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Budgeting

There are many destinations, lodging types, restaurants and private chefs. All will vary in prices depending on the luxury level, number of bedrooms, location-destination (i.e. ski resorts vs. National Park), and the season.

Colorado's peak seasons are the holidays, ski season (if at a ski-resort area) and summer months (June - September). Off seasons in the mountain areas run April-May and late-October through November. If you are considering a spring or late fall wedding and want to avoid "mud" season in the mountains, then a Denver, Boulder, Foothills or Colorado Springs wedding can offer some unique features and rock formations for backdrops.

Here are some price estimates. If you would like more specific information, we recommend our [Getting Started Site Report](#).



Vail Mountain Top "rogue" wedding: we purchase gondola tickets, ride to the top, and have a standing ceremony in the fields.

	Low, starting at....	Middle, starting at....	High, starting at....
Intimate Wedding Package This depends on destinations, ceremony site, and additions (like florals, extra hours, chairs/benches, gondola tickets, etc.).	\$3,800	\$4,500	\$5,500
Travel: air, car rentals, activities This depends on your departure city, time of year and type of activities	Varies greatly.		
Lodging: hotels, lodge rooms, inns or condos. This depends on size, number of bedrooms, and level of luxury	\$150+ per night	\$275+ night	\$450+ night
Lodging: vacation homes This depends on number of bedrooms, destination, and level of luxury	\$750 + per night	\$1,800 + per night	\$3,600 + per night
Restaurants: ranges from pizza/pasta budgets to "sky's the limit" budgets. Things to consider: gratuities, taxes and alcoholic beverages.	\$35 + per person	\$85 + per person	\$200 + per person
Private chef: many chefs will customize menus based on style of service. Things to consider for vacation home dinners: rental items (i.e. extra tables, chairs, china, glassware, etc.), parking, and event fees at houses.	\$50 + per person	\$100 + per person	\$150 + per person
Miscellaneous: attire, hair/makeup, marriage license, and any accessories you choose to purchase. Invitations are optional; since many of our clients are inviting only close family and friends, they invite by an old-fashioned	Varies greatly. Colorado marriage license runs \$30 + for certified copies Hair/makeup starts at \$150 and runs up to \$450 +		

Example Budget 1: The affordable elopement



Categories and Recommendations

Estimate Ranges

Intimate Wedding Package: there are several options here with this type of budget. One is to do a pure elopement or tiny wedding of only the couple up to 8 guests. We can do 1.5 to 2 hours of photography. With this option, we meet you at the ceremony site and setup cake/cheer there. Another options (for a little more photography time) is to meet you at your lodging, got out to the ceremony site, and do a little cheers + cake post-ceremony at the site. We would end our services there and not go with you to the restaurant.

\$2,600 to \$3,900+

Travel: some couples are either living in Colorado or in a state where there is a reasonable drive to Colorado. But, in the case that you need to fly, check the airlines for deals and remember to include car rentals.

Varies. If traveling from out-of-state, estimate milage costs, air, car. Can be \$500 to \$1,000 +

Lodging: the couple can easily stay in a hotel which is often less expensive than a vacation rental as sometimes properties with AirBNB and VRBO with charge not only booking fees, but also cleaning fees. Though do some comparing as there are great nightly deals on vacation rentals.

\$150/night
Stay at least 2 nights

Restaurant: celebrating with fewer people means less food costs, unless your plan is to do a fine dining experience.

\$500 to \$1000 +

Miscellaneous: you could DIY your own hair/makeup (but I like the special treat!). Attire can be found on eBay, LuLus and department stores like Dillards. No need to go fancy tuxes in Colorado - jeans and a vest can look smart in the outdoors. This can be done affordably!

\$500 to \$1,000

OVERALL

\$4,900

Example Budget 2: The luxury elopement



Categories and Recommendations	Estimate Ranges
<p>Intimate Wedding Package: this package includes 3 to 3.5 hours and includes up to 8 guests. The photographer meets you at your lodging site for pre-wedding photos, details shots and a first-look. We travel to the ceremony site and get coverage of the ceremony. There are a couple of options after the ceremony - either we can setup cake and cheers there, or travel to the restaurant to do cheers/toasting at the dining property. Sometimes couples will want to travel around to various other sites with the photographer after the cake/cheers vs. going back the restaurant. Either way, there is flexibility in the day.</p>	\$3,800 to \$4,500+
<p>Travel: some couples are either living in Colorado or in a state where there is a reasonable drive to Colorado. But, in the case that you need to fly, check the airlines for deals and remember to include car rentals.</p>	Varies. If traveling from out-of-state, estimate milage costs, air, car. Can be \$500 to \$1,000 +
<p>Lodging: the couple can easily stay in a hotel which is often less expensive than a vacation rental as sometimes properties with AirBNB and VRBO with charge not only booking fees, but also cleaning fees. Though do some comparison shopping as there are great nightly deals on vacation rentals.</p>	\$400+/- per night Four to five stars Stay at least 2 nights
<p>Restaurant: celebrating with fewer people means less food costs. An in-between restaurant will run \$50-\$75 per person; a fine dining experience (\$200+ per person).</p>	\$500 to \$1,000 +
<p>Miscellaneous: stylists can come to your lodging property, you could go to a local or onsite spa, or you could go to the salon. Attire can be found on eBay, LuLus and department stores like Dillards. Even for luxury weddings there is still no need to go fancy tuxes in Colorado - a suit is just fine in our outdoors.</p>	\$1,000 to \$2,000 +
OVERALL	\$6,600 to \$9,500 +

