

BEFORE the VEIL

A SERIES OF GUIDES FOR BRIDES TO BE

Bridal Hair Preview: Your Guide on How to Prepare and What to Expect



Hello & Welcome

Hello, beautiful bride-to-be! I'm so excited to be a part of your wedding journey and help you find the perfect hairstyle for your big day. This preview is all about you—your vision, your style, and how you want to feel on one of the most important days of your life. I'll work with you to create a look that complements your dress, enhances your natural beauty, and, most importantly, makes you feel amazing. Whether you're thinking of something classic, romantic, or a little more adventurous, we'll explore all the possibilities together. I'm here to listen to your ideas, offer suggestions, and make sure you leave the preview feeling confident and excited about the final look.

Let's make your bridal hair dreams a reality!

Claire Hartley

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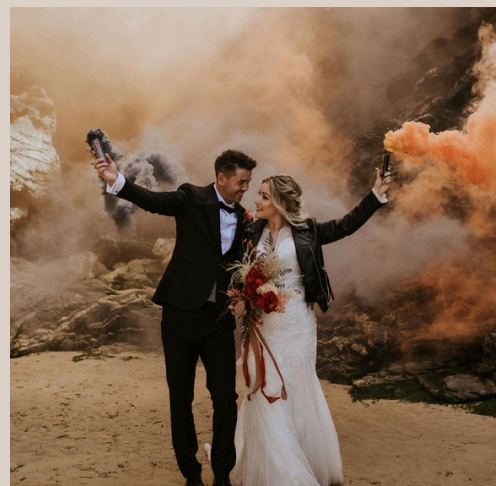
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Research Hairstyles

Before your preview, take some time to research bridal hairstyles that inspire you. Browse wedding magazines, Pinterest, or Instagram for styles that fit your overall wedding theme, dress, and personal taste. Consider the following when choosing styles:

1. Wedding dress style

Your hair should complement your dress, whether it's formal, bohemian, vintage, or modern.

2. Wedding theme

Is your wedding casual, elegant, rustic, or glam? The hairstyle should fit the overall vibe.

3. Hair texture

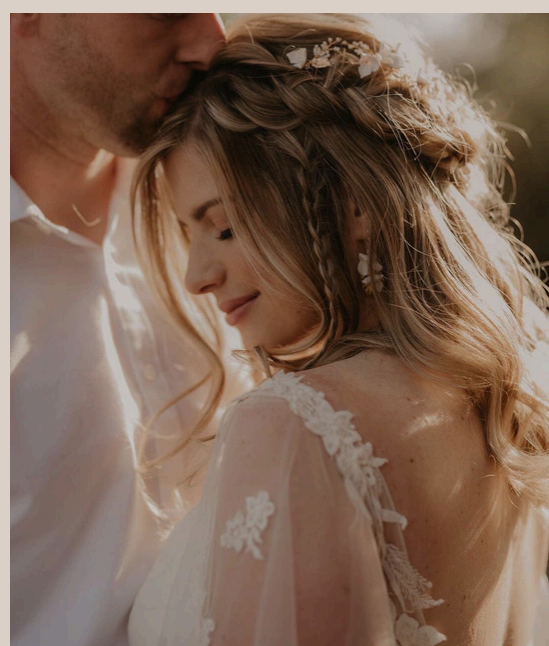
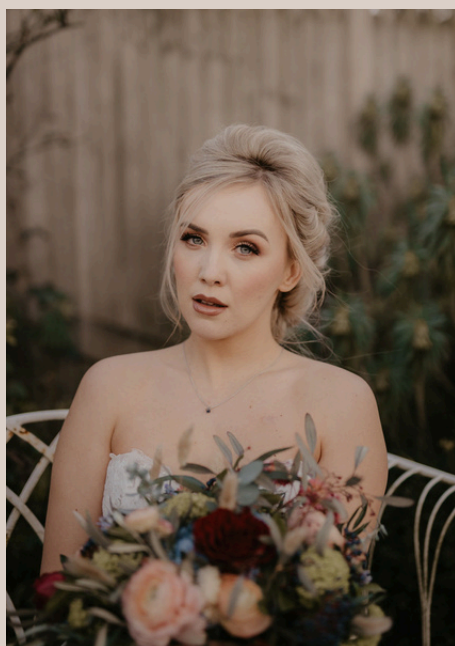
Understand how your natural hair texture (curly, straight, thick, fine) will work with certain styles.

