
THE ULTIMATE
Savvy
WEDDING
VENUE GUIDE

Everything you need to know to find an
affordable venue for your big day.





GETTING CLEAR ON COSTS

WHY ARE TRADITIONAL VENUES SO EXPENSIVE?

Using a traditional wedding venue is more for convenience than anything else, and convenience comes at a price!

Understand that when you opt for affordability, your options may come with fewer included services and perks.

TIPS TO HELP YOU FIND THE ONE

FINDING AN AFFORDABLE WEDDING VENUE

Think outside the box to save money on your wedding venue.

Consult resources outside of the traditional “wedding” directories you may be most familiar with.

Call the local visitor’s information center in the town where you’re getting married to ask for suggestions.

Be willing to be flexible with your wedding date– going in with several options could help you secure the venue you want at a better price if you’re not restricted to one particular date.

SAVVY TIP!

Search the internet using strategic terms to get the best possible results from non-traditional resources.

PLACES TO SEARCH

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR UNIQUE VENUE OPTIONS

⚙ Peerspace

⚙ Splacer

⚙ Natural Retreats

⚙ Airbnb & Vrbo

⚙ The Budget Savvy Venue Guide!



THE BASICS

DETAIL QUESTIONS

- ✿ **EVENT CAPABILITIES:** Ceremony, Reception, or Both?
- ✿ **LENGTH OF STAY:** How long will you have access to the space?
- ✿ **CAPACITY:** How many people can fit when seated? How many standing?
- ✿ **FOOD PREP/CATERING:** Is there a full-functioning kitchen onsite?
- ✿ **RENTAL FEE:** What is the cost of renting the space and what is included?
- ✿ **PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** Timeline of deposits and when payments must be made.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

INCLUSION QUESTIONS

- ✿ **INCLUDED RENTALS:** What items are included in the rental fee? If tables and chairs, how many and what sizes?
- ✿ **GETTING READY ROOM:** Is there an area where you can expect to store your belongings, and get ready prior to the ceremony/reception?
- ✿ **STAFFING:** Will a member of staff be onsite the day of the wedding? What are their responsibilities or what services do they provide?
- ✿ **LIGHTING:** What sort of lighting is provided at the venue?
- ✿ **SETUP/TEAR DOWN:** Will basic setup be done for you (ie- if tables and chairs are included). When are you allowed to arrive onsite for set up? How far in advance can rentals be delivered prior to your arrival onsite?
- ✿ **TRASH REMOVAL:** Are there waste receptacles onsite to dispose of trash? Who is responsible for waste removal from the venue?



GOOD TO KNOW

CONVENIENCE QUESTIONS

- ⚙️ **PARKING:** Is there free parking available onsite and how many cars can be accommodated? If no onsite parking, where do you recommend guests park?
- ⚙️ **PRIVACY:** Will our event be the only one happening on the premises that day? Is the area open to the public?
- ⚙️ **BATHROOM:** What is the bathroom situation? Will facilities be cleaned and fully stocked before the event?
- ⚙️ **POWER/ELECTRIC & HEAT/AIR:** Are there ample power outlets to accommodate various event needs? Is there heat or air units to keep the venue at a comfortable temperature for the season?

STICK TO THE RULES

RULES & REGULATIONS QUESTIONS

- ⚙️ **ALCOHOL POLICIES:** Is BYOB allowed? Is a licensed bartender required? Special permits or liquor licenses required?
- ⚙️ **PREFERRED VENDOR LIST:** Does the venue have restrictions on which vendors are allowed to perform services onsite?
- ⚙️ **OPEN FLAMES:** Are there any restrictions on open flames such as candles or sparklers?
- ⚙️ **TRASH REMOVAL:** Are there waste receptacles onsite to dispose of trash? Who is responsible for waste removal from the venue?
- ⚙️ **NOISE ORDINANCE:** What are the policies on projecting music? Is there a quiet hours policy in the area?





