

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

The contents below are examples of the average percentages allocated for each section of your wedding day to help you determine your overall budget. Keep in mind not all sections will apply to you.

Catering and beverage: 35 - 40%

Venue (ceremony + reception): 10 - 12%

Note: Works for all-inclusive venues. For raw spaces (like estates or barns), venue + infrastructure (tent, restrooms, power, etc.) can reach 20-30%.

Full-Service Wedding Planner: 15 - 18%

Event Management Wedding Planner: 8 -10%

Officiant: 1%

Photographer: 7 - 10%

Videographer: 4 - 6%

Band: 7- 10%

DJ: 2- 5%

Florist: 8 - 10%

Rentals/Decor: 7 - 10%

Bride and Groom's Attire: 5 - 10%

Wedding Stationery: 3 - 4%

Hair and Makeup: 3 - 4%

Transportation: 2 - 3%

Cake/Dessert: 2 - 7%

Note: Standard Cake Only: 2-3%, Cake + Modest Dessert Table: 3-4%, Large Dessert Spread (with variety + styling): 4-6% - Includes custom cookies, mini desserts, multiple stations, late-night snacks, styled displays, stands, and signage. If desserts are doubling as decor or guest favors (like boxed take-home treats), they might even stretch to 6-7% depending on quantity and presentation.

Favors/gifts: 1 - 2%

Cushion: 5 - 15%

Other: 3 - 5%

Note: Real costs, often forgotten - attendant gifts, parent gifts, rings/accessories, guest book, thank you cards, vendor tips, alterations, etc.

Budget Tips

- Clarify who's contributing - Know up front who's paying for what.
- Start with the guest list - More guests = higher costs across the board.
- Tented/private estate weddings cost more - Budget at least \$700-\$1,000 per guest for a tented setup.
- Season impacts pricing - Peak seasons can drive up vendor costs and minimums.
- Prioritize what matters most - Decide where to splurge and where to scale back.
- Track your spending - Use a budget tracker to stay organized and avoid surprises.