

Wedding Planning Guide

FOR AN AFRICAN "I DO"



www.idoinafrica.com



Habari!

Hello there

Congratulations on your engagement, and Welcome to "I Do In Africa"!

We are a wedding directory, built to make it easier for you to find, choose, and work with wedding venues and vendors based in Africa, to help you create the wedding of your dreams.

We are also dedicated to providing information that is relevant to African weddings. There is so much information about weddings out there, but not in the African context. Our goal is to celebrate and highlight Africa's beautiful wedding cultures.

We hope this guide will help you to plan the day of your dreams, with the goal to have the marriage of your dreams after that!

Happy planning!

Millicent
FOUNDER, I DO IN AFRICA

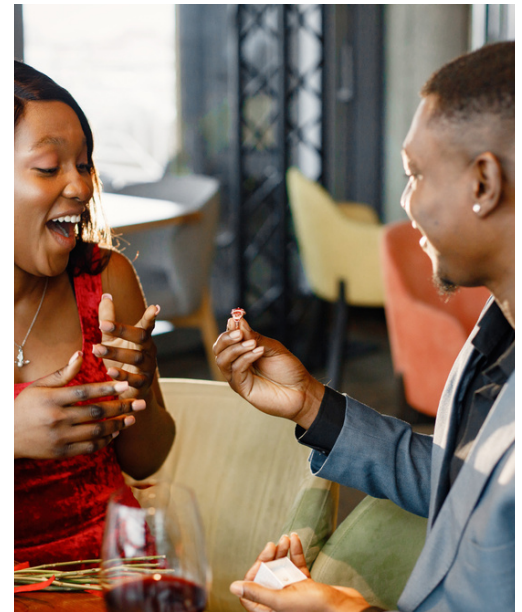
Do this before you say "I Do"

01 FIND SOMEONE YOU TRUST
African weddings are rich in culture and protocol. Select a family member or person you trust to help you to navigate your way through the process.

02 SEEK LEGAL ASSISTANCE
Many people have weddings but have no idea what marriage means, legally. Research or get a lawyer to explain the legal effects of a marriage contract to you in your country.

03 GET FINANCIAL ADVICE
For most, marriage means the joining of finances. Seeking advice before getting married will help you to understand and iron out how this will work for you as a couple once married.

04 PRE-MARRITAL COUNSELLING
If nothing else, definitely do this. Whether you do it through your church or commercial counseling service is up to you. You will be able to discuss things like conflict resolution, expectations, family etc...



THE STARTING POINT

Planning a wedding and getting married is exciting, but it is also a very serious commitment that is meant to last a lifetime.

We have compiled a list of four essential things you should definitely do before you say "I do".

By doing these things, you make sure that you understand who and what you are committing to, so that you are on the same page from day one.

Questions to ask each other

Asking the right questions now will provide clarity for the wedding planning journey ahead. Use these questions as a guide.

What kind of wedding are we having?

This is important to clarify for African weddings. Are you having a traditional wedding only? Both? Both on the same day? What cultural elements are you incorporating or leaving out? Big or small wedding?

How are we paying for our big day?

Weddings are fun to plan, but they can also be very costly. Be clear on how you will fund your day. Is it the two of you? Your parents? GoFundMe?

How are we dividing the wedding planning tasks?

Wedding planning tends to heavily fall on brides. Some prefer it that way, some feel burdened by it. So definitely define expectations of how much you will contribute or be involved in the planning process.

How will we handle our families?

Weddings in Africa are also unions of two families who come with their own opinions. Discuss how you will handle this while still getting the wedding you actually want.

Do we have any non-negotiables for our wedding?

Some of us have dreams of specific things that are a must-have on our wedding day. Discuss those things and find the best ways to incorporate them into your big day.



9-12 months before the wedding

CHECKLIST

Decide on the type of wedding you want to have. Traditional? Church? Both?

Set a wedding budget. (Remember to keep it within your means and try your best to stick to it.)

Choose a wedding date and use idoinafrica.com to find the venue of your dreams

Determine a guest list.

Find a wedding planner on idoinafrica.com (if you will be using one).

Research and choose vendors, including caterers, photographers, and musicians

Start shopping for wedding attire. Wedding dresses can take months to make.



