

WATERSIDE WEDDINGS

There's little more romantic than getting married with the sea for a backdrop – here we round up the best places to do just that

WORDS *Madeline Barber*



NEWTON HALL NEWTON-BY-THE-SEA, NORTHUMBERLAND

WHY HERE? This out-of-the-ordinary venue caters for the cool and the quirky. It offers drinks receptions on the beach, picnics in the sand dunes, and grand decoration throughout.

THE CEREMONY Outdoor options include Wedding Hill and the Wedding Terrace. Indoors, get married in The Glass House or the heart of this venue, The Hall. True beach-lovers can wed on the Northumberland shoreline too.

WHAT'S THE CAPACITY? Newton Hall provides ceremonies for up

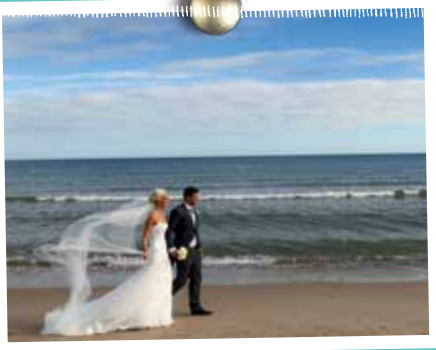
to 150 guests, wedding breakfasts for 150 and evening celebrations for 250.

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE? Fantastic! Options include a fish-and-chip feast, barbecue on the beach, Northumbrian hog roast, or themed menus such as a Mad Hatter's tea party. Drinks provided are local and artisan.

WHAT DOES IT COST? From £2,930 for a midweek wedding with a minimum of 30 guests, including food and drinks.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 01665 576239 or visit newton-hall.com.





SANDBANKS HOTEL POOLE, DORSET

WHY HERE? Watch the sun set on the horizon while dancing on the sand.

THE CEREMONY Take your vows in the Compass Suite before heading to the beach terrace for an alfresco blessing.

WHAT'S THE CAPACITY? 100 day guests and 150 for the evening.

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE? Fresh seafood, meat and vegetarian options.

WHAT DOES IT COST? Suite hire costs £450, packages from £51pp.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 01202 609101 or visit fjbhotels.co.uk.

PHOTOGRAPH WEDDINGS BY JAMIE



ACKERGILL TOWER WICK, CAITHNESS

WHY HERE? This 15th-century castle stands in 3,000 acres of grounds, overlooking a seven-mile beach.

THE CEREMONY Wed in Sinclair Palace, a beamed hall with a grand entrance, bar and catering kitchen, before celebrating in the Great Hall or Drawing Room.

WHAT'S THE CAPACITY? You can invite 180 guests to the ceremony.

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE? Hand-dived scallops, Scottish beef Wellington and a trio of desserts. Or, work with the head chef to create a bespoke selection of dishes. Ackergill Tower also has its own private pub, The Smugglers' Inn.

WHAT DOES IT COST? From £95pp.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 0330 333 7222 or visit amazingvenues.co.uk.



LA GRANDE MARE GUERNSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS

WHY HERE? Receptions at La Grande Mare are just a stone's throw from the beach on the north coast of the island.

THE CEREMONY La Grande Mare doesn't offer space for ceremonies, but it recommends a service at St Joseph's Church, a short trip from the hotel.

WHAT'S THE CAPACITY? Utilising the conservatory, up to 200 guests.

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE? Couples can choose dishes from a menu of 43, including a host of seafood options, British meat and vegetarian feasts.

WHAT DOES IT COST? Prices start from £49.50pp, which includes room hire, food and accommodation for newlyweds.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 01481 256576 or visit lagrandemare.com.



THE METROPOLE PADSTOW, CORNWALL

WHY HERE? Receive 25 per cent off room hire for couples booking their ceremony and wedding breakfast here.

THE CEREMONY Choose from the Drawing Room with its period fireplace, the Estuary Room or the Harbour Suite.

WHAT'S THE CAPACITY? Up to 104 daytime guests and 120 in the evening.

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE? Cornish duck, local crab and lemon meringue.

WHAT DOES IT COST? Room hire from £250; wedding breakfast from £200.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 01841 532486 or visit the-metropole.co.uk.

THE LODGE LOCH GOIL, ARGYLL & BUTE

WHY HERE? Choose The Lodge for small but intimate weddings surrounded by mountains and the still waters of sea-Loch Goil.

THE CEREMONY Settings to tie the knot include the shores of the loch, the Orangery, or inside the Arts and Crafts room. Wedding breakfasts can be hosted in the dining room, conservatory or treehouse.

WHAT'S THE CAPACITY? The lodge caters for two to 70 guests.

