

SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA

Wedding

guide



 Visit
Southern
West Virginia



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SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA: A Wedding *Destination*

Breathtaking overlooks, awe-inspiring vistas, and one-of-a-kind reception venues, Southern West Virginia is a truly unique wedding destination. Whether you want to have a classic, traditional ceremony or you're thinking a little outside of the box, our area has the perfect venue for your nuptials. Explore our little piece of heaven and discover how Southern West Virginia can make your wedding day truly memorable.

.....
RIVER EXPEDITIONS • OAK HILL
Photographer: Kendra Harper



TAMARACK • BECKLEY
Photographer: Lily Elyse Photography

Planning a wedding can be daunting. It may take six months or over a year to nail down every detail of your big day. But, we're here to help! Our vendors can assist you through every step of the planning process and can help you turn your dream wedding into a reality.

From venues and catering to honeymoon destinations, this guide showcases the best of Southern West Virginia and will help spark your imagination as to what your perfect wedding entails.

There's no better way to get inspired than to hear from couples who have gotten married in Southern West Virginia. Erin and Tristan wanted to share their love for the state with their guests and held the perfect mountain ceremony in the fall at Opossum Creek Retreat. Abigail and Reed opted for a romantic winter wedding at Tamarack, while Heather and George incorporated the beautiful landscapes at The Resort at Glade Springs for their summertime nuptials.

The most challenging part of planning a wedding is knowing how and where to begin. Check out our Wedding Planning Timeline at visitwv.com/weddings for a high-level look at what steps to take and when.

Whether you were born and raised in our area or you are drawn to the Mountain State, Southern West Virginia is the perfect place for your special day. ❖

We have venues and catering for your shower, rehearsal, wedding, and reception.



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VENUES:

Planned to *Perfection*

Setting the scene for a gorgeous wedding is easy when you have Southern West Virginia's picturesque landscape as your background. Say "I do" in an outdoor environment surrounded by stunning vistas or tie the knot in an intimate indoor ceremony followed by a rustic barn reception. No matter the venue, a West Virginia wedding is sure to be almost heaven.

Outdoor

You bring the wedding vows, and let nature take care of the wedding vows. Southern West Virginia boasts an array of outdoor venues that will paint a breathtaking backdrop for an unforgettable day.

If you're in search of an awe-inspiring atmosphere, you're in luck — this area is home to picturesque parks and beautiful wine country. A quaint park or the rolling hills of a vineyard are the perfect backdrop for both the ceremony and reception.

From canyons and countrysides to vineyards and valleys, the Mountain State has it all. We guarantee the area's stunning landscapes will make it impossible to take a bad photo on your big day.

ADVENTURES on THE GORGE • LANSING
Photographer: Maryn Graves Productions



Indoor and Traditional

You can't go wrong with a traditional ceremony. The valleys and mountaintops of Southern West Virginia are home to an array of beautiful, historic churches that provide a perfect setting for an intimate, traditional ceremony among friends and family.

And while this area is known for its natural wonders, we still know how to throw a proper soirée. Looking for a beautiful traditional venue with a touch of old-world charm? The Historic Black Knight in Beckley is the ideal backdrop for your wedding day. Gorgeous architecture, a formal ballroom and delicious cuisine — make your wedding a formal affair.

Adventurous

It wouldn't be Southern West Virginia without a little adventure!

For a one-of-a-kind wedding, exchange "I dos" on the edge of the iconic New River Gorge and have your photographs taken atop rock rims that are not for the faint of heart. You and your guests can celebrate by taking advantage of the many bold offerings at one of the many adventure outfitters in the area, including ziplining, mountain biking, and world-class whitewater rafting tours.

An advertisement for Hemlock Haven Luxury Cabins. It features a photograph of a two-story wooden cabin with a balcony, set in a forest. The text is arranged around the photo. At the top left, it says "Private Outdoor Hot Tubs!". To the right of the photo, it says "Start your life together in a cozy, romantic cabin nestled in the forest. We'll supply the champagne and chocolates!". Below the photo, it says "304-575-1260". At the bottom, it says "Hemlock Haven Luxury Cabins" and "New River Gorge, WV". There are three red hearts at the bottom right.

Rustic

If you're in search of a carefree atmosphere with a touch of country charm, Southern West Virginia has you covered.

