

IDA IRVINE PHOTO & FILM

WEDDING GUIDE

2025

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the next chapter starts here

This is me, Ida

hello *beautiful* humans

Let me start by saying congratulations on this amazing new adventure! You've decided to spend the rest of your lives with the one you love the most, and I am beyond excited to capture this beautiful celebration for you!

Depending on how far along the planning process you are, you probably know (or you've heard) that wedding planning is no easy task. Apart from the "newly-engaged" giddiness, I'm sure your heads must be spinning with all the heaped up to-do lists, advice, colour schemes, Pinterest boards and ideas that get thrown your way the moment you get engaged. The choices are endless: who should you invite? What flavour will the cake be? Candles or fairy lights? Or both? What will look best in the photos?

This is where I jump in with a detailed guide to alleviate some of the stress that inevitably surrounds the daunting task of *wedding planning*.

Apart from your bridal party, a few close family members and a friend or two, I (your wedding photographer) am usually the one you'll be spending most of your time with. I'm also the person keeping an eye on the timeline and ensuring that the day runs as smooth as possible. I know how to keep you calm and relaxed, make you feel like a million dollars in front of the lens and I'll make sure that, even though the flowers have wilted and the music has faded away, your memories will be captured in a way that'll make you'll relive all the magic all over again. This much is true for every great wedding photographer out there!

get to *know* me

and my philosophy

Read me to see if we could be a match

I fell in love with weddings after shooting my very first one back in 2018. That's also the year I decided to pursue photography as a full-time career (which is one of the best decisions I've ever made).

I'd never shot a wedding before that day, so I had no idea how it worked. Timelines? Bridal portraits? Family portraits after the ceremony? It never really occurred to me that these things were important to have planned out, so you don't feel lost, frazzled and confused on a day as big as this one.

So why did I fall in love with wedding photography, if this was my first wedding experience?

I suppose I got lucky with a relaxed and easy going couple. The most important part of the day for them was to exchange their vows and start the rest of their lives together. I basically documented their wedding exactly as it happened, and to this day, this is my philosophy:

When I shoot your wedding, I know there are moments that might work better with my guidance, so I will never leave you hanging. However, I'm a firm believer that your wedding should not feel like one big photo and film production. Ideally you only get this day once - *you should take things slow, be present for every single moment and march to the beat of your own drum! Ignore the noise that says you have to follow certain wedding traditions and trust me to capture the candid, natural, unposed moments that always end up meaning the most.*



A FEW QUICK FACTS:

coffee	tea
dogs	cats
the books	the movies
romance	fantasy
pizza	braai
red wine	G&T

currently reading	The wheel of Time series
currently watching	Suits (again)
currently listening to	Aurora
favourite colour	Earthy Tones
currently living in	Swakopmund, Namibia



KATE & ALEX IN THE STREETS OF BEAUTIFUL CAPE TOWN, WESTERN CAPE |28 AUGUST 2022

before the wedding

meet & greet



NOTE:

I understand it's not always possible to carve out time in a busy schedule for meeting your photographer. However I recommend you hire someone that you trust 100% to capture your day the way you want it to be captured. Find a way to communicate your expectations (email, phone call, etc.) You can use the questions on the next page as a guideline to what info your photographer will find helpful.

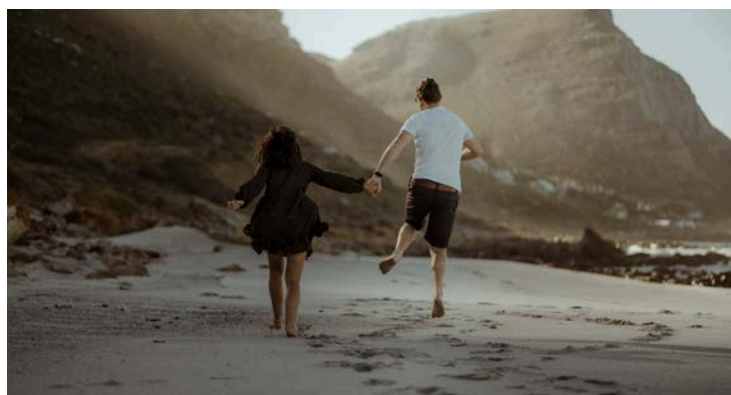
Now that you have a better idea of who I am and what my approach is as a photographer, let's cover a few things that'll happen before your actual wedding day.

If I had a dollar for every time a couple told me (or any other photographer for that matter) that they're awkward in front of the camera, I'd probably be retired by now. But I understand - I've been on the other side of the lens too. So what's the best approach to ensure you don't look or feel awkward in front of the camera on your wedding day?

The first step would be to hire a photographer who knows their way around a wedding and how to make you feel 100% comfortable. Secondly, it might help to get to know your photographer a little better so he or she is no stranger when they turn up to take your pictures.

I usually like to meet up with my couples for a coffee (or any beverage of choice) to talk about their hopes, dreams and logistics surrounding the wedding. Sometimes the conversation switches over to what series we're bingeing at the moment - the point is, I want to get to know you as a couple, how you interact with each other, which kinds of movies you like, what music you listen too, etc. It'll help me understand how to guide and pose you, which part of your wedding might be most important to you and where I should be pouring most of my energy into. Do you like posed photos or do you prefer candids? Do you have any special heirlooms you want me to capture? I'd love to know about all of it!

Apart from having a coffee and a chat, an even better way to make sure you're comfortable and relaxed with your photographer behind the camera, is to organise a shoot or two before the wedding. We'll talk about this a little later.



questions I ask my couples

during our meet & greet

When we get together for a coffee before your big day, these are usually the questions I ask my couples. This gives me clarity around your expectations of me throughout the day, as well as all the logistics. I can plan my timeline, transport, shot-lists, etc. around these answers.

- Both your names?
- Your Wedding Date?
- Where will the two of you be getting ready?
- What is the location of the ceremony?
- Where will the reception be held?
- What time will you be starting hair and makeup?
- What time is the ceremony?
- What time would you like the reception to start?
- How many guests are you expecting?
- Do you have a bridal party (bridesmaids & groomsmen)?
- Would you like to book an engagement session?
- Would you consider a "couples portrait/fancy dress" session before or after the wedding?
- What excites you most about your wedding?
- Are you planning a *First Look* with your fiancé? Father? Bridal Party?
- What are you looking forward to most on your wedding day?

Anything I need to know

TRADITIONS

- During the ceremony (eg. Communion, etc)?
- Reception (eg. bouquet toss, cake cutting, etc)?
- Would you like a group photo with all your guests?
- Would you like formal family photos? (If so, please provide a list of *every single combination you want photographed.*)
- Do you have a specific location in mind for your couples session?
- Do you have any special guests coming to the wedding (eg. from abroad, or a close family member) that you would appreciate photos of?

