

# WEDDING



MEMORIA PHOTO & FILM

# GUIDE

# YOU'RE ABOUT TO TIE THE KNOT.



wedding

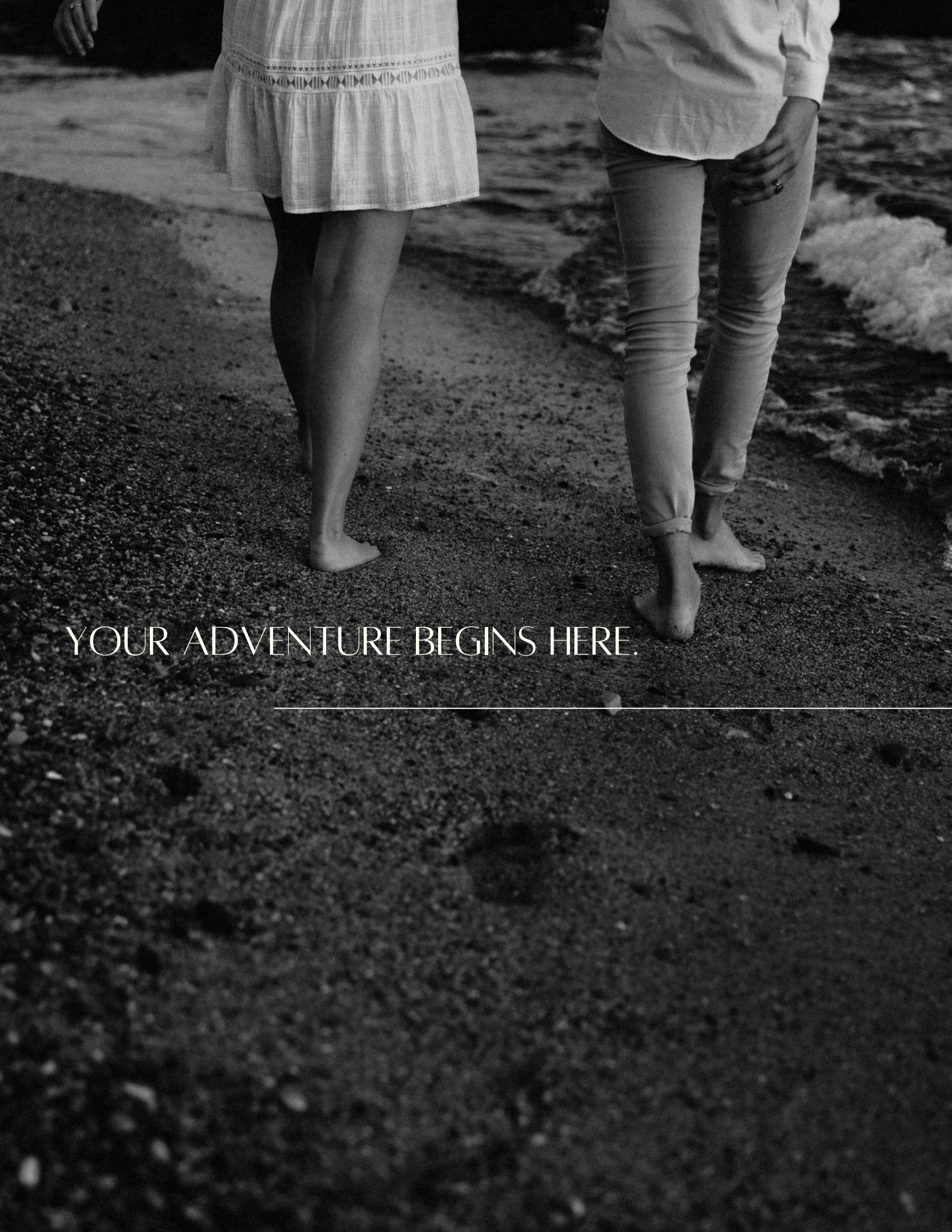
First of all, congrats on your engagement. You're about to embark on a journey that will lead you down the aisle and onto your happily ever after. Despite the planning ahead, that's something to celebrate! Remember—during the frustrating moments of trying to pull everything together, always come back to the reason you're doing this: joining your life with the one you love.

We've worked as a photo/video duo for many years, so we've seen how planning for your wedding day can be overwhelming. But do you want to know a secret? It doesn't have to be! We've compiled all of the tips and tricks we've learned over the years into this guide, and we're here to help you have less stress during the entire planning process. When we get to your wedding day, we're also here to ensure that your wedding photos and videos are simply stunning and that all of your concerns are addressed.

