

OUTDOOR WEDDINGS

I think everyone, at one time or another, toys with the idea of having an outdoor wedding. The fresh air, breathtaking views and the freedom it inspires, fills us with romantic notions of how perfect our wedding could be. However, having an outdoor wedding comes with its own challenges. Consider the climate conditions of where you live and the season in which you are getting married. Is it normally hot and sunny, or does it tend to get quite a bit of rain during the season of your wedding date? How much does it cool down during the evening? If the wedding is in the late afternoon while it's still hot, but the reception goes on late into the night, will guests get cold outdoors?

OUTDOOR WEDDING TIPS

You may want to have a back-up facility in case weather is truly awful. A tent is a good idea to shield people from the hot sun during the day and from any sudden downpours you may unexpectedly receive. You will still have the wind and soggy ground to deal with, but that's much better than the alternative. If the weather is hot, offer ice cold bottles of water at the ceremony and print your programs on fans to cool your guests. Rent fans with generators. If the weather gets chilly by night, remind your guests on your wedding website and on the hashtag included on your invitation to bring a sweater. Rent heaters with generators. Set out blankets for those that forgot. Fill baskets with sunscreen or bug spray. You may also want to rent a microphone or sound system so guests can hear. Ask your DJ if they have something you could use.

ON-SITE CONSULTATIONS

Make sure to have on-site consultations with all your vendors, including the caterer, the tent rental company, the florist, the decorator, the musicians, etc. Let each of them know how you want the area set up and where items and people will be located. Make sure they know how to accommodate, and are prepared to handle an outdoor wedding. Determine with your vendors how much time they will need to set up. Be sure to make arrangements to have everything dismantled after your wedding. Remember to budget this into your costs. It might be a good idea to hire someone to oversee the setup on the day of the wedding to insure all goes as planned. Having an outdoor wedding can be very romantic and fun, but it does require a lot of advance planning and coordination.