4. Hair accessories

If you plan to wear a veil, headpiece, or flowers, make sure to keep that in mind when choosing styles. Be sure to check out my ["Guide to Bridal Hair Accessories"](#) for vital information and expert tips on this!

5. Hair Colour

When looking for inspiration for hairstyles always try to find models with a similar hair colour to your own. You'd be surprised at how different the same style can look on other shades. You'll then get a clear picture of how the style could look on you.



BY LOOKING FOR THESE TYPES OF PHOTOS, YOU'LL GIVE ME A CLEAR DIRECTION ON WHAT YOU'RE HOPING FOR.

Bring Pictures and Inspiration

1. Inspiration Photos of Hairstyles

Bridal Hairstyles: Bring photos of different bridal hairstyles you love. These should reflect your personal style and wedding theme. Whether it's an updo, loose curls, braids, or a sleek style, these photos will give me a sense of your preferred look.

Real Wedding Hairstyles: It's helpful to bring images of other brides, especially those with similar hair types (colour, length, texture, volume) to yours. This will show me what could work for your hair.

2. Close-Up Photos of Hair Styles You Like

Angle and Detail: If you like a specific detail (e.g., a loose curl, the way hair is pinned back, a twist), bring photos that showcase that. It helps me focus on the precise elements you want to incorporate into your style.

Different Styles: If you're torn between two looks, bring photos of both. For example, one image might be of a chic low bun, and the other might be of soft waves—this will allow me to try out both looks and help you decide.

3. Your Wedding Dress

Dress Style: Bringing a photo of your wedding dress is key because the hairstyle needs to complement the gown. For example, a sleek, modern dress might pair well with a smooth, elegant hairstyle, while a boho dress could match with loose waves or braids.

Neckline and Details: Focus on the dress's neckline, as it can influence how your hair should be styled. A high-neck dress might pair better with an updo or more structured style, while a strapless dress might work well with loose, flowing hair.



4. Photos with Hair Accessories

If you plan to wear a veil, tiara, headband, or any other hair accessories, bring photos of them as well. This will help me see how the accessories might work with different hairstyles.

If you're still unsure about accessories, show pictures of similar styles to see how the accessories might complement your chosen hairstyle. Find out more information on bridal accessories in my ["Guide to Bridal Accessories"](#).

5. Different Angles

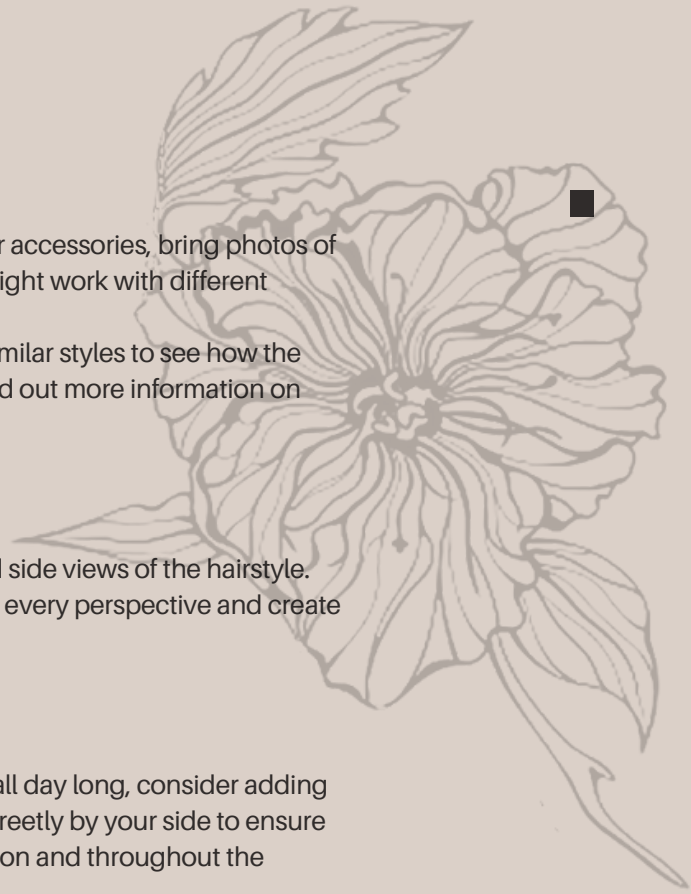
Bring images from various angles, such as front, back, and side views of the hairstyle. This will help me understand how the hairstyle looks from every perspective and create a balanced, flattering look for you.