NB

These questions are good to work through before you meet with your photographer, so you don't sit there having to fish for the answer somewhere among the heaps of wedding planning notes.

the *shot*-list

I'll be honest from the get-go: I am not the biggest fan of a five page (front and back), double column shot list. There are a couple of reasons - one of them being that it takes away from my creative process, which is why you hired me in the first place. If I'm constantly on my phone or digging around in my pocket to check off the shots you want, I won't feel relaxed, creative and free to capture the day as it unfolds. In fact, sometimes this leads to me missing moments I'd normally capture using my own intuition. I'd feel like you don't trust me to do what I do best, which will make me anxious and nervous, and it inevitably leads to disappointment if your photos don't turn out the way you wanted them to. Another reason is that if I don't have a second shooter, it's impossible for me to get shots like the bride walking down the aisle from the front, but also a shot from the back... but also a shot of the groom's reaction and also candids of the guests' reactions.

However, depending on how the wedding is structured, my experience in the industry has led me to always aim to get the following shots for my clients:

GETTING READY

- BRIDES DETAILS

(can include any - not necessarily all - of the following):

rings, jewellery, shoes, perfume, garter, love letter from groom, vows, stationary, veil, dress, keepsakes, bridesmaids gifts, etc.

- GROOM'S DETAILS

(can include any - not necessarily all - of the following): *ring,*

shoes, cufflinks, love letter from the bride, vows, tie, watch, cologne, keepsakes, groomsmen gifts, etc.

- BRIDE GETTING READY WITH BRIDESMAIDS
- BRIDE GETTING DRESSED
- GROOM GETTING READY WITH GROOMSMEN
- GROOM GETTING DRESSED
- FIRST LOOK WITH PARENTS
- FIRST LOOK WITH BRIDAL PARTY
- WHISKEY & CIGARS / CHAMPAGNE POP

COCKTAIL HOUR

- CANDIDS OF GUESTS
- RECEPTION AREA DECOR + CANAPES & DECOR
- WEDDING CAKE

BRIDAL PARTY

- FORMAL & FUN PHOTOS OF COUPLE + BRIDESMAIDS & GROOMSMEN
- BRIDE + BRIDESMAIDS
- GROOM + GROOMSMEN

RECEPTION

- ENTRANCE OF COUPLE
- FIRST DANCE
- FATHER-DAUGHTER / MOTHER-SON DANCE
- ALL SPEECHES & TOASTS
- CANDIDS OF GUESTS
- CAKE CUTTING
- ANY GAMES, TRADITIONS OR FORMALITIES

CEREMONY

- DECOR
- BRIDE COMING DOWN THE AISLE (FRONT)
- GROOM'S REACTION
- CANDIDS OF GUESTS
- RING BEARER
- RING EXCHANGE
- FIRST KISS
- WIDE SHOT OF THE CEREMONY FROM THE BACK
- SIGNING THE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
- CONFETTI AND A FEW CANDIDS OF GUESTS
CONGRATULATING THE HAPPY COUPLE

FAMILY PORTRAITS

- COUPLE + BRIDE'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY
- COUPLE + BRIDE'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY
- COUPLE + BRIDE'S PARENTS
- BRIDE + PARENTS
- BRIDE + EACH PARENT ALONE
- COUPLE + GROOM'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY
- COUPLE + GROOM'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY
- COUPLE + GROOM'S PARENTS
- GROOM + PARENTS
- GROOM + EACH PARENT ALONE

COUPLES PORTRAITS

- JUST THE TWO OF YOU AND ME, CAPTURING
MAGICAL MOMENTS AT A SELECTED LOCATION
DURING GOLDEN HOUR.

*As I've mentioned before, the shots I get depend on how you've planned and structured your wedding day, how we're looking on time and whether I have a second shooter or not. Sometimes there won't be time for me to capture the canapés, because the family shoot took too long, and we have to squeeze in your bridal party shoot as well as couples portraits before the reception starts!

NOTE - This is where second shooters really come in handy.

the *engagement* session

If the thought of staring lovingly into the eyes of your fiancé in front of a camera makes you a little nervous, then it's probably a good idea to book an engagement session before the wedding.

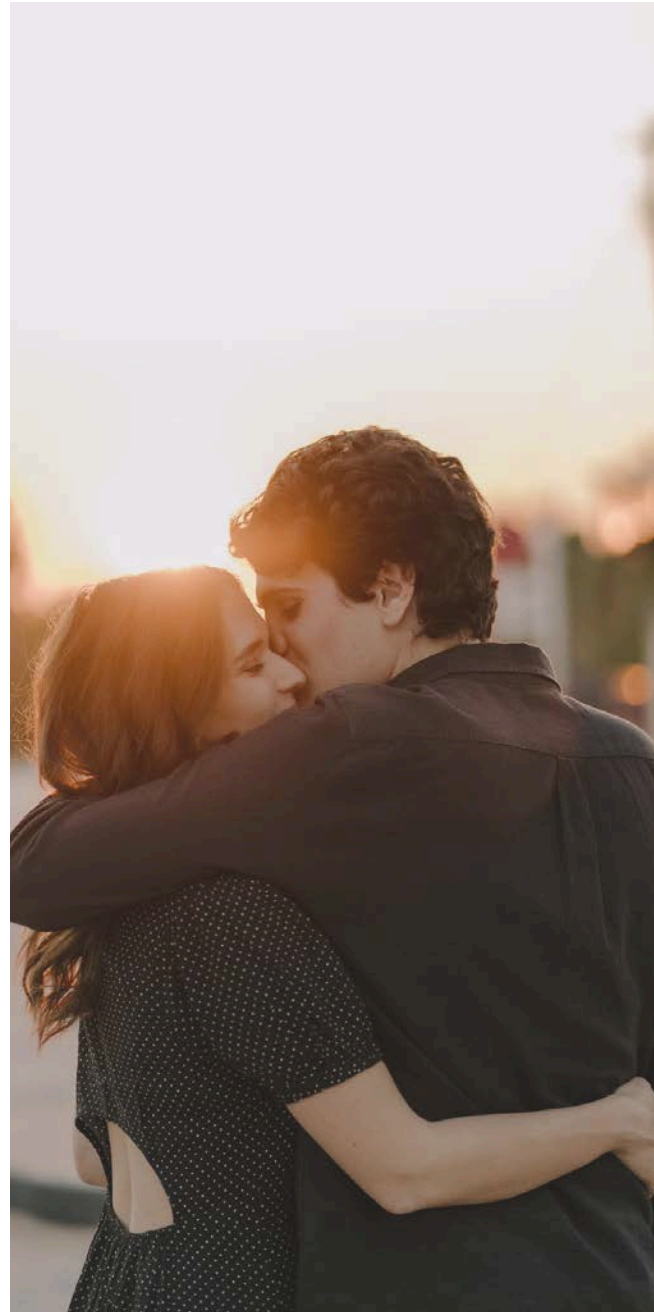
Not only is it the best way for us to have a bit of fun together without the pressure of a timeline, it will also help calm the nerves, inspire confidence in front of the camera, and allow us to create beautiful keepsakes in a relaxed atmosphere. You'll get to see how I work, which means the face behind the camera won't be strange to you on the day of your wedding, and you'll be used to my style and approach.