As both your friend and photographer/videographer, we want you to feel confident knowing that no matter what happens on your special day, we'll capture every heartwarming moment so you can look back fondly at them for years to come.

Let's dive in!





YOUR ADVENTURE BEGINS HERE.

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# SO WHERE DO YOU START?

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## BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION

A wedding can't happen without some kind of plan. Even if all you do is pick a date and choose a venue, hoping the rest falls into place, that's still something! But since winging it won't help you create the wedding of your dreams, it's best to build a solid foundation by getting clear on what you want and what's within your budget.

## THE VISION FOR YOUR BIG DAY

The day you tie the knot is a momentous occasion and the perfect opportunity to plan something truly spectacular. From the décor to the entertainment, every detail should be just how you imagine it. But first...you have to imagine it!

Do you want your wedding to feel romantic and elegant? Or maybe adventurous and fun? What is your ideal wedding location? Do you want a grand entrance with fireworks to grab your guests' attention? Or are you more comfortable with an intimate, relaxed reception?

These (and more) are important questions to consider when talking about your shared vision. We've witnessed couples get derailed because, halfway to the wedding, they aren't clear about what they want and are looking at too many options.

Before moving forward, start a journal dedicated only to your dream wedding. Make a note of every little detail you can think of so you have a quick reference and won't forget any of your brilliant ideas. The journal will also help you stick to your vision so you can narrow your focus and feel less overwhelmed. For example, if you do want fireworks, there's no need to look at getting doves to release! You can narrow your search only to fireworks and ignore the rest.



*always*



## HIRING HELP

Even though you've hired a few vendors already (like us), you can hire a planner at any step of the journey to take over. Of course, there are DIY options if you're trying to save money, but we can tell you from experience that even a little help goes a long way.

A wedding planner will make sure everything is running smoothly and on schedule, handle last-minute emergencies, coordinate vendors and guests, secure permits or licenses if necessary, keep track of all contracts and payments, provide décor suggestions, and a lot more.

At this stage of the game, it's important to remember that having an extra pair of hands to assist with planning makes life easier. You don't have to do it all yourself! Also, remember that day-of planners and coordinators are also available. If hiring help for the entire planning process is out of your budget, many planners are available for one day only to lift the weight off your shoulders so you can focus on enjoying your special moment.

*forever*



## SETTING A WEDDING BUDGET

Deciding on your vision and if you want help is half the battle. Next, you need to tackle the budget. This can be tricky and overwhelming, but it's totally doable.

Start by creating a spreadsheet of your expected costs to keep track of what you're spending. Then, decide how much money you're comfortable investing in your wedding. You can research general vendor and venue costs to give yourself an estimate to work with, then adjust as needed.

## A NOTE ON "MUST-HAVES"

It's easy to get caught up in wanting everything you see on Pinterest, but your budget should be the deciding factor when it comes to upgrading or downgrading certain details. This is where research and communication become invaluable.

Sit down with your fiancé and make a list of what each of you deems most important. For example, if the flowers are important to you but you don't care about music, allocate more funds to flowers and find lower-cost options for music (like a playlist). Making this list is also good practice for your future marriage: if your fiancé ranks music as important and they absolutely must have a band, well, you'll need to find a compromise!

Finally, don't forget the hidden costs that might come up during the planning process (gratuity, taxes, credit card processing fees). Talk about these items too so when those moments arise, nothing is a surprise.







*lovers*

## MAKE YOUR GUEST LIST THE A-LIST ONLY

It should go without saying that a smaller guest list is better for both your budget and your sanity! No matter how many guests you have, any amount you can trim will help you go from feeling overwhelmed to feeling everything is manageable. An intimate celebration usually requires less money and effort—plus it comes with a priceless bonus: more quality time with the smaller group of guests you invited!

Here's how to trim your list:

- Make a list of your immediate family and very close friends. These are your "A-list" names that will definitely get invited. Using just this list, estimate your food costs and write down the total.
- Make a second list of B-list people who you will only invite if it is within your budget. These people may include friends that your parents want to invite, distant family members, and friends you haven't spoken to in over a year.
- Now, compare how much you'll spend on food for your A-list to what you have budgeted for food and drinks. If there's wiggle room, meaning your A-list people do not use your entire food budget, you can look at your B-list and decide if you want to invite a few more people to your wedding.
- Be honest with yourself about the numbers: decide how many guests you can comfortably host and be firm about sticking to it.

