

Hey friend, thank you so much for downloading my Wedding Day Guide! I hope it helps you plan the most beautiful, stress-free day filled with all the moments that matter most to you. Remember, this is your day—so soak up every second, laugh a lot, and enjoy the journey. If you have any questions or just want to chat about your wedding photography, I'm here for you! Let's capture some magic together!

XO,
Koko



Koko+Lulu Photography

Wedding Day Guide

Stress-Free Planning Tips & Photography Secrets for Your Big Day



2024 EDITION

I'm so excited to help you plan a day that's full of love, laughter, and all the dreamy moments you've been dreaming of! XO, Kristin

1. Preparing for the Big Day

- Create a Shot List: Think about the must-have photos. Include moments like the first look, bridal party shots, family portraits, and, of course, those dreamy couple shots.
- Choose Your Details: Gather items you'd like photographed, like invitations, rings, shoes, bouquets, or any special heirlooms. Have these ready when the photographer arrives.
- Communication is Key: Share the wedding timeline and important shot list with the photographer ahead of time so they're prepared to capture every moment.

2. Sample Wedding Day Timeline

(Adjust based on your ceremony time!)

12:00 PM: Photographer arrives, captures getting-ready moments.

1:30 PM: First look with the couple.

2:00 PM: Bridal party photos.

3:00 PM: Family portraits.

4:00 PM: Ceremony.

4:30 PM: Post-ceremony photos (just married!).

6:00 PM: Reception details and guest shots.

7:30 PM: Toasts and first dance.

9:00 PM: Cake cutting.

10:00 PM: Grand exit.

Tip: Build in buffer time throughout the day!

3. Photo Checklist & Ideas

Here's a handy list of some must-have wedding photos:

Getting Ready:

- Dress details, rings, candid shots of the bridal party, groom adjusting tie.

First Look:

- Capturing those raw, emotional moments.

Ceremony:

- Walking down the aisle, exchanging rings, the kiss!

Family & Bridal Party:

- A mix of formal and fun shots.

Reception:

- Decor details, first dance, speeches, cake cutting, dance floor fun.

Golden Hour Portraits:

- The best lighting is just before sunset—perfect for stunning couple shots.

4. Tips for a Smooth Day

Delegate, Delegate, Delegate: Appoint a friend or family member to help gather people for photos. This keeps things moving and helps avoid delays.

Have an Emergency Kit: Include things like safety pins, blotting paper, breath mints, and a mini first aid kit.

Stay Hydrated: Don't forget to drink water and have snacks on hand (trust me, it's a long day!).

5. Your Must-Have Moments

This is your day, so take a few moments to jot down anything unique you want to be captured. Whether it's a quiet moment with your parents, a special handshake with your partner, or a dance-off at the reception—make it yours.

Here are 10 fun tips to make your wedding extra special!

1. Add a Hotel Room or Airbnb “NIGHT BEFORE THE WEDDING” Shoot:

Kick start your wedding with a relaxed, intimate photo session in your hotel room or Airbnb. This is a perfect opportunity to capture some cozy, candid moments, whether it's a quiet breakfast together, popping champagne, or a first look in a more private setting.

Add some fun props like matching robes, slippers, or personalized mugs or cocktail glasses to your hotel room shoot. These small touches add a playful element to your photos.

2. First Dance Practice:

Set aside a few minutes to practice your first dance together in a quiet spot. This not only helps calm pre-wedding nerves but also makes for beautiful, candid photos that capture your excitement and love.

3. Incorporate a 'First Sip' Photo:

Before heading to the ceremony, take a moment to share a quick drink together, whether it's coffee, tea, or a celebratory cocktail. It's a fun way to capture your personalities and the anticipation of the day ahead.

4. Mini Love Letters:

Consider writing each other mini love notes before the day begins. Exchange them before the ceremony for a sweet, emotional photo opportunity.

5. "Getting Ready" Playlist:

Create a fun, upbeat playlist to play while you're getting ready with your bridal party or groomsmen. Include songs that have special meaning to you as a couple or that bring back great memories. This not only sets the mood but also gives your photographer the chance to capture lively, joyful moments filled with laughter and dancing.

8. First Look with a Twist:

Instead of the traditional first look, consider a "first touch." Stand back-to-back or around a door, holding hands without seeing each other. This adds an element of surprise and creates an intimate, emotional moment that makes for beautiful, unique photos.

9. Bring Confetti or Champagne for a Fun Photo Op:

Pack a small bag of confetti or a bottle of champagne for a playful photo session with your bridal party. Popping champagne or throwing confetti creates a joyful, celebratory vibe and results in some dynamic, colorful photos that capture the excitement of the day!

10. Private Last Dance:

After the reception, while guests are preparing for your send-off, take a few minutes for a private last dance. This allows you to savor one final, intimate moment together in an empty reception space. It's a beautiful way to reflect on the day, and your photographer can capture some truly emotional, candid shots!