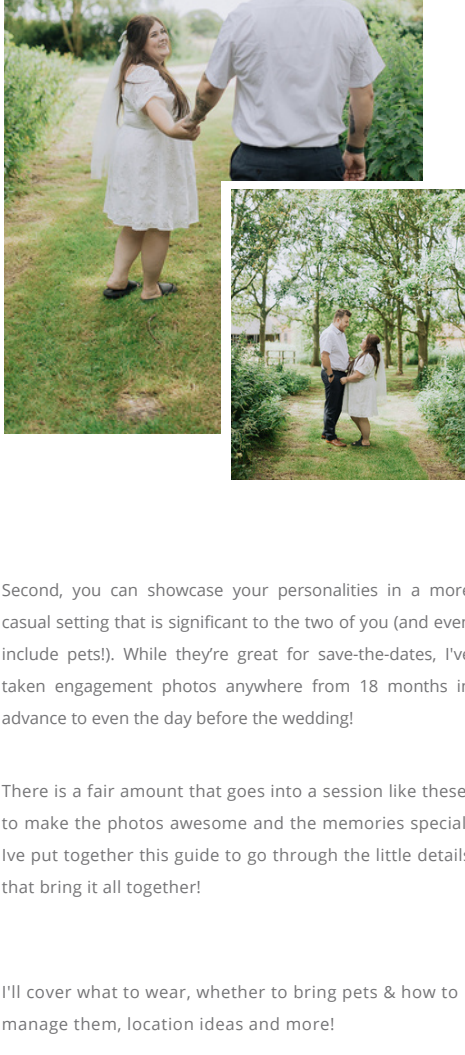




LET'S PLAN YOUR

ENGAGEMENT SESSION

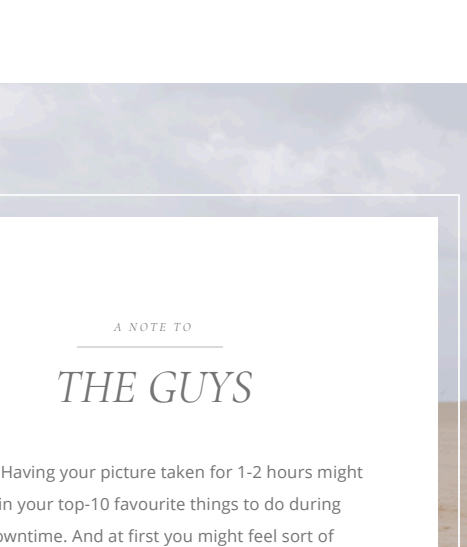
Your guide to locations, outfits & more!



Welcome!

I cannot WAIT for us to shoot! I love these little sessions, they're super chill and a great way to get a little used to being in front of the camera!

I'm a big fan of engagement sessions for a few reasons. First, they allow you to get comfortable in front of the camera. It takes time for most couples to warm up to being photographed and understand how I pose my couples. Sometimes timelines can get a little crazy on wedding days, so getting you guys comfortable having your photo taken means that the wedding day portraits will be so much better!



Second, you can showcase your personalities in a more casual setting that is significant to the two of you (and even include pets!). While they're great for save-the-dates, I've taken engagement photos anywhere from 18 months in advance to even the day before the wedding!

There is a fair amount that goes into a session like these, to make the photos awesome and the memories special! I've put together this guide to go through the little details that bring it all together!

I'll cover what to wear, whether to bring pets & how to manage them, location ideas and more!