## CHOOSE IN-SEASON FLOWERS AND FOOD

"Seasonal" and "local" are two words that will help you save money on catering and flowers. When you buy in-season, you're buying food and flowers at their peak of supply, when prices are typically lower. Plus, buying local means flowers/food won't need to be shipped halfway around the world; not only will you save money, but also minimize your carbon footprint - it's a win-win situation!

## FIND A VENUE THAT WILL LET YOU BYOB

For many couples, alcohol for their guests is a huge expense, so be mindful of cost-per-bottle when deciding on a venue. Look for places where you can purchase and serve your own alcohol so you can keep track of the price.

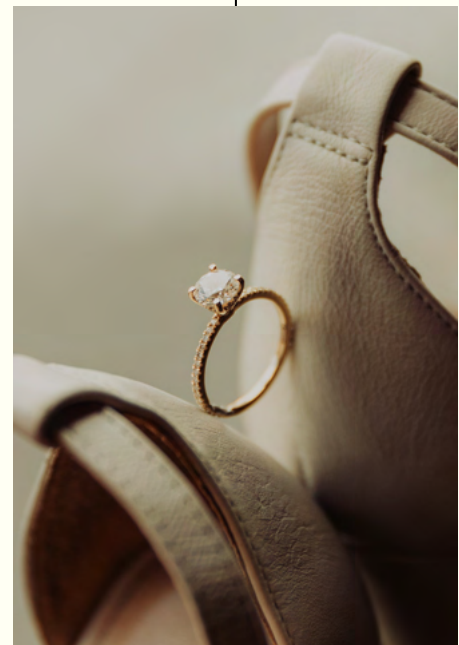
## HAVE YOUR CEREMONY AND RECEPTION AT ONE LOCATION

Having both your ceremony and reception at the same place can save you a ton of money—not to mention simplify the planning process. If one site is just too costly, consider holding your cocktail hour in a separate area from the main venue or researching nearby spaces for rent that are affordable. If you can have the entire wedding in one spot, you'll also save on transportation costs.

## PICK A LOCATION THAT LOOKS GREAT AU NATUREL

Allow nature's beauty to work for you in outdoor areas with stunning views! Venues that already have inspiring natural features, like a beach, garden, or barn, can save you hundreds (or even thousands) of dollars—all you have to do is supply the finishing touches. Scour wedding websites and Instagram for inspiration on how other couples used minimal decorations in beautiful venues. You might be surprised at what kind of impact just a few simple items can make.

# MONEY SAVING TIPS



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FOREVER  
LOVE

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# LOVE NOTES FROM THE BEST PEOPLE.

I cannot say enough good things about Jess and Col. Everyone at our wedding raved about how amazing and fun they were. Our pictures are beautiful and they both fit seamlessly into our big day!

*Anna + Daniel*





# THE WEDDING TIMELINE



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YOUR LOVE ON DISPLAY TO THE WORLD.

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YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS.

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Your wedding day is a beautiful experience to be enjoyed and remembered, so we always recommend to our couples that they have some kind of timeline to refer to. If you're working with a planner, they should have this for you; otherwise, about a week before the wedding, you should create a detailed, hour-by-hour wedding day timeline to ensure your big day runs smoothly. This will help you stay organized, calm, and on time.

Share your wedding day timetable with your wedding party, day-of coordinator/planner, photographer/videographer (us!), caterer, florist, and other vendors once you have completed it so that everyone is on the same page.

While most weddings follow the same format, the order in which events occur may vary depending on your preferences. It's not a one-size-fits-all situation. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to us regarding the specifics of your day and we can help you work it out!

Here are some suggestions for how much time to give for each event, as well as a general order of events.



## TOTAL ESTIMATED HOURS: 10 TO 11.5 HOURS

### GETTING READY AND DETAIL PHOTOS: 2 HOURS

This includes time for hair and makeup, getting dressed, and capturing detail shots of the wedding attire, rings, and other accessories.

### FIRST LOOK AND COUPLE PHOTOS: 1 HOUR

Allow time for you and your partner to have a private moment and capture photos together before the ceremony. Golden hour photos are also a must and will only take about 20 min tops.