I recommend scheduling an engagement session a couple of months before the wedding. Think of places that are special to you as a couple and don't be shy to bring props such as champagne, pizza, ice-cream or a cute hat. Depending on the theme of the shoot, make sure you dress comfortably and opt for a neutral colour pallet.

You can choose between 30 or 60 minute sessions and I usually schedule these sessions for weekdays, after hours (weekends are mainly reserved for weddings, especially during peak season). Depending on where we take these photos, I always suggest either sunrise or sunset times, but if we do an indoor session, the time of day is a bit more flexible.

what can we use our photos for?

- *save the dates/invites*
- *your wedding website*
- *parent gifts*
- *wedding favours*
- *home decor*
- *social media posts*
- *you can even add a few to your wedding album*



engagement spot *ideas*

NAMIBIA



HIGH COURT, WINDHOEK



AVIS AREA, WINDHOEK



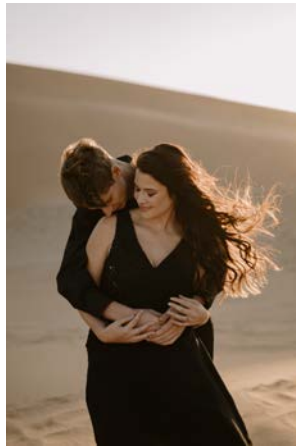
ELISENHEIM, WINDHOEK



EROS AIRPORT, WINDHOEK



MOONLANDSCAPE, SWAKOPMUND



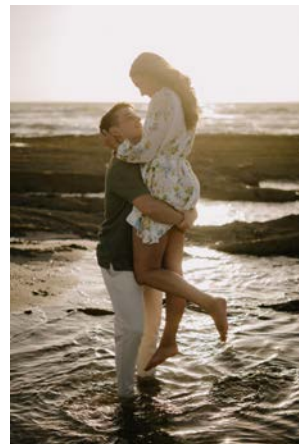
DUNES, SWAKOPMUND



SWAKOPMUND TOWN



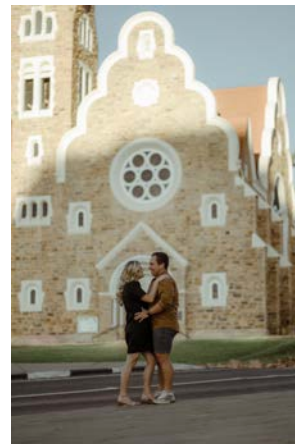
COMFORT OF YOUR HOME



LANGSTRAND BEACH



SWAKOPMUND TOWN



CHRIST CHURCH, WINDHOEK



AVIS DAM, WINDHOEK

engagement spot *ideas*

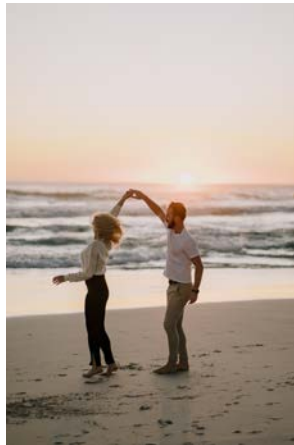
in and around Cape Town



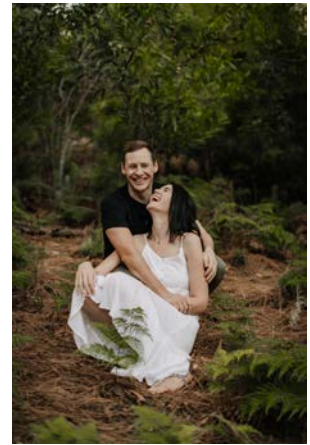
Canola fields, Malmesbury



Chapman's Peak Drive



Noordhoek Beach



Constantia Nek



Cape Town CBD (High Court)



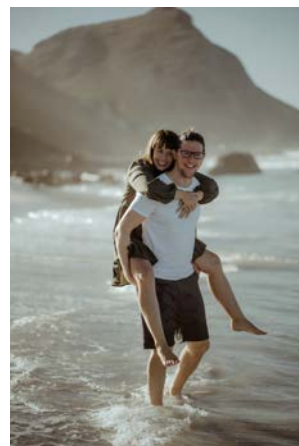
Silvermine



Paardevlei, Somerset West



The comfort of your home



Witsands Beach



Majik Forest (Durbanville)