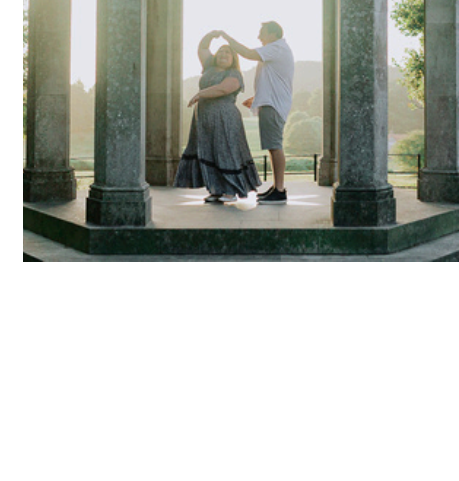
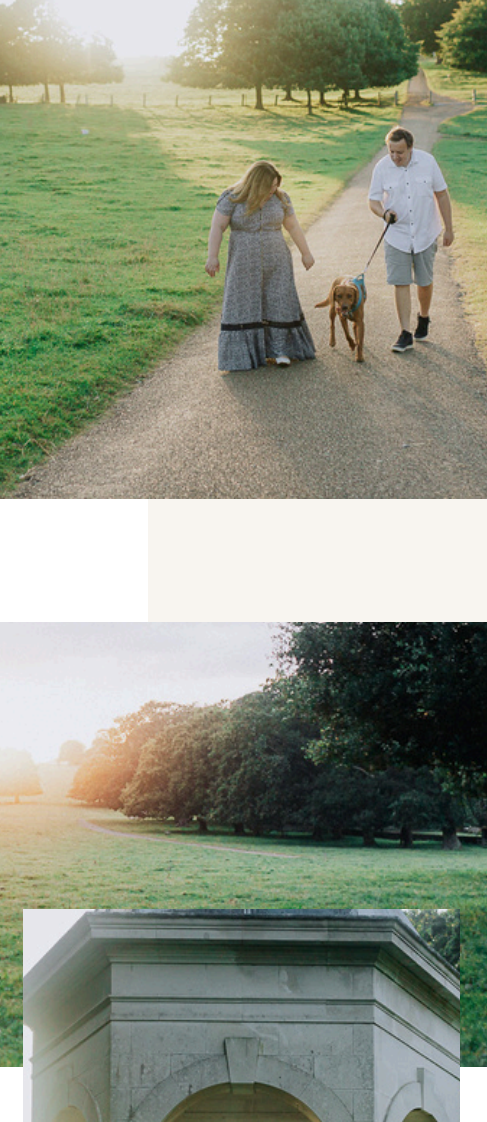
Christie

TIME & LIGHT

IS THERE A "GOOD" TIME TO TAKE PHOTOS?

Engagement sessions can take place anywhere from immediately following a proposal to just a few days before the wedding. I've found that there isn't a "good" or "bad" time to take your photos. I normally plan sessions based on a particular "look" a couple has in mind, spring flowers for example, or based on seasons.

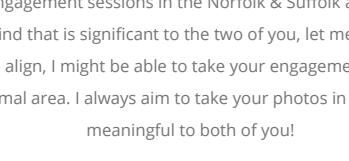
Sessions typically last about an hour and a half and when I can—I love to begin sessions about two hours before sunset. I prefer to shoot when the sun is lower in the sky to avoid harsh shadows and bright sun patches. The first two hours after sunrise is also an ideal time to shoot (although I'm a terrible morning person)



SAVE-~~THE~~-DATES

If your wedding is local, save the dates should be sent between 6 and 8 months before the wedding. For a destination wedding, you'll want to send them out 8 to 10 months before the wedding.

