

Indian Wedding Budget Planning Guide

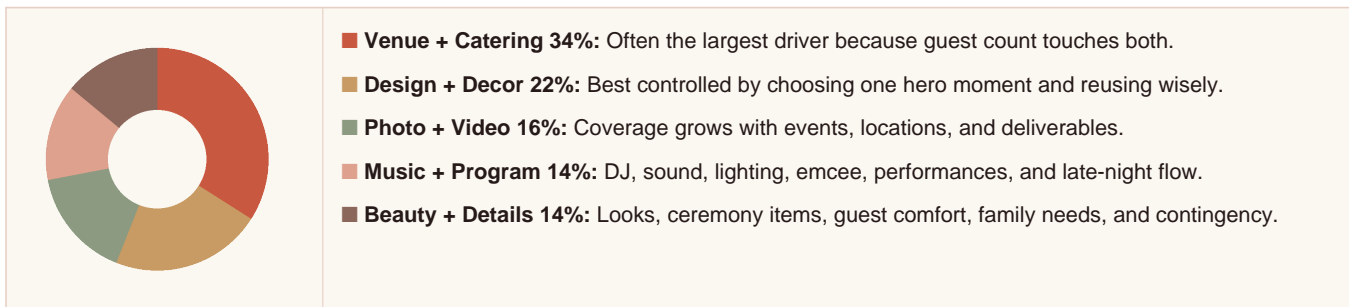
A practical two-page resource for building a calm, realistic plan before vendor commitments are made.

Start With The Wedding Shape

For South Asian weddings, a useful budget does not start as a vendor list. It starts with the shape of the celebration: how many events, who attends each one, where each event happens, and which moments matter most.

The goal is not to make every event equally grand. The goal is to protect the experience, make tradeoffs early, and understand what each major decision does to the full wedding picture.

Budget Map



The Five Planning Questions

- 1 How many events are included, and what are the dates or time windows?
- 2 What is the guest count for each event, not just the total wedding count?
- 3 Which event should feel like the main design or hospitality moment?
- 4 What must stay protected culturally: muhurtham timing, baraat, mandap, rituals, meals, family portraits, or guest comfort?
- 5 Which areas are flexible if the budget needs to tighten: decor depth, menu style, entertainment, rentals, coverage hours, or guest count?

tAAra planning point of view: A wedding budget should feel like a plan, not a spreadsheet you are afraid to open.

Build The Budget Before Booking

Once the wedding shape is clear, the budget becomes a working plan: priorities, vendor ranges, payment timing, deposits, balances, and decision notes all in one place.

What To Confirm Early

- Venue access hours, setup time, teardown rules, and room-flip expectations.
- Whether outside Indian catering, late-night snacks, open flame, rice, petals, turmeric, or baraat logistics are allowed.
- What each quote includes: labor, delivery, rentals, travel, taxes, service charges, overtime, and cleanup.
- Who owns each final update: guest count, dietary notes, floor plan, must-have photo list, timeline, and vendor arrival details.

Where Hidden Costs Appear

- Service charges, gratuity expectations, delivery, admin fees, insurance, permits, parking, valet, security, and generator needs.
- Extra ceremony materials, garlands, puja items, vendor meals, family beauty services, guest comfort supplies, and transportation.
- Additional photo/video hours when events are spread across multiple locations or late-night rituals.
- Decor changes after mockups, upgraded florals, added lounge/rental pieces, and last-minute guest count increases.

How To Stay In Control

- Build the budget by event first, then by vendor category.
- Choose one or two hero moments instead of trying to make every event equally elaborate.
- Separate must-haves from flexible upgrades before contracts are signed.
- Keep a contingency line for cultural details, guest comfort, and venue-specific requirements.
- Revisit the budget after every major vendor decision so small upgrades do not quietly become budget creep.

What tAAra Helps With

tAAra turns the budget into a decision tool: a clear starter budget by category, practical guidance on where to invest or simplify, vendor-range conversations before commitments, and timeline readiness so the final stretch feels calm.

This guide is a starting point. Final costs depend on the date, city, guest count, venue rules, vendor team, service level, and selected scope.