



Mehendi, or henna design, can be a component of Indian weddings. Mehendi is loved for its beauty and is believed to bring fortune.

Embracing an ethnic wedding

By METRO CREATIVE

Couples are more culturally diverse than ever before. Engaged couples are embracing that diversity by incorporating elements of their heritage into their ceremonies. Global-infused details are a growing trend in ceremonies and receptions. Multicultural touches can help make weddings unique.

Traditional dress

With many countries embracing the tradition of wearing “wedding white,” couples are once again tapping into ethnic dress to add that wow factor to their weddings. Fashion can impart elements that borrow from ancestral homelands and tried-and-true wedding tradition. Distinct attire, such as sarees, kimonos, khmers, and kilts, may be center stage at ceremonies and receptions. Some couples opt to have a change of clothes so they can wear traditional dress for the ceremony and wedding gowns and tuxedos for

the reception.

Ethnic entertainment

In addition to a band or DJ, couples may want to incorporate some sort of ethnic entertainment into the festivities. Caribbean couples may want a steel drum band. Japanese weddings may be enhanced with the addition of a Taiko group that showcases the art of ensemble drumming. Although bagpipes are often associated with Irish or Scottish heritage, they’re included in folk music from different regions of Europe, Africa and the Persian Gulf as well.

Multicultural dance

Some of the most entertaining parts of a wedding involve dancing. With the right music and a few cocktails guests’ inhibitions may relax. Couples can even increase the fun factor by incorporating ethnic dance customs and music into their playlists.

If budget allows, hire a dance troupe to guide guests on the proper

steps. Otherwise, ask the band or DJ to play the music that inspires the tarantella, salsa or Bollywood moves and learn as you go.

Ethnic cuisine

According to New Jersey Bride magazine, today’s millennials have long been exposed to multicultural cuisine and have exotic palates. Food can reflect the couple’s culture or simply harken to cuisine they enjoy the most. The New York Times predicted that food inspired by Africa and the Philippines is hot for 2017, so couples may want to opt for flavors from these areas of the world.

When exotic offerings are presented, it can be a good idea to also have some traditional wedding foods so less adventurous guests have options.

Couples planning to incorporate multicultural elements into their weddings will need to find a ceremony and reception site that can accommodate those needs.

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