### WEDDING PARTY PHOTOS: 30 MINUTES

Allocate time for group photos with the wedding party, including bridesmaids, groomsmen, and any other special attendees.

### CEREMONY: 20 MINUTES TO 1 HOUR

The duration of the ceremony can vary depending on the type of ceremony and any special rituals or traditions involved.

### COCKTAIL HOUR / FAMILY PHOTOS: 30 MINUTES – 1 HOUR

Guests can enjoy a cocktail hour while you and your partner take photos with immediate family members and close relatives. Ideally you can enjoy at least half of your cocktail hour with guests as well.

### GRAND ENTRANCE: 15 MINUTES

This includes the announcement of your arrival and any special introductions.

### DINNER: 1 TO 1.5 HOURS

Account for the time it takes for guests to be seated and served their meals.

### SPEECHES AND FIRST DANCE: 30 MINUTES TO 1 HOUR

Allocate time for speeches from the wedding party or close family members and your first dance together.

### CAKE CUTTING, BOUQUET, AND GARTER TOSS: 30 MINUTES

Include time for the cake-cutting ceremony and any additional activities like the bouquet and garter toss.

### DANCING: 2 TO 3 HOURS

Guests can enjoy dancing and celebrating on the dance floor.

### GRAND EXIT: 15 MINUTES

End the evening with a grand exit, such as a sparkler send-off or a farewell with your guests.

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# SAMPLE TIMELINE

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12 HOURS OF  
COVERAGE WITH  
A FIRST LOOK



- 8:00 – START HAIR/MAKEUP
- 11:00 – DETAIL PHOTOS
- 12:30 – GROOM GETTING READY
- 1:30 – BRIDE FINISHING GETTING READY
- 2:00 – BRIDESMAIDS FIRST LOOK (OPTIONAL)
- 2:30 – FIRST LOOK (OPTIONAL)
- 3:00 – BRIDAL PARTY PHOTOS  
(BRIDESMAIDS/GROOMSMEN)
- 3:30 – REST FOR CEREMONY
- 4:00 – CEREMONY
- 4:30 – COCKTAIL HOUR/FAMILY PHOTOS (20 MIN)
- 5:30 – GRAND ENTRANCE
- 5:35 – FIRST DANCE
- 5:45 – DINNER
- 6:45 – SPEECHES
- 7:40 – GOLDEN HOUR PHOTOS (20 MIN)
- 8:00 – DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY!
- 9:00 – CAKE CUTTING, BOUQUET/GARTER TOSS
- 9:10 – DANCE PARTY CONTINUES
- 11:00 – SEND OFF!

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NOTE: WITH DIFFERENT SEASONS, THIS EXAMPLE  
TIMELINE CAN VARY DEPENDING ON GOLDEN HOUR,  
CEREMONY TIME, ETC.





A FOREVER KIND OF LOVE.



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# THE DETAILS

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*things that matter*

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A LOVE

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SO GOOD

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This section is all about the photos. There's something special about capturing your wedding day memories. As a photo/video duo, we focus on telling your story in the way that's most meaningful to you, by documenting all of the special moments throughout the day—from getting ready to walking down the aisle to dancing with your guests.

You've probably spent hours carefully picking the various details of your wedding, and we enjoy capturing them as part of your day's story! Example details you may want us to capture are listed below.

Please gather all of your wedding details and have them available for us when we arrive. After greeting you, we will begin taking detail photographs while your hair and makeup are being done. To save time, we suggest gathering the items in a box the day before.

Quick tip: If you want clutter-free images, designate a room at the venue or a section of a room as the "bag area" and keep most of your belongings there.



# DETAILS BOX

## FOR THE BRIDE

- Shoes
- The rings
- All other jewelry
- Headpieces
- Perfume
- Bouquet
- Garters/handkerchiefs
- Pretty Dress Hanger
- Wedding stationary with envelopes i.e. invitations, programs, thank you cards.



## FOR THE GROOM

- Shoes
- Pocket square / Tie / Bowtie
- Belt
- Socks (If patterned)
- Cologne
- Cufflinks
- Watch

## OTHERS

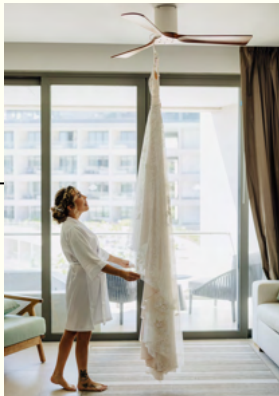
- Vow Books - A MUST!
- Ring Box
- Any other special details



# GETTING READY

We love capturing your excitement and emotion while you prepare—those priceless moments with your bridesmaids, mother, sister, or anyone else who is assisting you. These moments are often our favorites. There's something about the jitters leading up to the wedding, the small moments of "this is it," and the often booze-induced laughter with your best friends.

