

*All hail the*  
**BEAUTY  
QUEEN**

Local experts solve your  
universal W-day problems

“As a bride-to-be myself, I’ve already had the middle-of-the-night panic where I have 101 questions that need answering,” says editor Danielle Harvey. “From the mundane, ‘Where are the plug sockets for our light-up giant hearts?’ to the more glamorous ‘Shall we jet off on honeymoon the following morning?’

“Surprisingly though, a lot of my – in my head conversations – have been about how I’ll look. Shall I wear a veil, which shoes go with my dress, shall I do my own make-up? Honestly, my bridal beauty pre-list is endless.

“Feeling that every bride-to-be out there is having the same dilemmas, I asked local fashion and beauty gurus some of the most common questions I know we all have – I hope this gives you a peaceful night’s sleep!”

I REALLY WANT TO ADD A POP OF COLOUR TO MY BRIDAL LOOK, HOW DO YOU SUGGEST I DO THIS?

“Slowly and steadily colours other than white and ivory make their entrance to such a conservative branch as bridal fashion,” says milliner Helena Krausson, of accessory company [florissimabella.co.uk](http://florissimabella.co.uk). “Just twenty years ago almost all brides who followed Western traditions knew one thing for sure; their dress would be white. Very few rebel girls dared choosing something else, like black or purple.

“Nowadays happiness comes in all colours, in 2017 most brands offer blush, baby blue and other pastels, many have floral dresses and some go avant-garde with rich and bright colours. This trend is not yet mainstream though, and even if brides decide to go for colour not everyone is ready to go all-out and opt for a coloured dress. In this case accessories are a perfect way to introduce different hues; shoes, bags, and hair adornments can create a powerful impact without being too much.

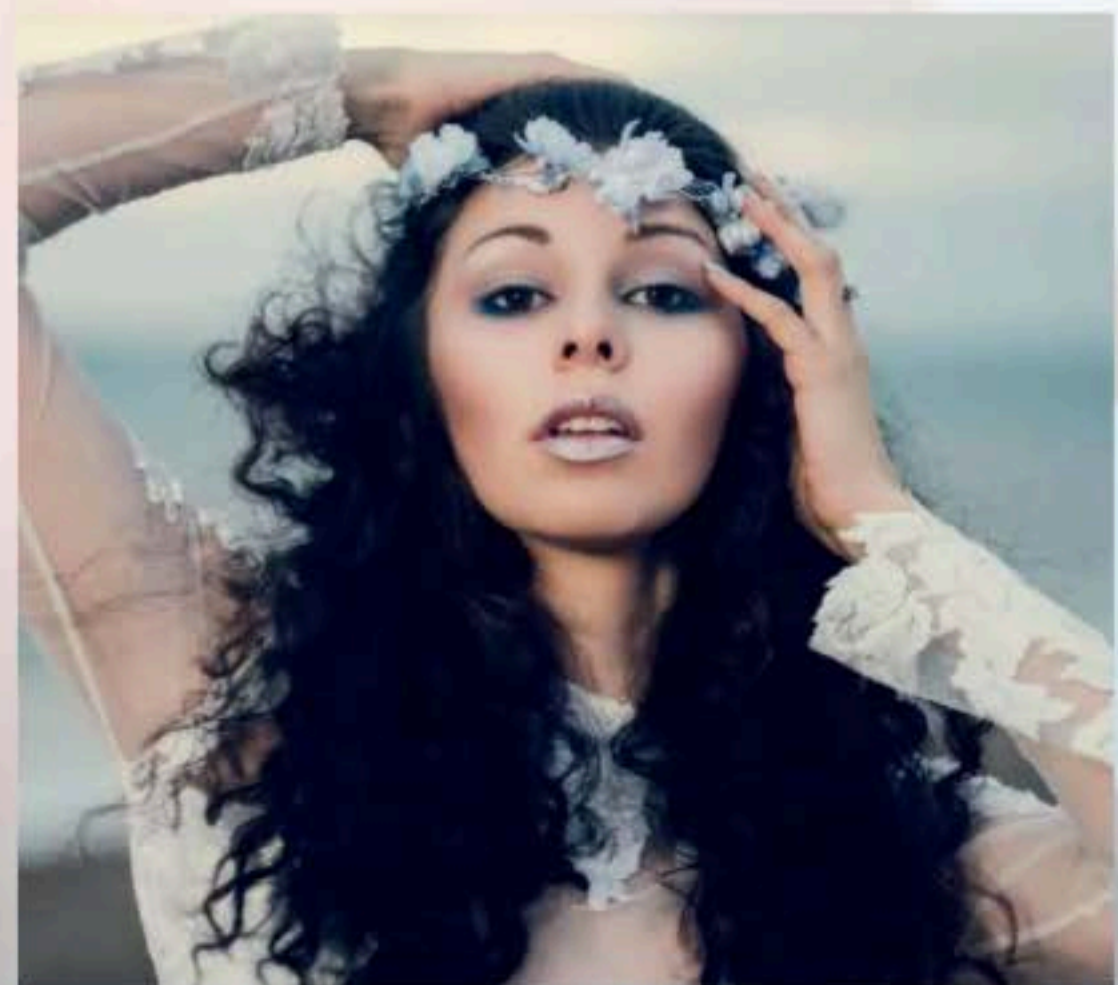
“My new collection of bridal hair accessories, Blue Wonderland, was created for those that want a splash of colour; from headbands, pins, combs to hair vines. Each piece is perfect to add that favourite shade to your look.

