

A bride and groom are the central focus, smiling warmly. The bride is in the foreground, wearing a white lace wedding dress and a long, sheer veil, holding a large bouquet of white and light blue flowers. The groom stands behind her, wearing a dark pinstriped suit. They are in a grassy field with a line of bare trees in the background under a clear sky. The image is framed by decorative borders of white and red flowers, leaves, and butterflies.

The Ultimate Guide to ... Weddings

 **Outlook**
Publications Special



Countdown to the Big Day

There is lots to do to get ready for your big day. One of the less stressful things to do is your bridal beauty regime. While some treatments can be left to a week or even a few days before the big day, others have to start months before to have a real effect

8 months before - Intensive treatments: If you are considering laser hair removal, laser thread vein removal or treatments like microdermabrasion, you should look into these as early as possible.

6 months before - Find a great beauty therapist: You should visit your beauty therapist at least six months before the wedding and discuss what your aims are for your skin and nails for your big day. If you look after yourself in the run up to the wedding there will be less that you want to fix as the big day approaches. It's a good idea to start getting your eye brows shaped now in case they need reshaping!!

4 months before - Are you seeing clearly: You can't wear your glasses on your wedding day. You will have to get contact lenses or laser eye surgery. Contact lenses are the cheaper option but they take time to get used to. You will have to wear your lenses often before your wedding day so you don't spend the whole day blinking, which will result in better wedding photos.

2 months before - Be a hen tester: Use your hen night as an opportunity to try out all the tan, make-up, and nails you are considering for your wedding day. You will see what looks best, how you look in photos, how long it lasts and you can see what works and what doesn't.

1 month before - Teeth whitening: A nice smile will set off your face on the day. Your teeth don't have to be extreme makeover white or perfect but you can help them improve by getting a whitening treatment done and maintaining it with a brightening stick. Before you get any tooth whitening treatment done, you should have your teeth cleaned by your dentist.

1 week before - Final facial: Your final facial before the wedding will leave your face glowing. Keep it up by following a daily regime of cleansing, toning and moisturising with products recommended by your beauty therapist. During this week, pay special attention to your skin so you can tackle any breakouts before they get too bad.

3 Days to go - Eyebrow wax and tint and eyelash tint: It is best to get a tint slightly darker than you want and then give it a day or two to tone down. It is best not to get your tinting done on the same day as your fake tan as this can leave your eyebrows looking orange. Getting your brow waxing a day or two before the wedding also gives time for any redness to calm down. Be sure to get your eyebrows done by your usual therapist so there are no disasters!

2 Days to go - Fake Tan: It's best to get your tan done 2 days before your wedding. You should be exfoliating and moisturising in the days leading to your tan paying attention to bra strap and sock line areas. This will also mean that your tan will last for the first few days of your honeymoon. If you decide not to go for fake tan, use this evening to buff and moisturise your skin so you have a beautiful glow on the big day.

1 Day to go - Nails: The day before is a great time to have a pedicure and it leaves you less to do on the big day.

The Wedding Day: Besides the obvious manicure and make-up, don't forget to moisturise a lot on the morning of the wedding and sip a glass of water. Make sure to use waterproof mascara and that you bring along makeup to touch up during the day. If you are extremely stressed or busy that morning have your manicure the day before.



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Wedding Hair

1. If you are having a hair trial before your wedding, leave your hair in its natural form. Whether it is curly or straight, leave it that way.
2. This will give the hairdresser a chance to see it in its natural shape.
3. Always wash your hair the night before your trial. This way your hair will not be too soft to go in an up style. It is advisable to have your trial 3 or 4 months in advance.
4. A haircut is better when it settles in, so I would advise a cut 4 weeks before your wedding.
5. Highlights are best to leave until one week before hand. This way there will not be any dark roots showing through and they will also settle in better after a couple of washes. If you can also ask your hairdresser to make sure underneath is done, especially if you are having your hair up.
6. A Tint or a Semi colour is also best to have done a week before hand. If there is any problems (which can happen) if can be fixed within the week. In addition, your colour will still look great on your honeymoon.

