2026

CASTLE in the CLOUDS Part of the National Historic Landmark Lucknow Estate

Wedding Guide



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About Castle in the Clouds

Castle in the Clouds is a historic mountaintop estate in Moultonborough, New Hampshire, recognized in 2024 as a **National Historic Landmark**. Constructed in 1914 by industrialist Thomas G. Plant and his wife, Olive, the Lucknow Estate is now known as Castle in the Clouds. The Lucknow mansion showcases the Arts and Crafts movement in America, and sweeping views over Lake Winnipesaukee. Today, it operates primarily as a museum, welcoming visitors each season to explore its history, architecture, and grounds.

The estate now sits on 5,500 acres of the land once owned by the Plants—much of it conserved and protected by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust. The broader property features numerous hiking trails, an array of waterfalls, and a small network of restored historic buildings cared for by the Castle Preservation Society. Lovingly restored to its 1914 grandeur, the Lucknow Mansion sits at the heart of the estate, surrounded by manicured gardens, a turn-of-the-century rock pool featuring Sprite—a bronze statue by artist Lucy Currier Richards—and sweeping, 180-degree views of Lake Winnipesaukee and the Ossipee Mountain Range.

In addition to its public mission, Castle in the Clouds hosts year-round weddings and private events, offering couples the opportunity to celebrate within a setting that blends rustic elegance with warm historic character.



Your Wedding Experience

At Castle in the Clouds, we strive to create a wedding day that is seamless, memorable, and uniquely yours.

Exclusivity and Privacy – On wedding days, the museum adjusts its schedule slightly, closing early to ensure your wedding is uninterrupted. From 5:00 PM onward, you and your guests have private access to the Lucknow Mansion grounds and Carriage House for your ceremony and celebration.

Trolley Transportation – Our trolleys provide transportation for guests between the Carriage House and the Lucknow Mansion during the evening. Service concludes after all guests have departed from Lucknow.

Support from Start to Finish – Our team helps coordinate with vendors, guide setup in the estate's spaces, and ensure that every detail aligns with your vision while respecting the historic nature of the property.

Guest Experiences – Guests have the opportunity to enjoy the full charm of Castle in the Clouds during their stay in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. While we do not offer on-site accommodations, visitors can explore the estate's waterfalls and hiking trails, enjoy lunch at the Carriage House restaurant, or tour the historic Lucknow Mansion. The mansion showcases remarkable architecture, period-advanced technological features, elegant gardens, and sweeping views of the lake and surrounding mountains.



Event Spaces

The following describes how our packages traditionally utilize the spaces at Castle in the Clouds for weddings. With some creative vision and an understanding of the limitations of each space, we are happy to work with you to customize where different elements of your wedding day take place.

Ceremony Space

The **Lucknow Mansion Lawn** offers sweeping views of Lake Winnipesaukee and the Ossipee Mountains. Guests are seated in rows on either side of the historic rock pool, creating a unique, non-traditional aisle. The wedding party enters from the front right corner, following the garden-lined fencing, and gathers in front of the guests with the panoramic view as a stunning backdrop.

Ceremony Restrictions: Rice, confetti, or rose petals may **not** be thrown inside any building. Natural petals and wedding bubbles may be used outside. No smoking, food, or beverages are permitted on the lawn; a designated smoking area is available at the front of the Carriage House. There are no restrooms on the Lucknow Mansion grounds; guests should use facilities in the Carriage House before the ceremony.

Cocktail Hour

Cocktail hour can take place on the **Carriage House Terrace**, where guests enjoy breathtaking lake and mountain views. The lobby, with its beautiful stone fireplace, provides a welcoming start to the celebration and a cozy, rustic touch. The Carriage House lobby and fireplace mantle can also be decorated. Castle staff is not responsible for any items left unattended, but Wedding Coordinators can assist with setup.

Reception

Receptions typically are held upstairs in the **Winnipesaukee Room**, the estate's former hay loft, now transformed into a rustic-elegant space with exposed beams, subtle wrought-iron accents, and expansive views of the surrounding landscape. The Winni Room comfortably accommodates up to 150 guests, with a maximum capacity of 175. A built-in hardwood dance floor (12'x20') provides an ideal space for dancing, while the bar area alcove is well-suited for photo booths and features benches already decorated with pillows. Receptions may also be held outdoors in a tented setting, which is described in its own section later in this guide.

