

Winter Wedding Gowns and Fashion



By Bridget Mora

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The romance and glamor of winter weddings are unparalleled. With a sparkle and elegance all their own, winter weddings are especially festive. Learn about beautiful ideas for winter wedding gowns, bridesmaid dresses, guest attire, beauty, and accessories.

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Blue Bridesmaid Dresses for Fall and Winter Weddings

When planning a fall or winter wedding, it may seem like all of the suggestions are for purple or red dresses, but those are far from the only options. Blue is one of the most flattering and versatile colors for bridesmaid dresses, and it is always in style. These are some ideas for blue bridesmaid dresses for fall and winter weddings.

In the autumn months, rich and deep colors are usually the order of the day. For bridesmaid dresses, a color like cobalt blue would be gorgeous. It is deep, yet vibrant, and would work equally well for a daytime or evening wedding. Cobalt is a popular color this year, and it is especially easy to picture it as the color choice for a September wedding. It bridges the gap between summer and fall beautifully. A long cobalt dress would be gorgeous with a black sash and crystal bridesmaid jewelry sets for a formal wedding, especially in an elegant one shoulder style.

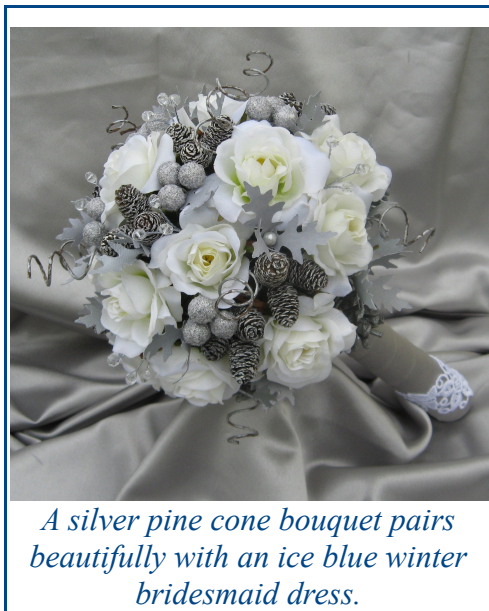


Navy is another excellent shade of blue for fall and winter. A classic color that is timeless and sophisticated, it looks especially stunning in tailored silhouettes. Try a navy strapless faille bridesmaid dress for an afternoon wedding, or a long navy satin V-neck gown for a formal evening ceremony. Sets of pearl bridesmaid jewelry are a natural choice with classic navy dresses. As for flowers, mixed bouquets in shades of purple are particularly attractive against navy. Use a combination of plum, fuchsia, and lavender blossoms in loosely arranged bouquets tied with navy velvet ribbon. Another idea is to have play up the crispness of navy with bouquets comprised of all white flowers, surrounded by a cuff of bright green leaves.

Tip: Choose rich fabrics like satin, dupioni, or velvet to make blue bridesmaid dresses perfect for a cold weather wedding.

For brides planning a fall wedding who are not crazy about dark colors, consider a medium blue dress with a chocolate brown sash. Picture the way that brown leaves look against a brilliant blue autumn sky to envision this winning color combination. The chocolate color brings in enough of a fall flavor to keep the dresses feeling seasonal. Bring the brown color into the bridesmaid bouquets by incorporating flowers such as chocolate cosmos or mini sunflowers. Natural accents like dried seed pods or berries will make the bouquets feel even more autumnal, and make a nice contrast with the medium blue of the dresses.

In the winter months, it often seems like all the bridesmaid dresses are red, red, and red. However, another fabulous winter wedding color scheme is an icy “Winter Wonderland” theme, with which ice blue bridesmaid dresses would be fantastic. The key to making such a pale color really work with the season is to use it in a distinctly wintery fabric like a heavy satin (a lightweight material like chiffon would make the dresses feel out of place). Then add more wintery accents, such as crystal snowflake pendants and perhaps even white fur wraps for the ceremony, tied with lustrous satin ribbons. Make the bouquets very wintery as well, with accents like tiny silver ornaments or silver painted pinecones mixed in among white roses.



