

WEDDING BUDGET

How much does a wedding cost? Well, that depends. The average Irish wedding costs somewhere between €20,000 and €30,000 but of course it is possible to spend a lot less or significantly more.

Planning a wedding means you have to set your priorities and be prepared to compromise. If you have a large number of guests, you may have to cut down on the price you can pay for your dress. Do you want a band and a DJ or is one or the other sufficient?

First off you have to decide how much you can afford to pay and where the money is coming from. Given the current economic climate, taking out a loan or using all your savings may not be a wise idea. Once you know how much you can afford, stick to your budget. It is very easy to get carried away with the romance of the wedding, but saddling your marriage with a crippling debt is not the best start to your life together.

Don't be afraid to negotiate prices. Many suppliers will try and charge a premium for weddings, so don't accept the first price you are given. Shop around, haggle or ask for extras. It is wise to do this in a pleasant, respectful way. If you start making demands and being a diva the supplier will be less willing to negotiate with you.

Wedding Style has drawn up a budgeting chart for you to keep control of your costs. There are plenty of ways to keep a lid on the budget. Consider these:

- Plan your wedding for mid-week or out of peak season.
- Decide how many people you can afford and be strict about it. It can be very difficult keeping the guest list under control, especially as both the bride and groom's families may put pressure on you to invite Aunt So-and-So and Uncle Who. The people at your wedding should be the ones that you and your partner care about. Don't feel obliged to invite all your work colleagues and plus ones for single friends.
- Keep the number of bridesmaids and groomsmen to a minimum.
- Do your research beforehand to get an idea of prices.
- Ask the hotel or caterer about cost-saving changing to the menu. Simply cutting a small part of a dish cost save a significant amount, particularly if you are having a large number of guests.
- Make sure any price you agree with a supplier or venue is the final price. You don't want to get hit with hidden charges later.
- Wedding favours don't have to be expensive. Some guests forget them at the end of the evening anyway!
- Some times it is not what you know but who you know. Your friends or family may know hairdressers, beauticians, florists, musicians, printers, caterers, chauffeurs, bakers or photographers.
- Don't put down a deposit until you have finalised prices. Deposits are generally non-refundable. Once you have handed over money, you are committed to using a particular supplier and this means you are in a much weaker position to ask for discounts.



WEDDING BUDGET PLANNER

Use this budget planner to help you keep control of your costs.

YOUR BUDGET: € _____

CEREMONY

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
CEREMONY LOCATION FEE	€	€
OFFICIANT FEE OR DONATION	€	€
CHURCH ACCESSORIES	€	€
PRE-MARRIAGE COURSE	€	€
EXTRAS	€	€

RECEPTION

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
RECEPTION VENUE	€	€
RECEPTION FOOD & SERVICE	€	€
WELCOME DRINKS	€	€
WINE FOR TABLES	€	€
TOAST DRINKS	€	€
CORKAGE	€	€
WEDDING CAKE	€	€
LINENS, CHAIR COVERS ETC	€	€
PA SYSTEM	€	€
ROOM FOR BRIDE & GROOM	€	€
EXTRAS	€	€

AFTERS

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
VENUE (IF SEPARATE)	€	€
AFTERS FOOD & SERVICE	€	€
EXTRAS	€	€

RINGS

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
HIS RING	€	
HER RING	€	

FLOWERS

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
BRIDE'S BOUQUET	€	€
BRIDESMAIDS' BOUQUETS	€	€
BOUTONNIERES	€	€
CORSAGES	€	€
FLOWER GIRLS	€	€
TABLE CENTREPIECES	€	€
VENUE FLOWER DECORATIONS	€	€
CHURCH FLOWERS	€	€
OTHER FLOWERS	€	€

MUSIC

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
HARPIST/SINGER	€	€
BAND	€	€
DJ	€	€

TRANSPORT

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
CAR OR LIMO HIRE	€	€
BUS/COACH HIRE	€	€
PARKING	€	€

INVITATIONS, RSVP & THANK YOU CARDS

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
DESIGN & PRINTING	€	€
PAPER & ENVELOPES	€	€
POSTAGE	€	€

CLOTHING

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
WEDDING DRESS	€	€
GROOM'S SUIT	€	€
BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES	€	€
GROOMSMEN'S SUITS	€	€
BRIDE'S SHOES	€	€
GROOM'S SHOES	€	€
BRIDESMAIDS' SHOES	€	€
VEIL/TIARA/HEADPIECE	€	€
BRIDE'S JEWELLERY	€	€
BRIDE'S HANDBAG	€	€
BRIDE'S GLOVES/SHAWL	€	€
BRIDEMAID'S JEWELLERY	€	€
BRIDEMAID'S GLOVES/SHAWLS	€	€
BRIDE'S OTHER ACCESSORIES	€	€
BRIDEMAIDS'S OTHER ACCESSORIES	€	€
GROOM & GROOMSMEN'S TIES/CUMER-	€	€
GROOM'S CUFFLINKS	€	€
GROOM'S OTHER ACCESSORIES	€	€
GROOMSMEN'S OTHER ACCESSORIES	€	€
ALTERATIONS	€	€
DRY CLEANING/REPAIRS	€	€
EXTRAS	€	€

HAIR & BEAUTY

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
PRE-WEDDING BEAUTY PACKAGE	€	€
MAKE-UP FOR BRIDAL PARTY	€	€
HAIR FOR BRIDAL PARTY	€	€
GROOM'S PRE-WEDDING PREPARATION	€	€
GROOM'S HAIRCUT	€	€
MAKE-UP/PRODUCTS FOR HONEYMOON	€	€
EXTRAS	€	€

PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY & MULTIMEDIA

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
PHOTOGRAPHER	€	€
PHOTO PRINTING	€	€
VIDEOGRAPHER	€	€
DVD BURNING	€	€
DISPOSABLE CAMERAS FOR TABLES	€	€
DISPOSABLE CAMERAS PRINTING	€	€
PROJECTOR FOR VENUE	€	€
SCREEN FOR VENUE	€	€

GIFTS

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
GIFTS FOR BRIDESMAIDS	€	€
GIFTS FOR GROOMSMEN	€	€
GIFTS FOR BRIDE'S PARENTS	€	€
GIFTS FOR GROOM'S PARENTS	€	€
WEDDING FAVOURS	€	€

HONEYMOON

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
FLIGHTS	€	€
ACCOMMODATION	€	€
TRANSPORT TO AND FROM AIRPORT	€	€
SPENDING MONEY	€	€
HONEYMOON CLOTHES	€	€

HEN & STAG NIGHTS

ITEM	BUDGETED AMOUNT	QUOTED AMOUNT
FLIGHTS/TRAIN/PETROL	€	€
ACCOMMODATION	€	€
TRANSPORT TO AND FROM AIRPORT	€	€
ENTERTAINMENT & SPENDING MONEY	€	€
EXTRAS	€	€