What's Included in Every Wedding Package

Every wedding at Castle in the Clouds includes the essentials to help your day run smoothly:

General Inclusions

- Exclusive Use of the Estate – Private access to your contracted event spaces, ensuring your celebration is uninterrupted.
- Day-of Coordination – Our team oversees setup, guides vendors, and executes your vision so you can enjoy your day stress-free.
- Bar Service & Bartenders – Bartenders are included with all packages to serve your selected bar options. All alcohol must be purchased through Castle in the Clouds.

Space-Specific Inclusions

- Lucknow Gardens – Includes white wooden ceremony chairs.
- Cocktail Hour on the Carriage House Terrace – Includes patio-style tables and chairs with umbrellas.
- Winnipesaukee Room – Includes:
  - Round Banquet Tables
  - Mahogany Chiavari Chairs
  - Stemmed glassware for bar drinks
  - Table linens & napkins
- Note: Tented Receptions in the Meadows at Shannon Pond – All items must be rented through one of our partnered vendors.



Wedding Package Options & Pricing

Pricing is determined by the package chosen, not by the size of your guest list.

Castle – Ceremony, Cocktail Hour & Reception

- 5:00pm - 5:30pm Ceremony in the Lucknow Mansion garden
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm Cocktails on the Carriage House Terrace
- 6:30pm - 10:30pm Reception in the Winnipesaukee Room

Lucknow – Ceremony & Reception

- 5:00pm - 5:30pm Ceremony in the Lucknow Mansion garden
- 5:30pm - 9:30pm Reception in the Winnipesaukee Room

Winnipesaukee – Cocktail Hour & Reception Package

- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cocktails on the Carriage House Terrace
- 6:30pm – 10:30pm Reception in the Winnipesaukee Room

Garden – Ceremony Only

- 5:00pm - 5:30pm Ceremony in the Lucknow Mansion garden
- Up to 1 hour of time to take pictures in the Lucknow Mansion garden after the ceremony while guests leave the premises

	April & November	May, June, July & August	September & October
Castle	$8,000	$10,000	$12,000
Lucknow	$7,000	$9,000	$11,000
Winnipesaukee	$6,000	$8,000	$10,000
Gardens	$5,000	$5,000	$6,000

5% Discount for Friday Dates
10% Discount for Sunday Dates
15% discount for Weekday Weddings, Military, First Responders, and Teachers

The next few pages highlight options for Intimate and Winter Weddings.

Winter Weddings

Winter weddings at Castle in the Clouds are uniquely beautiful, offering a cozy, intimate atmosphere with the warmth of our Carriage House fireplace and stunning views of the snowy estate. While the flow of a winter wedding differs slightly from our summer events, the estate's charm and elegance remain timeless. Winter weddings are available **December 15 through March 31**.

Winter Carriage House – Ceremony, Cocktail Hour & Reception

- Ceremony in front of the **Carriage House fireplace**
- Cocktail hour in the **Carriage House lobby**
- 4-hour reception in the **Winnipesaukee Room**

Winter Winnipesaukee – Ceremony & Reception

- Ceremony in front of the **Carriage House fireplace**
- 4-hour reception in the **Winnipesaukee Room**

Considerations:

- Suggested Guest Maximum for Ceremony: Up to 125
- Ceremony seating available for about 75, with additional standing room
- Winter weddings do not include access to the Lucknow Gardens

Packages	Price
Winter Carriage House	$6,000
Winter Winnipesaukee	$5,000



Intimate Weddings & Elopements

Intimate Weddings at Castle in the Clouds are designed for couples seeking a meaningful, picturesque celebration on a smaller scale. Each intimate package includes transportation via our trolleys, and the support of our wedding team to ensure your day is seamless and unforgettable.

Private Ceremony & Photos - Couple, officiant, and photographers

- 1-hour use of the Lucknow Gardens for a private ceremony and portraits
- Includes a photo on the mansion's balcony
  (No interior museum photos permitted)
- Optional add-on: Join a Music Nights Dinner (additional fee if available)
- *Not available Friday–Sunday in September or October.*

Intimate Ceremony - Up to 45 guests

- 1-hour use of the Lucknow Gardens for a private ceremony and portraits
- Includes a photo on the mansion's balcony
  (No interior museum photos permitted)
- *Not available Friday–Sunday in September or October.*