A silver pine cone bouquet pairs beautifully with an ice blue winter bridesmaid dress.



This sophisticated medium blue dress would be gorgeous for a fall or winter wedding.

Blue is not only a very appropriate color for a fall or winter wedding, it is very beautiful as well. Blue dresses are particularly nice when the bride does not want to go with one of the more standard seasonal colors. Timeless and elegant, and always in style, blue bridesmaid dresses would make a wonderful addition to any cold weather wedding.

Fabulous Cover-ups for Fall and Winter Brides

Brides get married at all times of the year, and yet it seems like almost all of the wedding gowns you see are strapless or sleeveless. For many women, there is an easy solution to this problem: choose your favorite gown and then accent it with a cozy cover-up. From wraps to shrugs to boleros, these are some of the most fabulous cover ups for fall and winter brides.

One thing that you really have on your side this year is fashion. Much more than in recent years, the wedding gown designers have been showing dresses with matching cover-ups. This makes finding one significantly easier than in the past. This trend benefits not only cold weather brides, but also those who need to meet certain modesty requirements for their ceremonies. A jacket can be paired with a strapless gown to make it appropriate for a marriage ceremony held in a church or synagogue, and then it can be removed to create a totally different look for the wedding reception.

This leads to another point: there are some cases in which the bride is seeking outerwear to get her from car to building and others in which the bride wants a fabulous cover-up that she can wear with her gown, possibly for the entire wedding. If you want outerwear, you might choose a more loose fitting garment, such as an ivory velvet cape (gorgeous for a holiday wedding!). When the wrap is going to be worn during the ceremony, however, it must look as though it is a part of the gown, and not distract from any details on the dress.



A fabulous fur wrap for a winter bride.

Shrugs, boleros, fur stoles and capes are among the most popular winter wedding cover ups for brides.

Small fitted jackets like shrugs and boleros are one of the most popular options for bridal cover-ups this season. Many of the top designers were showing them with their bridal gowns. This style is wonderful because it fits closely to the torso, so it will not add any bulk, and it is short enough not to obscure any of the special details on your gown. A bolero can be created from a matching

fabric to the gown, such as a silk satin or mikado, or it can be a sheer accent like lace or organza. The lace boleros are particularly lovely, as are those with couture details like oversized organza ruffles. For jackets with high necklines, it is best to omit a necklace and instead accessorize with a standout pair of Swarovski bridal earrings. If you need to cover your arms and shoulders for religious purposes, consult with your officiant, as a sheer jacket may not suffice.

If you are looking not for a ceremony cover up, but more for something to throw on at any time in case of a chill, a silk wrap is a great choice. They can be made in almost any weight, ranging from lightweight sheer silks for the early autumn, all the way to double layered silk satin or silk velvet for the winter months. Many of the wraps feature very special detailing; look for one that coordinates with your other accessories. For instance, if you have chosen sparkly Swarovski bridal earrings, a wrap with a crystal beaded edge would be fantastic. Brides who are having very feminine weddings might opt for a wrap with floral embroidery. Although many brides will prefer a white or ivory silk, a wrap can also be the perfect place to add a dash of color to your wedding ensemble.

There are many other elegant cover-ups for brides. A delicate white crocheted wrap could fit the bill for a country wedding, whereas a fabulous fur (real or faux, depending on your preference) would add drama and glamor to a Winter Wonderland wedding. With your cozy wrap on hand, you will be snug and happy on your wedding day.



A lace bolero is elegant over a simple bridal gown.



A cozy knit bolero jacket would be lovely for a winter wedding in the country.

Flower Girl Ideas for Fall and Winter Weddings

The flower girl is a delightful part of any wedding. You can make her role even more wonderful by tying it in with the season in which you are married. For some of the best ideas for flower girls for fall and winter weddings, read on.



Flower girls tossing fall leaves.

