



## Choosing Your Wedding Transport

Your wedding is one of the biggest events of your life, so you will probably want to arrive in style. You will be travelling for the last time as 'single' people and for the first as husband and wife, so why not make these special and emotional journeys in the vehicle of your dreams? Let's face it, what other chance will you have to make a grand entrance in a vintage Rolls Royce or enjoy a romantic journey in a horse and carriage?! From advising on different modes of travel through to questions to ask a prospective supplier, this guide is designed to help you with the process of choosing and hiring your wedding day transport.

### Travelling in Style



The mode of transport you choose for your wedding will naturally depend on your personal tastes, but it should also reflect your wedding style and theme. For example, a horse and carriage may be the perfect complement to a traditional wedding held in a country manor, but would be less appropriate for a minimalistic or contemporary celebration.

When thinking about your transport, consider the following questions:

- \* *What is your transport budget?*
- \* *For whom do you need to hire special transport?*

For example, will you provide transport for the mother of the bride and bridesmaids? Does the groom want to arrive at the ceremony in his personal choice of vehicle? Do you need to hire mini-buses or coaches to transport your guests from the ceremony to the reception? Knowing your transport requirements is important for your budgeting and will help you focus your research

- \* *How many journeys do you need to make?*

Are you only travelling from your place of getting ready to the ceremony, or do you also have a journey from the ceremony to the reception? This will affect the length of time for which you require your transport, which may affect the price depending on the company used and their pricing structure. Some companies may accommodate extra journeys depending on the distance involved (e.g. transport mother of bride and bridesmaids to ceremony venue and return for bride and her father)

- \* *How long is each journey?*

This will not only govern the time for which you require your transport, but may also influence your choice of vehicle. For example, a horse and carriage will only be able to travel a limited distance so would not be appropriate for a longer journey. In addition, vintage cars travel more slowly than modern vehicles, so you will need to factor these extended times into your wedding day schedule

Having drawn up a list of our travel requirements you are in a position to start thinking about the type of transport you would like for your wedding day. Many brides love the idea of arriving at their wedding in a horse and carriage or traditional white wedding car, but there are lots of other options available if these aren't for you. There are also plenty of choices for the groom - it's his special day too, so there's no reason why he shouldn't arrive in style as well!



#### HORSE AND CARRIAGE

The most traditional and romantic style of wedding travel, and certain to attract plenty of attention. Ideal for traditional and formal weddings. Remember that horses travel fairly slowly, so you will only be able to travel a limited distance. If you are holding your ceremony and reception at the same venue, consider taking a journey around the grounds after your ceremony to enjoy some special time together



#### VINTAGE CAR

Probably the most popular form of wedding transport. Ideal alternative to horse and carriage for longer journeys whilst retaining a formal and traditional style. Numerous options available from range of eras (e.g. 1930s, 1950s, 1960s, etc) to suit different tastes. Popular makes include Rolls Royce, Daimler, Bentley and Austin; open-top cars often available

#### PRESTIGE CAR

Ideal if you want something special without the tradition and formality of a vintage car; also suitable option for groom's transport. Examples include Rolls-Royce, Bentley, BMW, Mercedes, Aston Martin and Jaguar.

#### SOMETHING QUIRKY

A less formal style of vehicle, ideal if you love a particular make of car or want something original for a modern wedding. Popular examples include the Volkswagen Beetle, Camper Van and Morris Minor

#### LIMOUSINE

Alternative to the traditional wedding car; suitable for modern wedding style. Can be particularly useful for transporting several bridesmaids. A stretch hummer can offer a more masculine look for the groom and his attendants

#### CITY TRAVEL

A more unique and unusual form of transport, such as a white Hackney cab or red London bus, can be perfect for a modern city wedding



#### SPORTS CAR

Suitable option for the groom that loves fast cars and guaranteed to turn heads! Limited room inside, so avoid this option for travelling together if you have a large wedding dress! Popular examples include Ferrari, Maserati and Aston Martin

#### WALKING

A very special and personal way of making your last 'single' journey, and perfect if you are getting ready very near to your venue. We particularly love this idea for village or country weddings

#### HELICOPTER

A sure way of making a grand entrance, but very expensive and requires logistical planning. If you choose this option, ensure your venue can accommodate a helicopter landing/take-off

### Finding and Meeting a Transport Provider

Draw up a shortlist of your travel requirements to assist you when researching prospective transport providers. Use personal recommendations and ask your venue for a list of their recommended transport companies. Some companies will exhibit at local wedding fairs, but these tend to be vintage cars only and there is often only space



for one or two vehicles. Most companies will have a website where you can find more information about their prices and view galleries of their available vehicles. Create a shortlist of those companies that meet your requirements within your budget, and whose vehicles you would like to view personally.

The primary reason for meeting a prospective transport provider is to view their vehicles. You can get a good idea of whether you like a particular type or style of vehicle, but you won't know whether you will be completely happy with it for your wedding until you have seen it in person. Take your time to inspect the vehicle and ensure you sit in it wherever possible. Is it clean? Are there any dents or scratches? Are the seats comfortable? Is there enough room to fit a wedding dress? Also make sure you use this viewing as an opportunity to ask any additional questions to ensure you are happy that the supplier is suitable for your wedding.

### General Questions

- \* For how long have they provided wedding transport?
- \* Are they fully insured and do they have public liability insurance?
- \* How many weddings do they do in a single day? Will you have exclusive use of your chosen vehicle on the day, or will it be needed at another wedding? Most companies will only book one wedding per vehicle per day
- \* Do they know your wedding venue? Can they recommend a particular route? For example, they may know of a more picturesque route; if they are unfamiliar with the venue, you may need to provide them with a map nearer the date
- \* Will they complete extra journeys (for example, will they transport the mother of the bride and bridesmaids to the ceremony and return to collect the bride and her father)? Does this incur an extra charge?

### Prices

- \* What are the prices and what is the pricing structure? For example, some companies will charge a fixed fee for the use of a vehicle irrespective of the time or number of journeys required, whilst others may charge an hourly rate
- \* Are the services of the chauffeur included in the price?
- \* Does the price include VAT?
- \* Do they provide car ribbons/decorations and are these included in the price? Can you choose a ribbon colour to match your colour scheme?
- \* Can they provide champagne for your journey after the ceremony? Is this included in the price?

### Practicalities

- \* How often are the cars serviced? Will the car(s) be fully valeted before the day?
- \* How long do they estimate each journey will take (keep in mind the day and time of your wedding, and the type of vehicle being used)?
- \* How early will they arrive to collect you for the ceremony?
- \* Will the driver wear a chauffeur uniform?
- \* Is there a contingency plan if the car breaks down?



### Specific questions for horse and carriage

If you are considering hiring a horse and carriage, the questions you will want to ask will be similar to those listed above for a wedding car. However, try to visit the stables where possible to see the horses, assess their temperament and view their living conditions. Also make sure you view the carriage available and sit in it if possible - assess the carriage in the same way you would a car.

- \* What is the maximum length of journey that is possible?
- \* Can the carriage be covered if it rains on the day?
- \* What colour horses will be used?
- \* Will the carriage drivers wear a uniform?
- \* What happens if a horse is unwell and can't be used on the wedding day?