6. Style maintenance

If you're worried about keeping your hair looking perfect all day long, consider adding my touch-up service for after the ceremony. I will stay discreetly by your side to ensure your hair stays flawless for your photos, during the reception and throughout the festivities. Feel free to contact me for more information.

7. Bridal Hairstyles for Different Wedding Themes

If your wedding has a specific theme (e.g., vintage, rustic, beach, glam), bring photos that reflect how hair should fit within that context. For instance, beach weddings often call for looser, natural waves, while a black-tie wedding might lend itself to more structured, elegant styles.



THE FINISH LINE IS IN SIGHT, AND IT'S TIME TO GIVE YOUR HAIR A LITTLE EXTRA TLC.

Prepare Your Hair

There are certain steps I need you to take at home before arriving for your preview. Here's how to prepare:

- **Wash your hair:** Wash your hair the day before the trial with a Clarifying Shampoo. Clean hair is ideal because it has more texture and is easier to style.
- **Condition your hair:** If you must use a conditioner then use a light one, no heavy treatment masks. However, please do not apply anything to the root area, use only through the mid-lengths and ends.
- **Dry your hair:** Arrive with your hair dry. Dry your hair using a hair dryer and brush, try to smooth the hair and remove any kinks.
- **Avoid heavy styling products:** Please don't use heavy serums or oils, especially on the root area as this can weigh the hair down making styling challenging.

Find out some product recommendations and more on how to prepare your hair in my ["Guide to Preparing your Hair"](#)



FINALLY, THE BIG DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Wear the the Right Clothing



When you come to your bridal hair preview, wearing the right clothing is just as important as bringing the right photos. Here's why it's essential to wear a white top (or something similar) and one with a neckline similar to your wedding dress:

Helps You Visualize the Full Bridal Look

Bridal hair is all about how it complements your dress, and wearing white or a similar shade helps you start to get a sense of the full look. When you're in a white top, it will be easier to imagine how your hair will look on your wedding day, especially with your dress. It allows you to get a better sense of how the hair style matches the overall aesthetic of the bridal look.

Matching the Neckline

Every wedding dress has a unique neckline—whether it's strapless, sweetheart, halter, or off-the-shoulder—and your hairstyle should complement it. Wearing a top with a similar neckline helps us assess how the hair will sit and how it will work with the shape and structure of the dress. For instance, an updo may look great with a strapless dress but might feel off with a high-neck gown. By wearing a similar neckline, you can better visualize how the hairstyle will enhance or balance the overall look.

Avoiding Distractions

The right clothing also ensures you stay focused on the hair. If you're wearing a top that's too busy or colourful, it may distract you from evaluating the hairstyle. White or neutral-coloured tops ensure the focus remains on your hair, rather than what you're wearing. Additionally, a simple top with a similar neckline helps prevent any other clothing choices from clashing with your hair or accessories during the preview.

Comfort and Convenience

A top with a similar neckline to your wedding dress also makes it easier to envision how the hair will feel on the day. You'll have a better idea of whether you want your hair up or down, if you'd like a style that shows off your shoulders or collarbones, or if you feel more confident with a little coverage. This helps me create a style that not only works for you and your dress but also ensures you feel comfortable and confident on your big day.



