



# your wedding timeline

Your wedding photography timeline can be one of the most intimidating parts of your wedding planning, but it doesn't have to be!

With these 5 tips you will be able to conquer those wedding woes and feel confident building the wedding day you've always dreamed of.

## THE MANTRA

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**Beautiful chaos deserves to pause and become life's still moments – memories that are cherished forever.**

# 1. undertsand when the sun sets.

One of the first steps to take when creating your perfect wedding day timeline is to understand when the sun is setting on your wedding day. In a lot of ways, the sunset effects the type and the amount of natural light photos you and your photographer can capture before it becomes too dark for photos.

For example: if you are choosing to have a sunset ceremony, this most often means that the majority of your natural light photos will take place prior to the ceremony. This includes getting ready, individual portraits, wedding party portraits, family portraits, and romance shots of just the two of you.

If you're determined to keep the warm and romantic images for after the ceremony, I would recommend bumping up your ceremony time 1.5 hours prior to the sun setting. This still allows for soft ceremony light while also promising enough natural light for family portraits and leaving the sunset for just the two of you to enjoy.



## 2. are you having a religious or cultural ceremony?

Ceremonies held in a religious or cultural setting are some of my very favorite! Depending on where you plan on having your ceremony and dependent on the faith or culture, these ceremonies could be up to an hour long (or more). It's important to factor this into your wedding day timeline to ensure you're investing in the appropriate amount of photography coverage.

For longer religious or cultural ceremonies, my couples will often invest in a 10 hour wedding package to ensure there is enough time to tell the story from getting ready to the special exit. Cushioning additional photography coverage is the best way to ensure you're not rushing or sacrificing moments you would otherwise miss.







### 3. decide if you want a first look.

Do you want the first time you see your future partner for life to be while you're walking down the aisle or would you prefer to see them prior to the wedding ceremony for a special, intimate moment? I often suggest to my couples to have a first look so there is less time spent after the ceremony taking photos and more time to spend celebrating at your reception.

The ideal time for a first look is about 2 hours prior to your ceremony and will last about 45 minutes to an hour. This time allows for that sweet first reaction and time to soak in the moment, while also allowing time for romance shots of just the two of you.

But not to worry, if you decide to stick with tradition you can set aside extra time after the ceremony to get those beautiful portrait photos of the two of you.

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## 4. family and wedding party portraits.

Prior to the reception is when many of the family and wedding party portraits are taken, especially if you decided to skip the first look. (If you opted for a first look, many of your wedding party photos and family can be captured prior to the ceremony, too).

I typically set aside a half hour for family photos, but this depends on how large your families are and how many different combinations of photos you like to have (I recommend no more than 12 variations). I like to have my couples send me a list of family combinations they'd like to have captured and we always work together to pair down as needed. Referring to this list while taking portraits makes our time together so much more efficient! It's also a good idea to let everyone you plan on having in photos know ahead of time so no one has to gather family members while the photos are being taken.

Less time taking photos will allow more time for drinks, cake, dancing and fun!





## 5. make a photo must have list.

This is another list your photographer can refer to on your wedding day. For every wedding, I make sure to shoot your details (think invitations, shoes, and jewelry) and the portraits you expect to have, but if there's anything specific to you as a couple and outside of the "norm" you want captured, I recommend creating a short list so that your photographer can be sure to capture these while cushioning enough time in the wedding timeline to do so.

Having a list ahead of time will save time on the wedding day and in addition, alleviate stress knowing those things will be accounted for.

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# sample timeline

FOR YOUR WEDDING DAY

<b>2:00</b>	— Photographers arrive
<b>2:05</b>	— Intimate detail shots & candid
<b>2:45</b>	— Everyone gets dressed
<b>3:30</b>	— Your first look
<b>3:45</b>	— Romance shots
<b>4:15</b>	— Wedding party shots
<b>4:30</b>	— Ceremony details
<b>5:00</b>	— Ceremony begins
<b>5:30</b>	— Family portraits
<b>6:00</b>	— Golden hour romance shots
<b>6:30</b>	— Introductions & first dances
<b>7:00</b>	— Dinner is served
<b>8:00</b>	— Cake cutting
<b>8:15</b>	— Dance floor opens
<b>9:45</b>	— Sparkler exit
<b>10:00</b>	— Photographers depart



THE TIMELINE OF YOUR WEDDING DAY IS ULTIMATELY UP TO YOU, BUT OVER THE YEARS, I'VE FOUND THAT MY COUPLES LOVE COLLABORATING TO CREATE A TIMELINE THAT SERVES THEM: MOMENTS OF QUIET, PLENTY OF TIME FOR PHOTOGRAPHS, AND ENJOYING THE DAY WITHOUT BEING RUSHED.

LET'S TALK ABOUT A CUSTOM TIMELINE JUST FOR THE TWO OF YOU!





[GET THAT WOW-YOU-CAPTURED-THAT-PERFECTLY MOMENT]

MORE QUESTIONS?

**Send me a note!  
I'm an open book.**

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