Getting ready photos are primarily candid. However, we try to make sure everyone is mostly ready before we start photographing/filming them. You probably don't want a photo of yourself with half-done makeup or hair! So just relax and focus on preparing, knowing that we won't capture anything unflattering.



*preparations*

## GET READY IN A WAY THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO BE CAPTURED IN PHOTOS

It's completely up to you how you go about doing so. For some brides, having their bridal party wear matching outfits is the way to go; others may decide to give everyone a customized shirt or robe to wear while getting their hair and makeup done. After all, you're not only making memories on your wedding day—you're also preserving them. By the time we enter the room, you should all be looking and feeling fantastic!

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# THE SPACE

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*pick a room  
with plenty of  
natural light*



After your reception and ceremony location, the “getting ready” space is the most important. It's where you'll spend the morning with your wedding party, prepare, and have photographs taken. When picking a place, look for an open space with plenty of natural light. Consider renting out a lovely Airbnb or boutique hotel room if the space provided by your venue doesn't seem suitable.



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## LOVE NOTES FROM THE BEST PEOPLE

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Jess and Colton are such a fun, professional and talented team!! They will go above and beyond to make your special day perfect by being present and capturing all your special wedding moments! All of their diligence and genuine interest in being there for both of you and then telling your story through pictures and videos is priceless.

*Gaby + Jameson*





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# FIRST LOOK

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Let's face it: your wedding is both the best and one of the most stressful days of your life. We usually advise our couples to do a first look since it allows them to have a quiet moment with their partner away from the crowds at the ceremony. They get to take a break from the hustle and bustle to spend some quality time together and soak up the love and excitement.

You'll want to have enough space and time to really be present when you see the teary, emotional reaction from your partner when you gaze at each other for the first time. When you're in front of an audience, it's difficult to concentrate on anything other than the faces staring at you.

I've discovered that having a first look gives you a safe space to be emotional and enjoy the moment. After seeing each other, you can hug, kiss, twirl, and get a good look without feeling rushed. First-look photos give you a pause in your crazy day to share your love for one another in private.

If you can't tell, we are suckers for first looks! But this isn't about us, so if you prefer to stick to the traditional way of seeing each other at the altar, that's perfectly okay. We never want my couples to feel like we're pressuring them; We simply want you to be informed. Another idea is to do a first touch where you won't see each other but at least you can say hi before the ceremony. See example pics below!







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# COUPLE'S PHOTOS

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If you choose to have a first look, we'll capture some photos of just the two of you afterward. If you're skipping the first look, we'll get these straight after the ceremony and during golden hour.

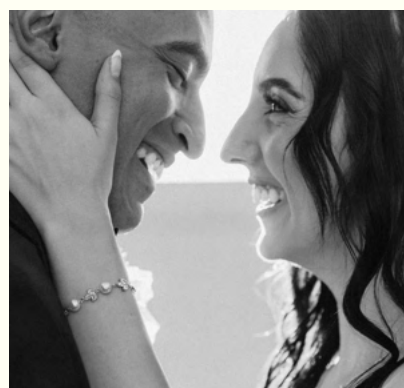
We suggest that you ask your friends and family to give you space during this part; most people find it easier to relax when they're not in front of an audience. However, if you prefer to have your own personal hype team with you, go ahead! Either way, you'll be overflowing with joy and love, and these images will prove it!

## BUT WHAT IF WE'RE ALWAYS AWKWARD IN PHOTOS?

Don't stress! That's one of the most common worries we hear. Whenever a couple brings this up, it typically means "I've never had professional photos taken before" or "I'm awkward / nervous in front of the camera." It's one of our favorite questions to answer because we always say, "It doesn't matter!"

This isn't like getting a portrait. You won't be stiffly posed or nervously standing in an uncomfortable position long enough to wonder what your hands should do. We're sure you've had enough of that with school photos. Expect to be reminded of the power and beauty of your love story by laughing until it hurts and running around like weirdos. We will never try to change you into something you're not; instead, we will give you the freedom to be the fullest version of yourself—that's where beautiful imagery emerges. This isn't a photoshoot for Vogue; you're much more interesting than that!