“All the accessories can be customised, created in different colours or materials and mounted on various supports, which is ideal if you can’t find an accessory to match your look – the bespoke option is definitely for you!”



A FRIEND SUGGESTED BUYING A GOWN ‘OFF-THE-PEG’ AND SAID IT WOULD BE MORE BUDGET-FRIENDLY. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN EXACTLY AND WHY WOULD IT BE MORE COST-EFFECTIVE, WOULD I BE ABLE TO HAVE A DRESS TO MY MEASUREMENTS STILL? HELP!

“Buying an off-the-peg gown usually means buying one of the shop’s designer sample gowns at a discounted price, after purchase you may well then be asked to take the dress home with you,” says bridal boutique owner Lavina Best of [vivabridal.co.uk](http://vivabridal.co.uk). “You’d still be able to have the dress altered to your measurements. The same alteration process would be needed, in which the dress maker will get you in your dress and make the necessary alterations to ensure it fits your body perfectly.”





I'D LIKE A CONTEMPORARY-LOOKING UP DO, WHAT HAIRSTYLE DO YOU SUGGEST I GO FOR?

"I'd suggest a loose braid, pulled out and put up softly to create an elegant, contemporary look, which is very up to the minute but still simple and romantic," says hairstylist Maria Jones, of Elite Hair (07718 140 244).

I HAVE REALLY FINE, SILKY HAIR BUT WOULD LOVE A MASS OF BOHO CURLS FOR MY BIG DAY, HOW CAN I ACHIEVE THIS FOR MY BRIDAL LOOK?

"It's all about the hair prep when it comes to curls for fine hair. I'd recommend a bouncy blow dry creating lots of volume using a texturising spray, then use a curling wand, pin and let the curls cool for a longer-lasting curl," says hair stylist Samantha Bilham of Hair Up by Sam (07960 227 858).

MY BRIDESMAIDS ARE ALL FASHION-FORWARD LADIES AND I'D LOVE TO PICK A MODERN DRESS FOR THEM. WHAT COLOURS AND STYLES DO YOU SUGGEST I LOOK AT?

"I'd suggest not to choose a coloured dress – I love bridesmaids to match the bride and just using the bouquets to bring in some colour. I'd also recommend that your group of ladies be mismatched in styles – a uniform look echoes traditional! Also, dress each bridesmaid according to their body shape.

"The other on-trend look I'd suggest is for them to wear separates," says bridal boutique owner Sally Brady of [helenafortley.co.uk](http://helenafortley.co.uk)

I'VE NEVER HAD A FACIAL BEFORE BUT HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO HAVE THEM IN THE RUN-UP TO THE WEDDING. WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST IS THE BEST TYPE I GO FOR?

"The big trend this year is for a glowing complexion, so you're right to be looking for professional ways of achieving this," says Dr Susan McGregor of A Touch of Spa ([atouchofspa.co.uk](http://atouchofspa.co.uk)). "In my view, professional facials are a necessity for every bride. A personalised treatment can leave you looking amazing – even without any make-up. On the day, it will ensure your make-up goes on easier and looks better. The effects of a really good facial can last for some time, and take you through your honeymoon.

"So what should you expect from a facial? An excellent treatment should address all of your skin issues, be relaxing, and leave you with glowing skin that feels soft, smooth and well hydrated. Any fine lines should reduce and your eye area should look lifted and youthful. Sometimes, if you have an uneven complexion or congestion, for example, you may need a series of facials.

