



Planning Your Wedding on Blennerhassett Island



Planning FAQs

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1. Do we need to make a reservation for our wedding?

Yes, call Group Services to reserve your date and site, as available, and to discuss details.

2. Who can perform the ceremony?

Blennerhassett Island is in West Virginia and all West Virginia laws apply.

Ministers or officials performing wedding ceremonies on the island must be legally licensed by the state of West Virginia. Boat captains cannot perform marriage ceremonies.

3. Do we have to have our wedding during normal operation hours?

Wedding may be performed during and after normal operation hours – the less costly version is during normal operating hour and wedding frequently are planned at this time.

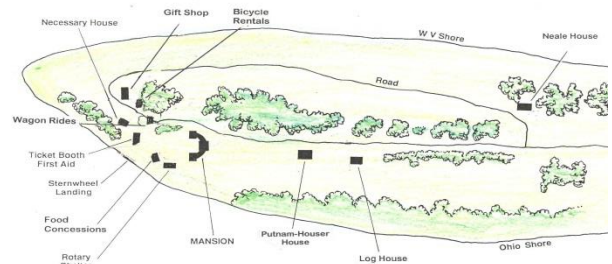
4. How do I get to the island? What options do we have for transportation to and from the island?

a. The state park's sternwheeler, The Island Belle, with a capacity of 149 passengers, takes guests to the island beginning the first week in May through the last weekend in October, weather permitting. General admission price apply during regular park hours.

b. [Private charter on the Island Belle Sternwheeler](#) is another great option. If you would like to reserve the sternwheeler for you and your guests for a rehearsal dinner, reception, or your wedding, see our Charters Page or call group services for additional information.

c. Outside charter: You may have another organization provide a boat for your transportation to and from the island. However, this does require a landing fee for the use of our dock.

d. Private boat: You can provide your own private boat for transportation to the island. Please call the park office for information about docking areas.



Eva Joy, Group Services Coordinator

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Please note: Options C and D require a \$2 per person landing fee payable. These options must be scheduled around the Island Belle schedule and cannot stay docked during the wedding unless it is after hours. Blennerhassett Island State Park operates a barge that can be available for equipment transportation. Please call the park office for rates and hours available for this service.

5. Where can we get married?

Areas designated for weddings include the following:

- Walnut grove
- Side lawn (Brick Shelter)
- Head of the island
- Maple Shade (additional fee)
- Mansion circle (after hours only)
- 20'x30' rental tent: one located between Brick Shelter and the river, the other by the Island Gift Shop.

Note: Ceremonies are not permitted inside the fenced area of the mansion lawn or inside the mansion.

6. May we hold our reception on the island?

Yes, you may choose from the areas listed above designated for weddings.

7. May we have our reception catered on the island?

The island concessionaires, Blennerhassett Island Catering, are available for catering. Please contact the park office for menus and additional details.

If you choose a private caterer there is an additional fee as well as barge rental for transportation

8. May we have our reception on the Island Belle?

Charting the Island Belle is a wonderful choice for your reception.

There is a counter area with a sink on the lower deck, and restrooms are available.

Tables are provided on the lower deck: they must be left on the boat but may be moved around.

Please see the Charters page on the park website for additional information or contact Group Services.

9. May we have alcohol on the island?

Alcohol is not permitted on the sternwheeler, Island or state park.

10. We know the island has items to rent; however, may we rent from an outside source?

Yes, you may rent chairs, tables, etc. from an outside source; barge rental may apply for transportation.

If renting large structures from outside sources (tents, DJ dance floors, etc.), sources must provide, proof of liability insurance.

Contact the group services staff for additional information with questions.

11. Are there dressing facilities on the island?

No, there are no private dressing facilities on the island.

The public restrooms are available for dressing; however, these facilities are open to the public also.

A 10'x13' tan, domed canopy tent is available to rent and may be used as a preparation area.

12. May we decorate our chosen site?

Yes. You should decorate your area to make your wedding more memorable.

Keep in mind: the island is home to many wild animals that occasionally arrive as uninvited guests to wedding and other events.

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We recommend that you decorate on the day of your wedding and also assign someone to be on site as a safeguard against anything being lost, stolen or damaged.

The public restrooms are available for dressing; however, these facilities are open to the public also.

A 10'x13' tan, domed canopy tent is available to rent and may be used as a preparation area.

13. Is it possible to have our rehearsal on the island prior to the wedding?

Yes. You may have the rehearsal on the island; however, the general admission price of the sternwheeler will apply for each passenger.

The answers to FAQ #4 apply to this question as well.

14. What if it rains?

Keep in mind: an outdoor wedding requires extra planning. Consider an alternate venue in case of inclement weather.

The island does remain open unless severe wind, lightening, etc. is in the area.

It is highly recommended to have a backup site for your wedding in case of severe weather, island closure, etc.

15. Are carriage rides possible?

An outside concessionaire operation wagon rides. Contact Hardly Able Carriage Company (John Smith) directly at 304-869-3051 for availability and pricing.

The wagon cannot go off the gravel paths onto the lawns.

16. Is there electricity available at each wedding site?

Yes. There are electrical receptacles at the Brick Shelter (side lawn site) and at the wagon ride loading area – which is close to the Walnut Grove site.

You must supply your own outdoor extension cords.

The Head of the Island site does not have electricity close by.

17. What is your payment policy?

Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park accepts checks, cash, credit card or money orders (only one form of payment).

The non-refundable reservation fee is due in its entirety within 10 days of receipt of Confirmation and must be accompanied with signed and dated Wedding Agreement.

All balances for rentals and reservations (shelter, sternwheeler charter, barge, etc.) are due in their entirety on or before 10 days prior to the scheduled wedding date.

When renting the shelter or reserving a charter on the sternwheeler, you must comply with the respective policies.

18. What fees will I pay to have my wedding on the island?

A non-refundable fee of \$250.00 is required for your reservation and desired date. This fee is due within 10 days of receipt of Confirmation and must be accompanied by a signed and dated Wedding agreement with the state park.

While the wedding fee is your only guaranteed cost, additional costs for boat transportation, amenities only after park hours, or rental items can be included.

19. Cancellation Policy

Cancellation policy is discussed in its entirety in the wedding agreement between the wedding contact and Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park.