

MW

Vedic Marriage Ceremony At Hare Krishna Mandir



BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR WEDDING SERVICES

International Society for Krishna Consciousness Founder - Acarya - His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Bhaktivedanta Manor, Hillfield Lane, Aldenham, Watford, Herts, WD25 8EZ , WD25 8DT for SAT NAV
Telephone: (01923) 851002,851000 **Email:** weddings@krishnatemple.com **Fax:** (01923) 851006

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Conditions Of Having A Wedding At Bhaktivedanta Manor



The following information must be taken into consideration before booking the wedding:

- No Smoking in Temple building, grounds or car parks
- No Dhol, pop, rock, bhangra, garba, or movie songs
- No drinking of Alcohol or taking of any intoxicants
- No shoes to be worn in the Temple Building
- No outside foods or drink are allowed to be brought into the Temple building, grounds or car parks
- No confetti in or outside the Temple (Rice or Flower petals can be thrown)

In completing the following booking form you are agreeing to the above conditions: [Please provide Legal Names]

Allocated Priest: _____

Bride: _____ Groom: _____

Contact Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Tel No.: Home: _____ (B/G) Mobile: _____ (B/G)

Work: _____ (B/G) Email: _____

Wedding Date: _____ Day: _____ AM/PM: _____

Number of Guests (If not known write TBC): _____

Cost of the Ceremony: **£6250.00** Temple Room - **£7250.00** Marquee

Cost of Catering: **£10.95** per person (minimum 80)

N.B. Balance of Wedding Ceremony should be paid three months before the date of the wedding & Final Payment 3 weeks before

Would You Like To Hold Your Civil Marriage/Registry At Bhaktivedanta Manor? YES/NO _____

1. NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF: _____ RECEIVED BY: _____ DATE PAID: _____

2. PAYMENT OF: _____ RECEIVED BY: _____ DATE PAID: _____

3. PAYMENT OF: _____ RECEIVED BY: _____ DATE PAID: _____

4. PAYMENT OF: _____ RECEIVED BY: _____ DATE PAID: _____

Signature (Bride/Groom or Parents): _____

ISKCON Wedding Representative Name & Signature: _____

The temple reserves the right to make changes to the terms and conditions of weddings at Bhaktivedanta Manor. The temple will make reasonable efforts to notify the families of such changes.



Vedic Marriage Ceremony



Listed below is a summary of the ceremony. Please note that slight variations may occur to the order of the ceremony due to family traditions and respective priests.

1. **Milni** - This is to welcome the groom and his family as they arrive. Once the groom has taken his place, the bride, usually accompanied by her maternal uncle, is invited to take her place.
2. **Anterapat** - A cloth is placed between the couple. The Brahmin (priest) will perform the Sanskrit Mantra and the cloth will then be removed. Traditionally this is the first time the couple will have seen each other.
3. **Introduction** - This is a brief explanation of the meaning of a Vedic marriage.
4. **Achaman** - Holy water from the Ganges is used to cleanse and purify.
5. **Civil Marriage** - Registration of Marriage
6. **Kumbha Sthapana** - The Brahmin (priest) invites Lord Vishnu to join the ceremony. He then explains the 'definition' of the marriage and its commitments as outlined in the Vedic Scriptures.
7. **Sankalpa** - The Brahmin announces where, when and between whom the marriage is taking place.
8. **Hastamandap** - The Brahmin performs the ceremony to unite both families
9. **Kanyadan** - This is the most important part of the ceremony. The Bride's father gives her away to the Groom's family. This is considered the greatest Dana (gift). The act is confirmed by the exchange of garlands between the bride and groom.
10. **Havan** - A fire Sacrifice (Havan) is performed by the priest
11. **Purnahuti** - Final offerings are made to the Sacrimonial fire
12. **Mangal Fera** - The fire (Havan) is considered the witness to the whole ceremony. The ceremony here consists of the couple walking around the fire four times, which represents the four aspects of life.
• **Dharma** - Religious Duties • **Artha** - Economic Development • **Kama** - Fruitive Work • **Moksa** - Liberation
13. **Mangal Sutra** - Similar to concept of the English Wedding Ring – a golden necklace is presented on a coconut by the Groom's mother to the Bride.
14. **Kum Kum** - The Husband puts red coloured Kum Kum on the parting in the hair of the bride.
15. **Sapta-Padi (Seven Steps)** - The bridal couple, receive blessings from the priest and everyone present.
16. **Darshan** - At this stage the curtains in the temple are opened to reveal the beautiful deities of Sri-Sri Radha Gokulananda, Sri-Sri Sita Rama Laxman Hanuman and Sri-Sri Gaura Nitai.
17. **Kansar** - This is an exchange of Sweets between the couple as a symbolic gesture that they will provide for each other's needs and prosperity in their household life.
18. **Ashirwad** - Blessings from the bride and groom's family that concludes the wedding ceremony.

