

Alma Weddings FAQs

How much does it cost?

The pricing structure for weddings at the Alma includes a fixed hire fee, minimum spend and room fee. For 2027 weddings in January-September, the costs are:

£500 fixed hire fee (non-refundable)

£6,000 minimum spend

£1,250 room fee (2 night stay in our boutique suites)

Total: £7,750 (However, your minimum spend includes drinks purchased over the bar on the day)

For this fee you receive private use of the Alma Tavern, our kitchen, theatre, green room and 5 Airbnb rooms.

When do I need to pay?

Upfront costs:

To confirm your booking, we ask for the hire fee plus 50% of the minimum spend to be paid as a deposit.

Rooms:

After we confirm your date with our partners at Hopewell, we will pass on your details for them to get in touch to receive payment. Typically, payment is taken 1 month before the wedding, however we do block the room booking as soon as your deposit is taken to confirm the date.

Final costs:

In the last few months before your wedding, we will meet to discuss your chosen menu options, final guest list numbers, schedule for the day, etc. This will impact your final invoice, which is itemised for clarity with your chosen options. Therefore, the final invoice will be provided once all the details are confirmed. Typically, costs will be finalised 2 weeks before the wedding and invoices sent a few days after the event (in order to account for flexible costs such as the couple's bar tab).

How many people can I invite?

The Alma can host up to 50 people for a ceremony and wedding breakfast with a traditional horseshoe seating arrangement. However, for less traditional setups (e.g. wedding breakfast buffets) we can increase this capacity. This increases to 150 for the evening reception. Get in touch to discuss your ideal guest list and we can let you know how we can make it possible!

Do I need to book a registrar?

Yes, you will need to book a registrar via Bristol Registry Office. The process is simple and the team at the registry office are very friendly and helpful. We advise couples to check the availability of registrars before confirming their date at the Alma and paying their deposit.

What is included in the minimum spend?

A large portion of the minimum spend covers the wedding breakfast meal, evening buffet, canapes, welcome drinks, table wine, bubbles for toasts - anything that is pre-ordered. We carefully set the minimum spend to cover these costs in line with our pricing and our typical revenue. The rest of the minimum spend comes from your bar spend on the day. Any remainder of the spend will be charged as a hire fee.

Can you make my cake?

Unfortunately the Alma does not have a pastry kitchen or pastry chef and cannot offer wedding cakes. This is a specialised service and you will need to provide your own cake.

Do you provide decorations?

The Alma is a DIY venue - we don't provide decorations or a decoration service, but we do provide a ready-made space with plenty of charm and character. Any decorations you do wish to put up are your responsibility, however we will provide any necessary equipment to help you and some elbow grease where required! Due to being open to the public 7 days a week, we require any decorations to be put up the day of the ceremony, but can give access as early as is required.

What kind of decorations can I put up?

We are very flexible when it comes to what's allowed - as long as you don't damage the building we're happy for most conventional decorations to be used. We ask that any pins, sticky tape or blue tack can be removed without damage.

Do I have to remove decorations?

No, we will remove decorations for you at the end of the night and dispose of them. If you would like to keep anything please inform us in advance and we will arrange to store the item(s) for up to 7 days.

What about tableware?

We will provide all the necessary tableware and set this up for you after the ceremony. If you have any decorations specifically for the wedding breakfast tables, we ask that you provide a description of how you wish these to be displayed and we will set this up for you.

Do I have to move the furniture?

No, we will move all the furniture between the ceremony, wedding breakfast and reception. This takes approximately 30 minutes, during which time we move guests from the back space through to the front of the pub to allow us to work quickly and safely.

What time does the party end?

As per our premises licence, the Alma bar closes at 12am. Your guests won't be turfed out immediately - we allow for a gradual exit over the next half an hour while we begin to clean down.

Our garden closes at 10pm and DJ sets should finish at 11.30pm. Live music (e.g. a band) should finish by 11pm.

We do not have any sound limiters, however to maintain good relationships with neighbours we ask that the band's soundcheck is monitored by the manager on duty to agree a satisfactory volume for everyone.

Background recorded music (e.g. Spotify playlist) can continue to 12am so again this is a gradual wind-down.

Are there any extra costs?

There are some extra costs not covered by our minimum spend to be aware of:

Table linens and napkins are ordered from our suppliers at Atlantic Linen. We take care of ordering, delivery and return and add the cost of the invoice to your final costs. A copy of the Atlantic Linen invoice is always provided - we do not charge our couples any extra. Couples should budget approximately £125 for this service.

If you hire a band or DJ that requires extra equipment that the Alma does not have in-house, we can arrange this through our sound engineer or trusted events hire company. These costs will vary depending on what is needed; we can advise on available equipment and liaise with your band/DJ. We do not provide a sound engineer as standard, however our engineer is available to hire if necessary, depending on availability. Most wedding bands and DJs are self-contained and will not require extra equipment.

We will also add a service charge to the final bill (10% of all pre-ordered items). We guarantee that our staff will provide excellent service on the day to achieve this, however it is of course discretionary.

We typically book weddings in January-September, however can discuss pricing options for weddings in October and November. Please note we do not book weddings in December.

Why do I need to book the rooms?

The Alma has 5 en-suite rooms that we let out on Airbnb through our partners at Hopewell, which are typically fully booked on the weekends. Due to the nature of a private pub hire, we are unable to accept Airbnb bookings the day before or day of your wedding, and so we must include the cost of this in the wedding fee.

What is your cancellation policy?

We try to be as flexible as possible with cancellations, as we know that postponing or cancelling your wedding can be extremely stressful.

For cancellations more than 3 months before the wedding date, we will return your deposit in full.

For cancellations more than 1 month (but less than 3) before the date, we will return 50% of your deposit.

For late cancellations of less than 1 month, your deposit is non-refundable.

If the Alma is no longer able to host the event for any reason, we will return your deposit in full. If you need to rearrange the date, we will hold the deposit until a new date can be agreed. If we cannot agree a new date (e.g. because of availability), the above cancellation restrictions apply.

Your initial hire fee is non-refundable.