Wedding Website Template

Complete Beginner Guide

1. WHAT YOU NEED BEFORE STARTING WEBSITE LOCALLY ON YOUR PC

Before you can run your wedding website, you need to install Node.js on your computer. This is a one-time setup.

Step 1: Download Node.js

1. Go to: https://nodejs.org
2. Click the big green button that says "LTS" (Long Term Support)
3. Download the installer for your operating system

Step 2: Install Node.js

Windows:

1. Double-click the downloaded file (node-v...msi)
2. Click "Next" through all screens
3. Click "Install" and wait for completion
4. Click "Finish"

Mac:

1. Double-click the downloaded file (node-v...pkg)
2. Follow the installation wizard
3. Enter your Mac password when asked

2. HOW TO OPEN COMMAND LINE

On Windows:

1. Press Windows key + R on your keyboard
2. Type: cmd
3. Press Enter

A black window will open - this is the Command Prompt (CMD).

Alternative method (Windows):

1. Click the Start menu (Windows icon)
2. Type: cmd
3. Click on "Command Prompt"

On Mac:

1. Press Command + Space to open Spotlight

2. Type: terminal

3. Press Enter

A white/black window will open - this is the Terminal.

3. HOW TO NAVIGATE TO YOUR PROJECT FOLDER

After opening Command Prompt/Terminal, you need to navigate to the folder where you saved your wedding website files.

Step 1: Find your project folder location

First, figure out where your wedding website folder is. For example:

- Windows: C:\Users\YourName\Downloads\wedding-website-template
- Mac: /Users/YourName/Downloads/wedding-website-template

Step 2: Navigate using the "cd" command

"cd" stands for "change directory". It moves you into a folder.

Windows example:

```
cd C:\Users\YourName\Downloads\wedding-website-template
```

Mac example:

```
cd /Users/YourName/Downloads/wedding-website-template
```

TIP: On Windows, you can also:

1. Open the project folder in File Explorer
2. Click in the address bar at the top
3. Type: cmd
4. Press Enter - CMD opens directly in that folder!

Step 3: Verify you are in the correct folder

To make sure you are in the right place, type:

```
dir
```

(On Mac, type: ls)

You should see these files listed:

- package.json
- vite.config.js
- src (folder)
- index.html

If you see these files, you are in the correct folder!

4. RUNNING YOUR WEDDING WEBSITE

Step 1: Install dependencies (first time only)

This downloads all the required files. You only need to do this once.

```
npm install
```

Wait until you see a message that installation is complete. This may take 1-2 minutes.

Step 2: Start the development server

This command starts your website locally:

```
npm run dev
```

You will see a message like:

```
VITE v5.x.x  ready in xxx ms

  > Local:   http://localhost:3001/
```

Step 3: Open your website

Open your web browser (Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Safari) and go to:

```
http://localhost:3001
```

Your wedding website should now be visible!

Step 4: Stop the server

When you are done, go back to the Command Prompt/Terminal and press:

```
Ctrl + C
```

This stops the server. You can start it again anytime with: npm run dev

5. HOW TO CUSTOMIZE YOUR WEBSITE

All customization is done in ONE file: src/config/wedding.config.js

Open this file with any text editor (Notepad, VS Code, Sublime Text, etc.)

5.1 Change Names & Date

```
couple: {
  partner1: { name: 'Emma', phone: '+1 555-0123' },
  partner2: { name: 'James', phone: '+1 555-0124' },
  displayName: 'Emma & James'
},
wedding: {
  date: 'June 15, 2025',
  venue: { name: 'Rose Garden', location: 'California' }
}
```

5.2 Change Password

```
auth: {
  password: 'YourSecretPassword',
  enabled: true  // Set to false to disable password
}
```

5.3 Change Images

Use Unsplash URLs or local images (put in public/images/ folder):

```
images: {
  hero: 'https://images.unsplash.com/photo-xxx',
  couple: '/images/our-photo.jpg',  // Local image
}
```

5.4 Change Website Theme

5 beautiful themes available: sage, blush, dustyBlue, gold, lavender

```
theme: 'blush'  // Changes entire website color scheme
```

5.5 Hide Theme Selector Button

Once you have chosen your final theme, hide the floating button:

```
showThemeSelector: false
```

5.6 Change External Links

```
links: {
  rsvpForm: 'https://forms.google.com/your-form',
  photoAlbum: 'https://drive.google.com/your-album',
  venueMap: 'https://maps.google.com/your-location'
}
```

6. BUILD FOR PRODUCTION (UPLOADING TO INTERNET)

When you are happy with your website and want to put it online, you need to create a "production build".

