



Wedding Venue in Indianapolis: How To Choose and What To Ask

www.RHatfieldPhotography.com

If you are wondering where to get married in Indianapolis your wedding venue can make all the change in the world when it comes to your wedding day. It sets the tone for your wedding day.

The first thing you need to do before even start looking for a venue is create a wedding budget. Having a budget even if its rough will give you a clear idea of what range of wedding venues to be looking at.

Next step figure out what you want to use your venue for.

Do you plan to have the ceremony and reception in the same venue? You will need to make sure your venue has spaces available for getting ready.

Here is a list of questions you need to ask to make sure you pick the right wedding venue.

1: Is the venue available for your wedding date?

This may seem like a dumb question but from the time you email the venue to set up a site visit and the time you actually show up for the visit it is possible they booked your wedding date. Also if you don't have a definitive date just a time of year, the venue will be able to tell you their available dates for you to choose from. (If you are willing to be flexible changing your wedding date just 1 day can save you a ton of money)

2: How many hours are included in the rental? And when can get get access to set up and tear down? Also is there an overtime fee?

If you are having the ceremony and reception in the same location this is an especially important questions as you will need much more time than you would for just the reception. Some venues have packages with different lengths of time to rent which could cut into your all night partying. And even if your venue will put together the tables, chairs, and decorations for your reception you will still need access to set up and take down any specialty pieces like a photo wall. Your caterer, DJ, florist, ect will also need early access.

3: Is a ceremony rehearsal included?

If you are having your ceremony and reception at the same location. The ceremony rehearsal lets everyone in the ceremony know where they need to be during the ceremony and when. Who walks down with who, when to sit or stand, ect. Ask how far in advance you need to book the time and how long you have for the rehearsal.

4: What sorts of lighting does the venue have?

Either your DJ or live band will bring some sort of party lighting but find out if the venues light dim or is it just fluorescent on or off. Having the lights off is a safety risk for older guests and those who have enjoyed a few drinks. Soft dim light is enough to see where people are going and gives the venue a romantic feel.

5: Are there alcohol restrictions?

If you plan of having alcohol, this is an important question. Some venues will let you bring in your own alcohol and others will require you to purchase it through them or hire a bartering service. Also ask if there is a cut off time of if guests can still be served until the end.

6: Are there decor restrictions?

Barn venues typically do not allow candles or open flames. Others will not let you throw small items like confetti and if you're having a New Years eve wedding that can be a problem. If you plan to do a sparkler exit this is when you would ask if the venue allows for it. Don't buy 300 long burn sparklers only find out 10 mins before your exit that your venue won't allow it (I've seen it happen)

7: Do you host more than one event on the same day.

Some wedding venues around Indianapolis offer multiple spaces at the same location. They could hold a garden wedding and a manor wedding at the same time. You will need to think about your guests and make sure they know they go to the right wedding and dont get lost. This may not be a deal breaker for you but for some weddings it would be.

8: What kind of equipment do you provide?

You may be planning of having a slideshow of photos from throughout your relationship to play during your reception. Ask if your venue has A/V equipment like a projector you can use or if one will need to be secured from somewhere else. If they do have equipment for use, ask for a list. You may be surprised to find they have something free to use that you were going to rent.

9: Do you provide Liability insurance?

The last thing you want to worry about is your uncle Bob who loves his White Russians a bit too much to knock something over breaking it and you have to pay for it. If a venue does not include liability insurance there are plenty of companies who do, ask your venue for a recommendation.

10: Do you allow outside vendors?

Many vendors will require you to use their in house caterers, cake bakers, even bartenders. If they don't they may require you to pay an additional fee to bring in your favorite caterer.

11: Is parking included?

Parking is a valuable commodity in downtown Indianapolis. If you are getting married downtown be sure to ask about the parking situation. Once you get outside downtown this is much less of an issue but still good to ask!

Along with seeing the venue in person, these questions should give you a great idea of weather or not it is right for your wedding day. But there are still 2 important aspects to look over before you sign anything!

Ask for a price breakdown.

Some wedding venues have been known to have a low entry fee to avoid sticker shock get you to book and then tack on hidden fees everywhere you turn. From things like moving furniture, corking fees, RESTROOM FEES, Climate control fees (for hot summer weddings or cold winter weddings), external

