

ALPINE COWS

COLORADO ELOPEMENT GUIDE

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR PLANNING
YOUR DREAM ELOPEMENT



HEY FRIEND!

Congratulations on making the brave choice to elope!

As an experienced elopement photographer + videographer, it is our goal to help you + your partner have a stress-free wedding experience

We've created this guide to help you navigate the wedding planning process with helpful tips and checklists

5 STEPS TO PLAN YOUR ELOPEMENT

Planning your adventure elopement can feel a little overwhelming. Following these five steps will help you get moving in the right direction!

01

BRAINSTORM

02

RESEARCH

03

DECISION MAKING

04

FINALIZE DETAILS

05

**HAVE AN AMAZING
ELOPEMENT!**

STEP ONE

BRAINSTORM & DREAM BIG

One of the coolest things about eloping is it allows you to get married in some of the most amazing places in the world! When you throw out the wedding rulebook, the possibilities become endless!

The first step is to write down your wedding goals and how you envision your day going. So grab a pen and a notebook, get cozy, and start dreaming big with your partner!

By doing this, you can begin to see how your wedding day will look, including the general area that you may want to elope in.



Plan your Dream Elopement

01

WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU WANT TO INCORPORATE?

When you plan a day that reflects your relationship – and what you love to do together – you can plan a day full of activities you love to do together!

02

DO YOU WANT A "JUST US" ELOPEMENT OR INVITE LOVED ONES?

Knowing this will help you decide what permits you need to obtain, where you can get married, and what your timeline will look like.

03

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF GETTING MARRIED?

Are you envisioning getting married in the mountains, the beach, the forests, in the desert, or abroad? Also consider the season you want to get married in as well!

04

HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU WANT TO GIVE TO YOUR ELOPEMENT?

Maybe you want to combine your adventurous elopement with your honeymoon. Take time to figure out how much time you want to give to your elopement.

05

WHAT INTENTION DO YOU WANT FOR YOUR ELOPEMENT?

Couples choose to elope so they can have a more intimate and intentional wedding experience. What will you do to create this type of environment for your elopement?

06

WHAT WILL YOUR CEREMONY LOOK LIKE?

Will you have a religious or unity ceremony? Will your loved ones play a role in your ceremony? Will you have an officiant or just the two of you?

YOU'VE GOT A VISION FOR YOUR ELOPEMENT! *WOOHOO!*

If you don't have a clear vision yet, no worries! Hiring a photographer who specializes in adventure elopement photography can definitely help you get started!

Couples usually contact me around this step to help them iron out their vision, help them with planning, and provide them with all of the tools they need to have the most amazing elopement ever!

STEP TWO

RESEARCH & EXPLORE

It is so important to do your due diligence as you are planning your adventure elopement.

But don't let this step scare you away! It is one of the most fun parts of planning your elopement as this is the step where you'll dive deep and really figure out the logistics of your wedding!

This could be a really fun date night idea! You and your partner could grab some coffee, snuggle up on the couch, open up your laptop and start exploring some really incredible elopement locations!



Questions to ask yourself as you are researching

01

DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

You can usually find out permit information if you go to the area's website. If you are having trouble finding information on permits, it's always best to call that county's ranger district.

02

WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN YOU DO IN THIS AREA?

Do you want to hike? Kayak? Rock climb? Have a picnic? Do you need to take a helicopter to this area? What activities do you want to incorporate into your elopement?

03

HOW BUSY IS THIS AREA?

Do you want a more secluded wedding? Some locations, like Taft Point in Yosemite, appears to be secluded but in reality it is extremely busy. Are you okay with a lot of people or do you want privacy?

04

WHAT ARE THE MARRIAGE LAWS IN THIS AREA?

Every state and country has their own marriage laws. Be sure to check out that specific area's marriage laws to see if you are allowed to get married there. If not, you can always sign the papers in your hometown and travel to this destination for wedding pictures!

05

WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE HERE?

The season you choose to elope will affect the accessibility of activities and areas. Also be aware of the climate and vegetation in that area and follow the 7 Leave No Trace principles.

