



The Weekend Wedding

A weekend wedding gives you the gift of time – time to soak up every magical moment of what will undoubtedly be some of the best days of your lives. At Hedingham, we are exclusively yours, always. This means that we can devote our entire attention to your wishes for the whole weekend, to truly grant you the wedding of your dreams.

Here is an inspirational itinerary of how your weekend wedding could look:

The Wedding Eve

3pm onwards

Guests start arriving to settle into their rooms (or yurts if you are glamping!) and leisurely unpack, followed by a stroll around the beautiful, historic grounds to work up an appetite for supper.

The Hedingham Touch – we can provide thoughtfully curated welcome baskets for your guests to enjoy when they arrive at their room. Think locally sourced treats to nibble on, mini bottles of Champagne for sipping on whilst getting ready, a map of walks around our grounds and a little bottle of sun cream, flip flops for dancing...

5pm

As the afternoon draws on, host catch-up cocktails in the Castle Garrison, with guests spilling out onto the lawn for ice-breaker garden games and croquet.

7pm

A casual supper of pizza and Prosecco in the atmospheric Tapestry Room, or perhaps you would prefer Mediterranean sharing platters or Moroccan street food; whatever you fancy, our fantastic chefs can cater to your every need.

9pm As twilight sets in, gather round the firepit on the bailey for toasting marshmallows (we can also provide a guitar if you can provide a musically talented guest!), or retire inside for board games before heading to your room for a peaceful and comfy night's sleep before the big day.

The Big Day

9am Enjoy a leisurely breakfast in The Garden Cottage with your bridal party, where you stayed the night, while the rest of the group and groomsmen breakfast in the Ashurst Suite of the Mansion House.

10.00am Unwind with some alfresco yoga in the grounds with your girlfriends while the boys head off into the woods for a spot of archery or falconry (we can provide wellies!).

The Hedingham Touch – there are so many activities to choose from to entertain your guests while you get ready. How about a wine tasting with a local winemaker, an art class by the lake or a round of golf at the local course? We can tailor your day to your exact vision and help with inspiration too.

11am Return to The Garden Cottage to start getting ready with your bridal party.

The Hedingham Touch – we can provide bubbles and afternoon tea to graze on whilst you get ready. Pop your favourite playlist on the Cottage's Bluetooth speaker to calm any nerves and get in the mood to walk down the aisle.

12pm After their morning activity, the groomsmen go caveman and enjoy a hearty BBQ lunch in the woods to set them up for the day ahead – think ultimate burgers, posh dogs and a bucket of icy cold beers.

1pm The groomsmen head back to The Medieval Lodge to spruce up.

2pm Guests start arriving and head over to the Castle to eagerly await the ceremony. Tea, coffee and cake is served in the Garrison.

- 3pm* The bridal party is ready and it's finally time to get married in one of the most romantic venues in the country. Say your vows in the candlelit Banqueting Hall of the Castle. Or, if you prefer, you may also marry in the stunning landscaped gardens or at the grand Medieval Church of St. Nicholas at the bottom of the drive.
- 4pm* Once you are married, it's confetti on the Tudor bridge followed by cocktails on the Mansion House lawn.
- 4.30pm* Make the most of our stunning scenery and explore the grounds with your photographer for that showstopper first portrait together. We love the lake for impressive romance!
- While you are having your photos taken, keep your guests entertained with a wandering acoustic band, magician or how about a flyover from the nearby airfield? We've seen some wonderful entertainment over the years and can recommend and help you find the perfect act to make your drinks reception a talking point for years to come.
- 5.30pm* It's time for your wedding breakfast – not actually a breakfast but the first meal you enjoy together as a married couple. After the heart-warming, and most likely teary speeches, dine in style in our elegant Ballroom Marquee, seating up to 150 guests.
- The Hedingham Touch – in the lead up to your wedding, our superb chefs will work closely with you to create an exquisite dining experience for you and your guests. We can also help with beautiful personal favours for the tables, as well as table plans, decorations and background music.*
- 8pm* Evening guests arrive and once you've cut your cake, it's party time! Dance the night away under the magical starlit ceiling of the Ballroom dance floor to a live band or DJ, or surprise your guests with a jaw-dropping choreographed first dance routine they'll never forget.

9pm After all that dancing, treat your guests to a late night supper of fish and chips, wood fired pizza or how about a heavenly cheese bar to round off the evening perfectly?

12pm Guests drift off to their rooms or wind down in The Medieval Lodge, full of love from a magnificent day.

The Recovery

11am Recount the weekend's events with friends old and new over a lazy brunch in the Castle's Tapestry Room. Spill out onto the picnic benches and blankets and soak up the sun on the historic bailey. Guests can drift in and out as they please or stay in bed and enjoy the peaceful quiet of the surrounding Essex countryside.

Enjoy some fresh air with a stroll around the lake, the ancient ramparts and beautiful woodland.

Or head out and explore the chocolate-box village of Castle Hedingham and the surrounding pretty villages.

3pm Say your goodbyes and head home, or to your honeymoon, with incredibly happy new memories of your weekend wedding at Hedingham Castle.

