



An Irish Wedding Checklist

*By Biddys Good
Luck Horse Shoes*



Are you engaged, or thinking of getting engaged and starting on your wedding journey?

Here's an easy follow **practical checklist** that will help you along the way!

You can add or subtract depending on your preferences, I will keep adding practical tips to help you have the most amazing day ever. Remember this is your day and its going to be wonderful. Enjoy the countdown.

ANNE BIDDYS GOOD LUCK HORSE SHOES

1st things 1st

Get pen, paper and thinking cap on, cup of coffee or a glass of wine, there's a few things you need to decide.

1 SET THE BUDGET

Set the budget, how much can you afford to spend, (keep in mind that you may go over), this will determine the sort of wedding you will have, you now need to stick to this budget.

2 DECIDE WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE

Ireland or abroad, indoor or outdoor, religious or civil. Big or small, winter or summer, spring or autumn, hotel or castle, marquee or country home, at home or your local favorite pub.

Think of this 1st and this will get you started on what's going to be the best day of your lives and the start of a big adventure together.





Before

Now that you have your date locked in you can now work on everything else.



Decisions

Book Venue for ceremony &
reception

Book celebrant or priest

Band

Photographer & Videographer

Wedding Planner

Engagement Photo Shoot

Invite list, and get addresses

Decide on how many bridesmaids
and groomsmen, /flower girl or
page boy

Ask them, do you need a special
card or gift for them. Organize
same.

Book priest / celebrant

Book Ceremony Music

Book entertainment for the
reception, music, magician, mc

Book dj

Decide on your colour
scheme/theme
Wedding rings

Wedding dress and remember
there may be a long lead time.

Wedding shoes...

Bridesmaids /flower girl dresses



Don't forget

Suits and page boy outfit

Intent to marry.

Photo booths or card tables book to entertain your guests during the day.

The list continues keep ticking off as you go



Bookings

Book florist, decide on options colour and what kind of flowers and style you want.

Organise cake and sample.

Transport, what do you need and are you going for vintage, modern, bus, a friend, horse drawn carriage, tractor the list is endless and you can be imaginative.

Decide on hotel menu and arrange tastings.

Are you having food later in the night also.

Unity Candles for the ceremony.

Book hair and makeup. Bride and bridesmaids and maybe the mothers of bride and groom.

Pre marriage course.



Venue Décor do you need it?

Find out what is the hotel providing, candelabras, flowers, lights, flower walls, donut walls, red carpet, numbers for tables.



Honeymoon, where are you going and when? Or are you going to do a mini moon first and take the honeymoon later.

Stag and Hen party, decide who is organizing.... This is not you!

Stationary or e-cards organize.

Send out invitations early as people like notice, do list of surrounding accommodation for your guests.

OK YOU ARE REALLY GETTING THERE NOW

Rings have you picked them up, do you need to get your engagement ring cleaned for the photos on the day.

Dress and suit fittings.

Ceremony programmes and music, decide on and get printed.

Confirm 1st dance with band.

Is there a plan for the day, who will be talking, are the speeches sorted, get help if necessary.

Chat with photographer make a plan for the day, a shoot list.

Confirm numbers to venue rsvp list
Finalise venue set up with wedding co Ordinator.

Are there Kids do you need a childminder.

Order post-box for holding gift cards on the day.



GETTING CLOSE NOW, THESE ARE SMALL BUT IMPORTANT THINGS

Ceremony décor /flowers, etc, Horse shoes for the back of the bride and groom chairs will add a little tradition to your day.

Order your horse shoe for the flower girl to carry up the aisle, your bridesmaids could carry a horseshoe, and the bride could carry a piece of good luck with her bouquet.

Are you decorating the wedding Isle, or the backs of each chair, check with the venue how much they can do. do you need a supplier for this.

Cake table décor , photos of parents framed, add a little tradition to the table, are you remembering loved ones on your day and incorporating a memory.

Horse shoe for the bride, have you ordered.

Collect dress and suits
Try them on and walk in shoes(break them in before the big day)
Do you need cufflinks or laces,
Have you perfume and lipstick for the day.

Nearly there

Bookings



Gifts for bridesmaids, flower girl, mothers of the bride and groom, Remember at www.biddysgoodluckhorseshoes.com we have a great selection of thoughtful gifts which can be personalized for your day.

Check with all suppliers and confirm times and locations, give suppliers another contact bridesmaids no, or best mans no so that they are not ringing you.

Seating plan finalise , who is putting this up in the venue, hotel or supplier.

