China is a large country with 56 ethnic groups. Different ethnic groups have different marriage customs, but whatever the group is, the wedding ceremony is usually very complicated. The traditional Chinese marriage usually involves 6 necessary procedures.

The main 6 necessary procedures of the wedding:

- Match-making (说媒)
- Engagement (定亲)
- Betrothal presents (聘礼)
- Meeting the bride (迎娶)
- Three bows (拜堂)
- Drinking wedlock wine (喝交杯酒)
Chinese Wedding Traditions

Red is the Color of Weddings in China

Red is central to the wedding theme of China. It signifies love, joy and prosperity and is used in a variety of ways in Chinese wedding traditions.

- e.g. wedding gown (新娘礼服)、shoes、package (包裹)、quilt (被子)、pillow (枕头)、door curtain (门帘)，and so on.
Chinese Wedding Customs
【food】

- Chinese date 枣
- peanut 花生
- longan 桂圆
- chestnut 栗子

↓
early birth of a healthy baby
早生贵子
Chinese Wedding Customs
【Combing Hair 梳头】
Chinese Wedding Customs
【Combing Hair 梳头】:

- Their hair needs to be combed four times and each has a special meaning.
- The first combing symbolizes their endless love. 自始至终
- The second combing symbolizes they will live harmoniously from now till an old age. 和睦永远
- The third combing symbolizes they will have sons and grandsons all over the place. 子孙满堂
- The fourth combing symbolizes their marriage will last from the beginning till the end. 婚姻长久
- The whole action also symbolizes the adulthood of the couple.
Chinese Wedding Customs
【Crying marriage 哭嫁】

Meaning: to thank parents for raising her up 感谢父母的养育之恩
Kick the curtain of the sedan chair (轿子) 踢轿门

Purpose: to kick off the bride’s pride 去傲气
Stride the fire pan 跨火盆

Purpose: to Counteract evil force 辟邪
Obeisance 拜堂
three worships:
1. worship the heavens and the earth 拜天地
2. worship the groom’s ancestors and parents 拜高堂
3. worship each other 夫妻对拜
Red package 红包

After that, the superiors (长辈) will give them red packages with monetary gifts and wish them well.
The groom's family will then offer a banquet for the friends and relatives to celebrate the wedding.
teasing the bride and the bridegroom on the wedding night 闹洞房
stirring up the red veil 掀盖头
cross-cupped wine
交杯酒

- **Meaning:**
  never to be separated
永不分离