As part of the purification of the wedding ceremony we ask both Bride and Groom to refrain from eating non-vegetarian food and taking intoxicants for at least 48 hours before the wedding ceremony. It is also recommended for the Bride and Groom to fast on the day of the ceremony, if necessary Ekadasi Prashad can be eaten.

N.B. The above ceremony fulfils all the requirements of a Vedic marriage ceremony. Other aspects of a marriage ceremony that may be in specific family traditions should be performed before arriving at Bhaktivedanta Manor. If further clarification is needed, then please consult your allocated wedding priest. Your priests name and number can be obtained from the Wedding Planners (please see the separate sheet for these numbers).



Registry Marriage At Bhaktivedanta Manor



Please note that the Hare Krishna Temple is a registered building sanctioned under the Marriage act to perform civil marriage.

If your intention is to have the registration as parts of the ceremony please follow the steps listed below to ensure the successful completion of your civil ceremony:

1. Please inform your local registry office of your intention to have a registry marriage at the Temple at least eight weeks before your wedding.
2. Your local registry office will ask you if you regularly worship at Bhaktivedanta Manor.
3. Please give our reference – (M) 42878 (Temple First Floor and Ground of Bhaktivedanta Manor, Hillfield Lane, Aldenham, Watford, Herts, WD25 8EZ)
4. All registry offices have a reference book; we are registered as Bhaktivedanta Manor in Letchmore Heath.
5. Your local registry office will require proof of your identity e.g. Passport, Birth Certificate or Driving License.
6. A period of eight weeks will be required by your local registry office before issuing you with papers enabling us to conduct your civil marriage ceremony.
7. Please DO NOT post the papers. You may bring the papers prior the wedding to be stored in our safe or alternatively present them on the wedding day to be handed to the Registrar. **(PLEASE NOTE THAT WITHOUT BOTH SETS OF NOTICES OF MARRIAGE FROM THE REGISTRY OFFICE WE WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO PERFORM YOUR CIVIL MARRIAGE).**
8. Both partners will require a witness to sign the actual marriage certificate, which will be issued to you at the end of your ceremony at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

There is no additional charge for a Registry Marriage and a Registrar as it is included in the 'Wedding Ceremony' package.



Some Things For The Wedding Families To Bring Or To Arrange



These following items are required for the ceremony and should be brought or arranged by the wedding families.

1. Mangal Sutra (Brought by the groom as his gift to the bride)
2. One Cloth for Anterapat. This is to screen the groom when the bride comes into the temple room
3. One Cloth (at least 2m long and approx. 8inch wide). This is to tie the bride and groom together (granthi bandanam). This can also be the Grooms dupatta with Brides veil.
4. Twenty Pan Leaves (nagarwal pan). Four Pan leaves are for the coconut and seven are for the seven steps. Please ensure that they are fresh.
5. Five types of whole fruits. This is part of the offering for the sacred fire. Please bring a few of each type.
6. Five types of whole vegetables. This is part of the offering for the sacred fire. Please bring a few of each type (NO ONION, GARLIC, MUSHROOMS)
7. Two bunches of flowers for the Puja (For Ceremony not for Pheras)
8. A person who can act as the representative of the Bride or Groom to liaise with the Wedding Manager As the main family members are involved in the ceremony they are not free to liaise with the Wedding Manager and so there needs to be a dedicated person who can play this role.
9. Four coconuts For Pooja (1 for vidai)
10. Sindor/Kumkum
11. Decorated Coconut with Base for Pokwanu/Milni



What Does The Wedding Cost?