You'll end your wedding day with hundreds of photographs capturing your love for each other. Believe us when we say you're going to look amazing in all of them!



*you got this*





FAMILY

FRIENDS

LOVED ONES



## THE WEDDING PARTY

Once your photos are taken before or just after the ceremony, it's time for the wedding party. We'll capture some shots of just one partner's side, then the other's, and then a group shot of everyone. We will also make sure to grab individual shots of the two of you with members of your party. If you're skipping the first look, we'll also do this section after the ceremony.

We know you want your wedding to be a blast for all of your best friends, so, like with the couple's shoot, we will avoid stiff poses. One of our favorite wedding party prompts is to have the couple kiss while everyone else cheers.

**GET EVERYONE'S BOUQUETS READY AND BOUTONNIÈRES ON, BECAUSE THESE PHOTOS ARE GOING TO BE FUN!**

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# THE CEREMONY

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*we're finally here*

You made it! This is the moment you've been looking forward to for months. It's easy to get caught up in all the preparations and stress, but remember that the most important thing is that this is the beginning of your lives together. Savor this moment!

The usual ceremony usually lasts approximately 30 minutes, but if you want to incorporate any particular traditions, we'd suggest allowing yourself an hour.

Two important tips:

- Ask your officiant to move out of the way before the first kiss so they aren't in the background of the photo
- Hold your kiss longer than usual for plenty of shots!





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# THE FAMILY

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*people who matter*

## DESIGNATE SOMEONE TO BE IN CHARGE

Having a friend or family member who knows your family can be a huge help in making sure everyone is present and ready for the photos.

## WE WILL WORK BIG TO SMALL

We suggest starting with the largest group and working your way down to smaller groups so that any guests who are no longer required can be dismissed. I also recommend taking photos of grandparents or older guests first, so they can be dismissed earlier.

## ASK EVERYONE TO PUT THEIR PHONES AWAY

When a guest takes a photo over our shoulders, it can confuse folks about where to look and slow down the process. Please ask guests to refrain from taking photos with their phones. They will have plenty of time for that once we're done, we promise!



## LOVE NOTES FROM THE BEST PEOPLE.

Jess and Colton are two of the kindest people around. We were so happy to have them as our photographer/videographer on our special day. We've only seen our sneak peeks and know we'll love the rest when they're ready.

Thank you both for making us feel so comfortable and cared for!!