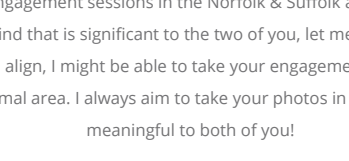
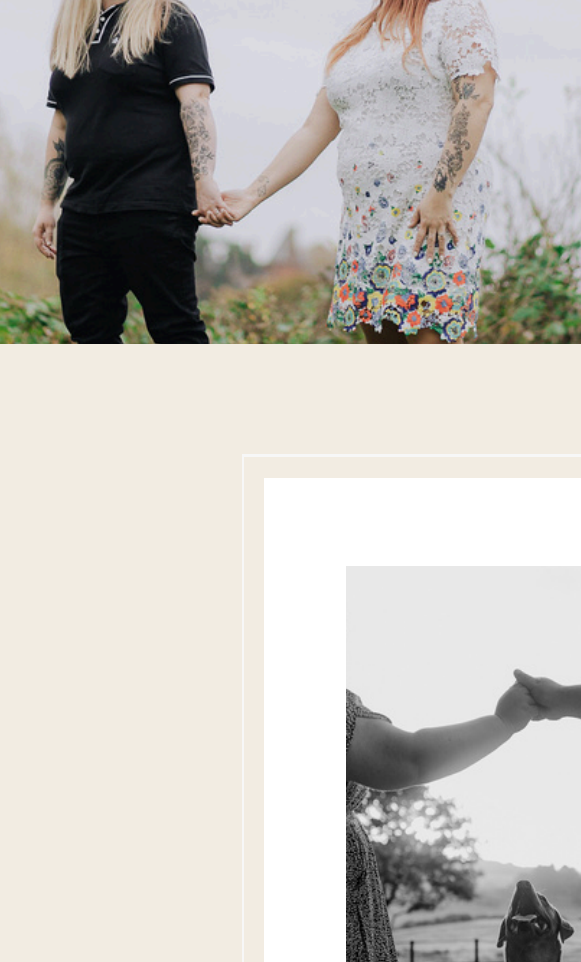
If you're hoping to use your engagement photos for your save the dates, I recommend scheduling your session at least two months before you plan to send out your save-the-dates. Between inclement weather, editing, designing your save-the-dates and printing, two months is generally a safe amount of time to make sure your images and cards are ready.



DESTINATION ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

Most of my engagement sessions in the Norfolk & Suffolk area. If you have a location in mind that is significant to the two of you, let me know because if our schedules align, I might be able to take your engagement photos outside of our normal area. I always aim to take your photos in an area that is meaningful to both of you!

Travel fees may apply depending on the location and availability.

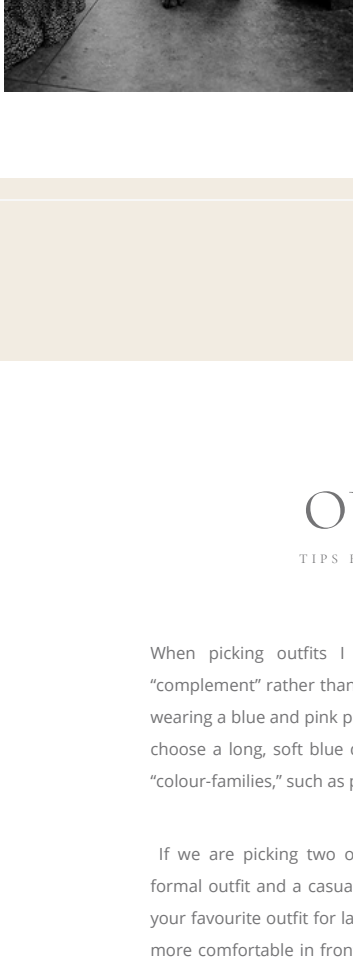


PETS

Keep in mind that bringing a pet along often means that we'll need to choose a pet friendly location.

I recommend planning for your pet to be at the first part of your session and then either dropping them off or having a friend take them home. I won't use the pet in every single photo so it's also nice to have a friend available to hold him or her in between shots if possible, to give some variation in your gallery!

If you're going to bring a pet, I recommend exercising your pet before the session and bringing your pet's favourite toy or treats! Depending on your pet's fur type, it might also be a good idea to groom them before the shoot.

