



Choosing your Blackberry Lane Wedding Package. Blackberry Lane offers one day, two day and weekend packages to allow each couple the flexibility they need to create their ideal wedding experience. One day is perfect for those who hire wedding professionals for all aspects. The other packages are great when a couple takes a DIY approach.

Other things to consider when planning your budget:

1. **Prioritize:** Decide on the most important aspects of your wedding and allocate your budget accordingly.
2. **Guest List:** The size of the guest list is one of the biggest drivers in wedding costs. Give some serious thought to who makes your cut. The average invite to attendee is 75-85 percent, however, we have had weddings with a 99% attendee rate.
3. **Time of Year:** Getting married during off seasons. This not only provides discounts for climate-controlled venues, but also may free up the most sought-after wedding professionals to help with your special event.
4. **Food and Drinks:** Buffet or family-style meals can save money as compared to plated dinners. Scheduling services to not include meals but cake and light snacks can also provide some savings when needed. Make sure your budget allows for beer, wine, or full bar services. At Blackberry Lane, we allow you to provide your own alcohol with an insurance liquor rider added to your event insurance.
5. **Dress and Attire:** Shop for dresses and suits during sales or consider renting instead of buying.
6. **Decorations:** Decorations are one place to display your personality and style. Many items that can set your stage may be preowned or borrowed from friends and family. Tableware and linens are part of your reception decorations and allow you to utilize necessary expenditures for multiple purposes.
7. **Flowers:** Flowers can be a big expense at a wedding. Choosing in season flowers can help cut down on this cost. Also, the size and complexity of arrangements can drive up the price.
8. **Cake:** Wedding cakes can be used as part of the food budget if cut at the beginning of the ceremony. This also allows guests to enjoy that part of the celebration who need to leave early.
9. **Photography:** If you only have your Photographer for a short time consider having a friend or family capture late reception photos and departure. Cut the cake at the beginning of the ceremony, move into the first dance, and capture the most important photo moments at the beginning of the ceremony before your photographer leaves.
10. **Music-** Song selection during ceremony is a critical piece in putting meaning behind the message. If you have someone special you want to have perform, get on their book early. If you are going to be using canned music, consider hiring a professional DJ so all your guests can enjoy their day. A good DJ can be a key to keeping your wedding schedule on track.
11. **Officiant:** The days of having to hire an officiant that does not know you or your guest are long gone in Virginia. Anyone who has inspired your life can qualify to officiate your wedding. There are a few extra steps needed, but the Clerk of Court in your area can provide details on what must be done.
12. **Miscellaneous:** Leave room in your budget for the little extras like wedding favors, bridal party gifts, etc. Also do not forget to figure in the after-rehearsal party.