The streets of Stellenbosch

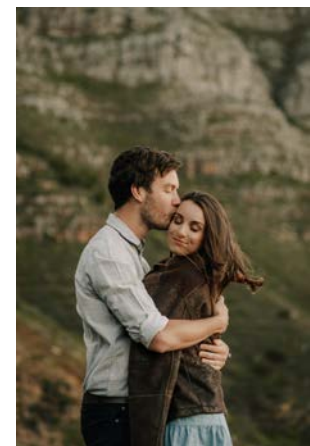


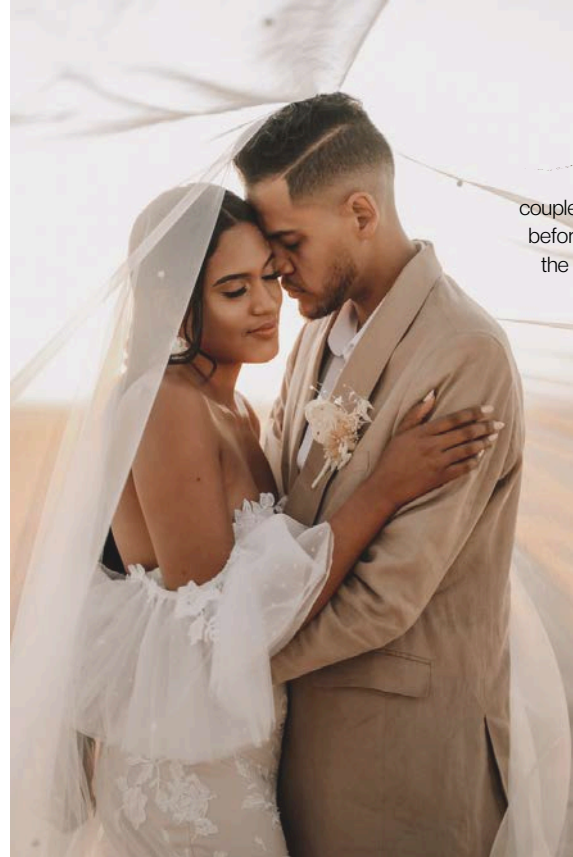
Table Mountain Road

fancy dress

Traditionally this is dubbed "couples portraits" even though the idea is somewhat untraditional. This session is perfect for getting beautiful photos of either brides or grooms in their wedding best before (or even after) the big day. No time pressure, no waiting guests, no stress. Just you, me, my camera, and the sunset (or sunrise). Get a good trial run for your makeup or dress or tux or shoes, pick a location you love (it doesn't have to be anywhere near your ceremony venue) and we'll create some magic together.

You could also see this as an excuse to wear your dress and tux again *after* the big day (who said you only wear your wedding clothes once).

Even though it might not be traditional, it really does relieve you from a lot of stress on the wedding day! Think about it this way - if you have an outdoor ceremony, you can schedule the ceremony to be during golden hour instead of the couples portraits. You won't feel rushed while getting ready and it gives you more time to spend with your friends and family.



couples portraits
before or after
the big day



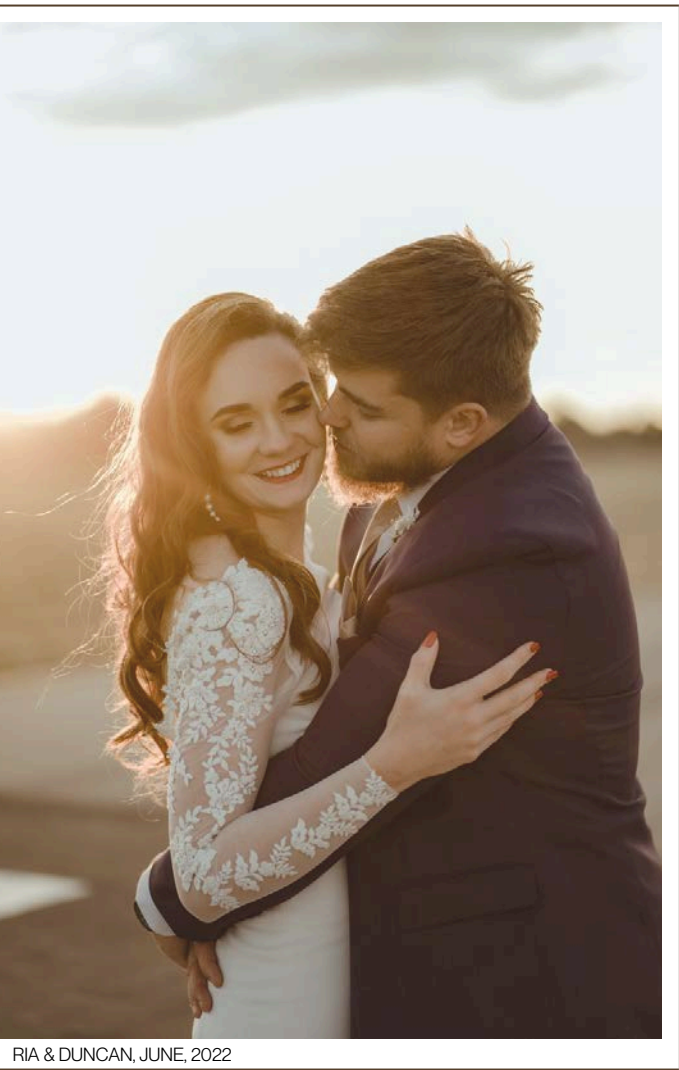
SUNÉ & ANDRIES, MIDGARD COUNTRY ESTATE | 19 MARCH 2022

on the *big day*

logistics

Timelines make your day flow smoothly, giving your guests, staff, and vendors a general idea of when and where everything will pan out. There isn't a one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to working out your timeline, so it's important to work one out that works for you. If you have a wedding planner, they'll be able to help you create something that aligns with your vision of your perfect day. One thing to remember is that things almost always take longer than you think they will. Allow some time in between events so you have a second to breathe, kiss your partner, and drink some water (and champagne, of course). I usually try to keep a 15 minute window of time before the ceremony, without any photos, to give you a chance to tame those flyaways hairs or have a quick bite to eat.

YOUR TIMELINE



RIA & DUNCAN, JUNE, 2022

If you opt out of doing a couples portrait session before or after the wedding, try to structure your timeline so that we're shooting the couples portraits at golden hour, just before the sun sets. Depending on the weather, we'll catch that beautiful afternoon glow all around you. There's nothing like this time of day to capture the mood and magic of the moment.

I recommend finding out what time golden hour will be on your date, and planning backwards from there. It's important to keep in mind that winter and summer sunset times differ.

Want to just flow with the day and not worry about portraits? No problem. We can talk about doing your couples portraits on a different day!



*I've attached a few timeline examples at the end of this document



getting *ready*

At once calm and chaotic, the getting ready part of the day has all of your feelings crammed into a couple of nervous and tender hours. With all of the action buzzing around the you (the bride and groom), it's easy to find yourself in a really chaotic, crowded, and cluttered space that inadvertently adds stress to the situation. Considering the right space for this part of the day is more important than most people think, which is why I recommend thinking about this early.

The factors that contribute to me getting good photos are also the ones that contribute to a more relaxed day for everyone. Here's what I've learned we need:

- A clutter-free space.
- Good natural light and lots of it. (Ask your makeup artist to set up their kit in front of a large window).
- A space with an interior style that suits your own. If at home, don't forget to get rid of all of the day-to-day clutter like electric fans, socks or dog beds. Fill the space with flowers, your favourite things, and just a couple of your favourite people.
- Enough time (at *least* 90 minutes for each partner, but longer if you're rolling with a big crew). I'll be sure to show up as the finishing touches are being placed, then head over to your fiancé to spend some time with them too. *TIP: A great way to maximise my time is to put all of the things aside that I need for the detail shots. The ring, the shoes, the cufflinks, love letters, invites - put it all aside so I can arrange them and swap through quickly.*
- While each of you are getting ready, chances are you'll be filled with nerves. As you won't have each other for comfort in these moments, consider writing a love letter for your fiancé to read before the ceremony. It'll be a nice little keepsake, make for some incredibly emotion-filled images before the ceremony, and help build the excitement in the leadup to the 'I-do's'.