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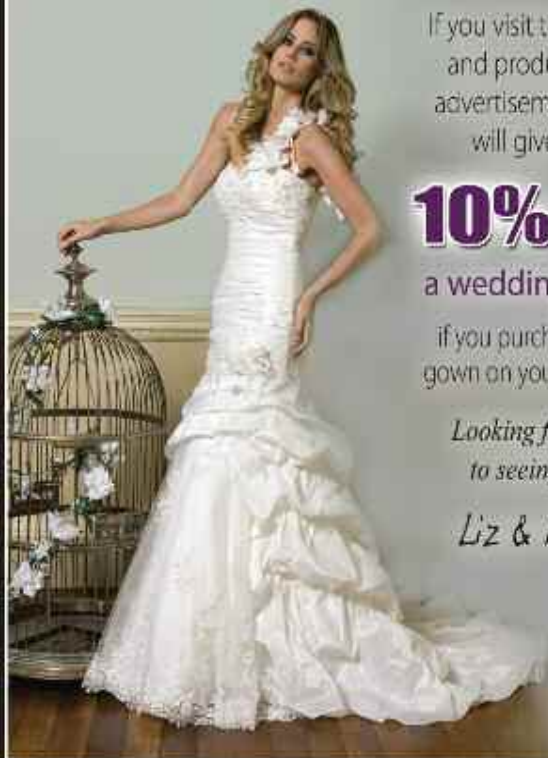
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Mother of the Bride Tips

- Help with setting up the guest list.
- Order the stationery (invitations, menus, order of service, place cards)
- Send out the invitations and monitor replies.
- Help the Bride to choose her dress and other outfits.
- Help organise the flowers for the church, reception and the bride's bouquet.
- On the wedding day itself mother of the bride takes a special role in the wedding party.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS ON THE BEST WAY TO INCLUDE MOTHER DEAREST ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY:

- If the mother of the bride isn't giving her daughter away she should be the last guest to be seated for the ceremony.
- After the ceremony the father of the groom should escort the mother of the bride.
- If the bride and groom have a reception line the parents of the bride are traditionally first to greet arriving guests, with the Mother of the Bride first in line.
- On the top table the mother of the bride will be seated to the left of the groom with the bride's new father-in-law on her left.
- After the newlyweds have had their first dance, mother of the bride dances with the groom's father and the bride's father dances with the groom's mother.



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Wedding Cake Tips

1. It would be advisable to order your wedding cake three months in advance of your wedding.
2. When selecting a design for your cake, you need to consider how it will match your flowers, your gown and bridesmaids dress.
3. The amount of cake you will need will be decided with the total number of guests invited to your wedding.
4. For general appearance you should consider what way you would like the cake i.e. Stacked, separated by pillars or columns or on a stand. Ensure the hotel has the type of stand you require.
5. After the wedding, cakes other than fruit cakes should be consumed on the day or within three days. Fruit cake should keep for up to 24 months but must be stored in a cool place.



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The Grooms Checklist

- 6 Months Before:** - Plan for your honeymoon. Apply for a passport if needed. - Shop for wedding rings. - Finish up the guest list. - Secure transportation to the ceremony and reception.
- 3 Months Left:** - Tuxes for the Grooms, Best Man and Groomsmen. - Book your honeymoon. - Get wedding band inscriptions. Order them.
- 2 Months Left:** - Meet with the person performing the ceremony to finalize details. - Work with your bride on flower arrangements.
- 30 Day Countdown:** - Buy your bride a wedding gift. Make sure it's personal and memorable gift. - Schedule final fittings for tuxedos, and make sure all wedding attire has been ordered. - Purchase gifts for Best Man, Groomsmen and Ushers.
- 2 Weeks:** Stag Party.
- 7 Days:** - Pick up the tux. - Make sure Best Man and Ushers get their wedding attire. - Reconfirm all honeymoon reservations. If flying, make sure you have the plane tickets. - Make sure everyone is at the rehearsal and know their duties.