In the fall, it is fun to incorporate some of the rich colors of the turning leaves into your wedding. One really neat idea would be to have your flower girl sprinkle leaves down the aisle instead of flower petals. Nice quality silk leaves in reds, oranges, and golds would make a lovely path for the bride to walk upon as she marches down the aisle. Use silk leaves to avoid the noisy crunching sound that real fall leaves make underfoot.

Another nice idea for a fall wedding is to dress your flower girl in a warm autumnal color, rather than white. A dupioni dress in burgundy, golden yellow, or burnt orange would be ideal. You can also pin a silk flower in a fall color to the sash of her dress for a sweet accent. A fluffy organza flower would be wonderful.

You can also think about highlighting the season when you choose the headpiece and flower girl jewelry for your little one. A delicate strand of crystals in your wedding colors would be a sweet little jewelry gift for your flower girl. Create a wreath for her hair in real or silk flowers in rich fall colors, accented by ribbon streamers cascading down the back. So adorable!

Should you be having a Halloween wedding, this is a really cute idea for an older flower girl: instead of a basket or bouquet of flowers, have her carry a tiny pumpkin. Carve your initials or another wedding motif into the jack o'lantern, and light it from within with a battery powered tea light (never a real candle). Dim the lights, and watch her float down the aisle with this most unique flower girl bouquet substitute. It will be something that your guests will never forget.



Pumpkin flower girl baskets for an autumn wedding.

Tip: Seasonal accents are precious for flower girl baskets.

Winter lends itself to all sorts of special things for flower girls too. The most obvious is with a velvet flower girl dress in forest green, claret, or navy. Tie it up with a big satin sash for the most charming holiday flower girl dress ever. If you want to make it even sweeter, look for a velvet dress with a white lace collar, or have a seamstress add a lace collar to a dress for you if you cannot find the perfect one readymade.

For your little wintertime flower girl, one adorable idea would be to have her carry a white faux fur muff instead of a bouquet or basket. Pin a small corsage of holly and poinsettia flowers to the white muff to make it extra special (faux flowers are best for a younger girl, as poinsettias can be toxic if eaten). For her hair, pull back the sides and let the fall down her back in soft curls. Finish it off with a sprig of holly on a barrette for the perfect holiday look.

Flower girls are so much fun, and you can have even more fun when you plan something special for her to wear and carry. Take advantage of the best that the season has to offer, and be creative. You will find that your flower girl becomes an even more charming part of your wedding.



A red and green tartan dress with a fur muff is adorable for a holiday wedding.



Flower girls are especially delightful when they are all decked out for the season!

Stylish Accessories for Fall and Winter Weddings

Whether you are in a wedding or just attending one as a guest, stylish accessories are a great way to add polish to your attire. Tried and true wedding classics are lovely, but by adding a few accents from the most current trends in fashion, you can really make your look stand out. Take a look at how the bride, bridesmaids, or wedding guests can include some of the most stylish accessories into their outfits for fall and winter weddings.

Shoes make the outfit, as we all know. The hottest looks in shoes right now are rounded toes. It could be a metallic flat or a platform with a stacked heel – if the toe is round, it will look very chic. A huge bonus is that round toe shoes are infinitely more comfortable than their pointy toe counterparts, which will make those long hours during the ceremony or on the dance floor much more enjoyable.

Charming embellishments like flowers or bows on the toe of the shoes give them an extra special character. The bride will be on trend with a classic white or ivory silk ballet flat, or she can choose a soft ballet pink shoe for a subtle hint of color. For bridesmaids or wedding guests, a metallic pewter heel with a slight platform and a rounded toe would be the height of fashion and is neutral enough to wear with any color dress.



Metallic shoes are very stylish for weddings



Crystal cluster necklaces are a popular trend

Big jewelry is very popular right now. Take advantage of this trend by choosing wedding jewelry with large baubles, multiple layer necklaces, and mixed chain, pearl, and crystal sets. For the bride, this trend can provide a wonderful inspiration for updating traditional family jewelry. Add a pearl tin cup necklace and a crystal strand to her mom's strand of pearls, and she will have the best of both worlds: wedding jewelry with sentimental meaning and a fresh contemporary flair. Wedding guests can have fun with unique bib necklaces featuring large crystals and pearls (real or faux), and the bridesmaids will look marvelous in chunky Swarovski crystal cluster necklaces.