06

IS THIS AREA ACCESSIBLE?

Are you having loved ones join you that need easy access to your ceremony site?

A man and a woman in wedding attire are sitting in a snowy field. The man is wearing a black jacket and a black cap with a logo that says "STONE GLACIER". The woman is wearing a white lace wedding dress. They are both smiling and looking at a small dog sitting between them. The dog is wearing a white shirt and a black bow tie. The background shows a line of evergreen trees under a clear sky.

NOW THAT YOU'VE FIGURED OUT ALL OF YOUR ELOPEMENT POSSIBILITIES...

what comes next?

It's time jump into the decision make step!

But hold up – what if you're feeling a little stuck on step two? This is where I can help you! I love helping couples dream big and plan an elopement that is totally unique to them!

Don't be afraid to reach out for help. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and you deserve to have the most amazing elopement of your dreams!

STEP THREE

DECISION MAKING

Now that you've set your intention for your elopement and researched everything you need to, it's time to start making decisions and booking vendors!

This is where your dream elopement turns into a reality!

Step three will help you get all of those little details into place. This is one of the most fun parts of planning your dream elopement!



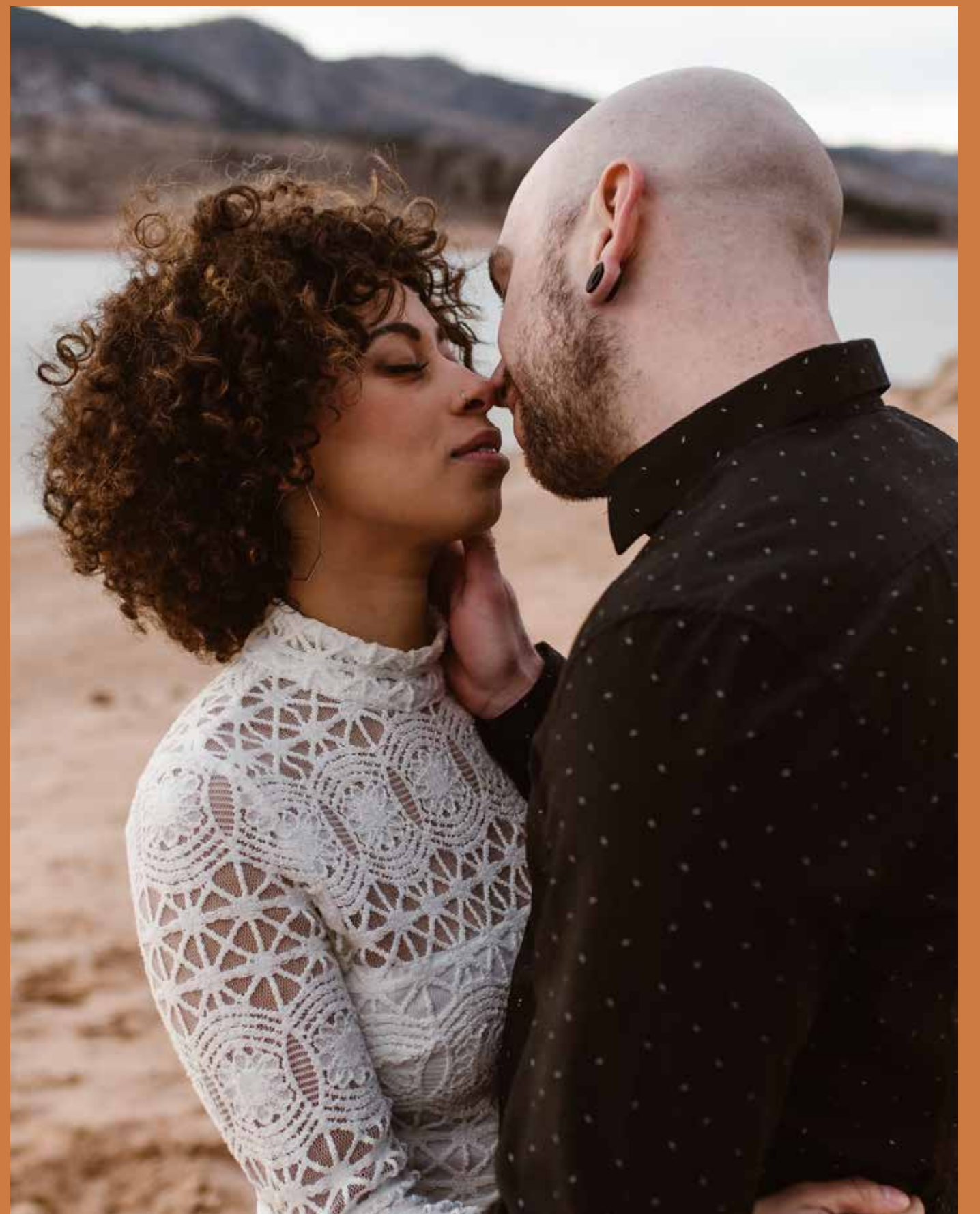
TO DO:

