



Check with any venues you're intending to visit, to make sure they accept hen parties



how to hen

We take a look at the rules of the hen party, plus a great idea for every budget



GEORGE LAMMIE PHOTOGRAPHY

Twenty-first-century hen nights can be as individual as the brides-to-be they're honouring – and contrary to popular belief, they certainly don't have to involve a tonne of alcohol and ridiculous uniforms. Unless that's what the lucky lady wants!

Despite the weird and wonderful possibilities the world of hen parties has to offer, many women are happy enough with something as simple as a good night out. So if you've been given the task of arranging the party, don't assume you have to be a clever clogs about it.

No matter what you choose to do, it's got to be both appropriate and affordable for everyone the hen wants to invite. It's also important that there's at least a rough plan or itinerary for the duration of the party. Take a weekend away, for example. Say you all troop off to Prague having got some bargain flights. If the chief organiser hasn't thought about what to do when you arrive, you're basically left with a large group of girls in a foreign city, all probably assuming there is a plan of some kind. And it's likely there will be quite a few different opinions about what would make it a memorable

weekend. To avoid any confusion or time-wasting deliberations, it's much better to have things agreed in advance, giving everyone the chance to be involved in the decision-making if possible. Unless people are prepped, you could find that little factions go off in different directions, which kind of defeats the purpose of a big group going away together in the first place. There's a fine line though, because you have to be quite flexible too; allow plans to change according to circumstances and remember that people don't want to be told what they're doing for every hour of every day. Try to get a mix of free time and group activities.

Remember to check with any venues you're intending to visit, to make sure they accept hen parties – lots don't, and even more don't allow hen paraphernalia such as 'L' plates and deely boppers.

Above all, do remember that the bride has lots on her plate already, so offer some reassurance that everything's in hand. Although surprises can be nice, it may be worth giving her some indication of what's in store – fear of the unknown can send even the coolest bride-to-be over the edge!

the rules of the hen party

Take the bride's cue

If she's likely to be mortified by plastic willies and devil horns, don't do it

Make it personal

Organise a few wee surprises such as printing posters of the bride and groom as youngsters

Cough up

All the girls should be prepared to contribute to hen party costs

Do a mr & mrs quiz

This is always great fun and you can give her a silly prize when she gets a question right

Involve everybody

Allow all her friends to make suggestions and offer feedback on ideas

Bring in old pros

Get some help from people who have organised hen parties in the past

Visit the pound shop

When organising a hen night, you must visit the local pound shop for all the essential accoutrements; it's the law!

Include food

If alcohol is involved you need to eat to avoid casualties

what's your budget?

No matter how much the girls are willing to spend, there's a fantastic hen party idea for you here

