

The Complete Wedding Experience

All-inclusive wedding packages are being crafted to offer a seamless and worry-free experience, ensuring couples focus on celebration instead of coordination.

By Bindu Gopal Rao



Hotels are going the whole length when it comes to weddings, as they are an important revenue stream.

Holistic wedding packages at hotels offer accommodation, venue spaces, curated décor, thematic lighting, entertainment, food and beverage, and complete event management support. Experts weigh in.

Wow Weddings

Today’s couples are looking beyond typical venues; they are seeking emotion, character, and story. The demand for hotel weddings is driven by the desire for immersive experiences that reflect personal identity and style.

Lalit Mundkur, General Manager, Fort JadhavGadh, Pune, says, “Our packages are special because of the feeling they create. From a traditional Maharashtrian welcome with tutari and dhol to heritage-themed décor, royal processions, and authentic culinary experiences, every element is designed to transport guests to another era. Guests can stay in our heritage accommodations that include the Kholi Deluxe Rooms, Neem Forest Cottages, Maharaja and Maharani Suites, and the Chavani (luxury tents), which offer a rustic yet royal stay. The fort’s courtyards, lawns, and bastions provide picture-perfect settings for each ceremony, be it a vibrant Haldi, soulful Mehendi, or a grand Sangeet under the stars.”

Interestingly, at Fort JadhavGadh, weddings are not just ceremonies; they are experiences woven into history. Built in 1710 by Pilaji Jadhavrao, a Maratha general under Chhatrapati Shahu



Lalit Mundkur, General Manager, Fort JadhavGadh, Pune

“From pre-wedding gatherings to grand banquets and post-wedding brunches, planning every milestone is delivered with precision and warmth.”

- Rahul Joshi



Rahul Joshi, General Manager, Shangri-La Bengaluru

Maharaj, the fort carries over 300 years of royal legacy. People come here to feel what it was like to be a king and queen back in the day, to walk through ancient stone pathways, exchange vows under towering bastions, and celebrate amidst centuries-old grandeur. “Every corner of the fort tells a story, from the regal courtyards and ramparts to the majestic gateways that overlook the valley, creating an atmosphere that makes guests feel like they have stepped into another era. What sets us apart is not just the heritage architecture but the emotional connection it evokes. Here, every couple does not just host a wedding; they live a royal chapter of their own love story,” avers Mundkur.

At Shangri-La Bengaluru, every wedding unfolds against the city’s most breathtaking backdrop of panoramic views of Bangalore Palace and the skyline that lend a regal yet contemporary charm.

“Our hallmark lies in how seamlessly we blend grand celebrations with meticulous hospitality. With 397 luxurious rooms, versatile indoor and outdoor venues, and award-winning restaurants all under one roof, we offer a setting designed for multi-day festivities without logistical challenges. What truly distinguishes us is Bandhan by Shangri-La, our signature wedding programme that provides end-to-end solutions for couples. From intimate pre-wedding gatherings to sustainable grand banquets and post-wedding brunches, planning every milestone and every event is delivered with precision and warmth,” says Rahul Joshi, General Manager, Shangri-La Bengaluru.

Each celebration is guided by a dedicated wedding specialist who ensures that every ritual, meal, and moment reflects the couple’s personal story. Supported by a network of Shangri-La hotels across the Middle East, the Indian Ocean, and Asia,



Hotels have multiple venues, spacious lawns and more that are perfect for large-scale weddings



There has been a growing shift toward destination-style weddings that prioritise intimate gatherings paired with immersive experiences

couples can extend their celebrations or honeymoons seamlessly across destinations, all with the same trusted service ethos.

Going Grand

Hotels are going the whole length when it comes to weddings, as they are an important revenue stream. For example, Sterling Aravalli Udaipur offers tiered wedding and banquet packages—Silver, Gold, Platinum, and Diamond—designed to cater to diverse scales and preferences. These packages range from Rs20 lakh to Rs36 lakh or can be availed on a per-person basis between Rs2,000 and Rs2,800 plus taxes. Each package includes an elaborate selection of welcome drinks, vegetarian starters, soups, and salads, followed by a multi-cuisine main course featuring Indian, Oriental, and Continental offerings. Guests are treated to dessert and ice cream counters, along with up to four live stations depending on the package.



Harinath M, Sr Vice President of Marketing, Sterling Holiday Resorts

“Couples prefer venues that offer convenience, scenic beauty, and self-contained infrastructure where accommodation and celebrations coexist effortlessly.”

- Harinath M

Optional add-ons such as tea and coffee counters, additional live counters, extra desserts, and gluten- or dairy-free alternatives are available. High tea menus featuring snacks, desserts, and beverages can be added for pre-wedding functions like Mehendi or Haldi. Harinath M, Sr Vice President of Marketing, Sterling Holiday Resorts, says, “Sterling Aravalli Udaipur stands out for its breathtaking setting, nestled against the Aravalli hills and surrounded by tranquil greenery. The resort blends natural beauty with Rajasthani grandeur through architecture that reflects regional heritage while offering modern luxury.” Expansive lawns, mountain vistas, and personalised service ensure every celebration feels exclusive. “The true differentiator lies in its versatile indoor and outdoor venues that allow everything from open-air ceremonies under the stars to poolside Sangeets, all within one seamless location. Strategically located away from the hustle of Udaipur city, the venue provides convenience without compromising on the serenity of a destination wedding,” adds Harinath.