Accessible and affordable, a rustic barn wedding has grown increasingly popular. The Barn on Unity Farm offers an authentic experience for a down-home celebration. The Four Fillies Lodge in Peterstown offers the perfect rustic backdrop with a dash of elegance. With hand-hewn cabins that date back to the mid-1800s, a breathtaking lodge and 78 idyllic acres — the Four Fillies is a one-of-a-kind property. For a true mountain experience, look to Kirkwood Winery, located in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains. Kirkwood has a storied family history and offers a whole lot of fun. Of course, we can't forget Country Road Cabins, whose owners will guide you to all the spots the locals don't want you to know about. ❖



CHECK OUT

VISIT WV.COM/VENUES
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

BARN on UNITY FARM • PRINCETON
Photographer: Ben Amend



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Erin
+
Tristan

MONTH:

October

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Tara Fowler

LOCATION:

Opossum Creek Retreat,
Fayette County

GUESTS:

90

THEME:

Fall Mountain Wedding

**WEDDING
PLANNING ADVICE:**

Keep it small, have everything
in one place (ceremony,
reception, afterparty), be
budget conscious and use
local vendors

A Perfect Fall Wedding

On a beautiful October day, as shades of reds and yellows began to appear on the West Virginia mountains, Tristan and Erin, along with their family and friends, gathered at Opossum Creek Retreat for the perfect autumn wedding.

Both transplants to West Virginia, Erin and Tristan decided to get married in the New River Gorge area since that was the place that brought them together. "We wanted to share the gorge with our friends and family ... it's a magical place," said Erin. The couple chose to get married at Opossum Creek Retreat in Fayette County because it provided the perfect backdrop for their big day. "Opossum Creek Retreat is a beautiful place, tucked away in the woods, perfect for a West Virginia mountain wedding," explains Erin. They hosted the ceremony and reception in the same area, plus there were cabins and camping available on-site! The couple also used all local vendors, which made the wedding planning and wedding day logistics easy and stress-free.

Erin and Tristan spent about six months planning their wedding and wanted their guests to make the most of their time in the area. "We had a mountain biking trip the day of the wedding and took a ton of people rafting and kayaking the day after the wedding," explains Erin.

“.....
Opossum Creek
Retreat provided
the perfect
backdrop for
their big day
.....”

The couple embraced the fall foliage for the theme for their wedding — each table was dressed with pumpkins and fall leaves. Overall, the wedding was low-key and relaxed. "I would say it was pretty informal. No matching bridesmaids dresses, we wanted everyone to feel comfortable as they were. I also just wanted to wear a short wedding dress with cowgirl boots that allowed me to run, jump, and dance!"

With the help of their friends, family and the staff at Opossum Creek Retreat, Erin and Tristan had a beautiful fall wedding. "We had so much fun at our wedding and truly enjoyed every minute," says Erin. "And all of our guests had a great time and got to explore the area!" ❖





Heather
+
George

MONTH:

August

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Tine Hofmann Photography

LOCATION:

The Resort at Glade Springs,
Raleigh County

GUESTS:

150

THEME:

Romantic Summer Wedding

WEDDING

PLANNING ADVICE:

Organize and manage your time. Set timelines and deadlines as these are essential ingredients to successful planning. Thank your guests and most importantly don't let the little things spoil the big day!

A Fairytale Garden Wedding

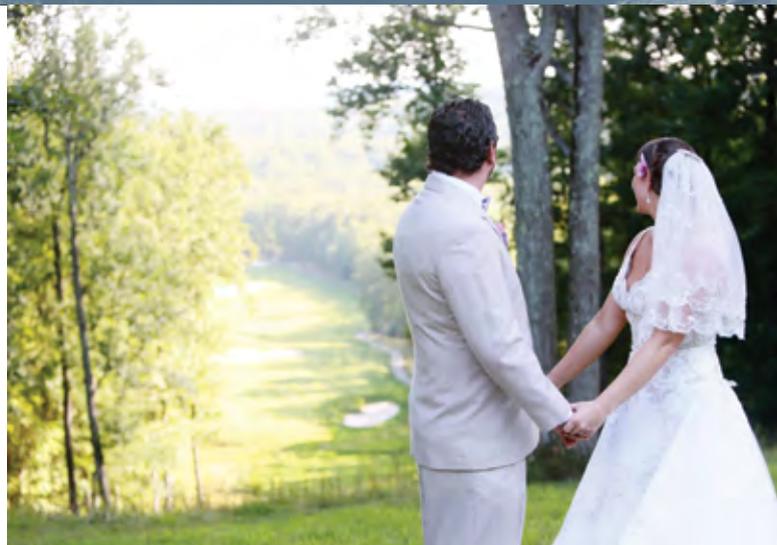
Both born and raised in Southern West Virginia, Heather and George knew that there was nowhere else they wanted to get married than in our beautiful part of the state. They met in the summer of 2005 when they both worked at The Resort at Glade Springs and they decided there was no better place to have their ceremony than at the same spot where they met years ago.