FINALLY, THE BIG DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

What else to bring along..

Hair Accessories:

If you're planning to wear a veil, tiara, headband, or any other hair accessories, bring them along to the trial. This will help me understand how the accessories could fit into your hairstyle. They can also help suggest alterations or styles that will suit the accessories.

If you don't have your accessories, I do have a selection in my studio to use so you are able to "Try Before You Buy". This can be a better option for those a little unsure of what style they are wanting. For more information on bridal accessories please check out my ["Guide to Bridal Accessories"](#)

Clip In Extensions:

If you have some, bring them along! If you don't have any but are considering them to enhance your bridal hairstyle then I'm here to help.

Please read the following information:

Expert Advice and Colour Matching for Clip-in Hair Extensions

As your stylist, my goal is to make sure you look and feel absolutely stunning on your wedding day. If you're considering clip-in hair extensions for extra volume, length, or a more dramatic look, I'm here to guide you every step of the way.

Colour Matching

One of the most important things when it comes to extensions is ensuring the colour is a perfect match to your natural hair. I'll help you choose the right shade that blends seamlessly with your hair, whether it's a single colour or a combination of shades. I'll also consider how light and shadow will affect the colour in different lighting, ensuring it looks natural in your wedding photos.

I'll ensure your clip-ins feel secure, comfortable, and natural throughout your wedding day, so you don't have to worry about them at all. You'll have the volume and length you've always dreamed of, and your hair will look flawless from every angle.

I do have a few sets in my studio that we can use at your preview so you are able to see how they work with your style. If you decide you would like to invest in some then you can leave it with me and I will get them delivered to your door.



Discuss Wedding Details

The hair preview isn't just about the style—it's also about how it fits into your overall wedding plans.

- **Location:** Discuss the venue. Any specific instructions on how to find you on the wedding morning. As a bridal hairstylist we are often faced with starting very early morning and it's often the case that we are arriving when no one is around to direct us to you. Sometimes we are even trying to navigate our way around in the dark! Please let us know how to contact you on the morning or give us very specific instructions on where we need to go.
- **Parking:** Please ensure we have somewhere to park, preferably close to where you are getting ready. We have a heavy kit we need to transport to your prep area.
- **Schedule:** You will already have provided me with your ceremony time and from this I put together a schedule of timings for your wedding morning. I will share this with you at your preview and if any changes are needed we can make the adjustments.
- **Bridal Party:** If you have booked hair for your bridal party we can discuss this at your preview. I do offer previews for members of the bridal party but generally they are not a necessity. I encourage anyone booked with me to have an inspiration photo to hand and to have a clear idea of the style they want to achieve.



CONCLUSION

And Finally...



Be Open to Suggestions

While it's great to have a vision in mind, be open to my suggestions. I know hair and might have recommendations based on your hair texture and face shape that you haven't thought of. I offer professional advice and feel free to ask questions if you're unsure about a style.

Trial Different Styles

Don't be afraid to try a few different styles during your preview. You can start with your first choice and work your way through others. Testing multiple styles will give you a better idea of what works best for you. We can take photos of each look so you can compare them later.

Schedule a Second Trial (if necessary)

If you're not 100% sure about the look or if you want to experiment with a different style, don't hesitate to schedule a second trial. It's better to be absolutely certain before your big day.

Be Honest with Me!

If you don't love a style or if it's not what you had in mind, be honest with me. A preview is meant for experimentation, and the goal is to find a style that makes you feel beautiful and confident. Share what you do and don't like so I can make adjustments.

With these tips, you'll be well-prepared for your bridal hair preview and able to walk into the trial with confidence. Most importantly, enjoy the process! It's one step closer to your big day, and you'll leave feeling even more excited about the next chapter in your journey.



LET'S WORK TOGETHER
AND CREATE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

You're now prepared for your preview

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL ME AT

CLAIREHARTLEYSTYLIST@GMAIL.COM

