

# Winter Weddings





# Create a Custom Newspaper

Are you looking for a unique and stylish way to share your wedding details with your guests?

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Custom wedding newspapers have been gaining serious momentum at weddings over the past year. These personalized newspapers offer a versatile and memorable way to convey all the essential information while adding a touch of charm and creativity to your big day.

## MULTIFACETED USES

One of the most popular ways to incorporate a custom wedding newspaper is as a save the date or part of your invitation suite. Imagine your guests' delight when they receive a beautifully crafted newspaper detailing your upcoming nuptials. This creative approach sets the tone for your wedding and ensures that your guests remember the date. Sending out an early reminder is especially

helpful for winter weddings where the holidays can create many date conflicts.

With room for stories, photos and even engagement anecdotes, your wedding newspaper can be a unique keepsake that guests will cherish.

For those planning a destination or multi-day wedding celebration, popping a custom newspaper into wedding welcome bags is a fantastic idea. These newspapers can include a schedule of events, local attractions and tips for guests to make the most of their stay. It's a warm, personal touch that makes guests feel appreciated and well-informed, helping them navigate your wedding festivities with ease.

Traditional ceremony programs are given a fresh twist when transformed into a wedding newspaper. This

alternative allows for more content, such as personal stories about the bridal party, messages from family members and insights into the wedding traditions you've chosen. Guests can read through the details while waiting for the ceremony to start, keeping them engaged and excited about the proceedings.

After the wedding, a custom newspaper can serve as a heartfelt thank-you card. Fill it with highlights from the day, messages of gratitude to your guests and favorite photos from the event. This lasting memento will remind your loved ones of the special moments they shared with you.

## GETTING CREATIVE

Custom wedding newspapers offer a canvas for your creativity. Consider

adding crossword puzzles, word searches, or trivia games related to your love story. This playful content entertains guests and provides a fun way for them to engage with your wedding details. Include humorous anecdotes, favorite quotes or even a comic strip for a personal touch that reflects your personality as a couple.

One of the most compelling aspects of a custom wedding newspaper is the opportunity to tell your love story in an intimate and detailed way. Share the story of how you met, the proposal and your journey together. Include interviews with family and friends or a timeline of significant events in your relationship. This narrative element adds depth to your wedding celebration, allowing guests to connect with your story on a deeper level.

# Choose Experiences Over Gifts

For some couples, more stuff is exactly what they don't need when they get married.

According to a Tinggly survey, wedding registries are increasingly being filled with experiences instead of physical items as newlyweds are increasingly appreciating quality time and shared adventures.

Their survey results said that 82% of the 1,000 people responding found experiences to be more memorable than traditional wedding gifts. These might include things like adventure outings, cooking classes or luxurious getaways.

Laurynas Kundrotas, CEO of Tinggly, reported, "From adrenaline-pumping adventures to wellness spa getaways, these once-in-a-lifetime experiences are becoming more popular gift items on gift registries and at weddings. Even gifts of cash are being used to fund newlywed adventures, with more than 80% of newlyweds applying cash gifts towards their honeymoon experiences."

The survey revealed that 43% of respondents consider experiential gifts the most notable because they create opportunities for new adventures together. Additionally, 39% emphasized that while physical items like kitchen appliances may come and go, the memories created through shared experiences can last a lifetime.

Respondents reported various types of experiences they would like to receive as wed-



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ding gifts:

- 28%: Adventures like hot air balloon rides or skydiving.
- 20%: The freedom to choose their own experience.
- 19%: Relaxation such as couples massages or spa days.
- 19%: Getaways like luxurious hotel stays or weekend staycations.

Other ideas can include things like passes to a local museum, season tickets to a local theater or concert hall, meal delivery kits, dance lessons, name change services,

wine clubs, home improvement or even charitable giving.