Step 1: Create the build

In Command Prompt/Terminal (make sure you are in the project folder):

```
npm run build
```

This creates a folder called "dist" with all your website files optimized for the internet.

Step 2: Test the production build locally

```
npm run preview
```

Open http://localhost:3001 to test. Press Ctrl+C to stop.

7. DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS (PUTTING YOUR SITE ONLINE)

Option A: Netlify (Easiest - Free)

1. Go to netlify.com and create a free account
2. Click "Add new site" > "Deploy manually"
3. Drag and drop the "dist" folder from your computer
4. Your website is live instantly!
5. For custom domain: Site Settings > Domain Management

Option B: GitHub Pages (Free)

1. Push your code to a GitHub repository
2. Go to repository Settings > Pages
3. Source: Deploy from branch
4. Select branch "main", folder "/dist"
5. Your site will be at: username.github.io/repo-name

Option C: Traditional Web Hosting (FTP)

1. Run: npm run build
2. Connect to your hosting via FTP (FileZilla, etc.)
3. Upload all files from the "dist" folder
4. Upload to public_html or www folder

8. COMMAND SUMMARY (QUICK REFERENCE)

Here are all the commands you need:

One-time setup:

```
npm install
```

Downloads all required files. Run this once after downloading the project.

Development (editing your website):

```
npm run dev
```

Starts local server at http://localhost:3001

Changes you make will appear automatically in the browser.

Press Ctrl+C to stop.

Build for production:

```
npm run build
```

Creates optimized files in the "dist" folder for uploading online.

Preview production build:

```
npm run preview
```

Test how your website will look online before uploading.

9. TROUBLESHOOTING

"npm" is not recognized as a command

- Node.js is not installed. Go back to Section 1 and install it.
- After installing, close and reopen Command Prompt/Terminal.

Images not loading?

- Check URL is correct and publicly accessible
- For local images, put them in public/images/ folder
- Use format: /images/filename.jpg (with leading slash)

Changes not showing?

- Save the config file
- Hard refresh: Ctrl+Shift+R (Windows) or Cmd+Shift+R (Mac)
- If still not working, stop server (Ctrl+C) and run npm run dev again

Build errors?

- Delete node_modules folder
- Delete package-lock.json file
- Run: npm install
- Run: npm run build

10. PROJECT STRUCTURE

Understanding your project files:

```
wedding-website/
  src/
    config/
      wedding.config.js  <- YOUR MAIN CONFIG FILE
      themes.js           <- Theme color definitions
    App.jsx              <- Main website page
    Inspiration.jsx      <- Outfit inspiration page
    components/          <- UI components
  public/
    images/              <- Put your local images here
  dist/                  <- Production build (created by npm run build)
  package.json           <- Project settings
  vite.config.js         <- Server settings (port 3001)
```

11. CUSTOM DOMAIN SETUP

11.1 Purchase a Domain

Recommended registrars: Namecheap, GoDaddy, Google Domains, Cloudflare

Example: janeandjohn-wedding.com (typically $10-15/year)

11.2 DNS Configuration for Netlify

```
Type: CNAME
Name: www
Value: your-site-name.netlify.app


Type: A
Name: @
Value: 75.2.60.5
```

11.3 DNS Configuration for GitHub Pages

```
Type: CNAME
Name: www
Value: username.github.io


Type: A
Name: @
Values: 185.199.108.153
        185.199.109.153
        185.199.110.153
        185.199.111.153
```

11.4 Enable HTTPS (Security)

Netlify: Automatic - enabled by default

GitHub Pages: Settings > Pages > Check "Enforce HTTPS"

Made with love for your special day