01

CHOOSE A DATE

You can usually find out permit information if you go to the area's website.

If you are having trouble finding information on permits, it's always best to call that county's ranger district.



02

CHOOSE A LOCATION

Do you want to hike? Kayak? Rock climb? Have a picnic? Do you need to take a helicopter to this area? What activities do you want to incorporate into your elopement?

TO BOOK FIRST:



01

LODGING

My favorite places to find lodging is Air BnB or VRBO. These sites offer unique lodging options that I love!

It's pretty normal to find lodging about an hour to two hours from your ceremony location.

02

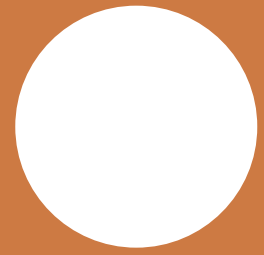
TRANSPORTATION

Are you planning on flying into your destination and renting a car? Driving? Do you want to incorporate a helicopter tour? Kayaking?

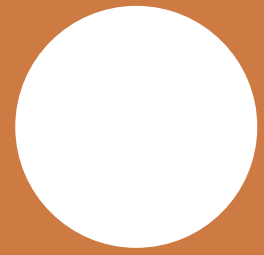
During this step you'll book all of your transportation accommodations!



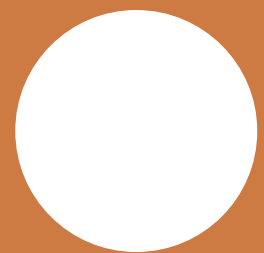
VENDOR CHECKLIST



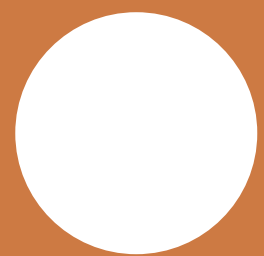
PHOTOGRAPHER



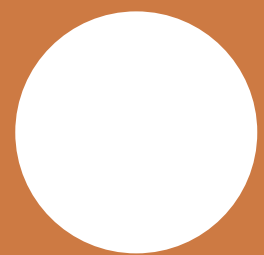
VIDEOGRAPHER



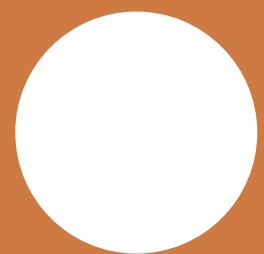
FLORIST



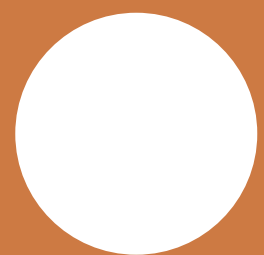
HAIR & MAKEUP



OFFICIANT



MUSIC



CATERING OR PRIVATE CHEF

ONE LAST DECISION...

Will you tell your family?

Your wedding day is all about you and your partner. Whether you decide to include your loved ones is 100% up to you!