JUST IN CASE

WHAT IF QUESTIONS

- ⚙️ **RAIN PLAN:** Is there a backup plan if there is inclement weather? (Especially important for outdoor ceremonies or receptions.)
- ⚙️ **INSURANCE:** Is there insurance included in the rental fee? Are you or your vendors required to have insurance?
- ⚙️ **CANCELLATION POLICIES:** If for some reason you are forced to cancel your event, what is or is not refundable?
- ⚙️ **ADDITIONAL FEES:** Inquire about additional fees that could be incurred outside of the regular venue rental fee.
- ⚙️ **ACTS OF GOD:** What is your policy regarding "Acts of God" (natural disaster, fire, etc.)?
- ⚙️ **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:** Will there be a member of staff on site the day of in case of emergencies?

LOOK + FEEL

STYLE AND LAYOUT QUESTIONS

- ⚙️ **SPACES:** Is the event space all in one area or are there separate rooms/locations on site?
- ⚙️ **DECOR POLICIES:** Is there anything that is off limits? IE confetti or hanging things from the ceiling, etc?
- ⚙️ **LAYOUT:** What are the typical use situations or layouts that previous events have utilized?
- ⚙️ **GROUNDS:** Are the outdoor grounds of the space maintained all year round?
- ⚙️ **CHANGE-UP:** If the space requires a change after the ceremony, who is responsible for doing that?





TIPS FOR ONLINE SEARCHING

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

When it comes to doing venue research, the internet is your friend! If you search for “wedding venues” you’re likely to end up on a major wedding site with traditional options that come with traditional prices. If you want to find a unique, affordable venue, you’ll have to start by **searching the smart and savvy way!**

Start with this savvy strategy: try searching for an affordable wedding venue using **less traditional search terms**. Check out the lists below and select the terms that best fit with your wedding vision. When searching Google, make sure to include the city or area you are looking within in addition to your chosen terms to ensure you’re getting results in your region.

Another handy trick is to not only look at any web search results but also any **Google Image Search results**. You may be surprised by the images you’ll come across that are otherwise buried somewhere deep within a website. Taking the time to do a quick scan through the image search results may just help you to discover a diamond in the rough!



DESCRIPTIVE WORDS TO USE WHEN SEARCHING

- ⚙ Rustic
- ⚙ Rental
- ⚙ Offbeat
- ⚙ DIY
- ⚙ Budget
- ⚙ Non-traditional
- ⚙ Unique
- ⚙ Cheap
- ⚙ Raw space
- ⚙ Historic
- ⚙ Inexpensive
- ⚙ BYOB
- ⚙ Outdoor
- ⚙ Affordable
- ⚙ Alternative



TIPS FOR ONLINE SEARCHING

NONTRADITIONAL TERMS TO SEARCH

TYPES OF VENUES

- ⊗ American Legion
- ⊗ Cabin
- ⊗ Camp
- ⊗ Campground
- ⊗ Community Colleges
- ⊗ Elks' Clubs
- ⊗ Event Center
- ⊗ Farm
- ⊗ Farmhouse
- ⊗ Hall
- ⊗ Historic Home
- ⊗ Historic Site
- ⊗ Kiwanis
- ⊗ Lake
- ⊗ Lodge
- ⊗ Nature Center
- ⊗ Nature Park
- ⊗ Nature Retreat
- ⊗ Public Building
- ⊗ Public Park
- ⊗ Rotary
- ⊗ Soroptimist
- ⊗ State Park
- ⊗ Summer Camp
- ⊗ Universities
- ⊗ VFW
- ⊗ Vineyard
- ⊗ Women's Clubs

TYPES OF EVENTS

- ⊗ Camping
- ⊗ Conferences
- ⊗ Family Reunions
- ⊗ Getaways
- ⊗ Large Group
- ⊗ Retreats
- ⊗ Reunions
- ⊗ Weddings

SAVVY TIP!

Try a variety of term combinations in your searches—you never know how big a difference one keyword can make in terms of results!

NOTES