

JILLIAN JENSEN *events*

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Sample Budget for a wedding of 120 guests

A wedding in Denver averaged \$28,000 in 2019.

	Average costs we see in Colorado	Your Cost
Venue – Ceremony*	\$0-\$1,000	
Venue – Reception*	\$2,500-\$15,000+	
Officiant	\$0-\$900	
Caterer**	\$7,000-\$15,000	
Alcohol/Bar	\$2,800-\$6,500	
Photographer	\$2,100-\$4,200	
Videographer	\$2,800-\$5,000	
Music (DJ or live)	\$1,110-\$2,500	
Day-of Coordinator	\$1,800-\$2,200	
Florist	\$2,500-\$10,000	
Cake/Dessert	\$300-\$1,500	
Additional decorations	\$800-\$2,000	
Photo booth	\$900-\$2,000	
Hair and Make-up	\$180-\$300	
Attire	<i>varies</i>	
Invitations & Save the Dates	<i>\$200-\$900</i>	
Extras (lighting, draping, décor rentals)	<i>varies</i>	

* Ceremony and reception spaces may be included together, depending on your venue. The vast difference in pricing for reception space is dependent upon how much is included – bare bones DIY through full tables/chairs/set-up/etc. It is also dependent on day of the week and time of year.

**dependent upon style of food. Cheaper options = food trucks, restaurants, but make sure you have people to bus your tables!

Least expensive season = Winter and Spring

Least expensive days of the week = non-week days and Sundays

Budget tips

- ☐ Choose categories that are most important to each of you and know that you won't compromise in price for those. Then, choose categories that aren't important and focus on cost saving ideas there.
- ☐ Easy places to save money are in desserts, officiant, DJ instead of live music, and DIY decorations. However, the lower the number of vendors you hire, the more DIY your wedding will become (which isn't a bad thing, just know this may happen!)
- ☐ Lowering your guest count will lower the cost of things like catering, floral (less tables), rentals (linens, plates, etc), and cake.
- ☐ An effective way to save on your event is by hosting it during the off-season or on a less expensive day. This may also impact guest count.
- ☐ Bare bones event venues are enticing because the price tag is often a lot less (read: \$1,000-\$2,000 for the day) but remember that you'll need to add in expenses like all tables and chair rentals, portapotties, and service staff to help you set all of this up (if your family/friends don't do it!).

WEDDING TO DO LIST

18 MONTHS TO ONE YEAR OUT

- Determine your budget (using Budget Template)
- Decide on a wedding date
- Write down your guest list to get idea for size
- Schedule an engagement photo or photography session (many photographers also offer engagement sessions (if applicable))
- Research Ceremony and Reception sites
- Reserve Ceremony Site
- Reserve Reception site
- Research Hotel Accommodations for wedding guests and honeymoon suite
- Choose wedding colors, construct design template for wedding
 - Discuss/design wedding attire - dresses/ensembles
 - Decorations for ceremony and reception
 - Decide on flowers (amount, style, budget)
- Create & send your "Save the Date" cards (usually sent 12 to 9 months in advance)
- Research Caterers, Photographers, Videographers, Florists, Musicians
- Select and book your Caterer
- Select and book your Photographer and/or Videographer
- Select and book your Musician/DJ
- Select and book your Officiant
- Select and book your Florist
- Choose your bridal party for each of you
- Research the styles of wedding dresses
- Shop for your wedding dress
- Shop for wedding rings
- Research honeymoon destinations
- Start a Bridal Registry online or at local stores

8 MONTHS OUT

- Finish booking all vendors
- Send invitations
- Set-up wedding website
 - www.weddingwire.com
 - www.theknot.com
 - www.wix.com
- Set-up online RSVP (recommend Google Doc or use feature through wedding website)
- Reserve your Transportation to reception and/or wedding (for guests and for you)
- Collect & manage RSVPs
- Continue to choose wedding colors, construct design template for wedding
 - Discuss/design wedding attire - dresses/ensembles
 - Decorations for ceremony and reception
 - Decide on flowers (amount, style, budget)
- Work through wedding timeline for day-of
- Reserve your rehearsal dinner location, connect with family members who may be involved
- Order your wedding rings
- Order your wedding dress, veil, shoes and jewelry
- Book your honeymoon reservation
- Finalize gown, shoes, accessories, etc

- Contact bridal party to ensure they have all dresses, suits, etc.

5 MONTHS OUT

- Select full wedding menu with caterer (attend tastings if haven't already)
- Confirm dates and times with wedding and reception site
- Confirm dates and times with florist, caterer, photographers, musicians, cake designer, transportation
- Order your wedding cake/desserts
- Schedule beauty salon for hair/make-up for wedding day
- Finalize decor ideas & schedule on when to put them together (DIY, purchase, family members, etc)
- Finalize the guest list
- Get the bridesmaids try on their dresses and shoes for possible alterations
- Schedule the tuxedo/suit fittings (if necessary)
- Try on your wedding dress, veil, shoes, jewelry for final alterations, changes etc.
- Enjoy your bridal shower

3 MONTHS OUT

- Finalize all your wedding vendors and ensure all contracts are finalized and signs
- Notify your vendors that you have a Coordinator who will be reaching out in a month
- Continue receiving RSVPs
- Schedule final suit/dress fittings (if applicable)
- Update your wedding website to include transportation
- Draft day of timeline

2 MONTHS OUT

- Start working with your coordinator to finalize timeline and all wedding details
- Create and print wedding programs
- Schedule your final walk through at venue
- Send your list of vendors to Coordinator
- Purchase a guestbook
- Complete decorations & organize them for easy pick-up on the wedding day
- Confirm rehearsal time with venue
- Get final fittings for your outfits
- Schedule final fittings for bridesmaids, flower girls and groomsman, if necessary
- Submit music list to DJ or band (this may change depending on their timetable)
- Connect with caterer to finalize menu
- Meet with officiant to finalize ceremony

1 MONTH OUT

- Contact caterer with finalized count on guest list
- Plan the seating arrangement for reception and rehearsal dinner if necessary (with you)
- Confirm floral order with appropriate number of bouquets, corsages, boutonnieres, arrangements
- Finalize seating chart, finish escort cards
- Finalize full wedding timeline
- Attend final walk through at venue
- Organize and finalize RSVP list
- Pack all décor items with labels on everything
- Finalize your morning getting ready plans

- Get your marriage license
- Confirm ceremony rehearsal time
- Confirm rehearsal dinner plans
- Schedule final meeting with Coordinator
- Make final payments to vendors per their contracts

2 WEEKS OUT

- Finalize all schedules for the wedding day/weekend & have our final in-person meeting with you
- Call and confirm timetable/schedule for Caterer
- Call and confirm timetable/schedule for Music
- Call and confirm timetable/schedule for Floral
- Call and confirm timetable/schedule for Photographer
- Call and confirm ceremony with Officiant (including rehearsal time)
- Complete final walk-through with venue (WITH YOU)
- Pack an “emergency kit” for the day-of the wedding with bobby pins, safety pins, tape, tissues, etc
- Pack your bags for the honeymoon
- Be sure the rings are ready and fit
- Have a practice for your hairdo and makeup with your hairstylist and bring your veil and jewelry to see the full effect (if applicable)
- Put together “thank you cards” for all vendors with cash for tip (if interested) - you can give these to us when you are done to hand out at your reception