companies.
- ☐ Make sure you have your marriage license.
- ☐ Pick up wedding attire & make sure everything fits properly.
- ☐ Pack your suitcase for your honeymoon.
- ☐ Rehearse wedding ceremony with all participants in attendance.
- ☐ Attend rehearsal dinner.
- ☐ Finalize details of transportation for out-of-town guests.
- ☐ Get a good night's sleep the night before your wedding day.
- ☐ Lay out wedding clothes.

## ON THE DAY of the wedding

- ☐ Remain calm and try to relax.
- ☐ Double check that you have the wedding rings & your marriage license.
- ☐ Give wedding rings & officiant fee to best man.
- ☐ Check with the florist to ensure that flowers will be delivered on time.
- ☐ Apply makeup and style your hair at least 3 hours before the ceremony, sooner if you're doing pictures before the ceremony.
- ☐ Start dressing at least 2 hours before the ceremony, sooner if you're doing pictures before the ceremony.
- ☐ If pictures will be taken



# WEDDING *checklist*

before the ceremony,  
the entire wedding party  
should be dressed &  
ready 2 hours before the  
ceremony.

- ❑ Mail the wedding announcement.
- ❑ Have music start 20 to 30 minutes before the ceremony begins.
- ❑ Have guests seated as they arrive.
- ❑ Groom's parents should be seated 5 minutes before the ceremony.
- ❑ The bride's mother should be seated immediately before the processional, before the aisle runner is rolled out.

## AFTER the wedding

- ❑ Write and mail all thank you notes as soon as possible.
- ❑ Take care of business, banking, insurance & legal affairs (change name if necessary on records and legal documents) as soon as possible.
- ❑ Ensure tuxes & rentals have been returned.
- ❑ Have bridal gown professionally cleaned and preserved.



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# BUDGET *checklist*

PHOTOGRAPHY	Budget	Actual
Engagement		
Formals		
Candids		
Videography		
Extra Prints		
Photo Albums		
Other:		
TOTAL		

MISCELLANEOUS	Budget	Actual
Wedding Coordinator		
Engagement Party		
Bridal Shower		
Bachelor/ette Parties		
Hotel Rooms for Out-of-Town Guests		
Transportation for Out-of-Town Guests		
Other:		
TOTAL		

FLOWERS	Budget	Actual
Bride's Bouquet		
Bridesmaids' Bouquets		
Corsages & Boutonnieres		
Flower Girl Basket		
Ceremony		
Reception		
Other:		
TOTAL		

GIFTS & FAVORS	Budget	Actual
Bride & Groom Gift		
Bridesmaids' Gifts		
Groomsmen Gifts		
Ring Bearer Gift		
Flower Girl Gift		
Gifts for Out-of-Town Guests		
Favors for Guests		
Other:		
TOTAL		

STATIONERY	Budget	Actual
Invitations		
Save-the-Date Cards		
Reply Cards		
Thank-You Notes		
Postage		
Guest Book		
Wedding Programs		
Place Cards		
Menu Cards		
Other:		
TOTAL		

CEREMONY	Budget	Actual
Rehearsal Dinner		
Location Rental		
Marriage License		
Officiant Fee		
Music for Ceremony		
Ring Pillow		
Decorations		
Other:		
TOTAL		



BUDGET *checklist*

RECEPTION	Budget	Actual
Transportation		
Venue Rental		
Table & Chair Rental		
Catering & Service		
Liquor		
Non-alcoholic Beverages		
Cake		
Cake Serving Set		
Cake Topper		
Band or DJ		
Bartender Fee		
Decorations		
Other:		
TOTAL		

APPAREL	Budget	Actual
Wedding Rings		
Bridal Gown & Alterations		
Veil/Headpiece		
Bridal Accessories		
Hair & Makeup		
Groom's Tux/Suit		
Groom's Accessories		
Bridesmaids' Dresses & Shoes		
Groomsmen Tuxes & Shoes		
Other:		
TOTAL		

TOTAL BUDGET:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ACTUAL COST:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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# Write wedding vows with relative ease

## BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

The exchange of vows is an integral part of many wedding ceremonies. Vows are promises made to one another that serve as the basis of the marriage commitment. Historians say some of the oldest traditional wedding vows can be traced back to manuals of the medieval church in England. There are no formal wedding vows in the Christian Bible, but those who profess this faith typically incorporate the teachings of Jesus Christ into their vows.