Make up, hair and tan, hair colour.

Pack a bag or case, think of your wedding day needs, don't forget little things like pins, needle and thread, tissues, lipstick, mascara, the day after, what are you wearing...and honeymoon if you are going straight away. Who will bring these bags to the venue... organize same.

Have you a person in mind to bring any décor from the ceremony to the reception, personal items that you have at the ceremony that you need at the reception too.

A romantic wedding-themed still life. In the upper left, a thick white candle is lit, casting a warm glow. To its right are several white roses with green leaves. A large, deep red ribbon is draped across the middle of the image. In the foreground, a gold-colored headband is adorned with small white and red roses. Several clear, round ornaments are scattered on the surface.

Bookings

Get sleep as much as you can on the run up to the wedding it will stand to you.

Do not stress..... honestly it will all come together on the day, you have put in the work, it is going to be the best day ever.

And remember there is always help available from family and friends don't be afraid to ask, if you are getting too much tell them to back off nicely.



On the Day

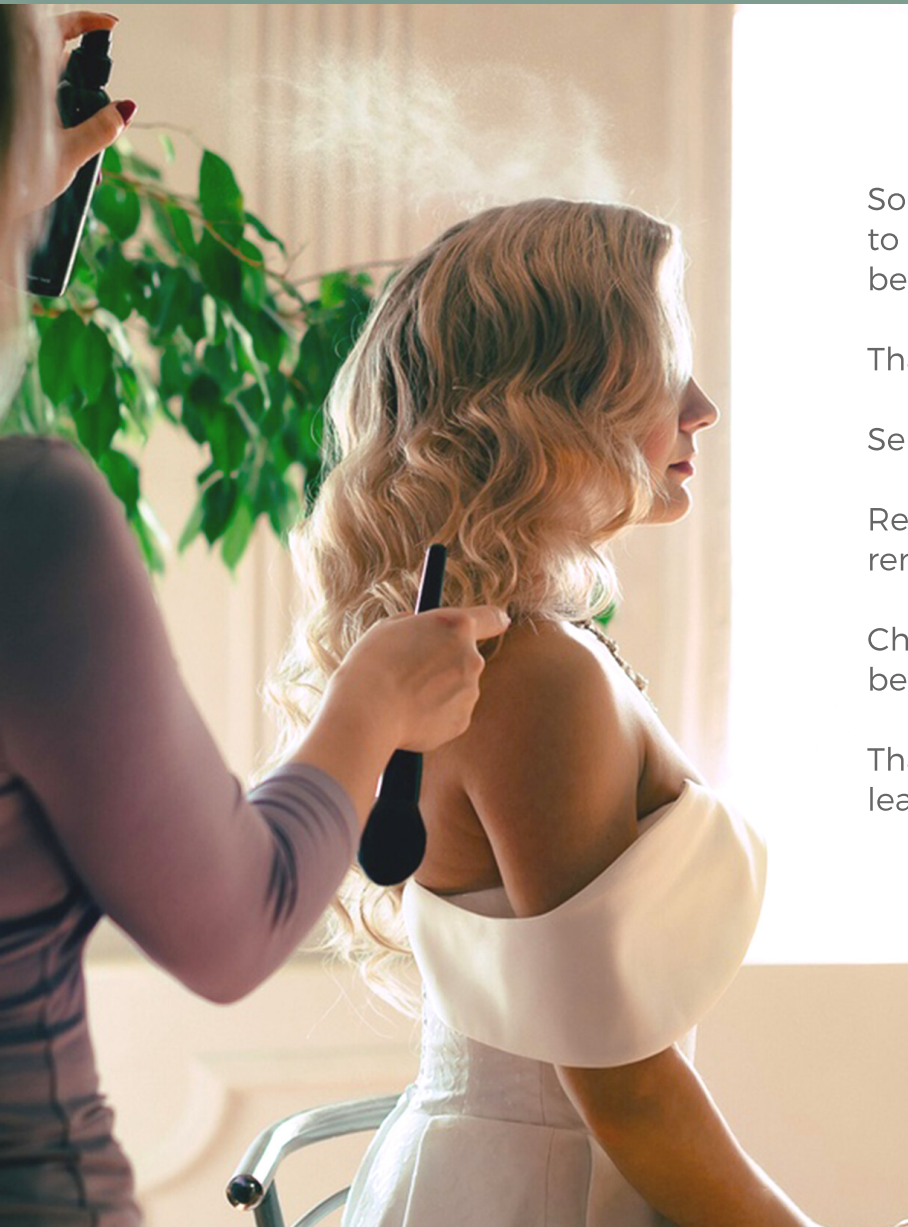
Remember it's your day.