On a beautiful summer day, 150 guests gathered to watch Heather and George marry in the gardens of the resort. "Glade Springs is a hidden gem in Southern West Virginia, it has the most beautiful landscapes, and it is perfect because everything is there on the property and we knew our guests would really get one of the best experiences Southern West Virginia has to offer," said Heather. "We both agreed instantly that we would be married at Glade Springs and the fact that we met there made it even more special."

Heather and George spent about eight months planning their wedding and said that setting the date was the most challenging part. "Once we set the date the planning process became a breeze," explained Heather. With the date set, the couple was able to create a timeline and deadlines — ensuring everything got done in time.

She worked closely with the staff at The Resort at Glade Springs on the details of her wedding. The resort helped take the guesswork out of planning and walked her through step-by-step. "Glade Springs made it very convenient because it is a one-stop shop which made the process seamless," she said. "They guided me in the right direction from menu selections, setting up the ceremony space to the reception all while keeping my theme and vision in mind and made sure my expectations were met."

With the help of the venue and its staff, their wedding went off without a hitch and they were able to showcase the beauty of West Virginia to their guests. "Southern West Virginia holds a special place in our hearts," said Heather. "Spring, summer, fall or winter, Southern West Virginia will never let you down. It is truly a unique and special place and has so many possibilities for wedding destinations." ❖



“.....
The resort helped
take the guesswork
out of planning and
walked her through
step-by-step
.....”

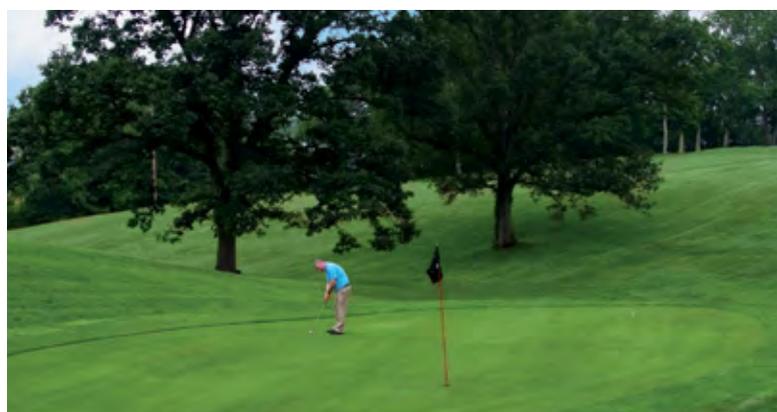


A beautiful, legendary wedding experience.

Experience your special occasion in the exquisite Black Knight ballroom, a beautiful, legendary Beckley location! With gorgeous architecture, multiple balconies, and dining facilities with full catering available, this historic hall is suited for weddings, showers, receptions, reunions, meetings, conventions, and much more—contact us today at 304-253-7321 for reservations.



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CATERING:
Eat, Drink
and be
Married

The venue is booked and the save-the-dates are in the mail; now it's time to taste-test until the menu is just right. Any Southern West Virginia wedding is bound to be uniquely adventurous, so the food should follow suit. Out-of-the-box catering options are all the rage this year and will undoubtedly make a lasting impression on your guests.

TAMARACK
Photographer: Sarah Garland

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If your big day embodies a rustic theme, complement the atmosphere with a family-style buffet featuring down-home favorites such as biscuits and gravy coupled with local honeys and jams. Pair your meals with some West Virginia mountain spirits. Check out some of our local wine flavors like Appalachian Ramp, blackberry and strawberry mead. Top it all off and surprise your guests with mini individual apple pies for dessert or as an adorably delicious wedding favor.