Despite the rising popularity of experiential gifts, cash remains a favored option, with nearly 35% of respondents preferring it as a wedding gift. However, wedding gift budgets have not kept pace with inflation. About a third of respondents indicated they spend between \$50 and \$100 on a wedding present, while another 30% keep their spending under \$150.

Zola recommends organizing

a gift registry by price point to allow options for people with different budgets. They further recommend that you have at least one registry item for every guest you are inviting, keeping in mind that some people may pool their funds to gift a higher-ticket item.

"Our expectations of guests are quite high and can be extremely costly, and sometimes people can't always afford the same things we can," said Alyssa Davies, a personal financial writer. "As long as you

have a range of prices, there can be a way to make everyone feel as though they're able to support you on your new adventure as a married couple."

Registries remain relevant, with 46% of respondents stating they always purchase from a couple's registry if one is available.

In addition to Tinggly, other places that offer experiences on their registries include Honeyfund, The Knot Registry Store, Zola and Honeymoon Fund.

# Unique Accessories

Winter weddings offer a magical backdrop for nuptials, with snow-dusted landscapes and cozy, festive vibes.

While long-sleeve dresses are a staple for winter brides, there's a growing trend toward unconventional bridal attire that adds a unique twist to traditional wedding looks. From elegant capes to luxurious faux fur stoles and custom-designed jackets, these accessories provide warmth and bring an extra layer of style and personality to bridal ensembles.

## ELEGANT CAPE

A sophisticated cape can transform a bridal look, adding drama and elegance. Capes come in various lengths and fabrics, allowing brides to find one that complements their dress perfectly. A long, flowing cape made of delicate lace or tulle can create a fairytale aesthetic, perfect for a winter wonderland wedding. For a more modern look, shorter capes with intricate beadwork or embroidery can add a touch of glamour without overshadowing the dress.

Capes also offer practical benefits. They provide an extra layer of warmth during outdoor photo sessions or ceremonies, and they can be easily removed for indoor receptions, giving brides versatility in their attire. Whether



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opting for a minimalist design or an ornate piece, a cape is a chic addition that elevates any winter bridal outfit.

## LUXURIOUS FAUX FUR STOLES

Faux fur stoles are a timeless

choice for winter brides seeking both warmth and sophistication. These accessories drape gracefully over the shoulders, adding a luxurious touch. Available in various shades and styles, faux fur stoles can be matched with any

wedding dress, from classic white gowns to more contemporary colors.

Faux fur stoles are fashionable and functional, keeping brides warm during chilly winter weddings. They can be styled in multiple ways

— draped loosely for a relaxed look or secured with a vintage brooch for a more polished appearance. This versatility makes them a popular choice for brides who want to make a statement while staying comfortable in winter weather.

## CUSTOM-DESIGNED JACKETS

For brides who want to showcase their individuality, custom-designed jackets offer a perfect blend of style and personal expression. These jackets can be tailored to match the wedding theme and the bride's unique taste, featuring everything from elegant lace details to bold, embroidered designs.

Leather or denim jackets with custom embellishments, such as the bride's new last name, wedding date, or meaningful quotes, add a fun and edgy element to the bridal look. For a more refined option, silk or satin jackets with delicate embroidery or beading provide a sophisticated touch.

## THE PRACTICAL APPEAL

In addition to their aesthetic appeal, these unconventional bridal accessories offer practical benefits. Winter weddings often involve braving the cold for beautiful outdoor photos or ceremonies, and these accessories ensure that brides stay warm without compromising on style. They allow for easy transitions between different parts of the wedding day, from outdoor ceremonies to indoor receptions.

# Customs and Traditions

Winter weddings offer a picturesque and enchanting backdrop for couples to exchange vows.

Around the world, different cultures have their own unique ways of celebrating winter nuptials, incorporating customs, rituals and traditions filled with cultural meaning.