- remove those hair bands from your wrist
- be aware of red marks your bra can leave on your shoulders and back
- be weary of tan-lines! It's extremely difficult for me to edit these out.
- don't chew gum or suck on mints while I'm taking photos of you
- have your makeup done first or second to last if you and your bridesmaids share a makeup artist

important notes

Guys - I'll be in and out in the space of about an hour, after which I'll head back to the bride. Feel free to get out of your fancy clothes and relax until you have to get going to the ceremony.

the *first* look

First looks are probably one of the sweetest new wedding traditions, shaking off old school traditions that say you shouldn't see each other until you're on opposite ends of the aisle. They kick up the romance a couple notches, allowing you two to share a private moment before getting thrown into the hubbub of the day, and allowing me to capture some of the unfolding awe and excitement between you.

This is a fun opportunity for us to put our heads together and get creative, but it's also *really* time sensitive. Planning is key to make sure that the light's right and I can be in the right spot to capture the surprise and wonder of the moment. Beforehand, let's talk about where you'll each stand, where I'll be, and how we can tee everything up so the shot is perfect. Once I get the shot, I'll leave the two of you alone for a few moments to take it all in, enjoy each other's company and calm the nerves before the big moment.



The first look will give you and your fiancé time to take in the moment *together* which inevitably helps calm your nerves, leaving you with a feeling of excitement rather than fear. It draws the attention back to what really matters - this day is just about the two of you. Your reaction also isn't monitored by your friends and family, which relieves a lot of pressure (you don't *have* to cry because everyone expects you to). And we score a few bonus couples portraits!

On the other hand, you might be excited to see your fiancé for the first time at the end of the aisle, especially if you're more prone to tradition. There's no right or wrong way, there's just **YOUR** way.

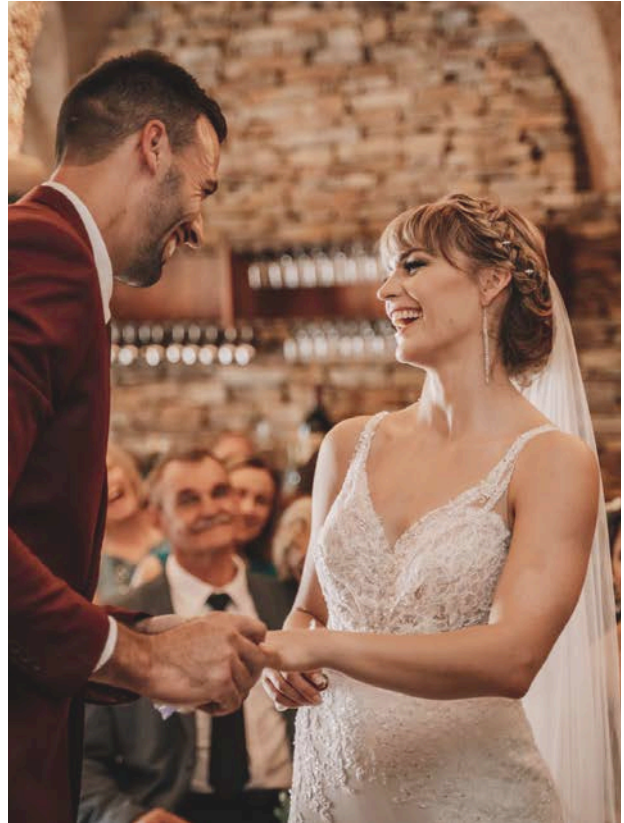
pros and cons



SAMANTHA& EDWARD BLACKBEARD, 2ND FOR KRUST
JOHANNESDAL | MAY 2022

the ceremony

I'll start by saying this: *take things slow*. With the kiss, with walking down the aisle, with exchanging the rings, with everything. Tell everyone else to do so too. Resist the urge to rush through and just make sure you savour every moment! This allows me plenty of time to get the shot I need and it'll force you to stop and take it all in. It's a pretty big moment, after all!



keep it *unplugged*

Unplugged weddings are opportunities for your guests to disconnect from their devices and connect to the present moment. They also help me get unobscured shots of you and the rest of the ceremony. There are so many pivotal moments that happen in the blink of an eye - if someone jumps out in front of me with their iPhone while you and the love of your life have your first kiss as forever partners, chances are you'll have a big iPhone shaped blur in the foreground and I'll miss the shot.

It's hard to ask people to keep their devices in their pockets. And although the people you've invited undoubtedly love and respect you, it can sometimes be hard to disentangle ourselves from our technology. Set out little reminders for your guests: make some cute signs to put up, add a note to the programs, and let your celebrant know so they can remind them to put all devices away. I promise they'll see a few awesome sneak peeks from me soon! And besides, what will they be using the photos or videos for anyway?

lighting & logistics

Whether your ceremony is indoors or outdoors, there are a few simple but effective things that can be done to make sure that all of the images sparkle as bright as your memories of your wedding day.

IF **OUTDOOR**, LET'S CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- What time is your wedding, and what will the lighting be like at that time? Can we ensure you're both evenly lit? Will I be shooting into the sun?
- What will your background look like? Is there a way we can make it look pretty? Will there be anything (such as big trees with leafy branches) that could cast shadows onto your faces?
- If I have more physical space to play around with I'll be able to get a nice mix of different kinds of shots. Close ups, details, wide-angles, and various candid guests.
- Elevate the composition of your shots by having a symmetrical space. If you say your vows under an arch or between an arbour, your images will have that extra little aesthetic oomph.

IF **INDOOR**, LET'S CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- What kinds of windows does your venue have? Do they use natural or artificial light? Sometimes artificial light can make things look really cold or clinical, but it's possible to warm things up a bit by stringing up a few festoon lights, fairy lights or candles.
- Are there any rules surrounding your place of worship (if this is where we're having the ceremony) that I should know about? If you're unsure, consult with your religious leader and ask them if they have any rules they'd like me to keep in mind while shooting.
- Would you like me to avoid using flash?
- Do you have a preference as to how much I move around during the ceremony/ reception? Would you like me to jump in the mosh or hang back?