Fur collars, both real and faux, are making a reappearance this fall. This is a trend which would be particularly elegant for a wedding guest. For a stylish daytime look, update a cashmere sweater or wrap dress with a gray fur collar tied loosely at the neck. It is the perfect way to make your go-to outfit for daytime weddings look new and different. Wear your hair up in one of the elegant low twists that are so popular to really showcase the fur collar. In the evening, the collar would be a stunning accent to a long v-neck silk dress, or worn over your coat for a grand entrance.

Whether faux or genuine, new or vintage, a fur collar is a fabulous accessory for a fall or winter wedding. Fur accents are equally gorgeous for the bride or the wedding guests.



There are plenty of other fun current trends in accessories that can be used to add spice to your wedding attire. Whether it is a fabulous fake cocktail ring for a bridesmaid, a pair of leopard print heels for the bride's grandmother (why not?!), or a luxe silk sash wrapped around the waist of a dress, a trendy accent is the perfect way to give any wedding outfit a fresh, chic style. Have fun playing with accessories to update your look!



Add style with fun accessories like a luxe sash or leopard bridesmaids' shoes.

Warm Up A Winter Wedding Gown

One of the biggest trends on the runway for brides is cover ups over the gowns. Shrug is in style, as are jackets and boleros. An elegant little cover up can be the perfect piece to transition your wedding gown from ceremony to reception.

The great thing about wearing a little cover up over your wedding gown is that it allows you to have a conservative or traditional appearance for your ceremony, and then to lighten things up for the party to follow in a strapless or spaghetti strap dress. Having a removable jacket is also a way to indulge in the trend of changing your outfit between the service and the reception without the expense of actually purchasing a second dress. All you would need to do is take off the jacket, let your hair down, and trade in traditional accessories for a chic set of crystal bridal jewelry, and voila! Instant transformation.

There are a variety of cover up styles that are in vogue right now. They range from tiny sheer shrugs to full long sleeve jackets to everything in between. Sheer lace is one of the prettiest options for a cover up. It can be used to create a lovely feminine shrug, with either short or long sleeves. This is a beautiful way to complement a bridal gown without hiding too much of it. Lace shrugs can be worn equally well with lace gowns or those created from a plain fabric.

Another very popular fabric for wedding cover ups is sheer silk organza. This crisp fabric layers beautifully over a gown and will not obscure the details of the wedding dress. Different designers created organza jackets in a wide variety of styles. There are tiny puff sleeve shrugs that almost look like a part of the gown; there are waist length swingy jackets; there are even dramatic long organza coats with outstanding details such as ruffled trim or interesting necklines.



A lace jacket can be worn for the ceremony and removed for the reception ~ two looks for the price of one!



A glamorous fur shrug for a winter bride.

Not all of the current wedding cover ups are sheer. Another trend seen on the runway was long sleeve fitted jackets with peplum waists in solid silk. This style of jacket was layered over gowns with fitted bodices and full skirts. As long as the jacket is fitted through the waist, it can be a very flattering style with an updated vintage flair to it. Textured fabrics were also a popular trend for bridal jackets, ranging from brocade to embroidered silk to pieces with feathers.

Winter brides will adore one of the fur or faux-fur shrugs that designers are showing. The wrap is beautiful for both the ceremony and as a practical cover up when the bride is outside. A white fur wrap is the ultimate in glamor when paired with a formal silk gown and sparkling crystal bridal jewelry. It is the perfect accessory for a Winter Wonderland theme wedding.

Even if you had not considered wearing a cover up with your wedding gown, take a chance and try some on. This trend is so versatile and stylish that you might just surprise yourself by falling in love with a little jacket, shrug, or bolero. An elegant cover up is just one more way to add style and personality to your bridal ensemble.

