

# WALK THROUGH THE RED

## EXPERIENCE A TRADITIONAL CHINESE WEDDING CEREMONY AS A BRIDE

In Chinese tradition, People regard “red” as a color of life, happiness, warmth, and auspiciousness and use it to bring luck in the wedding ceremony. During the day of marriage, the bride will become the major character to perform the different ritual in various location to bring luck to their marriage and family.

### THE RITUAL BEFORE THE CEREMONY

The diagram illustrates the pre-wedding ritual. A red sedan, labeled "Wedding Seden", carries the bride to the wedding location. She then walks across a "Red Carpet" that leads to a traditional Chinese building. Along the way, she passes a "Brazier" and a "Saddle". The building is decorated with "Red Lantern" and "Paper-cutting" (囍). The path is marked with numbered steps: 1. Arrive in a sedan and walk the red carpet, 2. Stride by the brazier, and 3. Cross through the saddle.

**1 Arrive in a sedan and walk the red carpet**  
The bride comes to the wedding location, the bridegroom’s family home, carried in a litter. After her arrival, the bride will walk across a red carpet to enter the wedding building.

**2 Stride by the brazier**  
Traditional Chinese people believed that walking past the brazier could bring luck to their family, since the brazier can represent grace and energy.

**3 Cross through the saddle**  
The saddle represents peacefulness. People also liked to place an apple on the saddle; as apples are also considered a symbol of peace.

### THE ACTUAL WEDDING CEREMONY

The diagram illustrates the actual wedding ceremony. The bride and groom are seated on a "Cai (rich) Cover" and "Fu (luck) Cushion" in front of a "Marriage Couplet" and "Folded Screen". They perform the "actual wedding ceremony" (4). The bride then waits in the "bridal chamber" (5) while the groom arrives. The chamber is decorated with "Wedding Curtain" and "Wedding Comforter".

**4 The actual wedding ceremony**  
The parents sit on a chair covered with a Cai Cover. The bride and the groom kneel on the Fu Cushion to kowtow three times - once to worship the heavens, once for their parents, and once for their spouse.

**5 Waiting the groom in the bridal chamber**  
The bride will be sent to the bridal chamber to wait for the groom with her head covered by a red scarf. Later, he will come to the bridal chamber and the couple will drink wine with linked arms. The wedding ritual is finished by consummation in the bridal chamber.