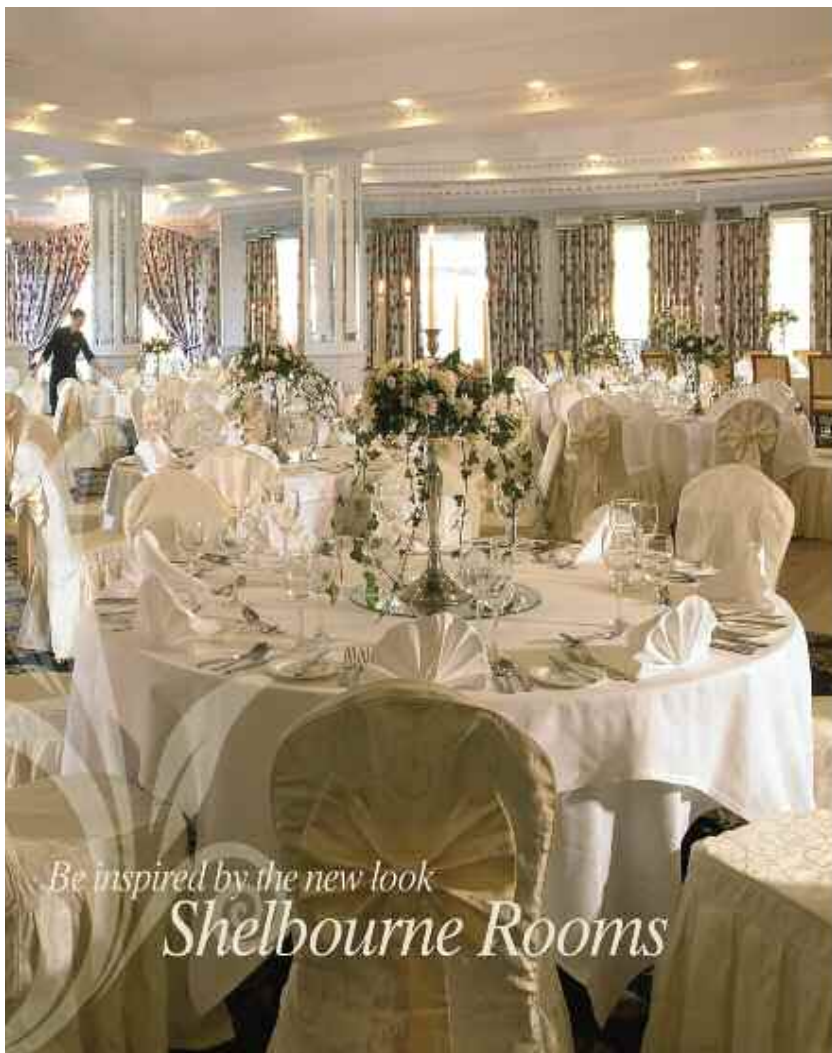
The Wedding Day: - Eat a good breakfast with carbs, fat and protein to keep hunger at bay. - Make sure your luggage is in the car or Hotel where you'll stay on your wedding night. - Get dressed. Start at least one hour before the ceremony. - Give the Best Man the bride's wedding ring. - Prepare the various fee or gifts in an envelope, and hand it to the best man so he can present it after the ceremony.