Small Ceremony & Reception - Up to 45 guests

- 1-hour use of the Lucknow Gardens for a private ceremony and portraits
- Includes a photo on the mansion's balcony
  (No interior museum photos permitted)
- *30 Minute Cocktail Time for guests on the Carriage House Terrace*
- 2-hour reception on the Carriage House Terrace or in the Winnipesaukee Room
- *Not available Friday–Sunday in September or October.*

Package	Friday through Sundays	Monday through Thursdays
Private Ceremony & Photos	$5,000	$2,500
Intimate Ceremony	$5,000	$3,500
Small Ceremony & Reception	$7,000	$4,500

Tented Reception

For couples seeking a fully outdoor wedding experience, our Meadows at Shannon Pond offer a picturesque setting for a tented reception. This option allows you to create a fully customized celebration, with the flexibility to design every detail of your reception under a tent while enjoying the beauty of the estate's natural surroundings. Tented receptions are a separate package from our standard options and include some unique requirements and additional coordination considerations.

Key Details for Tented Receptions:

Open Bar Requirement: All tented receptions must include an open bar package to ensure smooth service.

Additional Coordination Fee: $500 fee applies for the extra time and oversight needed to manage tent rentals, setup, and coordination of all services.

Wedding Decoration Fee: An additional $500 fee applies for decorating in the tented space, including chair setup, tent adjustments, and managing other elements.

Full Rentals Required: All tables, chairs, linens, drinkware, and dance floor must be rented separately and will require setup by the Castle team or approved vendors.

Custom Setup: Couples have flexibility to arrange the space to match their vision, but all arrangements must comply with Castle in the Clouds' safety and property guidelines.

Rain Plan Options

At Castle in the Clouds, every wedding is crafted with comfort, beauty, and peace of mind. While most couples enjoy clear skies and our breathtaking outdoor ceremony setting, we also provide well-planned indoor alternatives to ensure your day remains seamless and stunning in any situation. Below is an overview of how rain plan decisions are made and the spaces available should you choose to move indoors.

Rain Plan Timing

Rain plan decisions are made on the day of your wedding between **3:00 and 4:00 PM**. A final decision **must** be made by **4:00 PM** so our team and your vendors have the time they need to prepare your ceremony space perfectly.

Clear Umbrellas (Outdoor Preference)

For couples who love the outdoors and wish to remain outside regardless of the forecast, we provide clear umbrellas to keep the ceremony visually beautiful and comfortable. Whether it's a light drizzle or a heavier passing shower, we will always honor your preference to stay outdoors.
The only time we require moving the ceremony indoors is when conditions become genuinely unsafe—such as lightning, dangerously high winds, or other hazards that could put guests at risk. Otherwise, if being outdoors is your dream, we'll do everything we can to make it happen.

Sun Room (Ideal for up to 80 guests; maximum 100)

The Sun Room offers an elegant, glass-enclosed alternative that still delivers the full Castle experience. Guests enjoy the trolley ride and views of the mansion before entering a space protected from the elements but surrounded by panoramic scenery. Comfortably fits up to 80, with room for up to 100 if needed. Seating is limited with mostly standing room for larger weddings.

Carriage House Fireplace Lobby (Best for over 80 guests)

For larger guest counts, the Fireplace Lobby provides a warm and inviting ceremony setting. The grand stone fireplace becomes your backdrop, and we light a fire to create a beautifully cozy, picturesque atmosphere—safely sheltered from the weather outside.

Day of Wedding Coordination Services

Our Wedding & Events Team is on hand to support you and ensure your wedding day runs smoothly. We are available to answer questions and oversee the day-of timeline, keeping everything on track so your celebration unfolds seamlessly. From the rehearsal to the final dance, we handle the logistics so you can focus on enjoying your day.

Pre-Wedding Support

The Wedding & Events Manager is available to answer questions and provide guidance throughout your planning. In the weeks before your wedding, the Event Coordinator oversees the day-of timeline and reception, under the Manager's supervision to ensure every detail reflects your vision. Our team also runs your ceremony rehearsal, so your wedding party knows exactly where to stand, when to walk, and how the ceremony will flow. The Assistant Event Coordinator greets guests and helps keep the day running smoothly.