## SCANDINAVIAN WEDDINGS

In Scandinavian countries like Norway and Sweden, winter weddings are deeply rooted in tradition and natural beauty. A typical Scandinavian wedding often features a snowy landscape, rustic wooden churches and candlelit ceremonies that create a warm and intimate atmosphere. Brides traditionally wear white woolen capes over their gowns to stay warm, and grooms don classic black suits with fur-lined cloaks.

One unique custom is the “Kransekake,” a towering cake made of concentric rings of almond paste or cookie rings, decorated with ornaments. This cake symbolizes prosperity and happiness for the newlyweds. Additionally, Scandinavian weddings often include a communal toast called “skaal,” where guests raise their glasses to wish the couple well.

## INDIAN WEDDINGS

In India, winter is considered



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an auspicious time for weddings, especially in the northern regions. Indian winter weddings are known for their vibrant colors, elaborate decorations and extensive rituals that can span several days. One of the most significant traditions is the “saptapadi,” where the bride and groom take seven steps around a sacred fire, each step representing a vow they make to each other.

Weddings in India often incorporate rich, warm colors like deep reds, golds and maroons. Brides typically wear heavily embroidered sarees or lehengas, and grooms don ornate sherwanis. A popular custom is the “mehndi”

ceremony, where intricate henna designs are applied to the bride’s hands and feet, symbolizing joy, beauty and spiritual awakening.

## JAPANESE WEDDINGS

Japanese weddings blend modern practices with traditional Shinto rituals. Many couples opt for a Shinto shrine wedding, where they partake in the “san-san-kudo” ceremony, exchanging sake cups in a ritual that signifies unity and mutual commitment. Brides wear white silk kimonos called “shiro-muku,” symbolizing purity and a new beginning, while grooms wear black kimonos with family crests.

A unique aspect of Japanese weddings is the “kagami-biraki” ceremony, where the couple breaks open a sake barrel with wooden mallets, sharing the sake with their guests as a wish for good fortune and happiness. The winter season often brings a serene, snowy landscape that adds a touch of magic to these celebrations.

## RUSSIAN WEDDINGS

Russian weddings are characterized by their grandiosity and rich traditions. A traditional Russian wedding can last several days and includes various customs such as the “korovai” bread ceremony,

where a beautifully decorated bread is shared among guests as a symbol of prosperity and good luck. Brides often wear fur-trimmed dresses and capes, while grooms don classic suits with traditional Russian hats.

One unique ritual is the “ransom of the bride,” where the groom must “pay” a symbolic ransom to the bride’s family, often involving humorous challenges and games. This tradition adds an element of fun and festivity to the celebration. The winter setting, with its snow-covered landscapes and cozy indoor venues, enhances the fairy-tale atmosphere of Russian weddings.

# Capturing the Magic

Winter weddings offer a magical backdrop that can make your special day even more memorable.

The unique atmosphere of the season provides photographers with a plethora of creative opportunities to capture stunning and enchanting images.

## SNOWY PORTRAITS

One of the most iconic elements of a winter wedding is the snowy landscape. Snow-covered trees, glistening fields, and frosty air create a pristine and romantic setting for wedding portraits.

Photographers can take advantage of the natural light reflecting off the snow, which creates a soft, diffused glow that enhances the couple's features and adds a dreamy quality to the photos. Couples can embrace the winter wonderland theme by incorporating cozy accessories like fur stoles, elegant capes and warm blankets, which add to the aesthetic and keep them comfortable during outdoor shoots.

## COZY INDOOR SHOTS

For those who don't want to spend a lot of time in the chilly air, they can still celebrate winter with cozy indoor photography. Winter weddings can feature warm, inviting indoor venues with roaring fireplaces, candlelit rooms and



richly decorated interiors. These settings provide an intimate and comfortable atmosphere for capturing candid moments and romantic portraits.

Photographers can play with the warm lighting and shadows to create a soft, inviting ambiance in the photos. Details like wooden beams, plush furnishings and seasonal decorations add to the charm and create a perfect backdrop for indoor shots.