6-9 months before the wedding

CHECKLIST

Design and order wedding invitations

Finalise contracts with vendors and ensure they have a clear understanding of your expectations

Plan the ceremony and reception, including the order of events and décor

Decide on and book the pastor or officiant for your wedding

Research and book a honeymoon destination (if you are going on one straight after the wedding)

Schedule dress fittings for the bride and bridal party

Book transportation and/or accommodation for yourself and your guests (if needed).



4-6 months before the wedding

CHECKLIST

Choose and order wedding favors, if desired

Confirm all vendor bookings and finalise details

Plan and schedule pre-wedding events, such as a bridal shower or bachelor/bachelorette party

Choose and purchase wedding rings for the couple.

Confirm travel arrangements for out-of-town guests (if you will be arranging this centrally)

Finalise the guest list and send out wedding invitations



2-4 months before the wedding

CHECKLIST

Arrange for hair and makeup trials for the bride

Arrange and do an engagement/pre-wedding photoshoot. The photos can be used for personalised stationery throughout the wedding

Purchase or rent wedding attire for the groom and groomsmen

Schedule a tasting with your caterer and finalise the menu

Plan the seating arrangements for the reception

Obtain any necessary legal documents for the wedding, such as a marriage license



1 month before the wedding

CHECKLIST

Confirm all final details with vendors, including timelines and special requests

Purchase gifts for the wedding party and family members (not a must but a very cute personal touch)

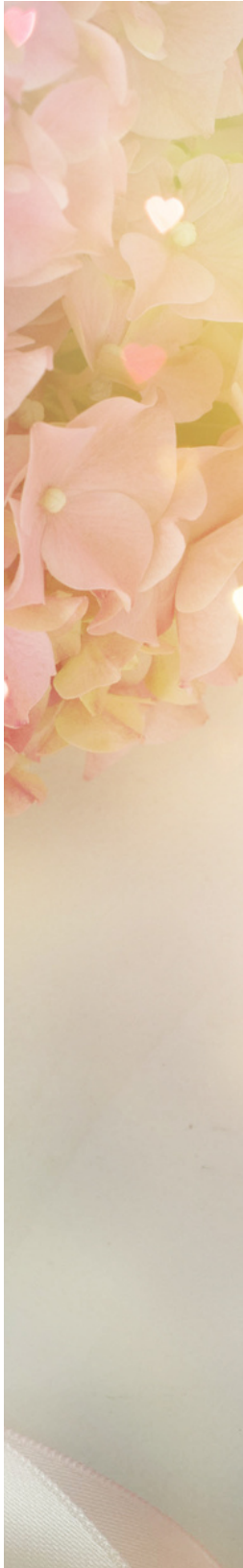
Schedule a final dress fitting for the bride and wedding party

Finalise the wedding day timeline

Prepare seating cards and place cards

Start preparing your vows (if you are personalising them) and any speeches you will be giving.

Start practicing the wedding party dances "steps"



1 week before the wedding

CHECKLIST

Confirm all final details with vendors, including their arrival times and your expectations.

Re-confirm travel and accommodation arrangements for out-of-town guests

Have a final meeting with your wedding planner to iron out the "on the day" details and any extra details you want them to note

Attend rehearsal dinner, confirm and practice wedding day details with the wedding party

Take time to relax. Get a massage, a relaxing manicure and pedicure for the wedding.

Pack a wedding day emergency kit (eg- pain killers, needles, wipes)

Wedding Day



It's finally here! You have spent more than 12 months planning, and maybe a lifetime dreaming about this day! Remember the reason for it. To celebrate the love between the two of you. Take it in!



CHECKLIST

Relax, have fun, and enjoy your special day!

Have a trusted person handle any last-minute details or issues that may arise (so that those do not come to you)

Take a quick 10 minutes with just the two of you. To look into each other's eyes and just take in the day, and a quick sense of calm.

Get someone to get a plate of food for you and keep for later when things calm down.

How can idoinafrica.com help?

1 Connecting you to suppliers
We provide an Africa-based wedding directory. We have a list of venues and vendors for you to choose from. We want you to have a choice so that you work with the best, and make

2 Providing relevant information
We want to fill your google search results with information weddings that is tailored to African Weddings, and relevant to you.

3 Celebrating with you
We love to debrief, Get in touch and let us know how your day went so you can be inspiration for other couples following after you! We would love to share your wedding journey on our site





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A good marriage isn't
something you **find**; it's
something you **make**...
And you have to keep
making it.

- GARY THOMAS