Space Advantage

Hotels have multiple venues, spacious lawns and more that are perfect for large-scale weddings. Signature Club Resort, a part of Brigade Hospitality, for instance, stands out as an all-in-one wedding destination that blends elegance, convenience, and natural beauty. Located within the expanse of Brigade Orchards and just 20 minutes from Kempegowda International Airport, it offers the perfect balance of accessibility and serenity. The resort features expansive green lawns ideal for grand celebrations, flexible banquet spaces including the air-conditioned Silver Oak Hall and the charming Courtyard Café with an al fresco, and naturally landscaped surroundings that require minimal décor.

Gurmeet Singh, AVP, Brigade Hospitality, says, “We offer multiple thoughtfully curated packages to suit different celebration styles. For example, our Elegant Essentials package includes the accommodation among our rooms, suites, and villas; a chef’s choice buffet; access to the lawns, Silver Oak, and Jasmine Halls; and full use of indoor and outdoor sports facilities. The Grand Celebration package offers the same accommodation options along with an elaborate multi-cuisine menu with live counters, continuous tea/ coffee service, a gala dinner with a DJ night, and access to all banquet venues. Recreational amenities available in this package include world-class sports facilities and wellness spaces.”



Sanjeev Kumar, GM, Naukuchia House



Gurmeet Singh, AVP, Brigade Hospitality



The surge in weddings at resorts is driven by a combination of convenience and experience

Curated Experiences

The surge in weddings at resorts is driven by a combination of convenience and experience. Open lawns inspire creative décor concepts, while spacious rooms and villas cater to large family gatherings. Guests also appreciate the natural décor of a hotel or resort, personalised service, and the venue’s ability to host everything from pre-wedding shoots to post-event brunches. Weddings are increasingly reflecting contemporary preferences and evolving guest expectations.

“Eco-conscious décor is also gaining popularity, with many opting for sustainable, locally sourced flowers and materials. Technology is playing a bigger role, with drone videography, live streaming, and digital invitations becoming standard features. Culinary experiences are also being elevated through live food stations and regional fusion menus. Additionally, social media continues to influence wedding design, with custom hashtags, themed photo walls, and Instagrammable installations becoming essential elements,” says Singh.

Sealing the Deal

Weddings at hotels are increasingly shaped by personalised and experiential elements. Culinary experiences have taken centre stage with customised live counters, dessert bars, and regional fusion menus. Celebrations are now curated across multiple days, resembling festive retreats with themed brunches, pool parties, and sundowner receptions. Couples are opting for intimate guest lists but elevating aesthetics and service levels with high-impact décor, live streaming, and personalised storytelling.

“Culinary experiences are elevated through live food stations and regional menus. Social media influences wedding design, with Instagrammable installations, etc.”

- Gurmeet Singh

Sanjeev Kumar, GM, Naukuchia House, says, “Naukuchia House offers a rare blend of colonial elegance and Himalayan serenity, making it one of North India’s most intimate and offbeat wedding destinations. Perched beside the mystical nine-cornered lake of Naukuchiatal, the hotel’s Palladian architecture, exclusive scale, and immersive rituals create a naturally romantic setting. With just 40 rooms and two suites, the property is ideal for full buyouts, ensuring privacy, personalisation, and a deeply soulful celebration that commemorates the connection between the couple and the families.” Wedding packages at Naukuchia House are modular and customisable, designed to blend luxury with local charm. Inclusions typically feature venue styling across lakeside decks, garden lawns, curated menus with multi-cuisine options and Kumaoni specialties, accommodation blocks with full hotel buyouts, experiential add-ons like forest bathing, Victorian high tea, sound healing, and village sundowners, as well as entertainment including folk music, curated playlists, and cultural evenings. Optional enhancements include pre-wedding shoots, spa rituals, and bespoke turndown experiences.

Demand Drivers

There has been a growing shift toward destination-style weddings that prioritise intimate gatherings paired with immersive experiences. There is a noticeable shift toward intimate celebrations, with guest lists typically ranging between 100 and 200, allowing couples to focus on close family and friends.

“Couples today prefer venues that offer convenience, scenic beauty, and self-contained infrastructure where accommodation and celebrations coexist effortlessly. Sterling Aravalli Udaipur caters to this demand by offering a ‘wedding bubble’ that combines privacy, luxury, and nature in one place, eliminating the need for multiple vendors or logistical coordination. Udaipur’s continued status as India’s premier wedding hub also attracts both domestic and international families seeking authentic yet hassle-free celebrations,” says Harinath.

With the wedding industry worth \$130 billion (Rs10 lakh crore), there is a market that is waiting to be tapped, and hoteliers are certainly pulling out all the stops to make the most of the grand celebrations. Ready to wed in style?