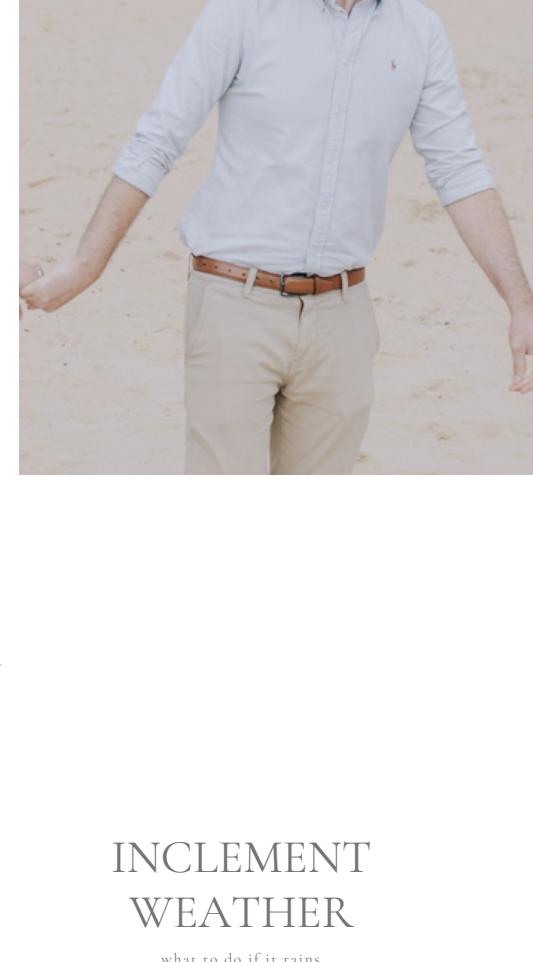
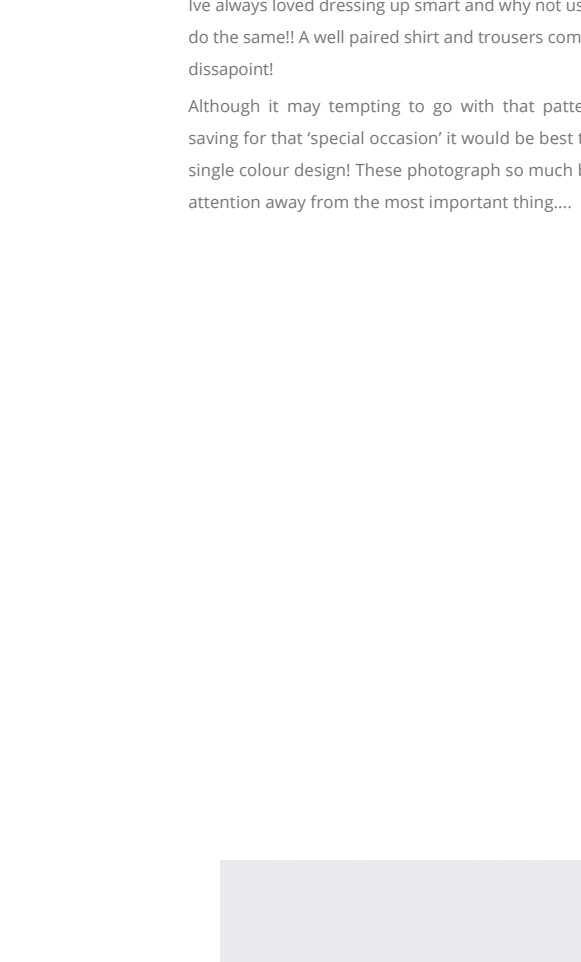