Different photographers have such different styles. Chances are, if you've booked me you have a feel for my vibe. I always do my best to be as emotionally aware as possible, but it never hurts to have a chat prior to the ceremony so I know what you expect from me.

after the *ceremony*

You'll probably get mobbed by your family and friends! Which is great and loving and so much fun, but I want to capture all of the tears and the hugs and the high-fives in the best way possible. So try not to get mobbed in a tiny hallway or in front of the bathroom. Angle for a shady spot outside or a well-lit spacious room so I can be sure to capture the many happy moments in all their happy glory. If there's a flower petal throw or bubble parade or an eco-confetti moment, let me know ahead of time so I can capture you guys grinning from ear to ear behind all of the airborne fragments.

cocktail hour

Once we've done the group photo as well as the family photos, I would usually recommend you take some time to mingle with your guests, graciously receive all the congratulations-kisses from aunts and uncles, sit down, have a glass of champagne, G&T or a beer and take it all in. I'll keep an eye on the time to see if this is possible (it usually is for about 30 minutes) and then I'll fetch you for the bridesmaids/groomsmen photos and the couples portraits. This also gives me some time to take photos of the canapés and guests, as well as the decor in the reception area before anyone has touched any of the table settings!



quick tip

**for the confetti shower - pause in the middle of the procession for a big, confetti covered kiss (and a gorgeous, frame-worthy shot!)*

family portraits

There are any number of combinations we can photograph the your whole family in. Some with everyone in them, some with each of your immediate then extended families, and some variations of smaller and larger groups. One thing that's absolutely necessary for this part of the day is that everyone knows it's happening, everyone's on board, and there's someone (Wedding planner? Sibling? Bridesmaid?) who knows who everyone is and can help me herd everyone in the right direction at the right time. A few days before the wedding, I suggest you sit down and write down a list of *every single combination of family members you want photographed (bride and mother? Write it down. Groom and bride and brother? Write it down)*. This ensures I get through the combinations quickly without us standing and staring at each other wondering which photo to take next. Some people might think these combinations are common knowledge for any wedding photographer. It really isn't - trust me not every couple wants a photo of them and their nieces or nephews. Some couples don't even want photos with their parents.

NB



FAMILY O/T GROOM | 25 JUNE 2022

An ideal time to do this is immediately after the ceremony, but before the couple portraits. Once the reception starts, it's hard to track everyone down (and likely we might capture canapé debris between someone's teeth). I also like to do the big group shot (if you want one) directly after the confetti, before everyone scatters in all directions!

wedding *party*

If you have a fleet of bridesmaids or groomsmen (or both), it's worth getting some images of everyone with the flowers and the dresses and the ties and the cute matching outfits during the "getting ready" time. Just make sure everyone knows what's happening, and talk to the wedding planner so that they can put it in the schedule for the day - it'll help everyone know where to be and when.



JEREMY & TORA-LEE BLAAUW, MOONLANDSCAPE
APRIL 2022

I always make a point of capturing the moments between you and your entourage before we head off to the ceremony (popping champagne or sipping a whiskey together). But the more formal shots usually take place once we're done with the family photos. I need about 20 - 30 minutes for these moments, depending on how many bridesmaids and groomsmen I'm dealing with, as well as how well they work together with me. Remember to take something along to eat and drink if you didn't get a chance to enjoy some canapés with your guests.

TIP

Take along a bottle or two of champagne to celebrate your union with your closest friends.

couples portraits

It's guaranteed that you'll walk away from your wedding with so many beautiful memories of the day! What's not always guaranteed is that you'll walk away from your wedding with a portrait of yourselves that you both absolutely love - unless we set some time aside for it. So let's give ourselves at least 30 minutes (preferably closer to 45 minutes during golden hour), in a beautiful pre-scoped locale to make some magic together. And, for the record, I'm not opposed to sneaking away for portrait time more than once throughout the day.



Portraits like these allow you to create precious keepsakes, step back from the buzz, look into each other's eyes, and take a few grounding moments to yourselves.



There'll be plenty of time for us to become friends before your big day, but if you're a little unsure about spending time in front of the camera, let me know. As I've mentioned a few times before, most people have some reservations about it and I always do my best to get to know you so that I can give you the kind of direction that feels authentic to you. I've got lots of prompts up my sleeve for the shy and the rambunctious alike, so you'll never be left wondering what to do next. Most of the time, my approach is relaxed, unposed and real. I want you to take this time to reflect, just the two of you, and take in what just happened. Trust me when I say the results are always breathtaking!

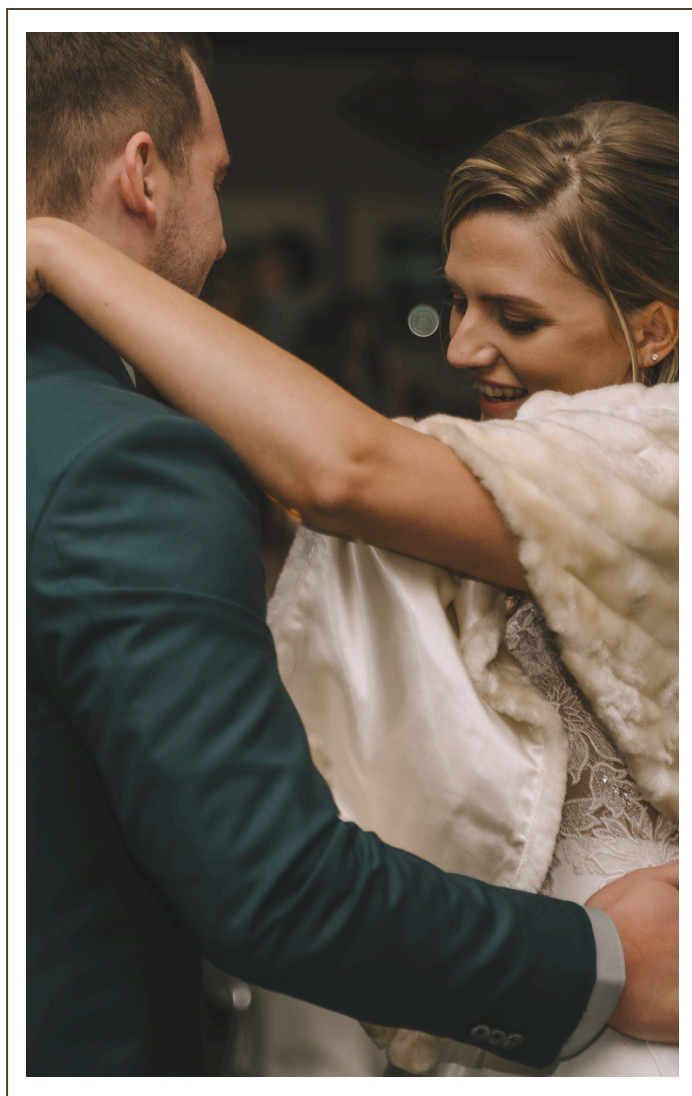


DREY-ANDRA & CHRISTO VAN DER MERWE, GROOTFONTEIN
NAMIBIA | 10 DECEMBER 2021

reception

and dinner

The more I know about the layout of the venue and the kind of lighting that will be used, the better prepared I'll be to make sure all of the details line up in favour of amazing images.



