

The Guest List

THE GUEST LIST

Begin creating your guest list as soon as possible. Guest list nightmares are every couple's dilemma. When deciding on a guest list, again there are no hard and fast rules but it sure will cause you a lot of stress. Best way to handle it is to split the guest list in three quotas; one for both your mutual friends, next for his parents and relatives the other for the brides relatives and parents. You can then all discuss the lists together and come to an agreement. Remember that the longer your guest list, the bigger your wedding will be, thus the more your budget will have to stretch. You can reduce the guest list to a much smaller number by having an invitation-only reception and insist on RSVP. At the end of the day, let your budget decide the number of guests.

Make certain that all names are spelled correctly and that all addresses are current.

Things to consider:

Children - Determine if you wish to include children. If so, add their names to your list. All children over the age of 16 should receive their own invitation. Never print the words "no children" on your cards. It is polite to say "adult reception".

Out of town guests

Guests 'dates'- guests spouses are generally included in the invite. Your single friends might want to bring their dates. Whether or not you allow it is up to you, there are no rules. Let the members of your wedding party bring their dates even if they are not married.

Co-workers - it might not be possible to invite all your office mates but if you do, consider office politics and decide whom you should invite. Sometimes it may be better to invite all or none.

Rsvp (*reply sil vouz plez*)

Do not be surprised if most guests fail to send back their reply cards or even rsvp to confirm or decline the reply. To help you plan, contact these guests who have not rsvps not later than three weeks before the wedding to ask if they got the card and if they will attend. Unfortunately, we just have to accept this behaviour. Infact generally, 10-15% might not turn up but make no assumptions, you might be surprised by the turn up.

Travel and accommodation arrangements for your out of town guests

If you are expecting a lot of friends and relatives from far away maybe upcountry or overseas, it is good to make their travel easier and their accommodation enjoyable. Check with the airline or your travel agent for special reduced group rates package. Also negotiate with the hotels for special group accommodation rates. (This does not mean you have to pay for their hotel and travel costs if you can't afford. Most people who really want to be at your wedding will pay for themselves). You might want to consider a courtesy bus to transport the guest to different venues.

You might also consider arranging for overseas guests coming to Kenya for the first time to visit the game parks and site seeing as a way of making them feel welcomed.

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