

TOP 10 HIDDEN VENUE FEES

and how to avoid them

ONE

ALCOHOL:

Do you have to purchase alcohol from the venue? If so, you should be aware of all necessary fees. If you are able to bring in your own, you'll be able to set your own budget. Some venues have minimums that must be met, corking fees, or security officer requirements. At HR Ranch, we provide alcohol and you are able to choose your bar package and liquors based on your wedding guest count.

TWO

VENDOR REQUIREMENTS:

Are outside vendors welcomed or is there a list of required providers? Often, an in-house service leaves little room for negotiation. Even worse, kickbacks are often paid to the venue, which may or may not be disclosed to you. At HR Ranch, we offer an open vendor policy, meaning you have the option of putting your own Vendor Dream Team together or using someone on our recommended list. No kickbacks are given.

THREE

FURNITURE:

Are tables + chairs included? Rentals can be expensive (\$2-5 per chair and \$10-15 per table) and you'll need two sets of chairs --- one set for the ceremony and a second set for the reception. HR Ranch provides both in your rental.

FOUR

CEREMONY:

Is the ceremony included? Often, there is a separate fee for hosting the ceremony. At HR Ranch, you are able to host both ceremony + reception for one, flat rate.

FIVE

LENGTH OF VENUE RENTAL:

Do you have full use of the venue for the entire day? It is not uncommon for venues to offer 4 or 6- hour rentals and then each additional hour is at a premium. Sometimes, the dressing suites are only offered for a limited time, meaning you'll need a Plan B for storing your personal items. If you choose to reserve the full-day wedding option, you'll have full use of the venue from 9am until midnight.



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SIX

PRICING VARIATION:

Is your rental based on your guest count? Anyone who has organized a large event will tell you that the guest count will change along the planning journey. At HR Ranch, pricing is based solely upon season + day of the week, not guest count.

SEVEN

PAYMENT PLANS:

Are there fees associated with paying by credit card? It is not uncommon for venues to tack on 3-5% of your total cost for paying with a credit card. Make sure you look closely at the bottom line if you plan to earn those credit card points and know which venue fees you can and can't pay with a card.

EIGHT

PAPERWORK:

Do you have to submit permits or insurance? Some venues require alcohol permits for the bar, health permits for a caterer/bakery to provide food, or special event general liability insurance and permits.

NINE

CLEANUP + BREAKDOWN:

Is this included in your cost? Sometimes, venues have an additional fee for the cleanup services. Or worse, cleanup of the facility is entirely on you, the client. After your wedding, do you want to be stacking tables + chairs? Probably not! At HR Ranch, we will take care of the setup, as well as the cleanup + breakdown.

TEN

DAMAGE OR MAINTENANCE DEPOSIT:

How much is it and when is it due? It is standard practice at venues to hold a deposit for the case of excess damage. This damage is rare, but it happens. If the deposit is due upfront at the time of contract signing, you will be out those funds for the entire engagement until an assessment can be performed after your event. Sometimes, the deposit for damages can be up to \$1,000.



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