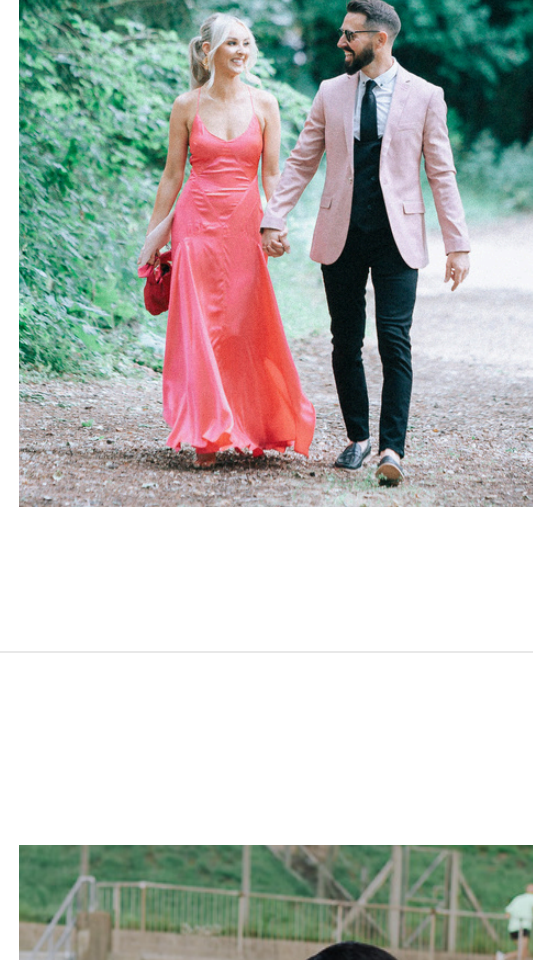
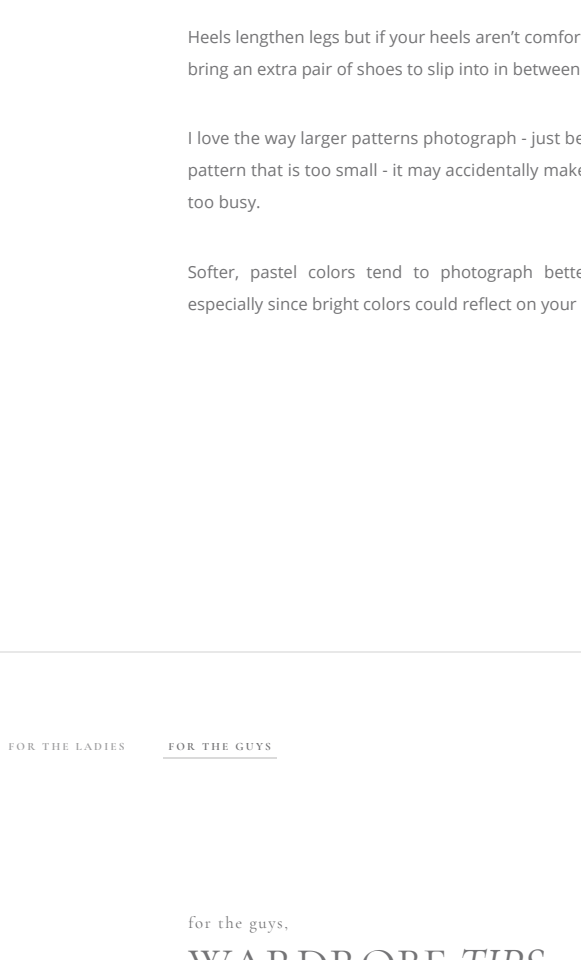