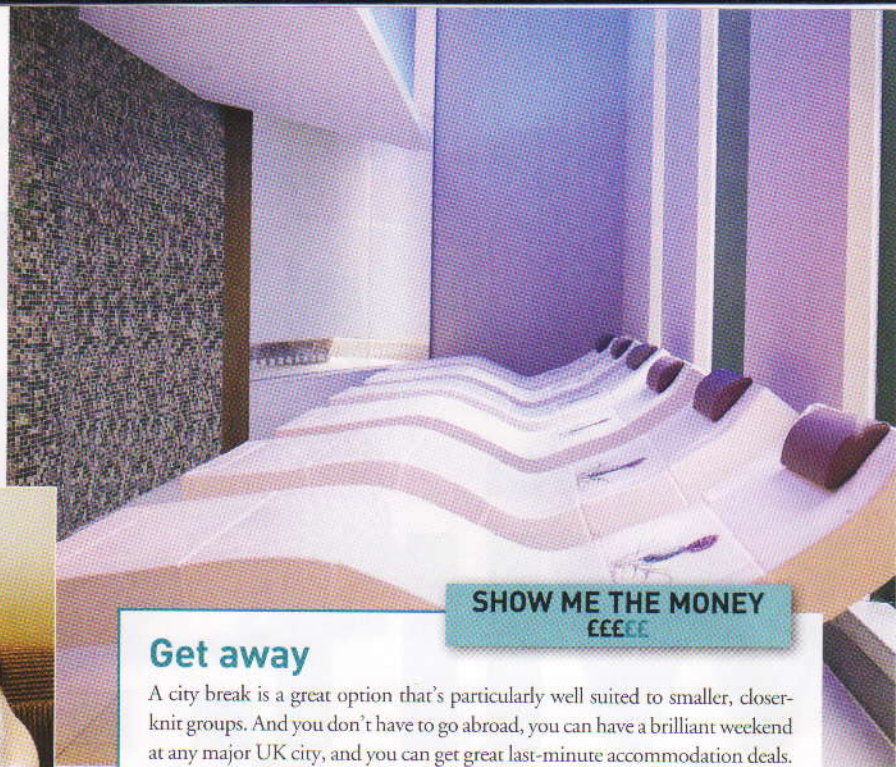
THEANDREWJAMES.COM



NO FRILLS FUN
££££

DIY frolics

If the girls are feeling the pinch, rest assured you can still have a brilliant time together. Why not organise a sports day with the egg and spoon, a sack race and hula hooping competitions? It hardly costs anything and you'll be surprised how much you enjoy some good old-fashioned fun! That takes care of the day-time activities, then in the evening you can have a homespun pamper night. Just choose the hen with the biggest house as your base, and stock up on chick flicks, face masks and other nice goodies from Boots. For food, everyone can bring a dish. You could even set up your own treatment room, where the girls take it in turns to dish out therapies such as massage and reiki to anyone who needs a little de-stress.



SHOW ME THE MONEY
£££££

Get away

A city break is a great option that's particularly well suited to smaller, closer-knit groups. And you don't have to go abroad, you can have a brilliant weekend at any major UK city, and you can get great last-minute accommodation deals. Places like Glasgow, Newcastle and London have loads to do, whether you choose the theatre, a pub crawl, the comedy circuit or whatever else takes your fancy. And what you save in pricey airline tickets you can spend in the fabulous shops! How's this for an unbeatable itinerary; on Friday night you arrive at the hotel, have a few drinks and settle in. Saturday is dedicated to shopping, maybe take in a show during the evening, go somewhere nice for dinner and hit the clubs if you have enough energy left. Spend Sunday at the nearest spa, with the bride-to-be getting the works of course.

www.superbreak.com

SPLASH THE CASH
£££££

Do it in style

If you can afford to splurge, book yourselves in for a weekend of luxury at one of Scotland's five-star hotels. Try a suite at Hotel du Vin at One Devonshire Gardens in Glasgow for a truly decadent hen celebration; this is where Robbie Williams stays when he's in town, and it's easy to see why. The luxurious decor is second to none and the wine and food menus are both amazing – in fact, between breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner you might not even have time to squeeze in a relaxing beauty treatment. Either way you probably won't need to leave the hotel, and at the end of the night you'll sleep soundly on the comfiest beds imaginable. 

www.hotelduvin.com



MODEST MAYHEM
£££££

It's a sin

It's always good if there's a real focus to the hen party, rather than just having a load of women drinking too much wine together. And if you're looking for something with a bit of a kick, how about a murder mystery evening? You won't believe how much fun this is and it's great for helping the girls bond together before the wedding. Blue Murder Events will organise the whole night for you for a reasonable fee, but they also offer a DIY option, Blue Murder Events in a Box. They do all the hard work; the printing, labeling, providing the props etc. Then they package it all up in a box, along with simple instructions for the person in charge.

www.bluemurderevents.co.uk



Hen Nights to DIE for!

Hen night murder mysteries for private groups.

Available throughout Scotland.

E: hennights@bluemurderevents.co.uk

T: 07946 424 111

W: www.bluemurderevents.co.uk