

5 Tips for a Perfect Engagement Session



HEY FRIEND!

planning your dream engagement session?

It can be quite a task... I know. You've been dreaming of this since you were a little girl. You're going over every detail in your brain, figuring out how to make your session perfect. I've been right where you are, planning and deciding what's important. And now, as a wedding photographer, I'm here for you too. I'm going to give you my 5 best tips for the absolute perfect engagement session.

1. Location

This is a fun one. Locations are meant to be special to you and your fiancée. Maybe it's where you first met, or where he proposed. Maybe you are drawn to a family farm or an arboretum- wherever that may be, you have the chance to choose a place heartfelt and meaningful.

If you're stumped on what location might be the best- think of your hobbies. Does he love fishing and you love kayaking? The lake may be your perfect spot. Do you two take beach adventures together? Then a beach side view might just be the best fit. What about that local coffee shop that you get cookies at together, or your hometown where you take evening walks? The options for locations are truly endless if you just think on what's special for you both.



2. *Make it personal*

There are so many ways to make your engagement session personal for the two of you. I've had awesome couples bring picnic blankets and wine, and I've had couples incorporate boats and their love of the ocean. Want to recreate that gorgeous boat scene of the Notebook? Rent a wooden boat and call up your florist. Think of your passion and how to include it!

When trying to plan your session and brainstorming of things that are important to you, don't forget about heirlooms or family things. Something borrowed and something heirloom may just be the perfect missing piece for your engagement session. You might find that your grandmother's necklace or his grandfather's watch is what will tie special memories together.

I might be a little biased saying this, but my favorite way to make your memories personal is to include some puppies. As a doggy mom, I can't get enough of best friends. So, bring your pup along for some family photos! Best tip- ask a friend or family member to tag along to be the official puppy wrangler for when it's just the two of you in pictures. And don't forget about your best friend's attire! There are some gorgeous collars, bow ties, bows and even greenery wreath collars. Who doesn't love a puppy in a flower collar? This is the perfect way to include your pets in your wedding day, even if they can't make the ceremony.



3. *Multiple outfits*

This is my favorite way to include some variety in sessions. Multiple outfits break up your looks and give you the opportunity to mix things up. I encourage a couple to dress true to themselves. One outfit could be an elegant and dressy look- you in a long maxi skirt with a lace top and him in a button up, while the second outfit could be jeans and your favorite sweater paired with him in a nice t-shirt. If you're changing location during your session, a new outfit would be perfect for a change of scenery. The options are seriously limitless. Just ask your photographer about how many outfits you'll have time for, and what outfits might look best in which location.



4. *Fresh manicure*

A simple, yet super important part of your session. A fresh paint coat on your fingers will compliment that gorgeous ring. Whether your nails match one of your outfits, or they're a simple French manicure, your nails are sure to be noticed in detailed shots. From close up ring shots to your hand on his cheek pulling him in for a kiss- your ring will be front and center. Give yourself some extra love and care and definitely treat yourself before your session to a spa day. You could always make it a fun girl's day out!



5. *Just relax.*

Seriously, just breathe. You got this! Your photographer will have ways to make you forget about being in front of the camera, and just be in the moment. I love to ask my couples to quietly tell 2 reasons they love each other. This admission to only your sweetheart's ears creates a special moment with genuine love. Your photographer may ask you to dance, walk, skip- whatever it may be, you'll be in the moment. Don't stress about the Pinterest poses you've seen. Just be in the present. Reflect on why you're saying I do to your favorite person, and enjoy every second of it.

This is your time, soak it in.

