

# KELLIE SAUNDERS

wedding photographers

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*Wedding Day Timeline Planner*  
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

# Tips to make a Successful Timeline

1

## BE REALISTIC

The reason you create a wedding day timeline is so that you can realize any stressful points in advance and add time where you need it. Be realistic and HONEST when going through this worksheet. Don't shave off the time thinking it won't matter. There's nothing worse than being stressed on your wedding day because you run out of time, so be honest and allow time for the things that matter to you.

3

## RELAX

Don't sweat the small stuff on your wedding day! If you are realistic and honest with yourself when creating your wedding day timeline then there won't be many surprises on the wedding day that you can't handle. Listen to your vendors if they tell you there is a potential problem with the timing and work together with them to find a solution that works for all of you.

2

## KEEP THE BUFFER TIME

You want the best experience on your wedding day so keep any built in buffer time because you might need it. You never know when there will be traffic issues or mishaps and it's always better to have more time than not enough.

4

## THE GOLDEN RULE

If your ceremony and reception are at the same location/venue, you should have a first look. Cocktail hour is barely enough time to take your family photographs, and before you know it you'll need to be announced into your reception and your hour has been spent locating family for the formal photographs. So, believe us when we say you need to consider a first look, especially if you love your venue and want to celebrate with quality photos taken there. Your photographer cannot take photos they don't have the time to take and you are setting yourself up for disappointment if you don't give them time to create a little magic. Believe us when we say you will run out of photo time.

If your ceremony / reception are at different places and you do not want a first look, just make sure there is at least 3 hours between ceremony and reception and you should have more than enough time for photos as long as you don't have several locations you want to shoot at. The more locations you have, the more time you need.

**“Don't shoot what it looks like, shoot what it feels like.”**

David Alan Harvey

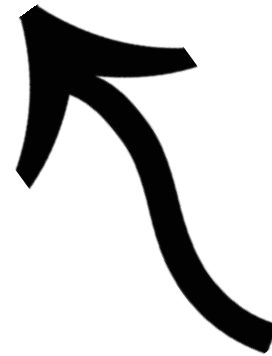


# Wedding Day Events

Listed below are blocks of time for the most common ceremony types. We list the time we recommend you allocate based on our experience on most wedding days. Next to that time you can fill in the time you will allocate for that event in the day. This is a fillable and printable PDF form.

## WEDDING DAY BRIDAL PREP

	WE RECOMMEND	YOUR TIMING
<b>Hair/Makeup</b> (estimated time per person, check with your HMUA) (Photographers are usually not present)	60 mins	
<b>Luncheon for Bridesmaids</b> (It's a long day, we suggest eating before getting dressed)	45 mins	
<b>Bridal detail photos</b> Includes photographing dress, jewelry, shoes, etc. Can include time for wedding party robes or T-shirts, etc.	30 mins	
<b>Bridesmaid toasts / gift presentation</b>	20 mins	
<b>Letter and/or gift from groom</b> (this is usually done after bride is dressed)	15 mins	
<b>Getting ready photos</b> Includes bride dressing and time for a few window portraits. Allow 10 mins extra time for a dress with buttons or a corset back.	30 mins	
<b>Letter and/or gift from groom</b> (this is usually done after bride is dressed)	15 mins	
<b>Brides first look with parent(s)</b>	10 mins	
<b>Makeup touch ups</b>	10 mins	
<b>Photos with bridesmaids</b> (if there is time later you can do these elsewhere)	20 mins	
<b>Transportation to next location</b> (varies based on your logistics - pro-tip, pad the time to allow time to load your things in the vehicle).	30 mins	



This is an editable PDF.  
Enter the time you want  
to give yourself and  
then print it out so you  
can use it when creat-  
ing your timeline on the  
last page.

# Wedding Day Events

## WEDDING DAY GROOM PREP

WE  
RECOMMEND YOUR TIMING

### Groom dressing

(Groom should be dressed without his jacket on, photographers will capture the rest)

15 mins

### Groomsmen toasts / gift presentation

20 mins

### Letter and/or gift from bride

15 mins

### Groom with parents photos

Includes someone adjusting his boutonniere

10 mins

### Photos with groomsmen

20 mins

### Transportation to next location

(varies based on your logistics - pro-tip, pad the time to allow time to load your things in the vehicle).

30 mins

## FIRST LOOK

### Transportation to First Look

(Include time if you have to change locations)

30 mins

### First look for couple

(Includes time to set up and get couple in place)

30 mins

## CEREMONY

### Ceremony - Catholic

This includes time to sign marriage license and prep for family formals. Do not reduce time, they almost always last one hour.

60 mins

### Ceremony - Orthodox Christian

These ceremonies are longer than traditional. This time includes signing marriage license.

75 mins

### Ceremony - Non denominational

30 mins

### Ceremony - Jewish / traditional

40 mins

### Ceremony - Ketubah Signing

This may not take 30 mins, it will depend on rabbi and how many people are attending / participating.

30 mins

### Yichud (seclusion after Jewish wedding)

Minimum - you can allow more time if you wish

15 mins

### Ceremony - Indian / Southeast Asian / Hindi

This is a minimum - sometimes it's longer.