More and more couples are shying away from traditional sit-down meals and opting for a more casual approach. Give a boost to small business and bring in a food truck or a local sushi chef to cater the event. This affordable and trendy alternative to a more traditional meal will delight guests with a variety of tastes. Or, pay homage to the state by serving up lighthearted, one-of-a-kind West Virginia fare, such as pepperoni rolls, chili dogs, or ramp-infused dishes.



THE RESORT at GLADE SPRINGS • DANIELS
Photographer: *Tine Hofmann Photography*

For dessert, dig into a traditional tiered cake from a local bakery, create a cozy atmosphere by setting up a s'mores bar with a crackling bonfire, or lay out a colorful grab-and-go spread that will allow guests to bring their sweets with them to the dance floor. Many brides are even trading in the cake for a tried and true handheld favorite: doughnuts!

Bid your friends and family farewell with an edible wedding favor, such as a local baked good or barbecue sauce. These take-home bites break the mold and will leave an impression on your guests long after the event is over. ❖



CHECK OUT

VISITWV.COM/CATERING
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

VENDORS: It's in the *Details*

There's no denying that wedding planning can be overwhelming. So much energy goes into perfecting the guest list, refining the menu, and locking down an enchanting venue that some things simply fall through the cracks. Just ask any bride-to-be: the devil really is in the details. But small touches can truly make an immeasurable impact on your big day.

Flowers

Choosing the right flowers is a simple and effective way to tie the entire event together. For rustic-themed weddings, incorporate native flowers into your centerpieces for an authentic look and feel. You can also use mason jars as your centerpieces to help create a country-chic atmosphere. For a unique, eye-popping bouquet, bright yellow daffodils pair perfectly with delicate Virginia bluebells. Bonus? Both of these species can be found growing right here in Southern West Virginia.

Don't have time to put flowers together yourself? Check out the local florists in our area. They'll help you create the perfect look for your day!



Photography

With its rolling green hills, deep valleys and scenic overlooks, Southern West Virginia is always camera ready. You've worked hard to set a magical mood for your big day, so be sure to capture the moment for years to come. Sunset bathes the Mountain State in a gorgeous, warm glow that will provide an unreal backdrop. Make sure to take note of when the sun sets so you don't miss this golden opportunity. If you're lucky, local photographers may even show you to a secret spot or two. Fun photobooths with instant-prints are a great way to keep guests entertained while the wedding party is busy snapping professional photos.

WINTERPLACE • GHENT

Photographer: Lily Elyse Photography



BARN on UNITY FARM • PRINCETON
Photographer: Bed Amend

Signature Wedding Destination



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Lighting

Tasteful lighting can absolutely transform a space, making it arguably one of the most important details of the night. Sprinkle a little magic in the air by hanging twinkle lights or dimly lit ceiling lanterns. For a more intimate, romantic evening, opt for floating tea candles and a sparkler send-off. Globe string lights make a huge impact and are a great complement to any country setting. Be sure to think about how each of these lighting styles turns out in photographs. Don't despair — lighting professionals can help you add just the right ambiance to your affair! ❖



CHECK OUT
VISITWV.COM/VENDORS
FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Abigail
+
Reed

MONTH:

December

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Lily Elyse Photography

LOCATION:

Tamarack, Raleigh County

GUESTS:

150

THEME:

Elegant Winter Wedding

WEDDING

PLANNING ADVICE:

Don't be afraid to ask questions during the wedding planning process

**Warmth in a
Winter Wedding**

Winter is definitely an untraditional choice for a wedding, but it was perfect for Abigail and Reed. With blue skies and a chill in the air, they were married on a gorgeous December day at Tamarack.

Abigail was born and raised in Beckley and knew she always wanted to return to her hometown to get married. She and Reed met in college in Arkansas and she couldn't wait to show off the beauty of Southern West Virginia to her out-of-state guests. "I knew that I wanted to have my wedding in my hometown and the winters in West Virginia are my favorite," said Abigail. For her venue, she chose a place very special to her and her family — Tamarack.

"Tamarack has held a special place in my heart ever since I was very young," she explained. "It was my grandfather's favorite place to go and he would always take people there because of how much it represents Southern West Virginia...I just knew I wanted my wedding to be there."

“.....
one of the servers at
Tamarack took off
his own bow tie and
let her brother wear
it for the ceremony
.....”