There are three parts of our service that make up the cost of the wedding. These are:

1. Wedding Ceremony. This has a standard price depending on whether the wedding is in the Temple room or in the wedding marquee (during the scheduled period).

Temple Room booking: £6250.00 Marquee booking: £7250.00

2. Catering. The second part of the wedding cost is dependent on the number of guests who will be catered for. You will pay a set price per person.

Cost of catering per person - £10.95 (12 catering servers are included within this price)

The cost of the catering includes a 12 item meal, plus good quality plates, spoons and cups. Due to Temple policy we only use Biodegradables. The minimum number of guests we cater for is eighty.

3. Additional services. There are a number of additional services that we can arrange for you such as:

- a. Snacks
- b. Servers
- c. Extra items for the main meal
- d. Fresh flower arrangements
- e. Marquee furniture
- f. Live Kirtan music



What We Include In The Wedding Ceremony Price



The wedding service package we provide for you includes:

- **Priest** - The priest selected will generally be according to our rota. For weddings booked a year in advance we will try to arrange for the priest of your choice as far as possible however this cannot be guaranteed.
 - **Civil Marriage** - the authorised person will conduct your civil marriage according to the law of England and Wales. At the end of the ceremony we would provide you with a certificate of marriage. Please note we do not perform civil partnership marriage. WE ALSO DO NOT CONDUCT THE CIVIL MARRIAGE EXCLUSIVE FROM THE VEDIC CEREMONY.
 - **Registrar for Civil Ceremony** - Included in package (if having civil).
 - **Mandap** - Including mandap furniture and one large fresh flower arrangement for the mandap.
 - **Table and Chairs**
 - **Gift Table** (1)
 - **Hall** - For most of the year the weddings will be held in our Temple Room however during the summer the ceremony may be held in our hired wedding marquee.
 - **Seating - In the temple hall** – We will normally provide for 60 chairs for the elderly and disabled. The remainder of the space available will be laid out with cushions. When the temple room is full, we will provide some additional chairs in the reception room for viewing the wedding via a plasma screen.
- In the Marquee Wedding** - We can provide seating for up to 400 guests. Normally these will be arranged in theatre style around the mandap stage.
- **Garlands for the bride and groom** - These will normally be red roses and white chrysanthemums. Other flowers can be selected in consultation with the temple florist. There will also be 3 extra garlands for Poojas
 - **Ganesh Pooja**
 - **Flower arrangements for the dining hall** - (These are only provided if full catering is part of your ceremony). We provide twelve small red and white flower arrangements for decoration of, the head table and some of the other dining tables. Should you require a specific colour scheme, this can be arranged with the temple florist.
 - **12 Temple Servers** - (Included as part of the catering price) - Servers will transfer the food preps from the Kitchen to serving areas, greet guests, serve the food and clear up afterwards.
 - **Brides changing room** - We provide a room for the bride to change in and to use as her waiting area until she is called for the ceremony. Using this room for your individual and couple photographs is at your discretion.



Weddings Held In The Marquee



As there is such a demand for weddings at the Manor, in the summer we have arranged a marquee to hold the ceremonies together with catering. The Marquee is very popular and is less restrictive in the numbers of guests that can be invited. As there are additional costs associated with the hiring and setting up of the marquee the price for the wedding during this time is slightly higher.

