

DIRECTORY

Filling up awkward moments

The time between the ceremony and the reception can be an awkward period for guests. The bride and groom may be busy with photo shoots while guests are left shifting uncomfortably, waiting for the celebrations to begin.

The time between the ceremony and the reception can vary, but two hours is usually the limit if guests are expected to hang around, says Sonya Yeung, founder of Bliss Creations. "For couples who like a morning ceremony and an evening reception, we suggest leaving sufficient time for guests to [have] lunch, change attire and return for dinner without feeling rushed," she says.

More couples take guests' needs into account during this break, by laying on snacks and entertainment that give them an opportunity to mingle or just put their feet up for a bit.

Cocktails and music are a popular option when a ceremony and reception are in the same venue, and some couples add elements such as a photo booth or an

Range of ways to keep wedding guests occupied

interactive guest book where guests can take Polaroid photographs and leave messages for the couple, Yeung says.

Others include interactive talent such as a roaming magician or clown to entertain children, mahjong tables, a candy bar or a photo display that includes guests, while a tea ceremony can be one option to give out-of-town guests a taste of local culture, Yeung says.

"One of our favourite ways, especially when there are many out-of-town guests, is to have cocktails on a boat cruising around the harbour," Yeung says.

"This allows guests to enjoy the beautiful Hong Kong skyline while enjoying drinks and canapés on a luxurious boat. This can be a perfect activity for guests to enjoy

if they are going from the ceremony to a different reception venue."

Conway Lau, director at Pink Wedding, says mahjong tables and a cocktail area are popular solutions at traditional Chinese weddings, but some couples add another layer of fun.

Pink Wedding has helped organise a bouncy castle for children and a city tour for visiting guests. "Elements such as the couple's favourite spots in the city and where they first met can make it more relevant to the wedding," Lau says.

According to Lau, a typical wedding may have a ceremony earlier in the day followed by an evening banquet, with guests finding their own ways to fill the time in between.

"Don't stress out too much trying to entertain guests during this time, since many of them are not expecting anything beyond the already fun-filled day," Lau says. "If you want, provide departure transportation to take them back to the city if your ceremony venue is isolated."



Lai see is a feature of traditional Chinese weddings. Photo: Bliss Creations