The couple worked closely with the wedding coordinator at Tamarack to plan the perfect winter wedding. Abigail chose her wedding package and the coordinator helped walk her through the process.

While the staff at Tamarack helped her through the planning, they really stepped up when it came to the big day. "They were so easy to work with and they cared about our special day almost as much as we did," she said. There was only one hiccup along the way — Abigail's little brother forgot his bow tie. But, one of the servers at Tamarack took off his own bow tie and let her brother wear it for the ceremony and reception.

The couple wanted their wedding to be simple, but elegant. Abigail chose deep, romantic colors which worked perfectly with the venue and the evergreen trees in the courtyard. With a backdrop bathed in greenery and the beautiful Tamarack architecture on display, their wedding photos were stunning, to say the least. ❖



A photograph of a rustic wooden cabin built on stilts, nestled in a dense forest of tall trees. The cabin has a corrugated metal roof and a large wooden deck with railings. The scene is bathed in soft, natural light filtering through the trees.

Honeymoon Locations

.....
CABINS at PINE HAVEN • BEAVER
.....
Photographer: Ben Amend

Once the cake has been cut and the bouquet tossed, there's no reason to leave the Mountain State for your honeymoon. Whether you're looking to relax in a secluded mountain cabin or you want an adventure filled with rafting and ziplining, Southern West Virginia has the perfect honeymoon destination for you.

Romantic Cabin Retreats

With the hustle and bustle of wedding planning behind you, a relaxing cabin retreat might be the right fit. Enjoy peace and quiet and unplug from everyday life with a remote cabin in the West Virginia mountains. From treehouse bungalows to a rustic yurt, there are a number of lodging options for a one-of-a-kind honeymoon experience. When you're booking your cabin, be sure to mention it's your honeymoon to learn more about their romantic packages.

Relaxing Resorts

If you want a relaxing honeymoon experience, you'll want to check out the all-inclusive resorts in Southern West Virginia. The Resort at Glade Springs offers everything from spa services to golfing and fly fishing packages — the perfect way to unwind.

Twin Falls Resort State Park features a mountaintop lodge and rustic cabins for your honeymoon getaway. Enjoy your days on the greens with the resort's championship golf course!



CHECK OUT
VISITWV.COM/HONEYMOON
FOR MORE INFORMATION.



The Cabins at Pine Haven is the perfect location for your WV Wedding. Our Lodge can accommodate up to 80 guests for your reception, ceremony or special event; includes 4 Suite Bedrooms upstairs, full kitchen, sound system, television, tables, chairs, hot tubs on covered deck, showers and spacious restroom/dressing areas (additional charges may apply). Both the Lodge and adjacent gazebo provide the ideal backdrop and decorating possibilities while our 10 Luxury Cabins and 2 new Treehouses provide on site lodging for your family and friends.

Call 1-877-573-2001 for pricing and availability. Visit www.cabinsatpinehaven.com for more information.

Adventure Getaways

Maybe you want a dash of adrenaline with your honeymoon getaway — then Southern West Virginia has you covered. From whitewater rafting and rock climbing to ziplining and mountain biking, it couldn't be easier to get out and enjoy the outdoors on your honeymoon.

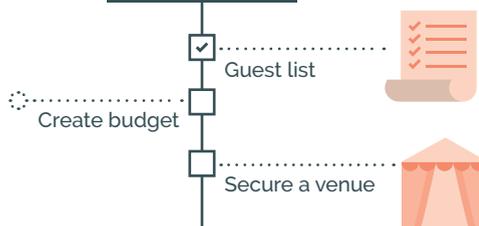
Nestled on the edge of the New River Gorge, epic adventures await. Fly through the trees on one of the many ziplines in our area or relax lakeside and enjoy the peaceful tranquility of the woods. Maybe your honeymoon is the perfect time to check whitewater rafting off your bucket list? There are a number of adventure outfitters that will get you down the river safely. Check out visitwv.com/adventures to learn more!

Awesome adventures paired with world-class dining and luxury accommodations — Southern West Virginia is the perfect honeymoon destination. ❖

Wedding Planning Timeline

When it comes to wedding planning, the earlier you get started, the better. From picking the venue to deciding on your guest list, you've got plenty of decisions to make. Check out the 12-month Wedding Planning Timeline — it will help guide you through all of the details of planning your big day!