Example Budget 3: The budget small wedding

Categories and Recommendations

Estimate Ranges

Intimate Wedding Package: this package includes 3 to 3.5 hours and up to 28/30 guests (depending on site restrictions). The photographer meets you at your lodging site for pre-wedding photos, details shots and a first-look. We travel to the ceremony site and get coverage of the ceremony. Typically, after the ceremony we'll do group photos and then send guests ahead to the restaurant while we finish up with a mini-photoshoot of just the couple. In order to keep this on the lower end, we recommend having zero bridesmaids/groomsmen, or just 1 on each side. Usually, they are standing ceremonies (chairs can add \$350 to \$600 to a package). We often find sites that are less than \$500 to reserve and are sometimes even FREE (first-come, first served)

Travel: some couples are either living in Colorado or in a state where there is a reasonable drive to Colorado. But, in the case that you need to fly, check the airlines for deals and remember to include car rentals.

Varies. If traveling from out-of-state, estimate mileage costs, air, car. Can be \$500 to \$1,000 +

Lodging: to keep it affordable on the overall budget, we recommend staying at your own property, usually hotels. Though there are some areas in Colorado with small reasonably-priced cabins. Guests can then also make their own accommodation reservations

\$200+/- per night
Around three stars
Stay at least 2 nights

Restaurant: there are many great restaurants that offer good food without being expensive. Stick with your pizza/pasta, Mexican and pub fare that will be around \$35 to \$50 per person. Remember to budget taxes, gratuity and/or service fees. It is not unusual for restaurants to charge a cake cutting fee to cover service, plates and clean-up. Take-out became popular during COVID, and that trend has continued, but that only works if you are staying at a property that will allow your number of guests to celebrate. Alcohol service may be more; stick with beer and wine.

\$1,000 to \$2,000 +
Estimating for up to #30 guests

Miscellaneous: stylists can come to your lodging property, you could go to a local or onsite spa, or go to a hair salon. Attire can be found on eBay, LuLus and department stores like Dillards. For the guys, its not unusual to see them dressed in jeans, a button-down with a bow-tie. For something more "formal" a suit is just fine.

\$500 to \$1,000 +

OVERALL

\$6,300 to \$8,900 +



Example Budget 3: The small wedding with big elements



Categories and Recommendations

Estimate Ranges

Intimate Wedding Package: this package includes 3 to 3.5 hours, sometimes even 4, and up to 35 guests (depending on site restrictions). It follows our normal timing-sequencing with pre-wedding shots, first look (optional), ceremony, group photos, couple photos, and doing cake at the restaurant. The elements that can be added-on to a base package are: seating (benches +\$350 or chairs +\$550-\$600), extra photography time, bridesmaids/groomsmen bouquets and boutonnieres, a rehearsal (required if over 4 attendants), centerpieces, live pianist/musician, etc. Sometimes sites can be very affordable (less than \$500) at other times, sites can run \$1,600 and on up to \$2,800 (gondola rides to overlooks)

\$4,500 to \$5,500+
For the package.

Some sites are very affordable (less than \$500); others can be \$1,600 on up to \$2,800 plus



Travel: some couples are either living in Colorado or in a state where there is a reasonable drive to Colorado. But, in the case that you need to fly, check the airlines for deals and remember to include car rentals.

Varies. If traveling from out-of-state, estimate milage costs, air, car. Can be \$500 to \$1,000+

Lodging: There is a variety of options you can do for lodging from hotels, to condo, to smaller AirBNBs (less than 4 bedroom) on up to large luxury vacation homes (sometimes 7, 8 or 9+ bedrooms)

\$300+/- per night
\$1,600 +/- per night for vacation homes

Stay at least 2 nights

Restaurant: there are many restaurants that have small private dining rooms in which you can actually do a little dancing. We don't necessarily recommend a DJ/dance-floor (there are usually other diners at the restaurant), but bring a Bluetooth speaker to play your own playlist. Alternately, couples that rent large vacation homes will sometimes hire a private chef to cook dinner for the group. Because you can purchase your own alcohol with this option, the cost difference between a chef and restaurant is usually a wash. The price differences could be if the vacation home charges and event fee (extra cleaning + trash service) and if you rent extra items such a tables, chairs, linens and service-ware.

\$3,000 to \$5,000 +
Estimating for up to #30 guests

It could be less if you decide on pasta/pizza, Mexican or pub fare



Miscellaneous: stylists can come to your lodging property, your could go to a local or onsite spa, or go to a hair salon. Attire can be found on eBay, LuLus and department stores like Dillards. It does get chilly in Colorado, so an accessory like wraps/shawls for the women is nice. For the guys, a suit is just fine.

\$500 to \$1,000 +
For bridesmaids and moms, estimate around \$200 per person

OVERALL

\$9,100 to \$19,000+





A note from Wendee

Budgeting

I hope you enjoyed looking through this budget estimating guide and that it provides you and your partner with some talking points. Obviously there are a lot of variables. So, rank your top three priorities, identify your lesser priorities, and let those be your guides throughout your planning process. I'd love to help you with your Colorado small wedding - please reach out to me at any time.

~ Wendee

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