

Wedding Website Template

Complete Beginner Guide

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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

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

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