Ceremony & Reception Setup

We ensure your spaces are ready for your celebration:

- Reception tables and chairs, including linens
- Garden chairs for the ceremony
- Assistance with any additional items you wish to have or hand out
- Optional Wedding Decoration Service—our team can handle setup and packing of all décor

Day-of Coordination

On your wedding day, we keep the schedule flowing and guests moving seamlessly between spaces:

- **Vendor Coordination:** Guiding the day according to your timeline and priorities, while allowing each vendor to focus on their expertise
- **Timeline Oversight:** Managing ceremony lineup, aisle cues, and reception activities
- **Guest Guidance:** Directing guests between ceremony, cocktail, and reception spaces
- **End-of-Day Support:** Collecting decorations and personal items in a designated area for the couple to take at the conclusion of the celebration

Couples may work with an outside wedding planner or coordinator; however, all venue logistics and use of the property are managed by the Castle in the Clouds Events Team. Any plans involving space, timelines, décor, or special activities must be approved in advance.

Concierge Services & Enhancements

Our Concierge Services and Enhancements are designed to make your wedding day even more personal and seamless.

Please check back closer to your wedding for updated pricing and offerings, as our services evolve to provide the best possible experience for your couples and their guests.

Examples of Concierge Services & Enhancements:

- **Wedding Elves Decorating Service – Pricing Varies**
- **Historic Lucknow Estate Castle Tour – $18 per person**
  Offer guests a self-guided tour of our historic estate.
- **Water Bottle Service – $25 per case of 24 bottles**
  Refresh your guests with bottled water while they wait for your ceremony.
- **Citrus Water Station – $60 per station**
  Serves about 75 guests. A flavorful, refreshing way to keep everyone hydrated.
- **Visual Equipment – Complimentary**
  projector, screen, and HDMI Cable available for presentations.
- **Bathroom Basket – $50 per basket**
  Stocked with essentials like bobby pins, hairspray, and mints.
- **Steaming Service - $300 minimum charge. $30 per linen**
  Our staff will steam table linens to help reduce wrinkles from folding and shipping, giving them a smoother, neater appearance.
- **Castle in the Clouds Toasting Flutes – $50 per set of 2**
  A keepsake for your celebration. Ask us about our alternative options!
- **Carriage House Terrace Tent - Inquire for pricing.**
  Enjoy guaranteed terrace use in any weather.
- **Bewitched Acres Honey Gift Jars – $6 per jar**
  Local honey harvested from **Bewitched Acres**, one of our Castle in the Clouds partners. Our on-site hives in the upper fields by the C.G. Roxanne Bottling Plant provide a sweet, locally sourced favor perfect for your guests.
- **“Mimosa Moment” – $12 per person**
  A welcome drink for your wedding party as they arrive and prepare for the day. Limit 1 per party member. Alternative beverages available upon request.
- **“Tie-Straightener” – $9 per person**
  An alternative welcome drink, enjoy one of our many beer options as you get ready. Limit 1 per party member.

Rehearsal Details

Your rehearsal is an important part of your Castle in the Clouds experience—it helps everyone feel confident, relaxed, and ready to shine on your wedding day.

Rehearsals are typically held the day before your wedding, with start times available between **11:00 AM and 2:00 PM**. We ask your ceremony participants to meet at the **Carriage House** 5–10 minutes beforehand so we can take the trolley up to the Mansion together.

During the rehearsal, we guide your wedding party through the processional, key cues, and any special touches you'd like to include. This is also a great chance to clarify details and answer questions, ensuring that everyone knows exactly what to do on the big day.

To keep things focused, we ask that only those participating in the ceremony—officiant, wedding party, and parents—join us on the Mansion lawn. Other guests are welcome to enjoy the Carriage House Terrace or purchase a ticket to tour the museum.

By walking through the ceremony ahead of time, you and your wedding party gain confidence, comfort, and peace of mind—so you can fully enjoy every moment on your wedding day.



Decorating Guidelines

We love helping couples bring their personal vision to life while protecting the beauty of Castle in the Clouds. Here's what you need to know about decorating your ceremony and reception spaces:

- **Scheduling:** Decorating is scheduled **three weeks prior to your wedding**.
- **Reception Hall Access:** On the wedding day, decorating the Winnipesaukee Room begins at **1:00 PM**, after our team has reset the room and completed any cleaning from the previous event. Some vendors may be allowed earlier access with approval of the wedding and events team.
- **Day-Before Decorating:** If you wish to decorate the day before your wedding, it must occur during Carriage House operating hours, **10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**, and **cannot conflict with another event**.
- **Supplies:** Couples are encouraged to bring their own decorating supplies.
- **Flame & Fire Safety: No open flames** are allowed. All candles must be encased in glass, such as votives, hurricane jars, or lanterns.
- **Stair & Handrail Safety:** For fire safety, **no candles or decorations are allowed on stairs or hand railings**. You may, however, decorate windows or the banister above the stairs.
- **Clean-Up Restrictions:** Loose glitter, tiny rocks, or confetti are **not allowed**. An additional fee of $150 may apply for small items that could damage vacuums or require extensive cleanup by our housekeeping staff.
- **For decoration questions, the Wedding & Events Team is here to assist.**