OUTFITS

TIPS FOR LOOKING YOUR BEST

When picking outfits I recommend keeping in mind the word "complement" rather than "match." For example, if the groom-to-be is wearing a blue and pink plaid shirt, the bride-to-be may want to choose a long, soft blue dress. It can also be a great idea to choose "colour-families," such as pastels.

If we are picking two outfits for an engagement session: a more formal outfit and a casual outfit is a great start! I recommend saving your favourite outfit for later in the session, when couples usually feel more comfortable in front of the camera. And don't forget to bring a few accessories! Statement necklaces, cute shoes and classic watches are great ways to add detail to outfits.



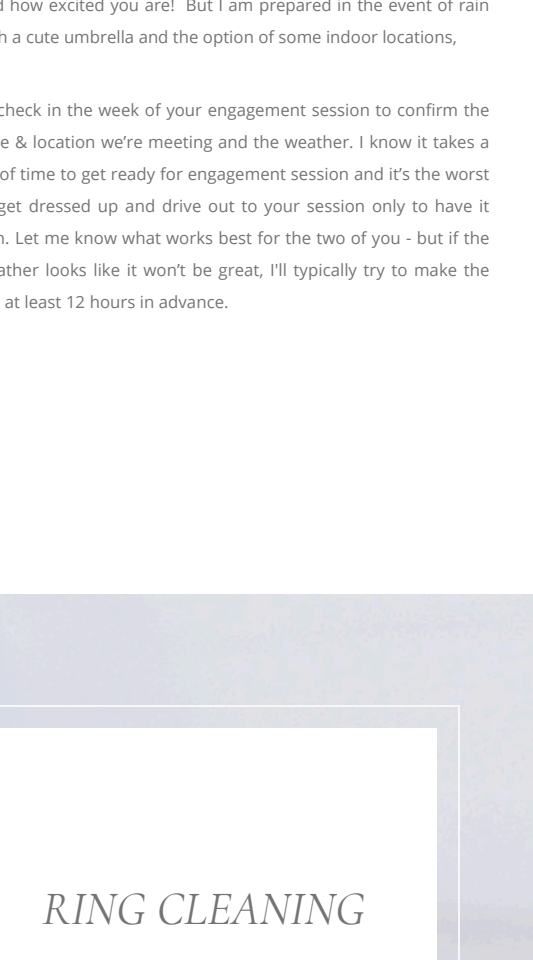
for the ladies,

WARDROBE TIPS

Heels lengthen legs but if your heels aren't comfortable for walking, bring an extra pair of shoes to slip into in between shots.

I love the way larger patterns photograph - just be careful not to choose a pattern that is too small - it may accidentally make your photo look a little too busy.

Softer, pastel colors tend to photograph better than bright colors - especially since bright colors could reflect on your skin.

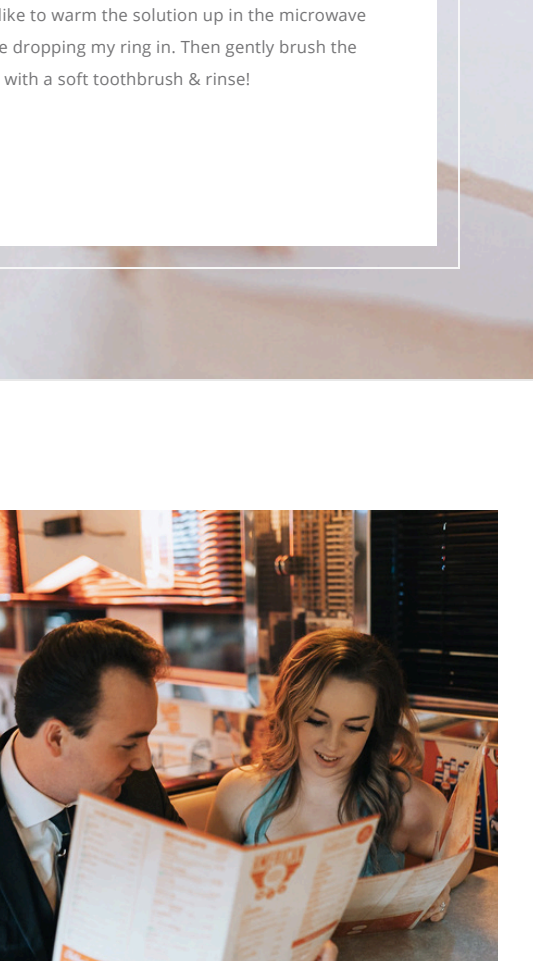


for the guys,

WARDROBE TIPS

I've always loved dressing up smart and why not use your shoot with me to do the same! A well paired shirt and trousers combo can never disappoint! Although it may tempting to go with that patterned shirt you've been saving for that 'special occasion' it would be best to use one with a simple single colour design! These photograph so much better and don't take the attention away from the most important thing...

... you two!



INCLEMENT WEATHER

what to do if it rains

It's super common in the UK for it to rain, we all know! If this happens on your session date I'll make sure to off a reschedule right away. I know how important it is to have these photos taken and how excited you are! But I am prepared in the event of rain with a cute umbrella and the option of some indoor locations.

I'll check in the week of your engagement session to confirm the time & location we're meeting and the weather. I know it takes a lot of time to get ready for engagement session and it's the worst to get dressed up and drive out to your session only to have it rain. Let me know what works best for the two of you - but if the weather looks like it won't be great, I'll typically try to make the call at least 12 hours in advance.



PROPS

champagne is always a good idea

If you're planning to bring props to your engagement session, I recommend including them only if they're meaningful to you. Shots of drinking coffee at a local coffee shop would be cute if that's where you met; however, a trying to fly a kite together when it's not a part of your relationship may come off as contrived. But I love a good theme so let's chat about your ideas!