## HOLIDAY AND FESTIVE DETAILS

Winter weddings often coincide with the holiday season, offering a chance to

incorporate festive elements into wedding photography. Christmas trees, twinkling lights, garlands and holiday-themed decorations add a magical touch to the photos.

Photographers can capture the joy and spirit of the season by highlighting these details in their shots. Whether it's the couple sharing a kiss under the mistletoe, exchanging gifts by a beautifully decorated tree, or toasting with holiday-themed drinks, these festive elements add warmth and cheer to the wedding album.

## NIGHTTIME SHOTS

Winter's early sunsets and long nights provide a unique

opportunity for nighttime wedding photography. The dark skies and cool, crisp air can be used to create dramatic and enchanting images.

Photographers can experiment with different lighting techniques, such as fairy lights, sparklers and lanterns, to add a magical glow to nighttime shots. The contrast between the dark surroundings and the illuminated couple can produce striking and romantic photos. Additionally, nighttime shots can capture the ambiance of the reception, with guests dancing under twinkling lights or the couple sharing a quiet moment outside under the stars.

## PRACTICAL TIPS

Preparation is key. Photographers should be aware of the shorter daylight hours and plan the schedule accordingly to ensure enough time for outdoor shots. Have a plan B in case of severe weather, with indoor locations identified for photo sessions.

Couples should be prepared with appropriate attire, such as warm layers and comfortable footwear for outdoor shoots.

Communication between the couple and the photographer ensures everyone is on the same page about any specific shots or locations they have in mind.

# Memorable Wedding Spots

The allure of winter wonderlands is capturing the hearts of many planning unique wedding destinations.

From breathtaking natural landscapes to cozy, intimate settings, here are some winter wedding destinations that are perfect for couples looking to add a touch of magic to their special day.

## ALASKA LEGENDS LODGE, ALASKA

Nestled in the heart of the Alaskan wilderness, Alaska Legends Lodge offers an extraordinary setting for a winter wedding. Surrounded by snow-capped mountains and frozen lakes, this lodge provides a serene and picturesque backdrop for an intimate ceremony. Couples can exchange vows under the Northern Lights. The lodge's rustic charm and cozy interiors make it an ideal spot for a warm, inviting reception.

## WHISTLER BLACKCOMB SKI RESORT, CANADA

For couples who love winter sports and adventure, Whistler Blackcomb Ski Resort in British Columbia, Canada, is a dream destination. Known for its world-class skiing and snowboarding, Whistler offers stunning alpine views and luxurious accommodations. Imagine saying "I do" on a mountaintop, followed by a



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cozy reception in a charming chalet. The resort's scenic beauty and village atmosphere provide endless opportunities for wedding photos and activities for guests.

## GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, MONTANA

Glacier National Park in Montana is a hidden gem for winter weddings. With its dramatic landscapes, including snow-dusted peaks, frozen waterfalls and pristine lakes, the park offers a spectacular

setting for a nature-inspired wedding. Couples can choose from various venues within the park, each offering breathtaking views and a sense of tranquility.

## ICE RINK IN SWITZERLAND

Consider an ice rink in Switzerland. Imagine gliding on the ice with your loved one in a breathtaking alpine setting, surrounded by snow-covered trees and majestic mountains. Many Swiss ice rinks offer beautiful

outdoor settings and charming chalets for receptions. This destination idea is perfect for couples who want to add a touch of whimsy and romance to their wedding day.

## ICELAND'S GLACIAL LANDSCAPES

Iceland's otherworldly landscapes make it an enchanting destination for a winter wedding. Couples can exchange vows in front of towering glaciers, beneath cascading waterfalls, or even inside an ice

cave. The country's natural beauty provides a stunning backdrop for wedding photos, while geothermal hot springs and cozy lodges offer warm and inviting reception venues.