Enjoy it, you have everything organized, so it will fall into place, go with the flow and let it happen.

Eat, you have a long day ahead and food is important to keep you going, take 5 minutes away with your new husband/wife to catch up on all that is happening and maybe sneak in a kiss.

Do it It's your day.

To remember



So its all over now there's a few things to remember, you are after having the best day ever. But do remember to:

Thank your guests for all their gifts

Send out thank you cards

Return anything that was borrowed/rented

Check has there been anything left behind in the venue.

Thank your suppliers, and if possible leave them a review they do work hard.

A good idea is to write a diary of the day while its fresh in your mind, and ask your family and friends to send you their photos, sometimes they can have different and interesting ones which will differ from the photographers.

They are lovely to have and will give you many laughs in years to come.

Thank your wedding venue and coordinator hopefully they made your day amazing.

Now congratulate yourself that was a big job.

Irish Wedding Traditions to incorporate in your day

Some wedding traditions are centuries old and are beautiful to include in your day, they will add a little tradition, have meaning and bring good luck to you.

There are many but here are the most popular and easiest to include.

I am sure you have all heard the saying:
*Something old, Something new,
Something Borrowed and Something blue,
A very easy one to follow for the Bride.*



Horse shoes

A horse shoe has been considered lucky for centuries, and has been associated with weddings for as long, the tradition is that the bride has it on the wedding day and after the wedding the groom puts it up in their home, the shoe must be used and worn by a horse, it's a good luck charm for the couple. Ps I have mine which is now 31yrs old, and I love it.





Check out www.biddysgoodluckhorseshoes.com for a full range of genuine horse shoes which can be made to match your flowers and colour theme.





Irish wedding vow

We swear by peace and love to stand heart to heart
and hand to hand, hark o spirit and hear us now,
confirming this our sacred vow.

The Claddagh Ring

To wear a claddagh ring on the left hand with the
crown turned inwards towards you on the left hand
indicates marriage.

Irish Lace

To carry a piece of Irish lace, normally a
handkerchief which then can be used to make a
bonnet for the christening of the 1st born child.

A sixpence

A sixpence in the brides shoe brings wealth and
prosperity to the marriage.

A half Crown

To have a half crown with you on the day offers the
hope that you will always have enough wealth.



Traditional Irish Wedding Cake

Traditional Irish Wedding Cake is Fruit cake, and even over the years where people have changed the cakes, they normally still keep the smallest one as a rich fruit cake.



Garter

The Bride wears a Garter, which is some weddings the groom takes it off as a bit of fun during the reception. This is a great way to incorporate the blue.



Throwing of the bridal Bouquet

During the reception, there is always a bit of fun with throwing the bouquet, the girl that catches it is going to meet the love of her life shortly and get married.



The Child of Prague

If you leave out the child of prague the night before your wedding in the garden it lessens the chances of rain. Believe me this does work, it lashed the day before my wedding day and on the day we had glorious sunshine.



The Bridal Bouquet

Adding a sprig of shamrock to the brides bouquet for good luck, shamrock also being the symbol of Ireland and good luck.



Tying the Knot

Tying the knot originated with the ancient Celts ceremony of the hand fastening, the old Celtic tradition symbolizes the joining of two as one similar to the exchange of rings today, the couple clasps their hands together with a brightly colored cord in the bridal party colors, wrapping it round their hands as a symbol of their unity in marriage.



Bell

Adding a sprig of shamrock to the bride's bouquet for good luck, shamrock also being the symbol of Ireland and good luck.

The Uilleann Pipes

Welcoming the bride and groom into the church or wedding venue . The piper walks ahead of the couple or bride playing the pipes.

Do incorporate some of these traditions in your day, it will make your wedding story totally unique to you. You can own each one you pick you adopting them to suit your day. Enjoy including them as that's what it is all about, making special memories just for you.



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It's your day!

We will continue to update this list as time goes on, I am 31yrs married this year and we incorporated many of them in our day, it made our day unique to us, and gave us something to pass on to our family.

It's also a wonderful way to incorporate parents and grandparents in the day by seeing what traditions they included in their day and doing the same, it will add a lovely sense of tradition to the day.

The biggest thing to remember is to enjoy your day... have a ball ... it's going to be one of the best days of your life, and remember it's Your Day..

'Wishing you a wonderful day and years of Good Luck in your life together'

With Love,
AnneHealy