*Sara + Steve*





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# THE RECEPTION

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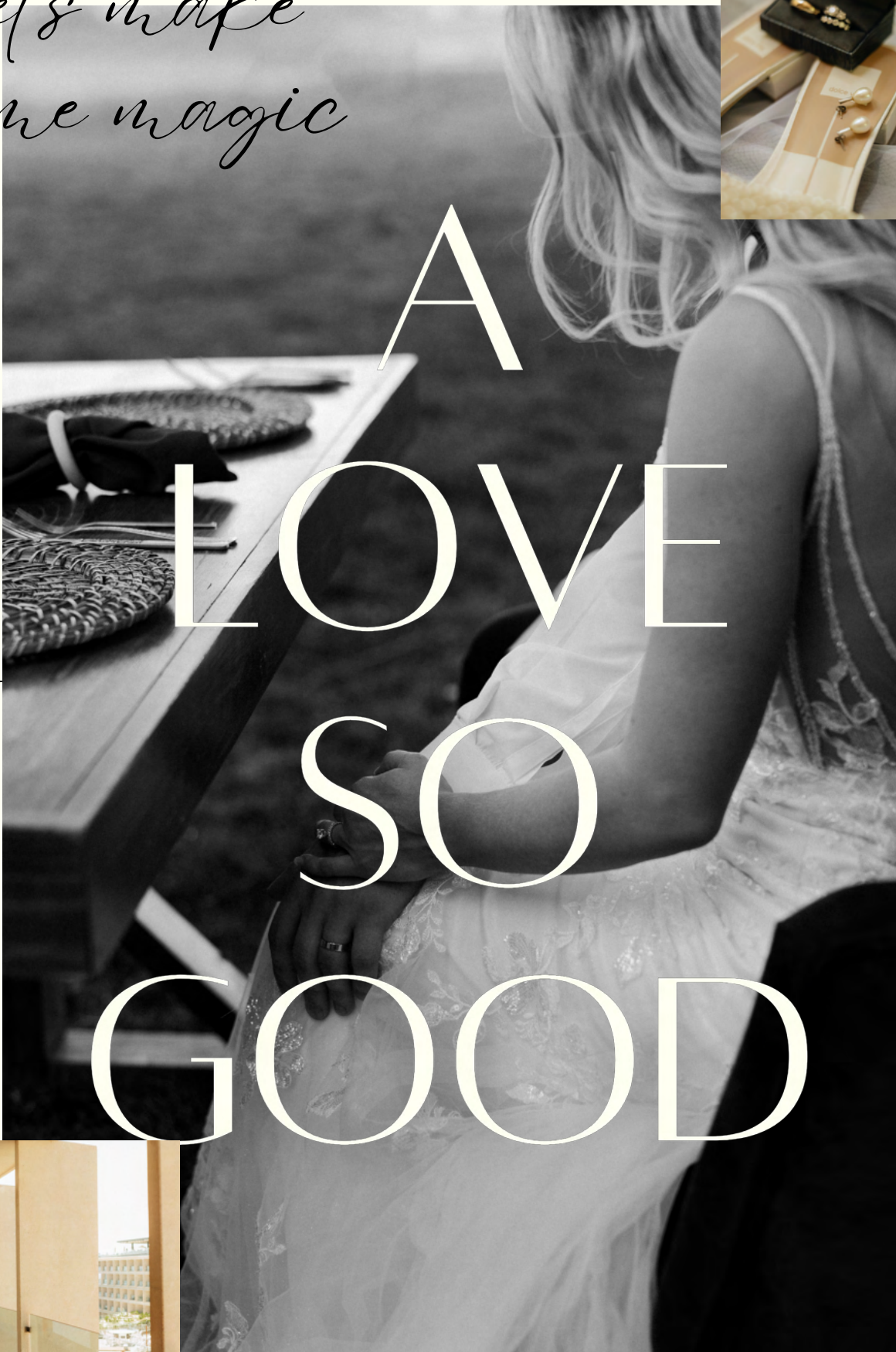
Finally, some rest and relaxation. You're married, and it's time to celebrate! During your reception, We'll take some candid and group shots, so if you have any friends or extended family members you need photos with, now is the time. During this time, a lot of things happen and We'll document everything. So don't worry about us because you have the freedom to make the reception yours. The possibilities are endless!

## HERE ARE THE USUAL RECEPTION EVENTS:

- grand entrance
- toasts
- first dance
- parent dances
- bouquet toss
- garter toss
- cake cutting
- grand exit



*lets make  
some magic*



A  
LOVE  
SO  
GOOD



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# UNPLUGGED WEDDING

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When you marry the love of your life, you ask all of your closest friends and family to be there to rejoice and witness your union, sharing this special moment with you and your partner. You want to see their faces, their grins, and their tears of joy and excitement as you walk down the aisle.

You probably don't want to glance around and find people taking pictures of you with cameras and phones obscuring their faces.



Unfortunately, We've witnessed many situations where a guest's phone is sticking out into the aisle, obstructing not only the moment but also the photos and videos we are capturing. We strongly recommend having an unplugged ceremony to avoid phones popping up in the background of shots and to allow guests to be more present.

There are a few ways to inform your guests if you decide to have an unplugged wedding:

SAVORING

THE

MOMENT

- Tell them early through the invitation. Add a line that reads, "We would love for you to be there, but we are having an unplugged wedding; we kindly request that you do not take any photos during the ceremony."
- Ask the officiant to make a brief announcement. Before the ceremony, your officiant can request that guests turn off their phones and refrain from taking pictures.



# LOVE NOTES FROM THE BEST PEOPLE.

My wife and I have been beyond thrilled with how Sosa captured our wedding. The photos and the video are absolutely incredible and could never be replicated by anyone else.

*Grant + Nicole*



# WE CANNOT WAIT TO DOCUMENT YOUR DAY.

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## SELF CARE

*We hope you found this guide filled with practical tips you can use, and We hope you feel more informed.*



Don't forget about the most important person at your wedding: you! Wedding planning isn't just time-consuming; it can also be intimidating. You might be feeling stressed, overwhelmed, and spread a little (or a lot) thin as your big day approaches.

