

Royal Weddings



Decorated with 10,000 pearls, the ivory dress of duchess satin was in the princess style with a fitted bodice and a neckline with a deep-scalloped edge.

Queen Elizabeth II

Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip were married in Westminster Abbey on 20th November 1947. They first met in 1934 at the wedding of Prince Philip's cousin, Princess Marina of Greece, to the Duke of Kent, an uncle of Princess Elizabeth.



Princess Margaret wore the famous Poltimore Tiara, which she bought at auction in 1949. The tiara can also be converted into a necklace. In 2006 it was sold for over £840,000.

Princess Margaret,
Countess of Snowdon

The sister of Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Margaret, and Antony Armstrong-Jones (later Earl of Snowdon) were married on 6th May 1960. They later divorced in 1978.



An estimated 500 million television viewers around the world are believed to have watched the marriage ceremony of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips.

Princess Anne, Princess Royal

Princess Anne, the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, married Captain Mark Phillips 14th November 1973. They were divorced in 1992 and Anne remarried to Commander Timothy Lawrence in December that year at a private ceremony at Crathie Church, near Balmoral Castle in Scotland.



Diana's wedding dress was made of silk taffetas, decorated with lace, hand embroidery, sequins and 10,000 pearls. It also had a 25 foot train.

Princess Diana, Princess of Wales

St. Paul's Cathedral, London, was the venue for the fairytale wedding of Prince Charles to 20-year-old Lady Diana Spencer on 29th July 1981. Diana brought glamour to the Royal family but the marriage eventually collapsed amid mutual accusations of adultery.



When asked about her wedding dress in 1986, Sarah Ferguson said "there will never be a dress to match it." And to date she has been correct.

Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York

Prince Andrew, Charles' younger brother, married high-spirited publishing executive Sarah Ferguson at Westminster Abbey on 23rd July 1986. They divorced six years later.



Kate Middleton's engagement ring, once Princess Diana's, is an 18-carat sapphire surrounded by 14 small diamonds.

Kate Middleton

Speculation on the designer of Kate's wedding gown has been circulating since the couple announced their engagement. The wedding takes place on 29th April 2011 and the dress is being created inside Buckingham Palace. Royal commentators believe that a little-known British designer has secretly been chosen.



Dress designer Lindka Cierach's sketches of the front and back of the wedding dress worn by Sarah Ferguson.

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Wedding Costumes of Asia

Wedding costumes in China, India and Vietnam were once coloured red, representing good luck and future prosperity. However, many women in these cultures are now rejecting tradition.

China

In China, the bride may first opt for a Western outfit of any colour and later change into a traditional costume for a tea ceremony.



Chinese lucky saying seal
Dragon and Phoenix Together Bring Prosperity and Happiness to the New Marriage. (Above)



Chinese bride wearing a red silk dress, adorned with golden phoenix and dragon, and carrying a parasol. (Above)

India

Until recently, brides in India were expected to wear a red silk sari. Today, as Western culture spreads throughout the Asian continent, brides are seen in a variety of colours and fabrics such as crepe, Georgette, tissue and satin.



Indian Bridal procession – Victorian illustration. (Above)



Indian bride wearing sari and bridal jewellery. (Above)

Japan

At modern Japanese weddings, the bride is first seen wearing a kimono. As the ceremony and celebrations continue, she will often change into three or more dresses before ending the day in Western clothes.

Other Asian Costume

The Japanese people of Indonesia wear a kebaya, or blouse, along with batik.

In the Philippines, the bride wears variations of the Baro't saya costume while the groom will wear a Barong Tagalog.

In previous centuries, the traditional Korean wedding dress, or hwarot, was worn with decorative headwear or a large hairpiece, known as a gache.



Japanese Wedding Party- circa 1870s (Above)



Japanese bride and bridesmaids in colourful pink Kimonos (Above)

Traditional Korean wedding scene, Seoul, South Korea (Below)