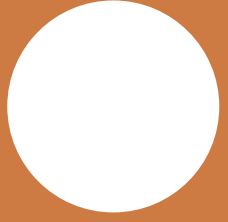
If you want to incorporate your family but they are unable to physically be present for your wedding, there are a few ways you can involve them! You can have them Facetime you after your ceremony, write letters to you to read during your ceremony, or you can come up with another creative way to incorporate them.

You can also send them a "We Eloped!" announcement when you get back from your elopement! Maybe you'll even throw a party when you return home.

And maybe you don't want to include family at all, and that is totally okay!

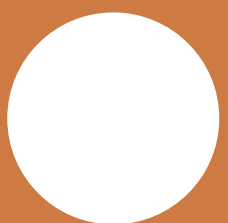
The most important thing to remember is that your wedding day should be 100% focused on you and your partner. You deserve to unapologetically have the wedding of your dreams!

ATTIRE CHECKLIST



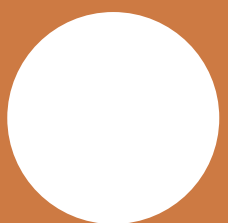
DRESS/SUIT

Bridal shops suggest purchasing your dress or suit 6-9 months from your wedding date to allow for adequate alterations and anything else you may need. You can also purchase gorgeous elopement gowns from stores like ASOS or Lulus!



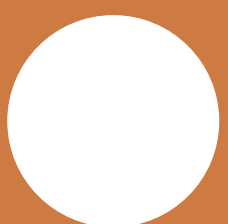
ACCESSORIES

Will you have any jewelry or other accessories? Some brides will even attach a small pendent to their bouquet of a loved one who is passed so they can still be "present" at their wedding!



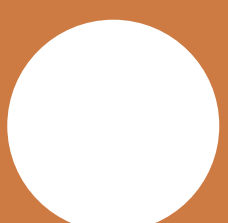
COMFORTABLE SHOES

This is probably one of the most important items to get (other than your attire!) because it is so important that you have comfortable hiking boots or shoes for you adventure elopement!



EXTRA LAYERS

I always think it is better to be over prared and have additional layers just in case it is colder than expected. I recommend having fleece lined leggings on hand!



GEAR YOU WILL NEED

Every elopement location will have specific gear. You will probably pack a little differently if you are getting married in the desert verses high altitude. It's super important to have the proper gear for your location! I would love to help you with this!

STEP FOUR

FINALIZE DETAILS

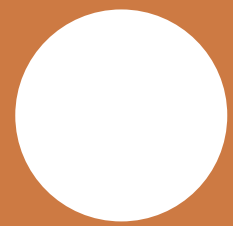
Is your dream elopement feeling like reality?! Heck yes!! I am so excited for the two of you! I honestly cannot think of a better way to start this new chapter of your lives then with an adventurous elopement!

This step is all about finalizing the small details to make for a stress-free wedding experience!

You can totally print out this section if you want to keep a physical checklist to help keep you organized!

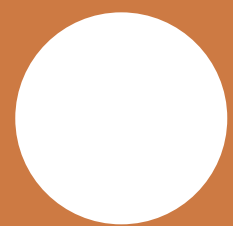


ACTIVITIES CHECKLIST



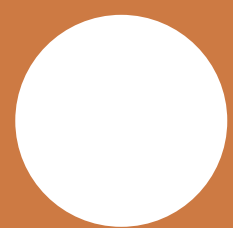
HIKING

One of the most popular options for an adventurous elopement! There is something for everyone if you choose to hike! Whether you are an experienced hiker or a beginner, there is something that will match your skill level and elopement vision!



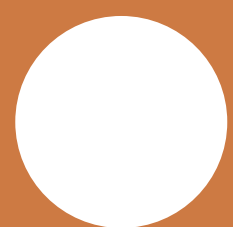
PICNIC

It is super important to keep yourself well fed and hydrated during your wedding. Especially since you will be adventuring in the outdoors! Why not bring a picnic?



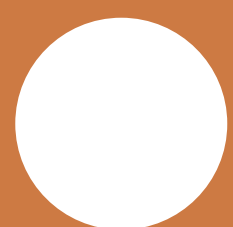
HELICOPTER TOUR

Have you been eyeing a cool glacier to read your vows at but you can only access it by helicopter? Why not add this fun little excursion to your wedding plans!



