

# VENUE VISITS:

## dos & don'ts

### ✓ **DO ARRIVE ON TIME.**

It's advisable to make an appointment ahead of time and allot for 45 minutes to an hour at each location. Also, it is always kind to communicate if you're running ahead of or behind on schedule.

### ✓ **DO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.**

You'll want one-on-one time with the venue staff - making an appointment ensures they can meet with you when they don't have another tour, a photo shoot, or an actual wedding occurring at the same time.

### ✓ **DO TAKE PHOTOS.**

Documenting the venue from your perspective will help you remember the things you liked and disliked about it. After 1 or 2 tours, the locations may start to get a little mixed up in your brain so this will help you remember each place visited.

### ✓ **DO EXCUSE YOURSELF.**

Picking a venue is a personal decision between you and your partner. There are lots of emotions and opinions that you're sure to feel along the tour, but may not feel comfortable discussing in front of the venue staff. Don't be shy to ask for the space you need to talk privately.

### ✓ **DO CHECK OUT REVIEWS.**

Read reviews and ask around. Google and Yelp will give you a good idea of *guest experiences*, but Wedding Wire and The Knot will give you the intimate details *from past couples*. Read the good, the bad, and ask questions about any of your concerns. Bonus tip: seeing how the venue talks about bad reviews can tell you a lot about the business ethics of a company.

### ✓ **DO BRING A LIST OF QUESTIONS.**

Comparing apples to apples for venues can be hard. If you ask the same questions at each venue, it will help you compare side by side from your own perspective.

### ✓ **DO ASK FOR A FINAL PRICE QUOTE.**

If you've never heard the phrase "plus-plus," it's pretty standard that venues have a price, plus tax, plus gratuity. This is a biggie in terms of your investment. Get a quote that includes all additional fees and an example of a payment plan so you know the bottom line.



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- ⊘ **DON'T CROWD YOURSELF.**

Limit your visit invites to you and your partner and then those who have a wedding acronym (MOH, MOB, FOB, MOG, FOG, etc.) It's not that other opinions aren't important - they are! But 27% of tours occurred on a Saturday morning last year, which is also when 43% of weddings occurred. Showing an entourage through a venue on another person's wedding day is logistically difficult - so if you do have a large group to bring, consider touring on a non-wedding day so you can be sure to see everything.
- ⊘ **DON'T FEEL PRESSURED.**

Yes, dates do reserve quickly. Yes, sometimes there are discounts to be earned if you book during a certain time. BUT you should never feel pressure from the venue to reserve. A deposit, retainer, or (insert that venue's term for the first payment needed to reserve) is non-refundable. Move forward at your own pace -you will know when you are ready.
- ⊘ **DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT A COPY OF THE CONTRACT.**

Weddings are fun! Contracts are serious. Read it without distractions or pressure in the comfort of your own home. Highlight anything you have questions about and follow up with the venue afterwards.
- ⊘ **DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE BEHIND THE SCENES AREAS.**

Make sure you visit the restrooms, kitchen, vendor parking area, dressing suites, and all other logistical areas of the venue.
- ⊘ **DON'T FEEL SHY ABOUT ASKING TO SEE THEIR CALENDAR.**

A venue should be transparent with you about their dates and availability. It'll give you a good idea about how quickly the dates are really selling, which months are the most popular, and to see which dates you can consider if this is the place!
- ⊘ **DON'T GO TO YOUR TOUR ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.**

It's hard to focus when you're hungry. We know this sounds obvious, but we've seen couples line up tours back to back and forget to allot time for lunch in between. Weddings should be happy. Tours should be happy. But ain't no one happy when they're hungry!



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