Self-care is a vital aspect of wedding planning, as well as life, which many people overlook. No matter how overwhelmed you may be with wedding planning, your physical, mental, and emotional well-being shouldn't be taken for granted.

Sure, there may be snags along the way or even on the big day, but the most important thing is that you're getting married and all of your friends and family will be there to celebrate with you. Couples that have the most fun during their weddings are those who focus on the important things and don't sweat the small stuff.

Self-care tips for your journey:

- Take a break from wedding planning and do something that you love.
- Try yoga or meditation to relax and reconnect with yourself.
- Spend quality time with your partner, friends, and family. Don't forget to go on dates!
- Talk to a therapist or counselor if needed.

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# THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING US AS YOUR PHOTO/VIDEO DUO





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## MEET THE CREW

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We are Memoria, a husband and wife photo/video duo based out of Utah. We travel all over though and if you are planning a destination wedding, we are all for it!! We love our doggo Moose (pictured above), Chick-fil-A, bike rides during sunset, spending time with family and friends, and watching the Office. We can't wait to meet you!

*Jess & Col*

# VENDOR LIST (UTAH)

## PLANNERS.

Red Canyon Events  
Norman Weddings  
Aspen Events  
Vendor name

## BAKERS.

Sweet E's Bakery  
Top Tier Confections  
Cakes in the City  
Starlight Cake Co

## VENUES.

Siempre  
River Bridge  
Wadley Farms  
Oak Hills

## DJS.

DJ Scotty J  
DJ Orlandis  
DJ C Chanz  
Douggee

## FLORISTS.

Simply Bloom Floral  
Hazel Floral Co  
Heidi Firth Floral  
Little Lady Floral

## HAIR & MAKEUP.

Lasting Bridal Looks  
Brooke West Hair  
Karla Riffle Makeup  
Manes by Maddie

FOR OUR OF STATE COUPLES, PLEASE REACH OUT ABOUT  
PREFERRED VENDORS, WE KNOW LOTS AROUND THE STATES!



lets tell  
your  
story

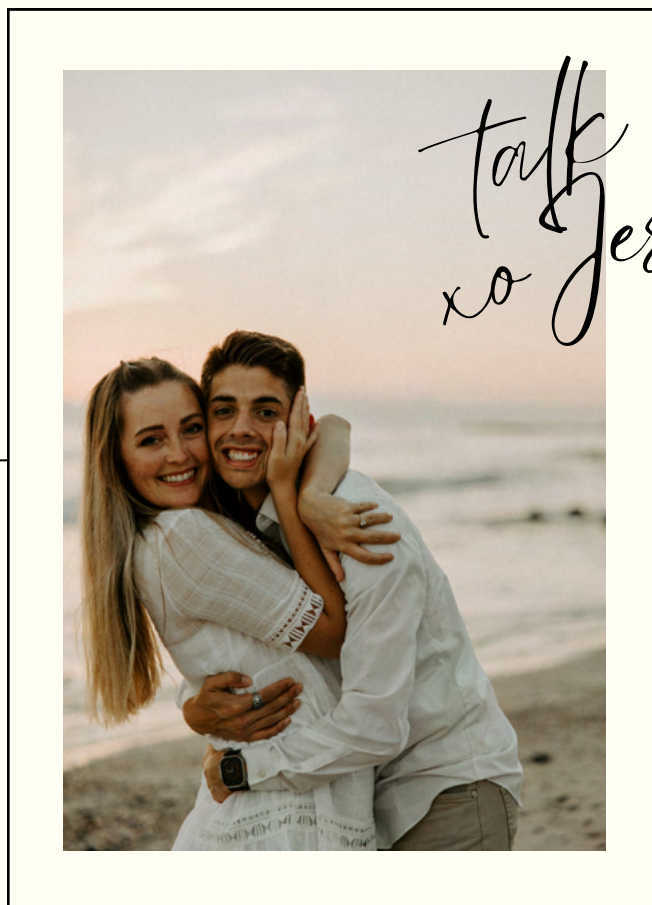


CAN'T WAIT



TO MAKE  
SOME MAGIC

# GET IN TOUCH



Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything else we can do to assist you beyond this guide! As a reminder, one month before your wedding, we will have a final phone conversation and walk through everything. In the meantime, happy wedding planning!



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[www.memoriaphotoandfilm.com](http://www.memoriaphotoandfilm.com)



LET'S GET

*adventure of  
a lifetime*



YOU MARRIED