150 mins

# Wedding Day Events

## PORTRAIT TIME

	WE RECOMMEND	YOUR TIMING
<b>Family Formals - Immediate family</b> (Includes enough time for immediate family and allowing photography team to set up lighting.)	45 mins	
<b>Family Formals - Extended family</b> (Allow approximately 4-5 minutes for each large grouping.)	30 mins	
<b>Wedding party - group</b>	30 mins	
<b>Portraits of bride and groom alone</b>	40 mins	
<b>Travel to additional photos locations</b> (Estimated, please determine travel time and parking)	30 mins	
<b>Additional locations - photo time</b> (Estimated, approximately 15 mins per location)	15 mins	
<b>Sunset / golden hour portraits</b> (Typically while dinner service is happening)	10 mins	
<b>Special night shot / low light photo</b>	10 mins	
<b>Sparklers</b> (Includes time for someone to organize group and light sparklers before photo.)	30 mins	

## RECEPTION EVENTS

<b>Travel time</b> (Adjust as needed.)	30 mins	
<b>Bustle / Freshen up before entrance</b> (Allow approximately 4-5 minutes for each large grouping.)	30 mins	
<b>Cocktail Hour</b>	45 mins	
<b>Photographs of Room Details / Cake / etc.</b> (Will need to have photo team there when ballroom is empty)	25 mins	
<b>Grand Entrance / cake cutting</b>	10 mins	
<b>Toasts</b> (Estimated, please allow about 4-8 minutes per toast)	20 mins	
<b>Dinner service</b>	45 mins	
<b>First Dances</b> (Allow more time for Jewish weddings)	20 mins	

# Wedding Day Photo Timeline

## NO FIRST LOOK

We recommend an earlier ceremony if you want to assure there is enough time for your wedding day portraits. If you have a later ceremony we recommend having a first look.

FROM	TIME	TO	TOTAL TIME	RECOMMENDED TIME	
				30 mins	Brides getting ready coverage / details / dress / jewelry / robe shot.
				20 mins	Bride dresses
				15 mins	Window portraits of bride
				20 mins	Gift presentation for bridesmaids
				10 mins	First look with brides dad
				15 mins	Gift and letter presentation from groom
				30 mins	Portraits with bridesmaids
				30 mins	Transportation / travel time to ceremony
				30 mins	Grooms getting ready coverage
				15 mins	Groom gift presentation to groomsmen
				15 mins	Gift and letter presentation from bride
				30 mins	Guests arrive and are seated for ceremony
				60 mins	Ceremony (includes time to sign marriage license)
				45 mins	Family and wedding party formal portraits at church
				30 mins	Travel to off site location for wedding party portraits
				30 mins	Wedding party portraits
				40 mins	Bride and groom portraits
				30 mins	Travel time to reception venue
				45 mins	Cocktail hour
				25 mins	Photographs of room details
				15 mins	Grand entrance / cake cutting
				25 mins	Toasts
				50 mins	Dinner service
				20 mins	First Dances
				10 mins	Sunset photographs
					Photographer departs



# Wedding Day Photo Timeline

**WITH FIRST LOOK  
CEREMONY / RECEPTION  
AT THE SAME LOCATION**

FROM	TIME	TO	TOTAL TIME	RECOMMENDED TIME	
				30 mins	Brides getting ready coverage / details / dress / jewelry / robe shot.
				20 mins	Bride dresses
				15 mins	Window portraits of bride
				20 mins	Gift presentation for bridesmaids
				10 mins	First look with brides dad
				15 mins	Gift and letter presentation from groom
				30 mins	Grooms getting ready coverage
				15 mins	Groom gift presentation to groomsmen
				15 mins	Gift and letter presentation from bride
				30 mins	Travel time to ceremony location
				30 mins	First look
				40 mins	Portraits of bride and groom together
				30 mins	Wedding party portraits
				45 mins	Family formal photographs
				30 mins	Guests arrive and are seated for ceremony
				60 mins	Ceremony (includes time to sign marriage license)
				30 mins	Extended family photographs
				45 mins	Cocktail hour
				25 mins	Photographs of room details
				15 mins	Grand entrance / cake cutting
				25 mins	Toasts
				50 mins	Dinner service
				20 mins	First Dances
				10 mins	Sunset photographs
					Photographer departs

# Wedding Day Photo Timeline

**STANDARD / TRADITIONAL JEWISH  
WEDDING DAY - ONE LOCATION**

FROM	TIME	TO	TOTAL TIME	RECOMMENDED TIME
			30 mins	Brides getting ready coverage / details / dress / jewelry / robe shot.
			20 mins	Bride dresses
			15 mins	Window portraits of bride
			20 mins	Gift presentation for bridesmaids
			10 mins	First look with brides dad
			15 mins	Gift and letter presentation from groom
			30 mins	Grooms getting ready coverage
			15 mins	Groom gift presentation to groomsmen
			15 mins	Gift and letter presentation from bride
			30 mins	First look
			40 mins	Portraits of bride and groom together
			30 mins	Wedding party portraits
			75 mins	Family formal photographs (includes time for extended family)
			30 mins	Ketubah (private - invited family only)
			30 mins	Guests arrive and are seated for ceremony
			40 mins	Ceremony
			20 mins	Yichud
			60 mins	Cocktail hour - photographers photograph ballroom and details
			10 mins	Guests invited into ballroom
			30 mins	Grand entrance / first dance / horah
			30 mins	Toasts / hamotzi
			60 mins	Dinner service
			20 mins	Parent dances
			10 mins	Night / low light photograph with couple
			40 mins	General dancing / guest photographs
				Photographer departs