From the details of where you'll be sitting and what you have in the background, to where you'll be in relation to the person giving speeches - all of this is helpful for me to get a lay of the land and understand where to get the best shots. Will there be a sit-down dinner or will people be making their way around with snacks all night? Is it formal or more of a relaxed thing? If you're having a DJ, will they be using their own lighting? The more fairy lights and candles and non-directional lighting the better. Multi-coloured disco strobes don't look so great on the guests.

If Duncan (my husband) does video, he has a light set up close to the area where the speeches will take place. Sometimes the lighting used can create a banding effect which can be quite distracting in your wedding video. This light just helps reduce the banding. Don't worry! We'll switch it off before the party starts.

Also, most people don't like to be photographed while they're eating, so this is a good time for me to grab a bite too and be well-prepared for the rest of the night. I don't insist on eating first, but I'll try to be among the first few people dishing up, or it would be great if the kitchen could be notified to not serve the vendors last, just so I don't have half a plate of food to finish when you want to go ahead and cut the cake or toss the bouquet!

and sparklers

first dance

Whether choreographed and theatrical, or shy and a little clumsy, the first dance is one of the most tear-jerking moments of the day. For me to capture this perfectly, make sure you get some alone time on the dance floor before the rest of the crowd joins in - I'd love to get contrasting images of the quiet and the chaos equally.

Ditch the cool, directional overhead lights in favour of sparklers, candles, and warm atmospheric lighting. A warm beam of light backlighting the two of you is a great addition as well (think festoon lights hanging from the ceiling, a curtain of fairy lights or an array of candles on the tables).

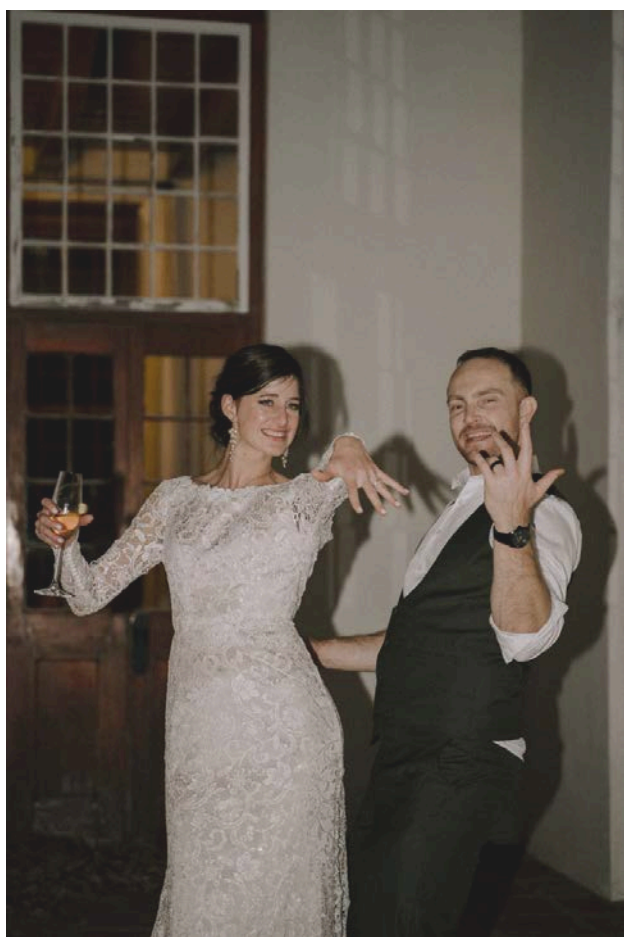
If you decide to have sparklers light you up on the dance floor, I like to ask the guests to move into a tight circle around the two of you, so I can get that dreamy, bokeh effect.



S.P. & IZAHN GROBBELAAR; ANKAWINI SAFARI RANCH
4 DECEMBER 2021

If you're planning a sparkler exit, make sure I get the memo about this! It works best if there's a designated "sparkler hander outer" so that everyone's sparklers are burning bright together! If you've booked a venue that doesn't allow for a sparkler exit, you could opt for bubbles or eco confetti - just let me know so I can ensure there's enough light available for the shot.

About 15-20 minutes before my time ends, I'll pop by the two of you with a little reminder that my time is almost up. You can decide whether you want me to stay a little longer and add on an hour or two to your package (refer to my pricing guide to see what I charge for working overtime). At this point I'll also ask if you'd be keen for a few flashy shots in the dark outside before I say goodbye. I love these kinds of shots! The day is done, you'll be relaxed and happy and it's a great way for me to end off the night and say goodbye properly (without trying to shout over the sound of the DJ).



CISKA & MARLO, DIAMANT ESTATE
JUNE 2022



RIA & DUNCAN, BONA BONA GAME LODGE
25 JUNE 2022

farewell moments

photo *delivery*

It takes me up to 3 months to select, edit, and deliver your gallery of photos after the wedding (depending on how deep into the wedding season we are). But I'll be sure to sneak you a couple of previews within 1 week so you can share them with family and friends while everyone's still buzzing from the big day.



When I do hand over all of the images, it's always such a special moment for everyone! A few of my couples have invited friends and family over for an "exclusive viewing event" - it's always amazing getting to relive that day with your nearest and dearest. Plus, any excuse to make a batch of popcorn is always welcome! However if you feel like cosying up on the couch, just the two of you with a glass of wine, listening to your favourite songs while reliving the day - go for it!

Feel free to share your images with your guests so they can share them on their own social media. But please don't forget to tag me! Not only does it help others find their way to my page, but it's always so fun for me to see which snaps everyone loves most.

Please refrain from adding filters when reposting your photos (it goes against the rules laid out in my contract).

If vendors want to use any of my images for their business pages, refer them to me and I can provide them with the gallery and photo rights.

how will I *receive* my photos?

About a week after the big day, I like to send a little preview of about 100 photos, because I know you must be buzzing with anticipation! I use an online gallery service and you will receive a link to your gallery in an email from me. This gallery is private with a special link that you can send to your friends and family if you want them to relive your big day too! About 3 months after the wedding, the rest of your photos (as well as the video) will be ready for you! *Along with uploading the photos and video to your online gallery, I also send a special keepsake box with all the edited photos and video backed up on a branded USB - If you've ordered this as an extra.* You may also find a few prints that you can use however you wish and a special little gift from me. If you've ordered an album or if you have an album included in the package, this will be sent along with the keepsake box, so your wait might be slightly longer.