In addition to the service we offer for a temple room wedding listed above the marquee will have:

- Silk lining and chandeliers
- The Mandap will be mounted on a raised stage. This will be located in a central position along the largest side of the marquee.
- Catering tables (21 rectangular tables (sits 104) included in standard Marquee package)
- There are additional charges for servers if your catering numbers exceed 250 guest



HOW MANY GUESTS THAT CAN BE INVITED?

There is a minimum number for catering arrangements of 80 guests:

Temple Room 200

Marquee 400



DEPOSITS, PAYMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

At the initial phone inquiry we will pencil in your provisional wedding date in our diary. We then allow you ten days to confirm your booking with the initial deposit.

N.B. If after this date your booking is not confirmed and it will be cancelled.

Deposit: £1508.00 (non-refundable)

FINAL PAYMENTS OF COST OF CEREMONY

£4742.00 for a temple room booking

£5742.00 for a marquee booking

N. B. The final payment of the wedding ceremony should be **paid 3 months prior to the wedding date**. It may be difficult to have all information to hand to settle everything at this time. In these circumstances all extras (e.g. flowers, snacks, catering etc.) should be **confirmed one month before the wedding date**.

The balance (e.g. flowers, snacks, catering etc.) should be **settled 3 weeks before the ceremony** takes place.

On receipt of these amounts (Final Payments of Cost of Ceremony and Extras), preparations will be underway and it will not be possible to issue any refunds.



Timings



To know what time the various aspects of the day are please check the following table. You will need to know whether your wedding is in the morning (am) or afternoon (pm). You will also need to know whether your wedding is being held in the Temple or the Marquee.

| | Temple Wedding AM | Temple Wedding PM | Marquee Wedding AM | Marquee Wedding PM |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Guest Arrival Time | 10.00am | 3.00pm | 9.30am | 3.30pm |
| Ceremony Begins | 10.30am | 3.30pm | 10.00am | 4.00pm |
| Ceremony Ends | 12.45pm | 5.45pm | 12.00 noon | 6.00pm |
| Wedding Feast | 12.45pm | 5.45pm | 12.00pm | 6.00pm |
| Bride, Groom & Guests Departure | 2.30pm | 7.30pm | 2.30pm | 8.30pm |



INVITATION CARDS

When inviting your guests please inform them to arrive only thirty minutes before the scheduled start of the ceremony:

10.00 am or 15.00 pm **for a wedding in the temple room**

09.30 am or 15.30 pm **for a marquee wedding.**

A comprehensive Itinerary is available from the Wedding Office.



PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS A RESTRICTION ON THE NUMBER OF GUEST VEHICLES FOR ALL WEDDINGS

For weekday weddings there will be a restriction of 110 vehicles and on Saturdays a restriction of 150 vehicles

N.B THE EVACUATION TIME FOR TEMPLE ROOM WEDDINGS IS NOT NEGOTIABLE AS THE TEMPLE ROOM HAS TO BE PREPARED FOR AARTI



Dining Arrangements



TEMPLE ROOM WEDDING DINING ARRANGEMENTS

Dining Indoors

- a. A table is set for the Bride and Groom and accompanied by twenty guests.
- b. There will be further five tables available seating thirty-four persons set out in the dining room.
- c. Thirty Chairs will be provided in the centre of the reception as well.
- d. Some guests may be obliged to eat buffet style in the various public spaces we have

Dining Outdoors

In good weather we would recommend the wedding party and guests take advantage of The Manors beautiful gardens by taking the wedding meal outside. Your guests can simultaneously enjoy the view as well as the spiritually sanctified food.

SPECIFIC DINING REQUIREMENTS CAN BE DISCUSSED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE WEDDING MANAGER



MARQUEE WEDDING DINING ARRANGEMENTS

The marquee wedding enables us to offer you a number of dining options.

