

How to estimate your total wedding expenses

Planning your wedding budget can be simple. By estimating your expenses early, you can make informed choices, avoid surprise costs, and enjoy the planning with more confidence. Follow these steps to calculate your total wedding expenses.

1. Decide on your overall budget

Start by figuring out how much you can realistically spend on your wedding.

Think about:

- Your personal savings
- Contributions from parents or family members
- Any extra funds you have set aside

Set a maximum budget and try to stick to it during the planning.

2. Make a list of every wedding expense

Write down every item you expect to pay for. Typical wedding expenses include:

- Venue and reception
- Catering
- Bridal attire
- Groom's attire
- Hair and makeup
- Photography and videography
- Wedding decorations
- Flowers

- Wedding cake
- Entertainment
- Invitations and stationery
- Wedding rings
- Transportation
- Marriage registration fees
- Accommodation (if needed)
- Honeymoon
- Wedding favors or gifts
- Miscellaneous expenses

Creating a complete list helps prevent forgetting costs later.

3. Research average prices

Contact several vendors to get quotes and compare prices. Instead of relying on estimates from friends or social media, gather current pricing based on your wedding date, guest count, and style.

Record the estimated cost for each item in your budget planner.

4. Estimate based on your guest count

Many wedding costs depend on the number of guests, especially:

- Venue
- Catering
- Tables and chairs
- Decorations
- Wedding favors
- Invitations

Before requesting quotes, prepare a guest list so vendors can give more accurate prices.

5. Prioritize what's most important

Every couple has different priorities. Decide which parts of your wedding matter most and set aside a bigger portion of your budget for those areas.

For example:

If photography is important to you, set a higher budget for it.

If you want a luxury venue, you may need to cut back in other areas like decorations or entertainment.

Prioritizing helps you spend your money where it counts the most.

6. Don't forget hidden costs

Small expenses can add up fast. Include items like:

- Service charges
- Taxes (where applicable)
- Vendor travel fees
- Tips or gratuities
- Dress alterations
- Accessories
- Marriage license or registration fees
- Last-minute purchases
- Delivery charges

Planning for these costs helps avoid surprises in your budget.

7. Keep an emergency fund

Set aside about 5%-10% of your total wedding budget for unexpected expenses. This emergency fund can cover last-minute changes, extra guests, weather-related adjustments, or unforeseen vendor costs.

8. Track every payment

As you book vendors, keep track of:

- Total quoted price
- Deposit paid
- Remaining balance
- Payment due date
- Payment status

A simple spreadsheet or wedding budget planner makes it easy to monitor your spending and avoid missed payments.

Example Wedding Budget

Category	Estimated cost
Venue & Catering	Rs. 1,200,000
Photography & Videography	Rs. 300,000
Bridal & Groom Attire	Rs. 350,000
Decorations	Rs. 250,000
Entertainment	Rs. 150,000
Cake	Rs. 75,000
Invitations	Rs. 40,000
Transportation	Rs. 60,000

Miscellaneous & Emergency Fund	Rs. 175,000
Estimated total	Rs. 2,600,000

Remember, every wedding is unique. Your total budget will depend on your guest count, venue, preferred vendors, and personal style.

Final tip

Your wedding budget is a guide, not a limitation. Start planning early, compare multiple quotes, track every expense, and review your budget regularly. With careful planning and realistic expectations, you can create a memorable wedding while keeping control of your finances.