

5 Wedding Budget Hacks

Every Couple Should Know



A few simple wedding budget hacks to help you get started planning your wedding.

BY: RUN AWAY WITH ME

Welcome to Run Away With Me's guide to hacking your wedding budget!

Did you know that couples spend an average of 300-400 hours planning their wedding? And often, they underestimate their budget by a whopping 54%.



Wedding Costs

Average local wedding in the U.S. costs around \$34,000.

Average destination wedding costs \$1,000 - \$2,500 per person.

With over 20 years in the wedding industry, we've seen it all. Since 2012, we've been planning and coordinating approximately 200 elopements and weddings per year. We're not just experts in planning dream weddings; we're also pros at making them budget-friendly.

How? We're always negotiating on behalf of our couples to get the best value while maintaining quality service. Our unique position of handling all vendor bookings gives us a deep insight into the numbers game that is wedding planning.



Hack #1: Venue Budgeting

Rule of Thumb:

Keep It Under 20%

Your venue is important, but it shouldn't break the bank. Aim to spend no more than 20% of your total budget on the venue. This leaves room for other essentials like catering, photography, and that dress you've been eyeing.

Rentals Included = Big Win

Look for venues that include some or all rentals like tables, chairs, and linens. This can save you a bundle and reduce the number of vendors you need to coordinate with.

“Watch out for the venue trap! Many couples who bust their budget do so because they fall in love with a venue that's just too pricey. And guess what? The extra costs don't stop at the venue; they pile up and before you know it, you're way over budget. Choose wisely!

Hack #2: Timing is Everything

Non-Saturday and Off-Seasons

Popular venues often have lower rates during weekdays or off-season months. Ask venues if they offer lower rates for Friday and Sunday. Plus, you'll likely find more date options available. Be flexible with your date.

Shorter Planning Timelines

If you're flexible, shorter planning timelines can lead to special rates or last-minute deals. Honestly who wants to spend more than a year to stress over wedding plans? Just make sure you're ready to make quick decisions!

Pro Tip: Think weekdays are just for work? Think again! If you're planning an intimate wedding with fewer than 30 guests, consider tying the knot from Monday to Thursday. Not only will you save thousands on venue and vendor costs, but you'll find that most close family and friends are willing to take a day off to celebrate with you. It's a win-win!





Hack #3: The Guest Count Game

Small Wedding, Big Luxury

A smaller guest list can free up your budget for more luxurious elements. Think higher-end menu options, custom rentals, or even a destination wedding. Keep in mind cost per person may be higher but overall lower total cost.

Less is More

Fewer guests often mean less drama and a more intimate, memorable experience for everyone involved. You will be able to actually be with your guests and with each other.

Small weddings are a game-changer! Opting for a more intimate setting not only lightens the logistical load, but it also creates a cozy atmosphere where you can genuinely connect with your guests. You're not just a blur in a sea of people; you're the host of a meaningful gathering. Plus, a smaller guest list means you and your partner can actually spend quality time together on your big day, making the event feel even more special.

It's like hitting the wedding jackpot: less stress, more love, and unforgettable moments with the people who matter most.

Hack #4: Prioritize and Compromise

Know Your Must-Haves

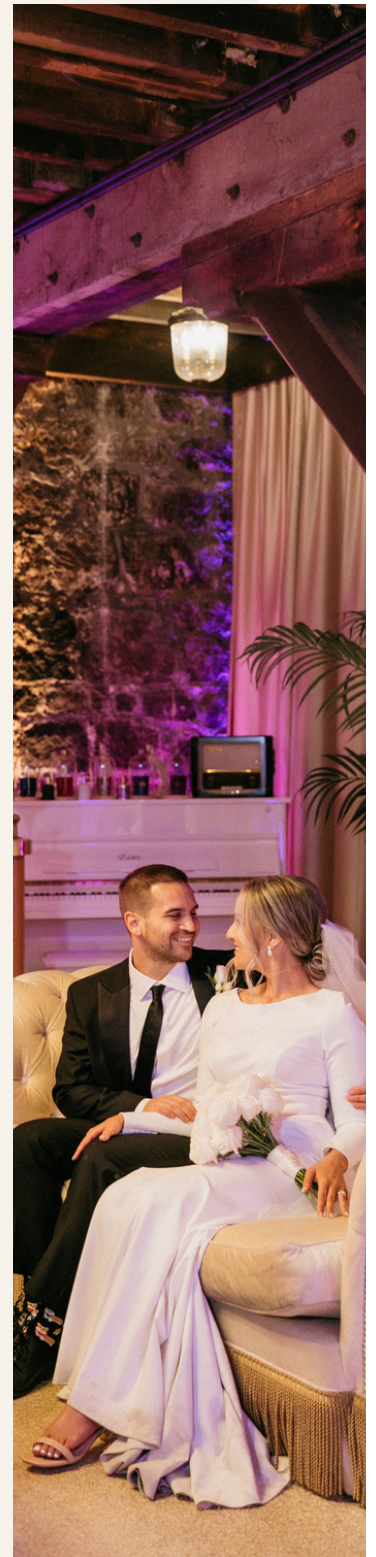
Make a list of non-negotiables for your wedding day. Whether it's a live band, a specific photographer, or a custom cake, know where you won't compromise. These are the elements that will make your day memorable, so allocate your budget accordingly.

Be Ready to Flex

For everything else, be prepared to make some trade-offs. If you splurge on the band, maybe opt for a simpler menu or fewer floral arrangements. Remember, not every detail needs to be extravagant to be meaningful.

Pro Tip:

Focus on what truly matters to you two. Guests won't scrutinize every detail as much as you might think. Prioritize your must-haves and invest in a standout detail or experience that embodies you as a couple. This will not only be memorable for you but will also resonate with your guests.





Hack #5: Bundle Services

One Vendor, Multiple Services

Opting for a vendor that offers multiple services, such as a photographer who also provides videography, can be a game-changer. Not only does this approach often come with package discounts, but it also ensures a cohesive style across different aspects of your wedding.

Streamline Your Day

Using fewer vendors can simplify logistics, making your big day smoother and less stressful for everyone involved.



Run Away With Me Plug

Our weddings at "Run Away With Me" are exceptionally successful because we offer some in-house services and have thoroughly vetted our vendor partners. Our teams know each other well and understand our high expectations, ensuring they provide 5-star service to our couples. This integrated approach amplifies the benefits of bundling services, making your special day even more unforgettable.

Conclusion

Planning a wedding is a special time in your life, and it should be enjoyed. Relish the planning process and cherish your time being engaged. Remember, you'll never please everyone, and that's okay. At the end of the day, planning a wedding that truly matches the experience you want will always turn out magical.

At Run Away With Me, we encourage you to break the norms and plan the wedding that truly reflects you as a couple. With a little creativity and smart planning, you can have your dream wedding without the nightmare budget.



*- Thank you
Britt Hanson*

"Your wedding is like a road trip—
sometimes you hit traffic, but the
destination is always worth it.

Buckle up for love!"

I hope these hacks are helpful
and CONGRATULATIONS!

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