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE? Organic and locally sourced, some from The Lodge's garden. Vegetarian and vegan menus are available.

WHAT DOES IT COST? From £3,000, which includes exclusive use of the grounds, a two-night stay for two adults, flowers, a candlelit reception, post-ceremony champagne and canapés, and food throughout the stay.

HOW DO I BOOK? See thelodge-scotland.com or call 01301 703193.



WEDDING GUESTS CAN
WATCH BOATS BOBBING IN
THE RIVER STICK ESTUARY
THE CARLTON HOTEL



THE CARLTON HOTEL KINSALE, COUNTY CORK

WHY HERE? Wedding guests can watch boats bobbing in the River Stick estuary below while they wait for the bride and groom to arrive. The Carlton Hotel offers 30 per cent off spa treatments for the bridal party, floral arrangements for the table and a champagne reception, both on a complimentary basis.

THE CEREMONY The hotel is licensed for indoor and outdoor ceremonies, which both use the West Cork coast as a backdrop.

WHAT'S THE CAPACITY? Up to 240 guests.

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE? Expect homemade soups, fish courses and refreshing sorbets.

WHAT DOES IT COST? From €55pp for the Charlesfort Winter Package.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call +353 21 470 6000 or visit cartonkinsalehotel.com.



THE ROSEVINE NEAR PORTSCATHO, CORNWALL

WHY HERE? This countryhouse's rolling green grounds look out over the blue waters of the Roseland Peninsula.

THE CEREMONY Ceremonies take place in the restaurant area or drawing room.

WHAT'S THE CAPACITY? Up to 65 people can be catered for inside; bigger

weddings with up to 170 guests are held in a teepee or marquee on the lawn.

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE? You'll work with the team to design your ideal menu.

WHAT DOES IT COST? Each wedding is costed individually.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 01872 580206 or visit rosevineweddings.co.uk.



ST BRIDES SPA HOTEL SAUNDERSFOOT, PEMBROKESHIRE

WHY HERE? Available on an exclusive-use basis between April and September, St Brides Spa Hotel weddings enjoy sweeping views of Carmarthen Bay.

THE CEREMONY Floor-to-ceiling windows make the most of the vistas.

WHAT'S THE CAPACITY? For the ceremony invite 60 guests, then choose the Cliff Restaurant for a wedding breakfast of 96 guests

and an evening celebration with 120 friends and family.

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE? Handpick your perfect menu with the Head Chef.

WHAT DOES IT COST? A one-night midweek booking costs £12,500, or pay £25,000 for two-nights. Add £45pp for the food.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 01834 812304 or visit stbridespahotel.com.



ST IVES HARBOUR HOTEL ST IVES, CORNWALL

WHY HERE? This hotel has 180-degree views of St Ives Bay.

THE CEREMONY Walk down the aisle in the Harbour Suite and make your vows with the glistening sea in sight.

WHAT'S THE CAPACITY? The Wedding Suite holds 160 guests, but the hotel can host 250 evening guests.

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE? Choose a three-course meal or barbecue menu followed by cheese platters and sorbet.

WHAT DOES IT COST? The Harbour Suite costs £500, but package offers are available from £105pp.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 01736 792 924 or visit stives-harbour-hotel.co.uk.



THE CASTLE ON THE COAST PORTLAND, DORSET

WHY HERE? The majestic castle is set amongst landscaped terraces, Italian gardens and a Japanese teahouse.

THE CEREMONY Both the castle and its grounds are licensed for weddings.

WHAT'S THE CAPACITY? The castle's dining room seats 60 people, but for larger parties of 100, opt for the Orangery, which is available between April and September.

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE? The Castle works with well-known outside caterers.

WHAT DOES IT COST? A weekend starts from £13,900 for venue hire.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 01242 235151 or visit kateandtoms.com.

PHOTOGRAPHS KENSA PHOTOGRAPHY, RICHARD RAYNER

TUNNELS BEACHES ILFRACOMBE, DEVON

WHY HERE? Tunnels Beaches is nestled in rugged Devonshire cliffs, completely secluded and on a private beach. A paved patio surrounded by a wooden fence gives off a sweetly rustic vibe.

THE CEREMONY Couples can choose a thatched gazebo overlooking the sea, a contemporary function room or a network of hard-carved tunnels inside.

WHAT'S THE CAPACITY? Invite 88

guests in the day and 130 in the evening.

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE? Think beach barbecue, but prepared by a gourmet chef and without the burnt food and sandy salads.

WHAT DOES IT COST? Venue hire prices start from £2,250. The guide price for an all-inclusive wedding in low season is £8,500.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 01271 879882 or visit tunnelsbeaches.co.uk.