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was recently voted best overall wedding venue 2011 by realweddings.ie voters and also won the weddingsonline.ie Munster Wedding Venue of the Year 2010 award. You can never stand still in this business though and the hotel is not about to rest on its laurels. It recognises the importance of maintaining its standards and service and improving on them where possible. The hotel features a beautiful Banqueting Suite, offering fabulous views of the Kerry Mountains. The Suite is big enough to hold up to 350 guests but can be partitioned so is also perfect for smaller, more intimate weddings. Chef Daniel O'Hanlon is passionate about food and it shows! You only have to meet Danny and get him talking about food to know that your wedding is going to be a gourmet's delight. Great food is one thing, but you need great service to go with it. The staff at the Kenmare Bay Hotel & Resort always go out of their way to offer an efficient yet friendly service, which guests frequently comment on. Add to that the beautiful little town of Kenmare with its award-winning restaurants and lively atmosphere, and you really are on your way to having the wedding of your dreams. The Hotel is currently offering a fantastic winter wedding package; complimentary sparkling wine & canapés on arrival; discounts on listed wines; 5 complimentary rooms and a gift of €1,000! Valid for November 2011 & January & February 2012 only. See website for full details. A few other dates are still available for 2011 and also for 2012. The Hotel is a licensed venue for Civil Ceremonies and offers a 20% discount on mid-week weddings. Call Sue at the Kenmare Bay Hotel to arrange a show around or simply to have a chat about your wedding requirements. 064 66 41300 sue@kenmarebayhotel.com www.kenmarebayhotel.com



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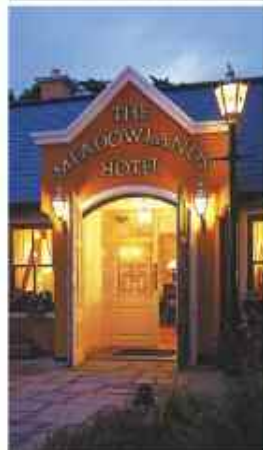
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3. What kinds of deposits are required? Are there any hidden costs?
4. Will they allow you to bring your own liquor?
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5. Sample the food outlined on the menu.
6. Does the venue already have a sounds system or will one have to be rented?
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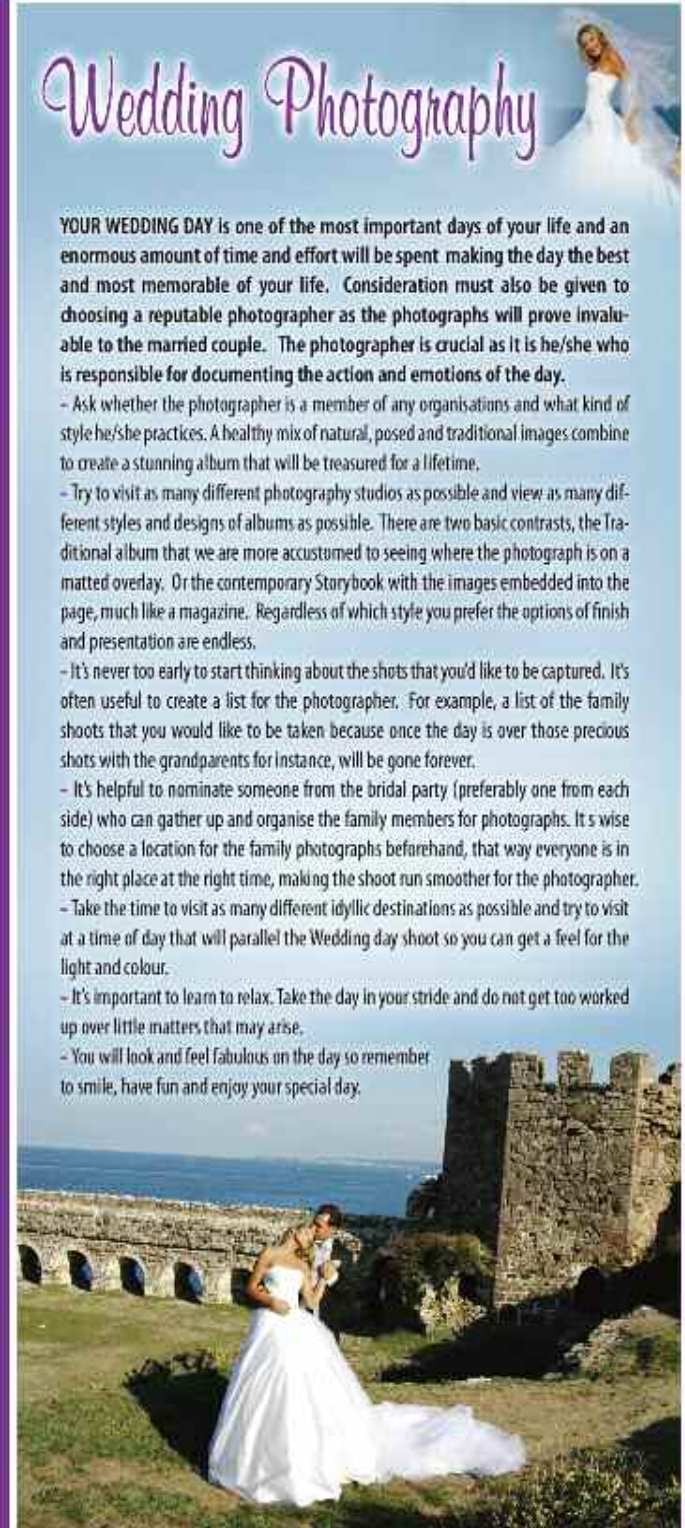





