

A Groom's Calendar

From getting down on one knee to walking down the aisle
Everything you need to know and do, month by month
with plenty of space for your bride to customize
(read: load you up with more stuff to do)

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(month 18)

- Please girlfriend**
By now, she should have had at least a handful of orgasms. If not, maybe you should consider picking up a few power tools at your neighborhood adult store. Having a healthy sex life is important, especially at this point in your relationship. It only goes downhill from here. A recent survey found that married couples have sex thirty percent less often than unmarried couples living together.

- Please her parents**
Sooner or later, you're going to meet her parents. Be polite. Be respectful. After all, you can have rude, disrespectful sex with your girlfriend once dinner with your future in-laws ends. Just make sure they actually leave the restaurant before you go at it in the restroom.

- Start saving pennies**
It's coming. You know it. She knows it. And most important, Sal, the discount jeweler who advertises on late-night television, knows it.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 17)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 16)

- Please your parents**
Don't abandon your folks. Take her home for Thanksgiving. And if you have family issues or cultural differences, make sure to prep her ahead of time. For example, if you're Jewish and she's not, try slipping matzo ball soup into her recipe file, extolling the benefits of eight days of presents in December, and making sure she knows "it's not a beanie."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 15)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 14)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 13)

- Pick out engagement ring**
This is a big step. And, if you're feeling generous, a bigger purchase than your car. Regardless of your means, bump up your budget. She's going to look at the ring every day. Sooner or later, it'll pay off.

- Propose**
Think you're done now? Think again.
Then turn the page ...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 12)

- Discuss expenses and budget**
The average wedding costs around \$26,000. And lasts about four hours. Do the math. Wait. Don't do the math.
- Pick out location**
Compromise is the cornerstone of any relationship. So don't be too stubborn when she objects to a wedding at a Star Trek convention.
- Choose best man and ushers**
In ancient times, groomsmen provided the muscle necessary to complete a marriage. In modern times, groomsmen are more likely used to entertain single bridesmaids. Or keep you out of too much trouble.
- Endure countless wedding vendor visits**
In order to stay in her good graces, be prepared to attend plenty of bridal fairs, food tastings, music listenings, and wedding planner interviews. Remember being prepared to go does not imply being prepared to offer an opinion. Speak only when spoken to. And if asked, "I like what you like" is always a safe response.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 11)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 10)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 9)

- Start guest list**
The average number of guests invited to a wedding is one hundred and sixty four. So start making new friends or digging up old relatives if necessary.
- Help choose bridal registry**
Dizzy from china patterns? Don't believe you should use a minimum of two forks per meal? Try adding a few items from Home Depot or the Sony store. Not sure how to ask for cold hard cash? There are many online services to help your guests contribute to a honeymoon, home purchasing account, or mutual fund.
- Discuss ceremony and counseling with clergy or officiant**
If you plan on a religious ceremony, check for pre-wedding requirements, such as couples counseling. If it's interfaith, clear things with your priest or rabbi first. You don't want "I object" to come from the altar. Other than the promise to marry, the content of the ceremony is yours to make up. Be creative!
- Start honeymoon plans**
This one is all you! She expects you to plan this. From Airline tickets to Zoo tours. The average honeymoon lasts eight days and costs \$3,700. Remember to confirm your passports are valid and check for any visa or immunization requirements.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 8)

- Book talent**

Music can make or break a party. Spend time scouting for talent. Hit the clubs. Crash a few weddings. At a minimum, make sure the band can play the songs you most want. A DJ is usually less expensive and can offer a wider variety of music, but is generally less formal. An iPod with speakers can work as well, but designate someone else as tech support. And make sure you get everything you want in writing. You know how flaky rock stars can be.

- Attend engagement party**

The first of many parties to come! This is the time to announce your upcoming union to the world. Invite friends and family, but probably not any ex-girlfriends. Or at least not your most recent ex-girlfriend. Gifts should be appreciated, but not required. Although you might want to note who brings the fifty-dollar bottle of champagne and who brings the six-pack of sparkling grape cider.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 7)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 6)

- Complete honeymoon plans**
Waiting for that amazing last-minute deal? Unless she's both adventuresome and has a good sense of humor, don't. While you might score a cheap trip to Fiji sixteen hours before you say "I do," there's a good chance you'll wind up on a two-week tour of Cleveland.
- Pay for bride's bouquet, boutonnieres, and corsages**
Technically, you are responsible for paying for all those flowers. Make sure you take your allergy pills that day.
- Plan rehearsal dinner**
The groom (or his family) picks up the check for the rehearsal dinner. Choose a fun place, such as a restaurant or a large house, to celebrate. But try not to invite the world. Typically, you should invite the wedding party, both sets of parents, grandparents and godparents, the officiant, and any out-of-town guests.
- Arrange wedding party transportation**
The last thing you want to do is leave your best man stranded (despite all the times he hooked up at a bar and left you without cabfare).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 5)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 4)

- Find new place to live, if necessary.**
If you aren't living together already, you need to plan for shelter after the wedding. Your choices are simple: your place, her place, or some place else. Compare cost, square footage, rodent population, and ability to store things (lots of presents are coming). If you're still undecided, think about neutral territory. Just be sure there's room for your La-Z-Boy, neon Bud sign, and high school diploma.

- Take bride away for weekend**
By now, your blood pressure may be higher than your ATM limit. You need a break. And don't forget the future Mrs. You needs a break, too. Take a wedding-free trip for the weekend. Don't worry about spending a lot. Just taking a time-out from the daily grind may mean more to her than a suite at the Four Seasons. But if you can splurge, by all means order the seaweed wrap for two.

- Attend Couple's Shower**
Couple's Showers are gaining in popularity, so odds are someone will be hosting this for you. The good news is that the gifts tend to be less about the bride. But don't think they'll be more about you. Think couple.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 3)

- Order wedding rings
- Arrange lodging for out-of-town guests
- Complete guest list
- Attend dance lessons
- Order tuxes
- Check marriage license requirements
- Select gifts for bride and groomsmen
- Write Couple's Shower thank-you notes
- Have bachelor party
- Pick up wedding rings
- Begin financial consolidation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 2)

Mail wedding invitations

Start stuffing, licking, and stamping! Any guest over eighteen should receive an invitation, even those very familiar with the details (like your parents). Never type or use labels on the outer envelope. Stuffing the invitations should be easy for those good at jigsaw puzzles or the SAT. If your family is nearby, sign them up for the fun, too. Besides the invite, expect to neatly place a response card, envelope, directions, maps, and tissue paper inside.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

(month 1)

- Write your vows, speeches and toasts
- Verify honeymoon reservations
- Arrange with best man for ride from reception to airport
- Pick up license
- Remind groomsmen of details
- Pack your bags
- Arrange move to new home
- Pick up tuxedo
- Upgrade personal hygiene
- Attend rehearsal and dinner
- Say "I do"
- Seal the deal

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