ROCK CLIMBING

Do you love to rock climb together? Why not turn your wedding into an adventurous rock climbing elopement?!



ANYTHING ELSE!

This is your day! You have the absolute freedom to make it all about you and your partner and what you love to do together! There are just some ideas, but feel free to get as creative as you want! I recommend choosing activities that reflect who you are as a couple!

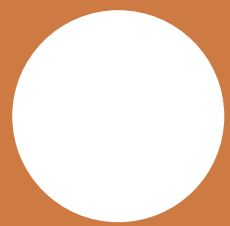
PLANNING CHECKLIST

TWO-FOUR MONTHS
BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- ☐ Finalize wedding day timeline
- ☐ Finalize location
- ☐ Write your vows
- ☐ Get wedding rings
- ☐ Get everything ready for your ceremony
- ☐ Buy wedding rings

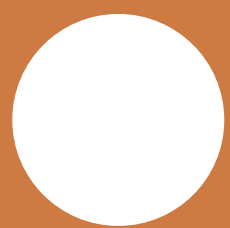
PLANNING CHECKLIST

TWO-FOUR MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING



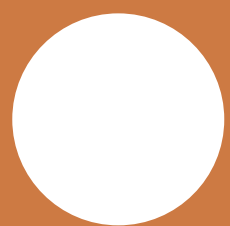
PACK

I recommend doing this a week before your elopement so you can see everything laid out and make adjustments.



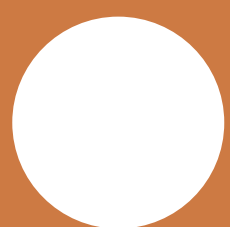
CHECK THE WEATHER

This would be the time to make any adjustments if the weather turns.



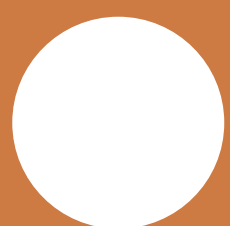
PICK UP YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE

And any other legal documentation you will need. You will likely apply for your marriage license 15-30 days before your elopement depending on the area's marriage laws. Make sure you check those laws before you decide where to elope so you get the proper instructions.



ARRIVE TO YOUR DESTINATION EARLY

So your body can acclimate to the area. This is especially important if you are moving from low to high altitude.

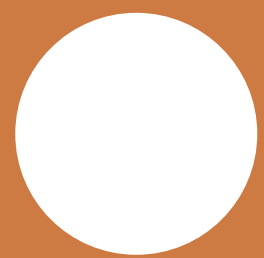


DRINK A LOT OF WATER

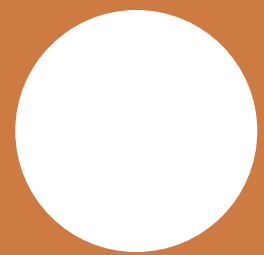
You definitely do not want to be dehydrated! I recommend drinking a lot of water leading up to your wedding.

PLANNING CHECKLIST

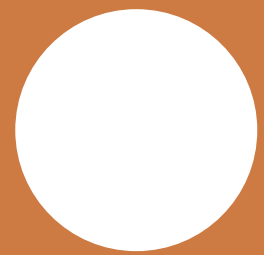
THE DAY OF YOUR ELOPEMENT



Take it easy



Drink lots of water



Get a good nights sleep



STEP FIVE

HAPPY ELOPEMENT DAY!

Woohoo!! It's finally here! The day that you've been working hard on, planning, and anticipating is finally here!

Remember that this day is all about you and your partner! Remember to soak it all in, stay present, and have the absolute time of your life!!

I am SO stoked for this new adventure the two of you are going on. There is nothing quite like getting married in a way that means the most to you!





HEY!
We're Bailee
+ Jake!

We are a husband + wife Colorado adventure elopement photography + videography team! We absolutely love when couples choose to get married in a way that looks and feels like them by combining their love for each other with their love of adventure!

ALPINE
WOWS