Wedding Photography

YOUR WEDDING DAY is one of the most important days of your life and an enormous amount of time and effort will be spent making the day the best and most memorable of your life. Consideration must also be given to choosing a reputable photographer as the photographs will prove invaluable to the married couple. The photographer is crucial as it is he/she who is responsible for documenting the action and emotions of the day.

- Ask whether the photographer is a member of any organisations and what kind of style he/she practices. A healthy mix of natural, posed and traditional images combine to create a stunning album that will be treasured for a lifetime.
- Try to visit as many different photography studios as possible and view as many different styles and designs of albums as possible. There are two basic contrasts, the Traditional album that we are more accustomed to seeing where the photograph is on a matted overlay. Or the contemporary Storybook with the images embedded into the page, much like a magazine. Regardless of which style you prefer the options of finish and presentation are endless.
- It's never too early to start thinking about the shots that you'd like to be captured. It's often useful to create a list for the photographer. For example, a list of the family shoots that you would like to be taken because once the day is over those precious shots with the grandparents for instance, will be gone forever.
- It's helpful to nominate someone from the bridal party (preferably one from each side) who can gather up and organise the family members for photographs. It's wise to choose a location for the family photographs beforehand, that way everyone is in the right place at the right time, making the shoot run smoother for the photographer.
- Take the time to visit as many different idyllic destinations as possible and try to visit at a time of day that will parallel the Wedding day shoot so you can get a feel for the light and colour.
- It's important to learn to relax. Take the day in your stride and do not get too worked up over little matters that may arise.
- You will look and feel fabulous on the day so remember to smile, have fun and enjoy your special day.



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Wedding Cars




1. Try & view your car in person checking it's condition, it's suitability & that Car is owned by the person you are hoping to hire from. Don't view your car in a pub car park. Avoid third party hire at all costs.
2. On viewing the wedding car, the car should have a Taxi Regulator tamper proof license attached to the front windscreen near its road tax and insurance. Remember No License means no insurance for hire & no Nct = No hire. If you are paying money to hire your wedding car it must be licensed if not please walk away. You wouldn't get into an uninsured car normally and especially not on the 'biggest day of your life'
3. Make sure you and your partner will be comfortable in the car for the duration of the journey Do you have umbrellas in each of the cars?
4. Having settled on your own wedding car ask about transport for the Bridesmaids / Groomsmen if required remembering tips 1 to 3 when choosing a suitable car(s).
5. Talk through with your wedding car company the route on the day, the photo venue or any other relevant issues etc and always contact your wedding car company one week before your wedding date with your final arrangements. Your car and date is only secured with a deposit and make sure that you receive a written confirmation and receipt.

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