A chic feather trimmed bolero will add warmth and style to a winter wedding gown.



What to Wear to a November Wedding

November is not one of the more common months for weddings, and if you have been invited to one, you may find yourself wondering what on earth to wear. Dressing for a November wedding can be a little bit tricky, as the weather will be wintery, but the festive holiday season has not yet begun. From colors to fabrics to styles, this is what to wear to a November wedding.

One question that many guests have is, "Can I wear velvet in November?". To some extent, this is a personal preference, but a good rule of thumb is that velvet is best reserved for the time between Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day. There is some flexibility to that; if you were attending a formal wedding the weekend before Thanksgiving, no one would give it a second thought if you wore a velvet dress. If the wedding is in the beginning of November, head to toe velvet would be a bit much. You could, however, get away with a pretty velvet jacket and a silk skirt. A style with a wide portrait neckline is a gorgeous way to show off your favorite wedding jewelry.

Sparkling jewelry, luxe fabrics, and special details make for a perfect outfit to wear to a November wedding.

Heavy silks like shantung, satin, and dupioni are always beautiful for a late fall wedding. The shimmer of satin makes it best suited to evening weddings, or to use as a trim (such as a satin collar on a dress made from a matte fabric). Dupioni and shantung are wonderful for a November wedding at any time of the day. For an afternoon wedding ceremony, a silk dupioni sheath with matching tailored jacket would be stunning. If you choose one in a neutral color like champagne or mocha, you will find that it is a versatile outfit to wear again for special occasions year round.

The wintery feeling of November means that shimmer and shine are appropriate. The beaded top that would have been entirely too much for a summer afternoon wedding can work wonderfully when the weather turns colder. One signature sparkly piece can be used to add pizzazz to an otherwise simple outfit, such as dressy wide leg trousers or a tailored skirt. In the evening, the same beaded top would be marvelous with a long silk velvet or satin skirt. Be sure to layer on lots of crystal wedding jewelry to complete the outfit.



If you are invited to a casual November wedding, think cozy and luxe for your outfit. Beautiful fabrics with great texture are the way to go. Informal pieces with special details work very well, such as a cardigan with a beaded neckline. A cashmere cable knit sweater worn with a brown suede skirt and high heeled boots would be perfect. Add some pretty jewelry, like a Tiffany-inspired silver bracelet or a large pair of pearl studs.



Beautiful fabrics like lace, satin, and taffeta are elegant and appropriate for a November wedding guest.

November is close enough to winter to start playing with other special details. A coat with a fur collar (faux or real, depending on your preference), patent leather shoes, or a satin hairband will all make your outfit more festive. With all of the early holiday styles coming into the shops, finding the perfect outfit to wear to a November wedding may be easier than you think.

Winter Wedding Hairstyles

The perfect hairstyle will bring your entire wedding day look together. The loose and beachy styles of summer may seem out of place or too "undone" for the winter months, when elegance reigns supreme. These are some of the best winter wedding hair ideas.

There will be several factors that go into deciding on your wedding hairstyle. There is the length and texture of your hair, of course, but also the formality of your wedding, the headpiece and wedding jewelry you plan to wear, and even the neckline of your bridal gown. This is why most brides will not have their hair trial until a month or two before the wedding. Any sooner, and you won't have all of the information that you need to make the best decision.



Winter weddings tend to be more formal and elegant than those in the summer, and therefore more elaborate hairstyles work very well. Updos are often the best choice, as they create a very polished look and as a bonus, will allow any interesting details on the shoulders of your gown to show. Many winter brides opt for a lace shrug or other special wrap, and keeping your hair up off your shoulders will look the best with this sort of accent piece.

clip on the side. If you want to amp up the drama factor, wear a cluster of white feathers in your chignon. It is a fresh and modern update on a classic style. The feathers also happen to tie in beautifully with an all-white Winter Wonderland wedding theme.

A Swarovski crystal headband is an elegant accessory for a winter bride.





A sophisticated braided bun.