## GLASS IGLOOS IN NORWAY

Glass igloos in Norway offer panoramic views of the surrounding snowy landscape and the Northern Lights. Couples can exchange vows under the starry sky, followed by a cozy celebration inside the igloo.

## ARCTIC BATH, SWEDEN

The Arctic Bath in Sweden offers a distinctive and luxurious setting for a winter wedding. This floating hotel and spa, located on the Lule River, features Scandinavian design and a serene atmosphere. Couples can enjoy a tranquil ceremony on the frozen river, followed by a reception in the stylish and cozy interiors of the Arctic Bath.

## DUNDAS CASTLE, SCOTLAND

For a fairy-tale winter wedding, look no further than Dundas Castle in Scotland. This historic castle, set amidst a wintery landscape, offers an enchanting backdrop for a wedding. With its grand architecture, elegant interiors and beautiful gardens, Dundas Castle provides a timeless and romantic setting. Couples can enjoy a traditional Scottish wedding ceremony followed by a lavish reception in the castle's grand rooms.

# DIY Snowflake Centerpieces

Winter weddings are known for their enchanting and magical atmosphere, and handmade snowflake centerpieces can add a beautiful, personal touch to your wedding decor.

These DIY centerpieces are easy to make, cost-effective and customizable to fit your wedding theme. Follow this step-by-step guide to create stunning snowflake centerpieces that will wow your guests and enhance your winter wonderland wedding.

These handmade snowflake centerpieces will catch the light beautifully and add a touch of winter magic to your wedding decor. For a cohesive look, consider adding matching elements such as snowflake-themed place cards or napkin rings.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- White or silver cardstock paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Glue gun and glue sticks
- Glitter or metallic paint (optional)
- Clear vase or glass jar
- Fairy lights or LED candles
- Winter-themed embellishments (e.g., pine cones, berries, faux snow)



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## DIRECTIONS

### Step 1: Draw and Cut Out Snowflakes

Begin by drawing snowflakes on the cardstock paper. To make symmetrical snowflakes, fold the paper into quarters and draw half of the snowflake pattern along the fold. You can find templates online or create your own designs. Carefully cut out the snowflake with scissors. Unfold the paper to reveal your beautiful snowflake.

### Step 2: Add Sparkle

To give your snowflakes an extra touch of magic, add some sparkle using glitter or metallic paint. Apply a thin layer of glue to the edges or specific parts of the snowflake, then sprinkle glitter over it.

Shake off the excess glitter and let it dry. Alternatively, you can use metallic paint to highlight certain areas, giving the snowflakes a frosty, shimmering appearance.

### Step 3: Create Multiple Snowflakes

Repeat steps 1 and 2 to create multiple snowflakes in various sizes. A mix of large, medium and small snowflakes will add depth and dimension to your centerpieces. Aim for at least five to seven snowflakes per centerpiece, depending on the size of your vase or jar.

### Step 4: Assemble the Centerpiece

Place a few fairy lights or an LED

candle inside the clear vase or glass jar. These lights will illuminate your snowflakes, creating a warm and inviting glow. Arrange the larger snowflakes around the inside of the vase, securing them with a glue gun if needed. Continue adding the medium and small snowflakes, layering them to create a full and textured look.

### Step 5: Add Winter-Themed Embellishments

Enhance your centerpiece with winter-themed embellishments. Scatter pine cones, berries or faux snow inside the vase for a festive touch. You can also glue small pine cones or sprigs of greenery to the outside of the vase for added detail. If using faux snow, sprinkle a

light layer over the top of the snowflakes to create a wintry effect.

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Using high-quality cardstock and embellishments will ensure your snowflake centerpieces look professional and last throughout your event.

Before you start cutting, plan your snowflake designs and overall centerpiece arrangement to save time and avoid mistakes.

Creating snowflakes in batches can streamline the process and help you maintain consistency in size and design.

Cutting snowflake designs can be time-consuming. Take your time and be patient for the best results.