



# HOW TO BUILD A WEDDING TIMELINE

Daring Romantics

# VISION

It's completely normal to worry that your wedding photography timeline might feel too rigid or that the photos will appear staged instead of capturing the genuine moments and emotions as they naturally unfold. By approaching the timeline planning process with thoughtfulness, flexibility, and realism, we can help you create a day that is peaceful, easy, and true to your vision.

As your wedding day photographers, we want to capture all the elements of your day that matter most to YOU. It's important to us to take the time to listen well, build trust, and learn about your priorities. These conversations together are not only a blast as we get to know you but they serve as the foundation for building a photography timeline that is thoughtfully crafted and tailored specifically for you.

Getting all the details of your photography timeline down on paper is essential. Your timeline will serve as a guide, ensuring that all necessary elements and events are accounted for. By mapping out the day, you alleviate concerns about missing important moments and create a structure that allows for spontaneity and ease.





## GETTING STARTED

Though every wedding day timeline is unique, some helpful references are listed below that can help us get started in formulating yours. Do note that these times are primarily with Western wedding traditions in mind. If you plan to have other traditional or cultural elements apart of your day, see our article on [Tips for Planning a Multicultural Wedding](#).

Embrace the journey and enjoy the process. Wedding planning can sometimes feel overwhelming, but it is also a beautiful time filled with anticipation and excitement. Take moments to connect with your partner, reminding yourselves of the love and joy that brought you to this special day. By staying present and focused on what truly matters, you'll create a wedding photography timeline that authentically reflects your unique love story.

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# LENGTH OF TIME

BRIDE GETTING READY- about 90 minutes

GROOM GETTING READY - about 60 minutes

FIRST LOOK - about 15 minutes

COUPLE PORTRAITS - 45-60 minutes

WEDDING PARTY PORTRAITS - 30-45 minutes (depending on the number of friends with you and the variety of photos you desire)

FAMILY PORTRAITS - 2-3 minutes per grouping

- Bride's Immediate Family (Parents and Siblings)
- Bride's Parents
- Bride's Grandparents
- Bride's Extended Family
- Groom's Immediate Family (Parents and Siblings)
- Groom's Parents
- Groom's Grandparents
- Groom's Extended Family

CEREMONY - 30-60 minutes (though this can vary amongst cultures)

COCKTAIL HOUR - 60-90 minutes

RECEPTION - 4 hours

ADDITIONAL MOMENTS TO CONSIDER:

GOLDEN HOUR PORTRAITS - 15 minutes (we'll typically take these about 30min prior to sunset)

NIGHT SHOTS - 15 minutes (typically photographed within the last hour or so of reception)

TRANSPORTATION - consider not just drive time and how you all are getting there but also the time it takes for everyone to gather and transition from one location to another.



# SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHY TIMELINE

11:30am - Photographers arrive for Bride and Groom  
Getting Ready

1:00pm - Travel to Venue Location, if needed

1:30pm - First Look

1:45pm - Bride and Groom Portraits

2:45pm - Bridal Party Portraits

3:15pm - All Photos Complete, tuck away for guests  
arriving, Photographers set up for ceremony

3:45pm - Get Ready to Walk Down the Isle

4:00pm - Ceremony (30 min)

4:30pm - Family Portraits at Front of Ceremony +  
Cocktail Hour Begins

5:00pm - Lead Photographer photographs Reception  
Details, Second Photographer captures Cocktail Hour  
Details and candid Guest Photos

5:30pm - Cocktail Hour Ends, Guests are Seated for  
Reception Start

5:45pm - Reception Entrances + Formalities

8:45pm - Bride and Groom Night Portraits

9:30pm - Reception Ends, Grand Exit

