

All Eyes on Me

Wedding Planning Checklist

1. Foundations and the bookings that shape everything else

Couple: _____ Wedding date: _____

Location: _____ Planning lead: _____

Use the stages that fit your celebration. These are planning suggestions, not universal booking rules. Cross out anything you do not need and write firm deadlines in your own calendar.

12-18+ months before | Start with the essentials

- ☐ Agree your priorities, overall budget and a contingency amount.
- ☐ Estimate guest numbers; discuss accessibility, travel and family needs.
- ☐ Choose a date or date range; compare local weather, holidays and major events.
- ☐ Book ceremony and reception venues; confirm an indoor/weather backup.
- ☐ Book your celebrant/officiant and any essential religious arrangements.
- ☐ Check contracts, deposits, cancellation terms and payment dates.
- ☐ Enquire about priority photographer, caterer, planner and entertainment.
- ☐ Check legal paperwork and notice/application windows where you will marry.

9-12 months before | Outfits and key suppliers

- ☐ Start dress, suit or other outfit appointments; ask about production and alterations.
- ☐ Order long-lead outfits by the retailer deadline; record the promised delivery date.
- ☐ Confirm remaining key suppliers and wedding-party roles.
- ☐ Arrange travel/accommodation information; send save-the-dates if useful.
- ☐ Ask hens/bachelorette and bucks/bachelor organisers to start a separate plan.

Outfit order deadline: _____ Delivery target: _____

Supplier payments / next action: _____

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2. Details, invitations and the smaller things worth ordering early

6-9 months before | Turn ideas into arrangements

- ☐ Set ceremony style, cultural traditions, colour preferences and dress guidance.
- ☐ Choose flowers/decor, cake, music and hair/makeup services as needed.
- ☐ Plan transport, accommodation and any rehearsal or additional celebrations.
- ☐ Check suit/tuxedo purchase, hire/rental and fitting deadlines with the provider.
- ☐ Ask attendants about outfits, realistic costs, comfort and scheduling.
- ☐ Agree pre-wedding party dates, budget, guest list and who pays for what.

3-6 months before | Guests and accessories

- ☐ Prepare invitations and wedding website; allow extra time for travel/destination guests.
- ☐ Set the RSVP date before your venue/caterer final-number deadline.
- ☐ Choose rings and confirm any customisation/engraving lead times.
- ☐ Order shoes and accessories early enough for fittings and delivery.
- ☐ Check optional veil/crown, hair pieces, jewellery, garter and wrist garters.
- ☐ Confirm sizes, quantities and availability; add a buffer for custom/imported items.
- ☐ Book pre-wedding party venues/activities; order optional party accessories.
- ☐ Agree ceremony readings, rituals and the people participating.

2-3 months before | Fittings and confirmations

- ☐ Attend fittings with the intended shoes, undergarments and relevant accessories.
- ☐ Confirm beauty/trial appointments and any outfit adjustments.
- ☐ Send invitations on a schedule suited to guest travel and supplier deadlines.
- ☐ Review missing bookings, paperwork, payments and delivery tracking.

Accessory order-by date: _____ Party accessory order-by: _____

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3. Final checks, a calmer wedding day and the jobs afterwards

6-8 weeks before | Bring the plan together

- ☐ Follow up RSVPs as needed; update meal, dietary and accessibility information.
- ☐ Draft seating, ceremony timing and the run sheet/day-of schedule.
- ☐ Confirm who holds rings, documents and essential contact details.
- ☐ Check legal notice or licence/license deadlines; do not leave this to a generic checklist.

Final month | Confirm, collect and delegate

- ☐ Give final numbers and meal details by the venue/caterer deadline.
- ☐ Complete final fittings; collect outfits and check every accessory.
- ☐ Confirm supplier arrival times, balances, transport and weather backup decisions.
- ☐ Share the schedule and a nominated day-of contact with suppliers and participants.
- ☐ Pack labelled outfit/accessory bags and an emergency kit.
- ☐ Check hens/bachelorette or bucks/bachelor plans allow rest before the wedding.

Final week and the day before

- ☐ Check the forecast and official warnings; confirm the venue contingency plan.
- ☐ Reconfirm rehearsal, travel, collection and return arrangements.
- ☐ Charge devices; pack documents, rings, medication and personal essentials.
- ☐ Hand over practical tasks; allow time to eat, hydrate and rest.

Wedding day and afterwards

- ☐ Allow dressing and travel buffers; let your nominated contact manage logistics.
- ☐ Return hired/rented items on time; settle agreed outstanding payments.
- ☐ Thank guests and suppliers; arrange the official marriage record/certificate as needed.

Australia: give your NOIM to an authorised celebrant at least 1 month and no more than 18 months before the wedding, unless an approved shortening applies. Ask your celebrant early.

United States: check the issuing authority for local application, waiting-period, validity and filing requirements. These vary; do not apply too early or too late.

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4. Seasons, pre-wedding parties and your own deadlines

Seasonal checks | Use the destination climate

Conventional seasons: Australia - summer Dec-Feb, autumn Mar-May, winter Jun-Aug, spring Sep-Nov. United States - summer Jun-Aug, fall/autumn Sep-Nov, winter Dec-Feb, spring Mar-May. Local climates differ.

- ☐ Summer: check heat, shade, water, cooling, clothing and outdoor food arrangements.
- ☐ Autumn/fall: check daylight, temperature changes, layers and covered spaces.
- ☐ Winter: check heating, sheltered arrivals, wet/icy travel and photography timing.
- ☐ Spring: plan for changeable weather, rain, wind and guests with pollen sensitivities.
- ☐ Check regional wet/dry seasons, storms, fire risk or snow; agree a safe venue backup.

Hens/bachelorette and bucks/bachelor mini-check

- ☐ Ask the guest of honour/honor about preferences, boundaries and surprises.
- ☐ Agree the guest list and affordable budget before collecting commitments.
- ☐ Book activities, meals, accommodation and transport by provider deadlines.
- ☐ Assign one organiser/organizer to confirm details and send a clear itinerary.
- ☐ Order any optional veil OR crown, wrist garters, garter, forget-me-nots and games early.
- ☐ Confirm what each guest brings; check deliveries well before the party.

Accessories are optional. Choose what suits the person, celebration and budget; a kit can be assembled from individual pieces. Allow supplier production plus delivery plus a buffer.

Your next three actions

1. _____ Owner: _____ Due: _____
2. _____ Owner: _____ Due: _____
3. _____ Owner: _____ Due: _____

Sources and updates

Planning windows and checklist: All Eyes on Me. Supplier example: Pronovias FAQs (pronovias.com/int_en/faqs). Legal timing: Australian Attorney-General (ag.gov.au/families-and-marriage/marriage/get-married); US guidance (usa.gov/marriage-certificate). Climate: Bureau of Meteorology (bom.gov.au); US National Weather Service (weather.gov). Checked October 2026. Confirm current requirements with your suppliers and the relevant authority.

Full guide and links: alleyesonme.com.au/wedding-planning-timeline-checklist/