

# Amelia Weddings

## WEDDING PLANNING CALENDAR

### 12+ MONTHS PRIOR

- Propose!
- Research rings and stones to choose engagement ring.
- Set an initial budget
- Determine what type of ceremony you want (church/religious group/justice of peace)
- Determine the type of reception you want (day/evening, indoor/outdoor, formal/casual)
- Select a target wedding date and back-up dates
- Select location of wedding (hometown/destination/resort)
- Research availability of reception venues, according to the location and wedding type you've chosen
- Determine size of reception and draw up preliminary guest list
- Decide if you want a bridal party and, if so, how large
- Reserve venue as soon as possible, especially if you're planning a large wedding
- If planning a destination wedding, collect lodging information for guests
- Interview and choose caterer
- Start to research bridal gowns/bridesmaids' dresses/tuxedos or groom's clothing
- Interview and choose wedding planners/photographers/videographers/musicians
- Visit bridal shows

### SIX TO NINE MONTHS PRIOR

- Refine guest list with families
- Purchase the bride's gown and groom's attire
- Confirm guests lodging for destination wedding
- Purchase the bridesmaids' dresses
- Shop for dress accessories (veil, jewelry, other accessories)
- Go over music program for both ceremony and reception
- Research destinations for honeymoon
- Interview and reserve florist
- Order the wedding cake, if not provided by caterer
- Start planning rehearsal dinner and reserve a restaurant
- Arrange for wedding party transportation to the wedding (limousines, horse & carriage, vans)

### FOUR TO SIX MONTHS PRIOR

- Check requirements for blood test and marriage license in your state
- Shop for wedding rings
- Select and order invitations and stationery
- Make sure that men's attire has been ordered
- Complete the guest lists
- Send your engagement announcement to the newspaper
- Inform mothers to select their dresses
- Finalize honeymoon details and make the necessary reservations

### TWO TO FOUR MONTHS PRIOR

- Confirm the menu and catering details with caterer
- Prepare all maps and directions for the ceremony and reception
- For a destination wedding, collect info on local activities and restaurants for guests
- Select your wedding rings
- Buy a wedding guest book
- Set the dates and times for rehearsal with the person officiating marriage
- Plan the bridesmaids' luncheon or any other parties
- Plan the design and printing if you choose to have a program for the ceremony
- Finalize details with florist, musicians, photographer, videographer, etc.

- Arrange the necessary accommodations for out-of-town guests
- Confirm rehearsal dinner time and place
- Confirm the wedding cake details with baker

### SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS PRIOR

- Mail invitations and announcements
- Prepare a portrait if planning a newspaper announcement
- Set appointment with photographer for formal bridal portrait
- Select gifts for your attendants
- Ask family or wedding party members to prepare speeches or toasts
- Set appointments with any hairdressers and/or makeup specialists
- Hire the limousine or other form of transportation

### FOUR TO SIX WEEKS PRIOR

- Update the expected number of guests with caterer
- Buy a gift for your intended
- Schedule a final fitting for gown
- Purchase a going away outfit
- Pick up your wedding rings
- Purchase or borrow all wedding accessories, such as ring pillow, goblets, candles, etc.
- Confirm florist details and delivery times
- Plan the seating for the reception as well as other details for the ceremony
- Write placement cards or table assignments
- Make sure that all bridesmaids' attire has been fitted
- Meet with d.j. or musicians to confirm reception music: first dance, parent dances, wedding party

### TWO WEEKS BEFORE

- Make arrangements for wedding gifts to be safeguarded and transported
- Handle business and legal details such as name changes, address changes, etc.
- Reconfirm your guests' accommodations
- Check all clothing and accessories for you and bridal party
- Get marriage license and any blood tests

### ONE WEEK BEFORE

- Review any seating details with ushers
- Make sure all wedding attire fits
- Finalize the seating arrangements with caterer
- Reconfirm honeymoon reservations and start packing
- Call any guests who have not responded, and give final head count to caterer
- Finish all the place cards for reception
- Confirm dates with musicians and vocalists
- Delegate wedding day responsibilities to reliable individuals
- Wrap and present the wedding party gifts

### ONE DAY BEFORE

- Get a manicure or massage to relax
- Stay with family or friends the night before and get to sleep early
- Review and rehearse all the details with your participants

### THE BIG DAY

- Rest and Relax with a good bath
- Allow yourself plenty of time to get dressed
- Be sure to eat properly
- Leave plenty of time for hairdresser and makeup appointments
- Enjoy your wonderful day and cherish every moment!