



BIZ OÙ?

Getting Married in France

Your practical wedding planning checklist

HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST

Planning a wedding in France involves lots of moving parts. Work through this checklist at your own pace, tick each item as you complete it, and use the Summary Findings / Notes space to record decisions, questions, supplier details and things you still need to arrange.

1. Decide What Kind of Wedding You Want

- ☐ Decide on the style and atmosphere you want for your wedding.
- ☐ Consider a château, vineyard, barn, village, beach, luxury venue or intimate celebration.
- ☐ Decide whether you want a legal, symbolic, religious, humanist or celebrant-led ceremony.
- ☐ Estimate your guest numbers.
- ☐ Set your priorities before you start contacting venues and suppliers.
- ☐ Create an initial wedding budget.

Summary Findings / Notes

2. Understand the Legal Side

- ☐ Check whether you can legally marry in France based on your nationality and circumstances.
- ☐ Find out whether residency requirements apply to you.
- ☐ Check which documents you may need.
- ☐ Find out whether documents need translating or legalising.
- ☐ Understand witness requirements and other formalities.
- ☐ Consider whether a legal ceremony at home followed by a symbolic ceremony in France is more appropriate.
- ☐ Get reliable professional or official advice early.

Summary Findings / Notes

3. Choose Your Location & Venue

- ☐ Choose the region and area where you want to get married.
- ☐ Consider travel time from airports and major transport links.
- ☐ Check venue capacity and accommodation options.
- ☐ Confirm what is included in the venue package.
- ☐ Check availability for your preferred date.
- ☐ Ask about access, restrictions, noise, catering and supplier requirements.
- ☐ Consider what the location offers guests beyond the wedding itself.

Summary Findings / Notes

4. Build Your Trusted Wedding Team

- ☐ Decide whether you need a wedding planner or coordinator.
- ☐ Find a celebrant or officiant if required.
- ☐ Identify photographers and videographers.
- ☐ Find florists, decorators and venue stylists.
- ☐ Arrange hair, makeup and beauty services.
- ☐ Find caterers, private chefs and cake suppliers.
- ☐ Consider entertainment such as DJs, musicians or performers.
- ☐ Check communication, availability, reputation and relevant insurance.

Summary Findings / Notes

5. Plan the Guest Experience

- ☐ Consider how guests will travel to France.
- ☐ Research nearby airports and transport links.
- ☐ Arrange or recommend suitable accommodation.
- ☐ Consider airport transfers, taxis or chauffeur services.
- ☐ Plan welcome meals, gatherings or other activities.
- ☐ Think about child-friendly options if families are attending.
- ☐ Create information for guests about the local area and things to do.

Summary Findings / Notes

6. Organise Food, Drink & Entertainment

- ☐ Choose your catering style.
- ☐ Arrange menus and dietary requirements.
- ☐ Book caterers, private chefs or other food suppliers.
- ☐ Arrange the wedding cake or desserts.
- ☐ Choose drinks and bar arrangements.
- ☐ Book DJs, musicians or other entertainment.
- ☐ Confirm timings, setup requirements and who is responsible for each element.

Summary Findings / Notes

7. Plan Photography, Flowers & Styling

- ☐ Decide what photography and video coverage you want.
- ☐ Share your preferred style and key moments with your photographer.
- ☐ Choose flowers and venue styling.
- ☐ Plan decorations, lighting and signage.
- ☐ Confirm delivery, setup and collection arrangements.
- ☐ Make sure suppliers understand the venue and wedding timetable.

Summary Findings / Notes

8. Sort Transport & Practical Logistics

- ☐ Plan how you and your guests will get to the venue.
- ☐ Arrange transfers or transport where necessary.
- ☐ Consider transport for elderly or less mobile guests.
- ☐ Plan supplier deliveries and access.
- ☐ Create a wedding-day contact list.
- ☐ Have a clear plan for emergencies or last-minute changes.
- ☐ Make sure someone is responsible for coordinating suppliers on the day.

Summary Findings / Notes

9. Plan the Wedding Timeline

- ☐ Work backwards from your wedding date.
- ☐ Set deadlines for venue, legal, accommodation and supplier decisions.
- ☐ Keep track of deposits, balances and contracts.
- ☐ Create a detailed wedding-day schedule.
- ☐ Build in time for setup, photographs, meals and travel.
- ☐ Share the relevant timetable with suppliers and key members of the wedding party.

Summary Findings / Notes

10. Think About the Local Experience

- ☐ Find places for guests to eat and drink.
- ☐ Discover local markets, villages and attractions.
- ☐ Plan optional activities or excursions.
- ☐ Explore recommended Places to Visit in the area.
- ☐ Consider wine tours, food experiences, wellness or local activities.
- ☐ Give guests enough information to enjoy France beyond the wedding day.

Summary Findings / Notes

11. Final Checks Before the Wedding

- ☐ Confirm all legal and administrative requirements.
- ☐ Confirm the venue and every supplier.
- ☐ Check final guest numbers and dietary requirements.
- ☐ Confirm accommodation and transport.
- ☐ Confirm payment deadlines and outstanding balances.
- ☐ Share final timings and contact details with the wedding team.
- ☐ Prepare a backup plan for weather or other unexpected problems.
- ☐ Write down the three most important things you still need to do.

Summary Findings / Notes

Explore Your Wedding Area

Your wedding can also be an opportunity for guests to discover France. Explore Biz OÙ?'s recommended **Places to Visit** and find ideas for things to see and do before or after the big day.

WHAT DO I NEED?

Need a wedding professional or local service? Use **Biz OÙ? Smart Search** to tell us what you need and where you need it — from photographers and caterers to transport, accommodation and beauty services.

Your Wedding Summary

What is your wedding vision? What still needs to be decided? Which suppliers are booked? What are your next three actions?

Important: This checklist is a planning aid, not legal, immigration, financial, wedding or professional advice. Marriage requirements in France can depend on nationality, residency and individual circumstances. Always check current official information and obtain appropriate professional advice before making legal or financial decisions.