12 MONTHS

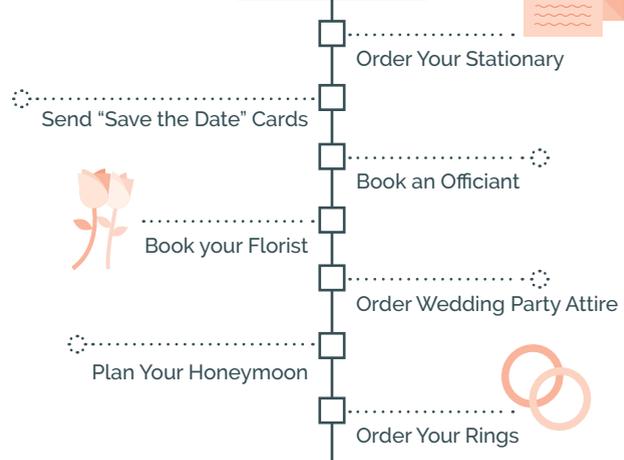


9 MONTHS



CHECK OUT
VISIT WV.COM/TIMELINE
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

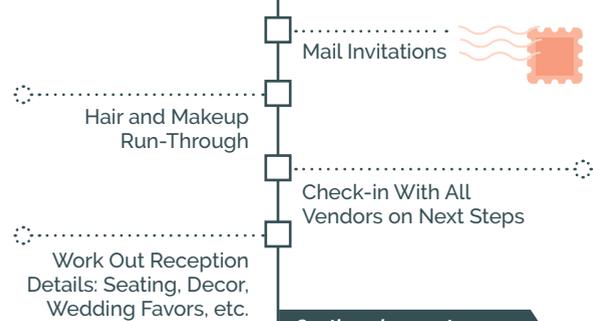
6-9 MONTHS



4 MONTHS



3 MONTHS



Continued on next page...



2 MONTHS

Get Your Marriage License

1 MONTH

Final Fittings

Create a Wedding Day Game Plan

THE WEEK OF THE WEDDING



Pack for the Honeymoon

Write Final Checks and Prepare Tips for Vendors

THE DAY BEFORE

Spa Day



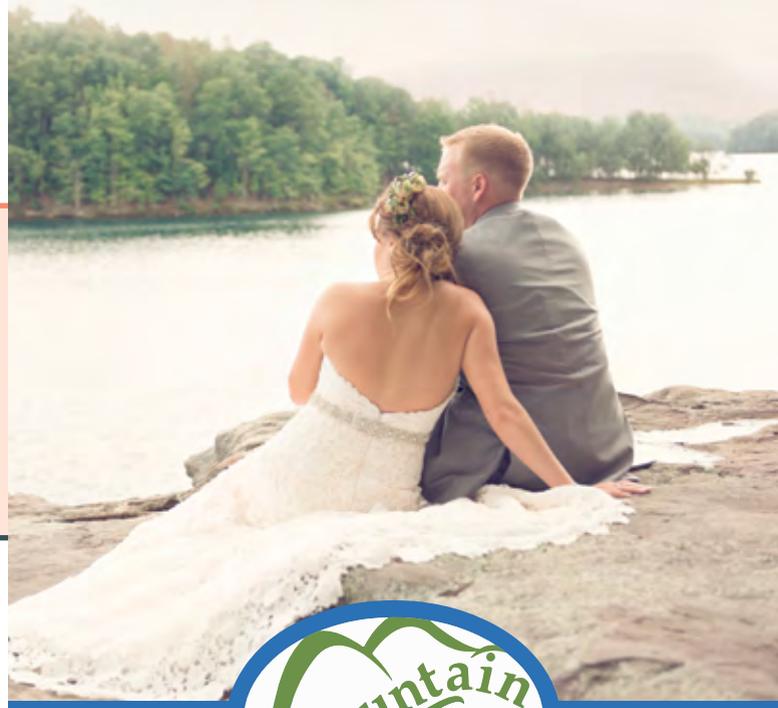
Communicate Wedding Day Timeline and Game Plan with Wedding Party, Families, etc.

THE WEDDING DAY

Enjoy the Day!

Your journey together
begins here

Let us host your dream lakefront wedding at Serenity Point. Exchange vows as you enjoy breathtaking views, fun amenities, unique lodging, and a family atmosphere...your day will be unforgettable!



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