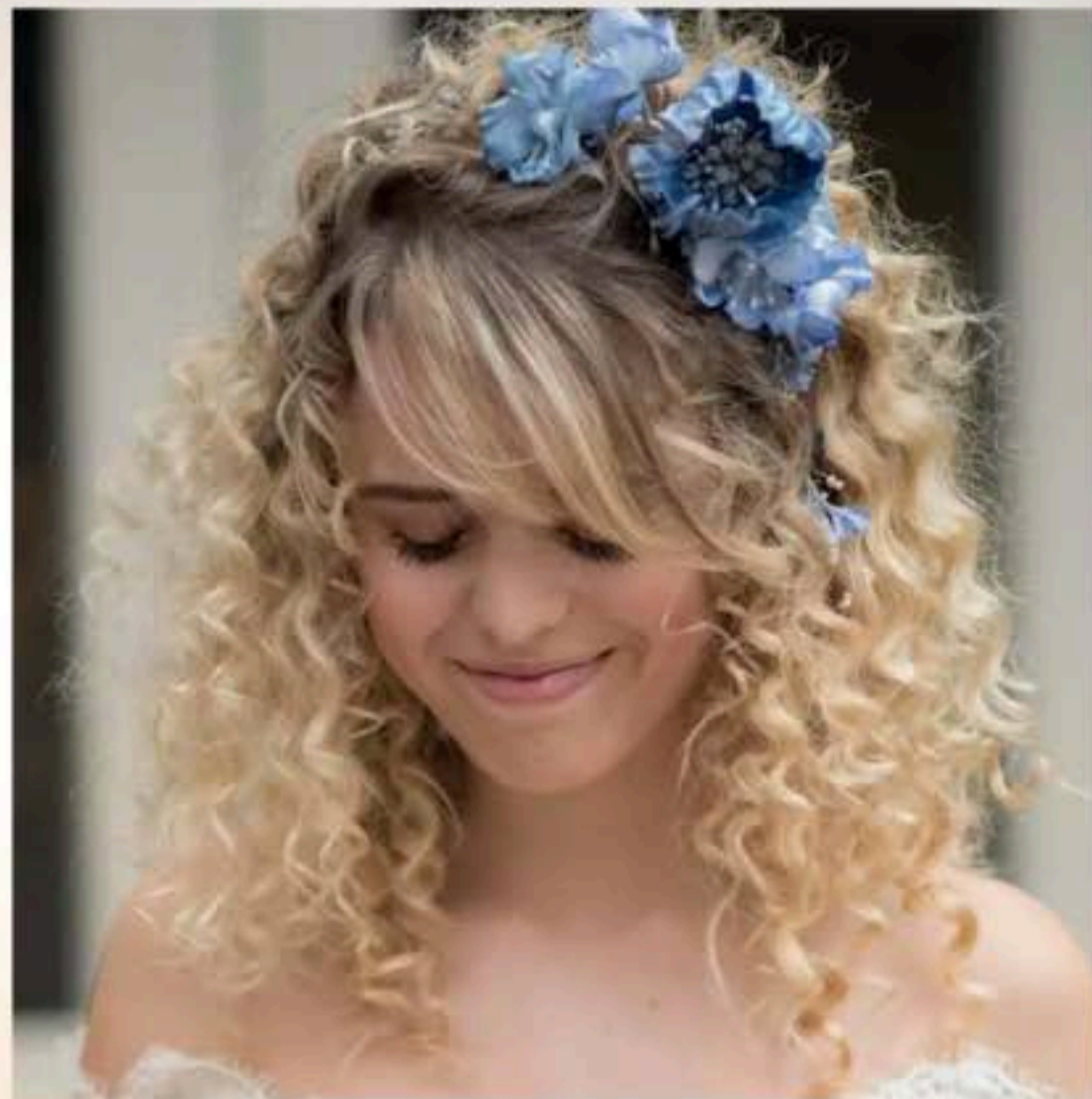
"When it comes to choosing which facial to have, it's surprising how many beauty salons give you a facial just based on your age and skin type, which in my view simply does not go far enough. Try to find a salon that will do a really detailed skin analysis and create a personalised treatment for you. Check out the reviews for the salons, and choose one that gets five-star recommendations.

"And finally, try them out a few months before your big day. The results should last for weeks if you follow their aftercare advice."



MY MOTHER WOULD LIKE TO WEAR THE SAME COLOUR AS OUR BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES, BUT I DON'T WANT HER TO MATCH THEM. HOW CAN I DEAL WITH THIS SITUATION, AND WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE I CAN GIVE HER FOR HER OUTFIT?

"Your mum could look for the same colour but in a lighter or darker shade but it's not always possible to get exactly the style that suits in the colour you want. It's a lovely idea but the main thing is for your mum to look fabulous in whatever suits her best," says mother-of-the-bride retailer Dee Brain of [serendipityfashions.co.uk](http://serendipityfashions.co.uk)



I HAVE REALLY FINE, FLAT HAIR – BUT I'D LIKE A VOLUMINOUS LOOK FOR MY WEDDING DAY; HOW CAN I ACHIEVE THIS?

"A great way to achieve thick long hair is to add hair extensions. Real hair extensions can look great, are easy to style and not detectable – they'll also last for your honeymoon! Prices for a good range start from £170," says extension hair specialist Holly Darrah of [candyextensions.co.uk](http://candyextensions.co.uk)



I HAD MY HEART SET ON WEARING A TIARA BUT I'M WORRIED THEY'RE A LITTLE DATED. WHAT CONTEMPORARY DESIGNS ARE THERE SO I CAN ACHIEVE THE LOOK I WANT?

"Side tiaras are very popular, creating a classy look. A big trend at the moment is hair vines, they're so versatile and can be worn in many ways. A bespoke hair accessory can completely enhance your look," says florist and jewellery designer Laura Potts of [pottsoflove.co.uk](http://pottsoflove.co.uk)