Catering & Beverage Policies

At Castle in the Clouds, we strive to make your dining and beverage experience as seamless and memorable as the rest of your wedding day. You work with one of our **approved caterers** to ensure exceptional cuisine and professional service, allowing you to focus on celebrating with your guests.

- **Customized Catering:** You work directly with your chosen caterer to design a menu that reflects your tastes and vision. Your wedding cake or desserts are the exception, allowing for personalization and flexibility. Be sure to ask that the Cake cutting service be provided by your caterer.
- **Outside Caterers:** If you wish to use a caterer outside our approved list, this requires the approval of the **Wedding & Events Manager**. A site visit—or at minimum, a phone call—must occur between the manager and the caterer to ensure alignment on equipment needs, the historic nature of the venue, and all Castle in the Clouds rules for caterers and vendors.
- **Beverage Service:** All beverages must be provided by Castle in the Clouds, ensuring quality, compliance, and a safe experience for all guests. In accordance with New Hampshire law, **outside alcohol is not permitted**. Castle in the Clouds also prohibits shots and straight alcohol.
- **Bar service concludes 30 minutes prior to the contracted end time** of your reception. If outside alcohol is discovered, bartenders reserve the right to close bar service early.
- **Responsible Service:** Our team ensures alcohol is served responsibly, reserving the right to refuse service to anyone without proper identification or who appears intoxicated.



Insurance Requirements

To ensure a safe and worry-free celebration, couples are **required to provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance** for the event, **at least 30 days before your wedding**. This coverage protects both you and Castle in the Clouds in the unlikely event of injury or property damage.

Many couples obtain wedding or special-event insurance through their homeowners insurance or specialty providers, such as **Wedsafe** **or** **Travelers Insurance**, though many other companies offer similar policies.

Important Note About Alcohol: Because Castle in the Clouds holds its own liquor license, you **do not need to purchase additional alcohol/liquor coverage**. When securing your policy, simply note that Castle in the Clouds provides licensed alcohol service.

Guest Directions

To help your guests arrive on time and stress-free for your Lucknow Mansion ceremony:

- **Arrival Time:** Suggest guests arrive by **4:30 PM** for ceremony seating in the Lucknow Gardens.
- **Entrance:** Guests should use the **service road (Ossipee Park Road)** rather than the main Castle gates. Using the main gates can take up to 15 minutes longer to reach the Carriage House.
- **Landmarks & GPS:** Look for the smaller Castle in the Clouds sign and Crystal Geyser sign at the road entrance. GPS address: **586 Ossipee Park Road, Moultonborough, NH 03254**
- **Parking & Transportation:** Guests may park in the main lot near the Carriage House, just before the Gift Shop. From there, a brief walk brings them to the Carriage House, where the trolley will transport everyone up to Lucknow Mansion. Limited accessible parking is available just across from the Carriage House.





Payment Schedule

To secure your Castle in the Clouds wedding, deposits and payments are required as follows:

- **Initial Deposit:** One-third (1/3) of your total package price is due at the time of booking to secure your date.
- **Second Payment:** One-third (1/3) of your total package price is due **three months after your initial deposit**.
- **Final Payment:** One-third (1/3) of your total package price is due **one month prior to your wedding date**.

Important Policies:

- **Non-Transferable & Non-Refundable:** All deposits are non-transferable and non-refundable.
- **Cancellations:** We do not allow cancellations. If a wedding is canceled, any payments made are forfeited. If we are able to rebook your date with another event, a full or partial refund may be issued at the discretion of the **Castle Preservation Society**.
- **Secure Payments:** We provide a **secure online payment link** where you can pay via credit card or PayPal. There is **no extra fee for using a credit card**, though you may choose to add **3%** to cover payment processing fees if you wish.
- **Payment Reminders:** Automatic email reminders are sent for each upcoming payment, ensuring you never miss a deadline.

