

Bridal Shower Tips



Do's and Don'ts

The best way to organise a hen's party is to nominate a chief hen party planner. Landing yourself in this privileged position can be fun but it does come with responsibilities and can get a bit tricky when it comes down to the details so if you're the bridesmaid or maid of honour who has taken on this role **make sure you delegate!** You may be the chief planner but **you can't do it all alone!** Team effort = less stress = more fun.

Mistake #1: Trying To Do It All Alone

Some brides like to be involved throughout the planning while others might enjoy the element of surprise. Think about your bride specifically rather than stereotypes for brides in general. The first thing you will need to do **is have a list of questions for the bride-to-be** to find out what she would like as you want to be planning the night around her and not everyone else. After all it is her night so you don't want to be planning a wild party weekend when your bride-to-be is dreaming of a relaxing spa day with a few close friends or vice versa.



Mistake #2: Assuming What The Bride-To-Be Would Like

Therefore to make sure the bride has an amazingly memorable time with her nearest and dearest some hard questions need to be asked. Arrange a meeting or send her a quiz to gather the information you will need to plan an amazing hen's night.



Questions for the Bride

How long does she want to party to last?

Will it be an evening only party or would she like to include a daytime element too? Or perhaps she would like to spread it over a whole weekend.

Where would she like to go?

Will it be a local event or does she want to be whisked away for a weekend of indulgence? This of course may affect the number of guests who are able to attend.



Who should attend?

The guests who attend will affect the kind of party you will be hosting. Some brides are keen to invite family such as mum's and aunts while others will prefer just the girls. If you think people will clash then consider splitting the day into different parts such as;

- Daytime Activity – e.g. spa trips, theme parks, high tea.
- Evening Activity – e.g. going for a meal or a meal and show.
- Night time Activity – e.g. night out at pubs and clubs or adult entertainment you can hire to come to you for the party girls.

This will give the guests the opportunity to celebrate with the bride-to-be without going outside their comfort zone.



Budget

The party will need to be affordable for the people your bride wants to share it with. Although it is expected a bride doesn't pay for things on her hen party, it is still a good idea to discuss the budget with her as she may have a better idea on what her guests can afford or would be willing to pay especially if she has guests who are already spending money on travel to be there. After discussing the budget with the bride, have a chat with the other hens as well so you have a good idea what budget to work with. A low budget doesn't have to mean less fun; you just have to get creative e.g. swap your spa trip for DIY face masks and free flowing bubbles at some one's home. There are also plenty of free hen's party games you can download which can be loads of fun. Remember the more money you want people to spend the fewer guests who will attend.

Once you are organised, e-mail the hens a budget list so you get everyone on board before booking anything ahead. Whether you split the cost of the bride-to-be between all the guests or just the bridesmaids remember to include this when sending out the budget. You may decide to get everyone to chip in a bit extra for a gift for the bride also if the budget allows.

What to Wear

If the bride doesn't know where the party will be make sure you prepare something for her to wear. You will need to consider whether your bride-to-be would love a crazy dress-up theme or would that be her worst nightmare? Although you will want her in something to make her stand out, you also want to make sure it is something she feels good in on her night.





Delegate

After you have talked to the bride-to-be you should have enough info to start planning the party. Remember to delegate and include the other hens along the planning journey. It is a popular idea to set up a Facebook group but remember too if anyone is not active on Facebook, keep them updated on text or e-mail.

Although you will be collaborating with the other guests, remember you are the lead planner, so don't be weighed down by a barrage of conflicting ideas. Just let them know your plans and see if they can add anything to it. Remember there will always be someone who won't agree, but you can never please everyone. *Do what you feel the bride-to-be will want above all.*

Before beginning the hens' party it's a good idea to plan to pace yourself especially if you are out for a whole day or weekend. You don't want people to be legless by lunch time and not be able to enjoy the evening shenanigans. Make sure you factor in some down time for eating and re-hydrating. During the party don't spend the whole time stressing about whether people are having fun or what is happening next. You can do all the planning in the worlds but you can't control everything. The main thing is the bride is spending time with her nearest and dearest. You have put in all the hard work now

Relax and enjoy your efforts!





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