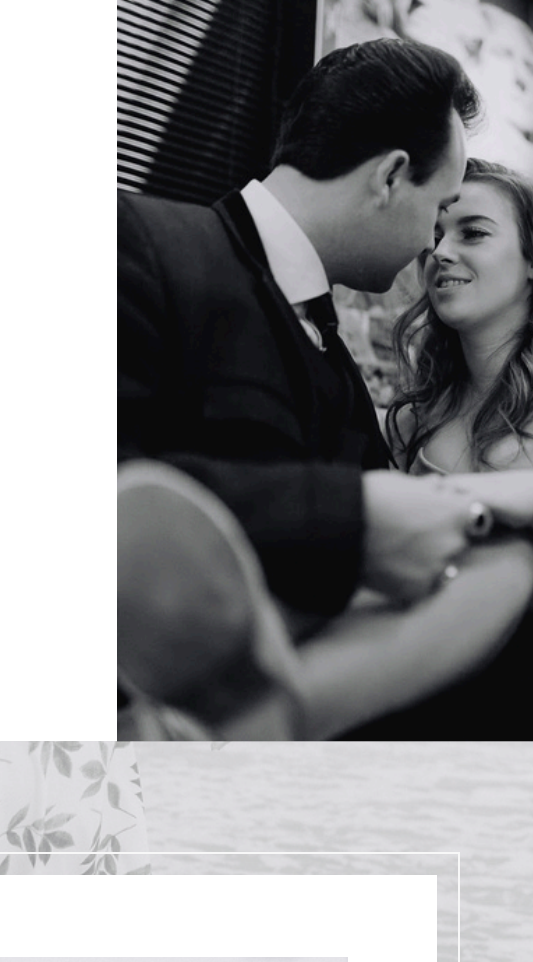
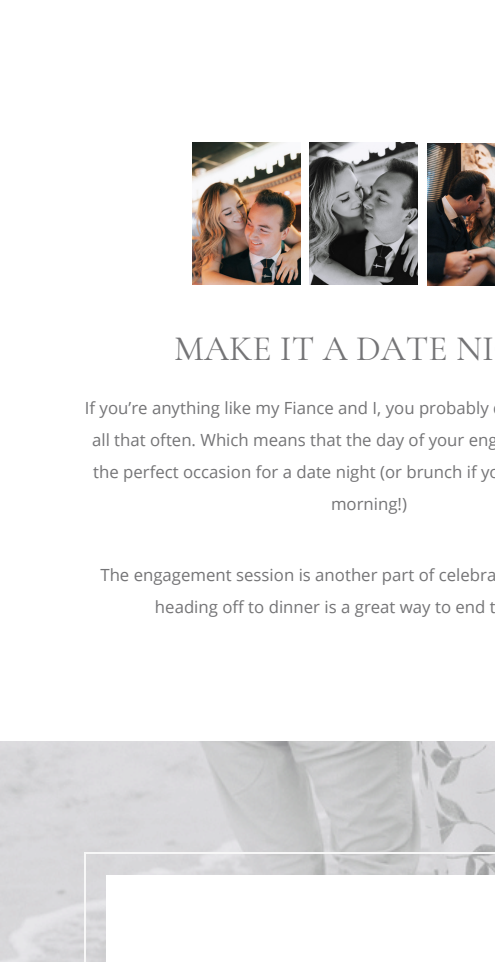


POISING

"WHAT DO I DO WITH MY HANDS"?

When it comes to posing for your engagement session, you don't need to worry about a thing! I'll guide you through the entire process beginning with "poses" that are super easy and natural. If I tell you to do something that feels a little funny, it's probably because I know it's going to make the two of you laugh - and that's the photo I'm actually looking for. The weirder it feels the better it usually looks!

Throughout your session, I'll keep an eye on your hair, makeup and outfits to make sure things stay in place. I want you to feel as relaxed as possible and enjoy your time together!



WHEN TO EXPECT YOUR IMAGES

As soon as possible after your session is complete, I'll begin the editing process. It normally takes about 2 weeks to edit and upload depending on my schedule.



thank you!

I know that this guide is long and hopefully it covers everything you need to know to prep for your engagement session! However if there is something I missed, or you need a recommendation feel free to email christieharshorne@gmail.com



Christie