Many modern couples

prefer to exchange their own vows rather than share standard verses. This is particularly true for couples who will be having ceremonies customized to their own beliefs and relationship histories. Writing vows enables the soon-to-be betrothed to be creative, personal and speak from the heart. However, when faced with writing sentiments that will be expressed in front of others, nerves can set in. These tips can help couples draft vows more easily.

- **Identify who this person is to you;** put a label on your relationship. Is he

or she a friend, partner in crime, confidante, or all of the above?

- **Be sure to say, “I love you” in the vows.**

Many couples get so hung up on language that they may forget these most basic words at the heart of the wedding.

- **Gush about all of the reasons for that love.** Offer personal stories, anecdotes or something that will illustrate to the crowd why you want to spend your life with this person.

- **Look to the future.** Think about how you want to spend the years ahead.

Paint a picture of what you envision your lives will look like, whether that includes children, traveling the globe, or other ideas.

- **Make promises to one another.** Vows are essentially promises, so come up with some you agree to abide by. These can include similar sentiments to ones that are shared in traditional weddings, or clever and humorous promises, such as to always do the dishes, or pick up clothes from the bedroom floor.

- **Include stories that point out your**

**collective strengths and weaknesses.** Don't forget to mention instances when things were tough and how you overcame them, and how you can use these lessons in your future as a married couple.

Couples who are writing their own vows should realize they do not have to rival the words of the most profound authors or learned scholars. They should be honest and simple and express the sentiments that mean the most to them as they embark on this new journey.

# The most popular honeymoon destination

## BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Couples have different ideas regarding what makes a great honeymoon destination. Some couples may want to spend their trips with toes in the sand as they

relax on a secluded beach, while others might want to traverse rapids in a tandem kayak. There's simply no rules when it comes to choosing a honeymoon destination other than picking a place each person

will enjoy. With that in mind, couples looking for inspiration can consider the 10 most popular honeymoon locales as determined by a recent survey from Expedia.com.

1. **United Kingdom:** This

might come as a surprise, but the most common honeymoon destination in 2022 was actually multiple destinations across the United Kingdom. A multi-city train trip through various parts of England and Scotland was the most popular honeymoon trip in 2022.

2. **Dubai, United Arab Emirates:** Honeymooners looking for something upscale can consider Dubai, which combines sun and sand with unrivaled luxury.

3. **Paris, France:** Little needs to be said about this European city considered one of the most romantic

locales in the world.

4. **Florida:** Pristine beaches, awe-inspiring sunsets and seemingly endless sun and warmth made Florida the fourth most popular honeymoon destination in 2022.

5. **Los Angeles:** Los Angeles truly has it all, with sun-soaked beaches, world-renowned restaurants and, of course, Hollywood.

6. **Madrid to Seville, Spain:** Couples who want to make multiple stops can consider this popular option, which takes visitors from Spain's capital and most

SEE DESTINATION, Page A11

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## DESTINATION

### FROM PAGE A10

populous city to one of its most historic and unique destinations.

**7. Rome, Naples and Amalfi Coast, Italy:** A tour of three of Italy's most wondrous locales needs no introduction, which is undoubtedly why these three places were a must-visit for many honeymooning couples in 2022.

**8. St. Lucia:** An idyllic island country in the eastern Caribbean, St. Lucia was recently named as one of the

best places to visit in 2023 by Tripadvisor.

**9. Iceland:** Iceland has experienced a tourism boom in recent years as more and more people have discovered the unique beauty and extraordinary culture of this island nation in the North Atlantic.

**10. The Maldives:** An archipelagic state in South Asia, The Maldives has the lowest elevation of any country in the world, which means its temperatures are always hot and humid, making this an ideal stop for honeymooners who can't wait to relax on a sunny, idyllic beach.

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