<https://www.beau-coup.com/cultural-traditions-weddings.htm>

**African Wedding Traditions and Customs**

You may have heard of "jumping the broom." It is a tradition stemming back to the days of slavery when slaves were forbidden from marrying. They created this ritual to represent the beginning of their new life together. In modern ceremonies, couples jump over a broom, often decorated with ribbon and tulle, after they’re pronounced married.

Cowrie or other [seashells](https://www.beau-coup.com/natural-seashell-place-card-holders.htm) represent purity and beauty in African culture. In Morocco, bridesmaids bathe the bride in hammam before the ceremony, then apply henna-stained designs to her hands and feet before dressing her in her wedding gown.

The colors of African royalty are purple and gold which make a bold combination for a wedding theme.

A Libation ceremony is held to honor elders. During the ceremony a prayer is said and an elder presents water or liquor as an offering to God and the ancestral spirits for their blessing. The groom may seek permission from the bride’s mother to marry her daughter while presenting gifts to her father to symbolize his ability to care for her.

During the ceremony, there is a tradition that involves tasting the four elements: lemon for sour, vinegar for bitter, cayenne pepper for hot, and honey for sweet. The four tastes represent the different times or moods of married life. In some tribes, the couple’s wrists were bound with plaited grass for the ceremony and the walk down the aisle. Many couples incorporate this tradition by simply holding hands.

African dancers or a drummer for the reception and traditional foods are also ways to incorporate the heritage.

**Armenian Wedding Traditions and Customs**

The Armenian wedding celebration begins the night before the ceremony when the groom’s family brings beautifully wrapped [gift boxes](https://www.beau-coup.com/square-favor-box.htm) to the bride’s family. These contain the veil, her shoes, chocolate, Armenian cognac, perfume, and flowers.

The bride’s parents’ house is decorated and food, desserts and family photos fill the tables. Before the ceremony, the bride’s brother will place money in her shoe for good luck and he will place the bride’s shoes on her feet. Another fun shoe tradition is that the bride’s single female friends write their names on the sole of her shoe—as they get married, the bride crosses off their names.

Before the bride’s veil is placed on her head, she circles the veil over the heads of the single women in her dressing room to bring them luck in finding a husband. Then a happily married woman will place the veil on the bride’s head to bring her marriage luck.

"May you grow old on one pillow" is one popular toast that can also be used as the theme of the wedding. Print the phrase on invitations, programs or engrave on a [silver keepsake wedding favor](https://www.beau-coup.com/silverheartbookmarksilver.htm) for guests.

A traditional Armenian bride will wear a red silk gown and a cardboard headpiece that is shaped like wings and covered with feathers. During the ceremony, the god-parents who must be an exemplary married couple act as witnesses. The godfather must bring the most expensive gift and he takes the bride to the altar. At this point, the godparents must accept responsibility for the couple.

After the ceremony, the bridesmaids and groomsmen line up and hold flowers up in the air forming an arch through which the bride and groom may enter the reception. A pair of doves, which symbolizes love and happiness, is released and the guests throw coins at the newlyweds. During the reception, traditional food such as dolmas, hummus, babaghanoush, bourek or kabobs is served.

### **Chinese Wedding Traditions**

The wedding date is picked carefully according to astrological signs and birthdates, and the ceremony begins on the half hour to cement the couple’s good fortune. The night before the wedding day, the bride is bathed in citrus-infused water to cleanse her of evil influences… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/chinese-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **Czech Republican Wedding Traditions**

Traditionally the bridesmaids make a wreath of rosemary for the bride to wear—it symbolizes the wish for wisdom, love, and loyalty. In the Czech Republic the tradition of wearing something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue is strictly followed; however, the borrowed item must belong to a friend who is already married and the something old must be a family heirloom… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/czech-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **Dutch Wedding Traditions**

A wonderful Dutch custom that can be substituted for the guest book is to create a wedding "wish tree." At the reception a beautiful tree branch is placed next to the bride and groom's table, and paper leaves attached to pieces of colorful ribbon are placed at each guest's place setting. Guests write their special wish for the happy couple on their leaves, which the bride and groom can then read and hang on the tree… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/dutch-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **Filipino Wedding Traditions**

Traditionally the groom’s family pays for the wedding and the grandparents act as the primary witnesses or sponsors. The bride’s gown is often custom made and both the bride and groom wear white. It is bad luck for the bride to try on her dress before the wedding day and to wear pearl jewelry, which is considered a bad omen. The groom wears a sheer, long-sleeve button-up shirt (barong tagalog) that is worn un-tucked over black pants with a white t-shirt underneath… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/filipino-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **French Wedding Traditions**

The groom customarily walks his mother down the aisle before arriving at the alter to be married. This is a lovely gesture that can be easily adopted and will surely elicit a collective "aww" from the audience… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/french-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **German Wedding Traditions**

Breaking dishes, pots, or anything that will break into pieces and then cleaning it up together is said to bring good luck to the bride and groom just before the wedding. The idea is to prepare the bride and groom for facing life's trials… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/german-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **Greek Wedding Traditions**

Even before the betrothal, the mother of the bride usually spends years collecting various household items for her daughter’s dowry. When the dowry has been presented to the couple, local girls volunteer to set up and decorate… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/greek-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **Indian Wedding Traditions**

Indian weddings are traditionally multi-day affairs, and involve many intricate ceremonies, such as the painting of the hands and feet of the bride called a mehndi. Garlands are presented to guests of honor instead of corsages, and lots of flower or rose petals are thrown for good… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/indian-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **Irish Wedding Traditions**

The night before the wedding, the groom would be invited to the bride’s house, where a cooked goose would be served in his honor. A sunny wedding day meant good luck, and one way to insure it would be a fine day was to place a statue of the Infant of Prague outside the church before the ceremony… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/irish-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **Italian Wedding Traditions**

During the proposal, a groom will typically serenade her first and then present her with a diamond ring because of the belief that a diamond was created by the flames of love… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/italian-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **Japanese Wedding Traditions**

The Japanese ritual of "san-san-kudo", the three by three exchange is rich with meaning. It is performed by the bride and groom and both sets of parents; each person takes 3 sips of sake from each of 3 cups. The first 3 represent three couples, the bride and groom, and their parents. The second 3 represent three human flaws: hatred, passion, and ignorance. "Ku", or 9 is a lucky number in Japanese culture. And "do" means deliverance from the three flaws… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/japanese-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **Korean Wedding Traditions**

Before the wedding takes place, a bride must participate in a traditional introduction ceremony where she is accepted into… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/korean-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **Spanish / Latin-American Wedding Traditions**

Spanish culture is filled with rich traditions. Historically, the night before the wedding, hand lanterns were used to light the way from the groom’s home to the bride's home. The groom's family would then carry a wedding chest filled with gifts for the bride's family… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/spanish-latin-american-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **Scottish Wedding Traditions**

During the engagement, Scottish brooches (Luckenbooth) are given as tokens of love and they are usually made of silver and engraved with two intertwined hearts. If the couple pins it to the blanket of their first born it will bring… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/scottish-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **Swedish Wedding Traditions**

An old and adorable Swedish custom is for the bride to carry coins in her shoes. One silver coin in her left shoe from her father, and one gold coin in her right from her mother are used to ensure that she will never go without… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/swedish-wedding-traditions.htm)

### **Vietnamese Wedding Traditions**

It is customary for the mother-in-law to bestow upon the bride pink chalk, which symbolizes a rosy future for the couple. The date and time of the ceremony is usually determined by a Buddhist monk or fortune teller… [read more>>](https://www.beau-coup.com/vietnamese-wedding-traditions.htm)