*** Please note that we do not provide a table for all the guests during the meal**

A normal arrangement would include the following:

- Head table. The numbers provided for should be in consultation with the Wedding Coordinator however the maximum we can accommodate on the Head table is thirty-two persons.
- There will be extra tables which will seat seventy-two persons.
- The remaining guests would be able to take their meal eating buffet style or by using the outside gardens and spaces



EXTRA TABLE OPTIONS

In a wedding in the marquee there is the option of hiring additional tables (which the wedding department can arrange on your behalf) if you wanted more of your guests to be seated at a table. We can fit up to thirty five round tables, each seating ten persons, in the marquee making a total seating arrangement of three hundred and fifty persons. For specific table options please consult the wedding manager.

If you would like more information about hiring extra tables, please discuss this with the wedding manager for costs and considerations.



Additional Services



WELCOME SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS

If you wanted to provide drinks or snacks for your guests when they arrive, the following items can be arranged:

- a. Water and drinks - Providing a hot drink. This could be masala tea, etc. Please discuss this with the Wedding Manager and the catering manager
- b. Providing snacks – We have a variety of snack to choose from. Please discuss this with the Wedding Manage

For information about the prices for the snacks please speak with the assistant wedding planner.

Please note that if snacks are ordered for guests as they arrive, the numbers catered for should be the same as the number of guests scheduled to attend the wedding. This is to avoid any embarrassment should the snacks finish as a consequence of more guests wanting them than planned.



ADDITIONAL FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

As mentioned previously we provide the garlands for the bride and groom as well as a number of small table arrangements if you have catering.

Some further flower options you may want to consider could be:

- Button Hole flowers
- Bouquets
- Fresh flowers on the Mandap
- Larger flower arrangements for the dining area

A Flower Info document can be obtained from the 'Wedding Services' office.

Please contact the 'Wedding Services' office for availability.



The Vows For The Bride & Groom



At the time of Kanyadan you will both be making vows to each other. The Priest will say them for you, phrase by phrase, and you will repeat after him. You may wish to become familiar with them by reading them beforehand. The Priest will chant the traditional vows in the original Sanskrit and ask the couple to follow him, phrase by phrase, and repeating the English translation:

The Groom is asked by the Bride's parent or guardian: "_____ has been in my care for a long time, and now, on this day, I am giving her into your care. Do you accept her as your wife?"

The Groom replies: "Yes, I accept _____ as my wife. I shall care for her throughout our life together. We shall live together peacefully, and there will never be any separation"

The Priest then asks the Bride: "Will you accept _____ as your life's companion. Will you serve him always, and help him in all his activities?" The Bride replies: "Yes, I accept _____ as my husband throughout my life. There shall never be any separation between us, either in happiness or distress. I shall serve him always, and we shall live together peacefully"

The couple then exchange garlands, and joining right hands speak the following vows: The Groom first says to the Bride: "Aum. Oh Virtuous One, I take your hand for good fortune and prosperity, so that together we may attain to old age in happiness. God has united us for the performance of our duties as householders." I am the Sky, you are the Earth; I am the Seed, you are the Bearer; I am the Mind, you are Speech; I am the Words, you are the Melody."

Bride and Groom then say to each other: "Aum. I knowingly respect you as you knowingly respect me. May we remain together, listen to joyous sounds together. May we always experience well-being, and, speaking loving words, may we remain together for a hundred autumns"

"Aum. I accept you as my partner in life. I will not keep anything from you, even my thoughts. I will share with you all that I enjoy, and together we will persevere on the path of Dharma." This completes the Vows.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO LEARN?

No. You may familiarise yourself with the vows if you wish, but everything you need to say or do will be instructed to you by the priest during the ceremony. In essence, the bride and groom simply sit within the mandap and allow the ceremony to happen around them. But if you wish to learn how to sip Ganges water for instance, or familiarise yourselves with the ceremony, or even rehearse it, you may contact the priest.

MODIFICATIONS TO OUR WEDDING SERVICES

The temple reserves the right to make changes to the terms and conditions of weddings at Bhaktivedanta Manor at any time. If possible the temple will make reasonable efforts to notify the families of such changes.

