



## Collecting the bride

Before the wedding ceremony, the groom leads a raucous procession to his future bride's home. It begins with firecrackers, drums and gongs used to signal the start of the journey.

A child walks at the front of the procession with the groom to symbolize the wish for future children. Those joining the walk carry lanterns and banners, while those who are musically inclined can play their instruments.

#### Let the games begin

They will set out tasks or stunts for him to perform and then expect him to hand over red packets of money in order for them to surrender their friend.





#### Arrival at the newlyweds' house





# The ceremony

After a local government office the couple attend an intimate ceremony, where they stand at the family altar and pay their respects to nature, family ancestors, and deities. The ceremony is complete when the couple bow to each other.

#### Chinese Tea Ceremony





### The banquet







## Paying it forward

Banquet guests sign their names in a book when they arrive, and give red envelopes to the attendants. The attendant opens the envelope, counts the money and records the information in the book so the newlyweds know how much each guest gave.

#### Costume changes



A traditional qipao dress



A Western-style white wedding dress