Another option for an updo for a winter wedding is a braided bun. This is a fantastic style for brides who have long hair. The braided bun is romantic and looks wonderful with lace bridal gowns. Having your hair pulled back will allow your wedding jewelry to be better seen. Pearl earrings look lovely with this vintage inspired hairstyle. Finish it off with a scattering of pearl hairpins tucked around the bun.

Having a city-chic winter wedding? Then opt for a sleek and easy style like a low side ponytail. Have your stylist loosely sweep your hair to one side, then decorate it with a jeweled ponytail wrap. Though simple, the style can be surprisingly elegant, as long as it is smooth and sleek. This is a great complement to a slinky charmeuse wedding gown, particularly one with a low cut back.

Finally, there is the half up wedding hairdo, which is a favorite all year round. In the winter, go for a more polished version; save the tousled look for a beach wedding in the summer months. Add the right amount of elegance with a crystal beaded double headband or a wide satin headband decorated with a jeweled ornament. This classic style is sure to please at any time of the year.



Sleek hairstyles like half up or a sideswept ponytail are ideal for a winter wedding.

Winter Wonderland Wedding Attire



Planning a Winter Wonderland theme wedding? Great! It is a fabulous and festive theme for a wedding in the cold winter months. A Winter Wonderland wedding needs equally fabulous attire for the bridal party; here is a guide to the most spectacular outfits for everyone from the bride on down.

The hallmarks of a Winter Wonderland wedding are icy sparkle and plenty of shimmer. This is a very fun idea to capture in a bridal gown. Look for a lustrous white silk gown, rather than one in ivory or champagne. Choose a style that has a grand presence, such as a very full ballgown with a box pleated skirt. Then think about the details. Silver embroidery and crystal beadwork are a must! Heavy embellishments will not look like "too much" for this fantasy style wedding. Ornate architectural designs make for gorgeous embroidered motifs. Or select a feminine vine pattern. Avoid anything that is too summery, like embroidery in the form of daisies.

What would a Winter Wonderland wedding be without snowflakes and crystals?



If you prefer a lace gown, this can also be made to work beautifully with your Winter Wonderland theme. A silver lace would make an exquisite and unforgettable accent on a white silk gown. Or choose an all over lace bridal gown, such as a fine Calais lace, that is beaded with hundreds of twinkling crystals that will sparkle as you walk down the aisle. Even your veil can feature crystal accents.

No wedding gown is complete without the perfect finishing touches. A sparkling headpiece is great for a Winter Wonderland bride. Choose a tiara, a double headband, a festive comb, or a set of hairpins. Crystals and rhinestones can be mixed with tiny pearls for the perfect icy snowflake look. In fact, you can even get hairpins or other jewelry that is made in the shape of a snowflake. A snowflake pendant is a fantastic gift idea for your bridesmaids. You will want plenty of other twinkling touches, too, such as stacks of Swarovski crystal bracelets, chandelier earrings, and a fabulous crystal necklace.

The bridesmaids for a Winter Wonderland wedding should also look spectacular. As popular as red is for winter weddings, it makes too strong a contrast to the icy white palette that characterizes this theme. Opt for bridesmaid dresses in a color like silver, platinum, or champagne instead. They will look just as festive, yet will not be a distraction from the decor. Certainly the bridesmaids will also want to shimmer. Sets of Swarovski crystal bracelets, earrings, and necklaces would be the perfect finishing touch, perhaps created in the colors of their dresses.



A beaded satin gown is beautiful for a Winter Wonderland bride. Gown by Kenneth Pool.



The flower girl can have a dress made from the same fabric as the bridesmaid dresses. Another wonderful option is a velvet dress. Black patent leather Mary Jane shoes with white tights will be perfect for her lower half. And that brings us to the men in the wedding, which is easy: tuxedos. They have the right degree of sophistication and formality for a fabulous Winter Wonderland wedding. After all, the bride is the star of the day, but the groom deserves to look great too!

Neutral metallic colors like platinum, silver, and champagne are perfect for Winter Wonderland bridesmaids.

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