

Ready, steady, I do!

Planning your wedding on a short timescale



Photo Credit: Vero J Photography

If you've not previously walked down the aisle or been involved in organising a wedding, knowing where to start or what to do can seem like an almighty task (it can still feel overwhelming even if you've had previous experience!). For some, it takes years to plan their perfect day, and even then, still seem to be up against the clock as the big day fast approaches.

So, is it possible to plan a wedding in a matter of months? We think it is.

It may be obvious, but the first place to start is the venue as that's usually the trickiest to secure. It's commonly known that venues are booked years in advance, particularly for weekend dates, however, some venues advertise late availability and even those that don't, it's worth contacting them to find out. If you'd like to find out about availability at the gorgeous Gunnersbury Park, please [get in touch](#) with the team who will be happy to help.

Another reason to start with the venue is that venues specialising in weddings will offer wedding packages that include food and drink catering. This means that's another thing that can be ticked off your 'wedmin' list. Gunnersbury Park's catering partner, [Seasoned](#), offer not only bespoke menus and cocktails but also event-styling, so it's worth speaking to your chosen venue to see what packages they offer. As well as useful packages, they often have a substantial list of recommended suppliers that they've used before and are trusted by the venue, which could save you some time trawling through Google.

With the venue secured, hopefully, you'll have also managed to tick off a few other things on the list from the venue's suppliers list, such as entertainment, florist, catering and the photographer. Next up will be the wedding dress or outfit (depending on your preference). If going for a wedding dress, as with securing a venue, this process often needs to be started quite far in advance, however, if you're prepared to be flexible with what you go for, it's do-able!



Photo Credit: Lark London Stephanie YT Photography

Wedding dress shops have the option to buy off the rack or dresses that have a short lead time, so make sure you ask to see those before falling in love with a dress on the rail in case it has a 6-month lead time. Another option is the high street. A lot of retailers, in particular those online, offer stunning bridal dresses at a fraction of the price you would find in a bridal shop, and with some offering next-day delivery, it's certainly worth taking a look. The same applies to bridesmaid dresses and the groom's suit; looking online is an easy option and there are also a lot of suit hire companies available which may be a great alternative. Whilst shopping either online or on the high street, it's also a good time to pick up your wedding bands - these can be purchased from almost all jewellers.

Now you hopefully have the foundations of your wedding sorted, it's time to let people know. Depending on how much notice you give your guests will probably determine how many guests can attend. If your wedding is during the school holidays or around a Bank Holiday weekend, you might find people get booked up in advance, that's why it's particularly important to send your invitations out ASAP.



Photo Credit: Chloe Ely Photography | Stationary: @loupaper_

If you choose to send your invitations in the post, there are lots of online printing companies that can print and send them to you in a couple of days. You'll need to supply them with the design, and then once you've received them back, you just need to send them on to your guests. If you're busy or simply don't want to design the invites yourself, there are lots of small businesses online that can do this for you and some may also be able to print, so it's worth taking a look. Alternatively, e-invitations are becoming increasingly popular, cutting out delivery times and postage (and let's face it, how much is a first class stamp these days?!).

If you're looking to have a hen or stag weekend away, leaving things until the last minute might pay off. A lot of hotels and travel companies will offer last-minute breaks at reduced prices, so it's worth checking these out online. Alternatively, a day or night out celebrating with your friends and family can be arranged with hardly any time needed, just make sure not to do it too close to the wedding day!

If you'd like to find out more about holding your wedding day at Gunnersbury Park, please [get in touch](#) with our team who will be able to help.