NB little note

make sure you back up your photos on two external devices to ensure you don't lose any of your precious moments from this day. Your online gallery will be available forever, but I can't guarantee that the site won't crash or malfunction in any way.



I usually send these boxes via Postnet (to Postnet), but let me know if you'd like to make any other arrangements. *For albums that are being shipped internationally, the courier costs are not included in the packages* - this is because it varies from country to country and in some cases I have to pay import tax. I'll be sure to fill you in on all the details before I send your package!

wedding *albums*

and prints

If you are anything like me, you don't make time to scroll through your wedding photos on the computer all that often. Which is a shame! Nothing beats scheduling a date night to relive your wedding day, and the old school romantic in me loves having something tangible that I can pick up and page through while experiencing all the emotions I felt on that day.

There is something about a photo album that reminds me of a treasure chest, filled with memories even more precious than gold and gems! There's something about running your hands over the linen cover and opening it to reveal your day encapsulated in memories, literally at your finger tips. How amazing would it be to know your grandchildren and great-grandchildren might one day get a chance to page through the memories of your wedding too?

I always recommend choosing a package that includes an heirloom album. And even if you don't, there's always a chance of ordering one after the wedding, perhaps for your anniversary?



Once you've received your gallery, I will follow up with a link where you can choose your photos for your album. The albums I deliver include 20 spreads (40 pages) and they are 30cm x 30cm. You can also order 20cm x 20cm parent gift albums, which are basically duplicates of your standard album. For the most beautiful results, I recommend you choose no more than 120 photos, however if you want to add more, I will happily add a few pages add a little extra cost, and I'll send you the final invoice once the design is done.

When I have your photos, the design process starts (it takes about 1 - 2 weeks, depending on the season). I'll send you the design first and once you give me the go-ahead, off to the printers it goes! I can confidently say that the printers I use only make use of the finest quality materials for both the cover and the photographic paper, ensuring your album will last. The printing takes up to ten days.

You can also order fine art satin prints in various sizes (A4 - A1) from me. I'll chat to you about all the sizes, etc. once we have our pre-wedding meeting.

planning your *wedding*

while keeping your sanity

bonus tips

- Tune out the noise that says you should invite people based on social obligations! This is your day, you should stay true to how you want to do it.
- There is no shame in asking for help. If you need to practice asking for help in small incremental steps, start now so that you're a pro at calling in some big favours in the leadup to the wedding. And, guess what? People who love you will be thrilled to help!
- Hold on tight, and enjoy the process. It'll rush by faster than you think!



what you can expect from me

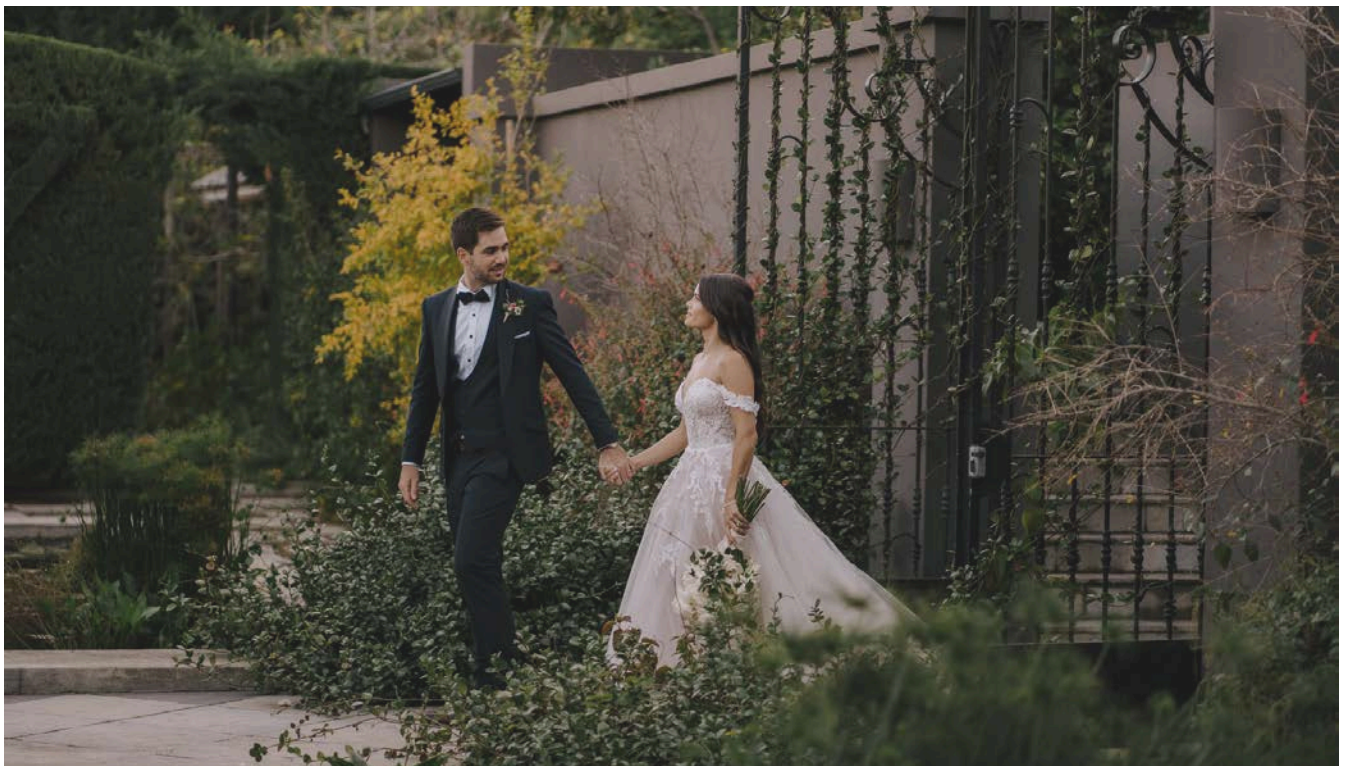
As your wedding photographer, it's my job to make sure you feel calm, authentic, and engaged during a shoot with me and I will go above and beyond to ensure this is the case. I will frequently guide you so you don't feel or look awkward in any of your photographs, but I'll also give you space to be yourself and enjoy your day without thinking about the camera.

I think it's fair to say I've seen it all - the cold feet, wardrobe malfunction, teary moms and at least 13 pairs of stilettos stashed in a bush. But one thing I know for sure, is that regardless of how much you plan, *the wedding will always unfold as it's meant to.*

People seem to swing between being extremely excited and extremely overwhelmed as they're going through the stages of wedding planning. So if you're feeling either of those things, know that this is completely normal!

let's *recap*

- It's a good idea for us to meet up or schedule an engagement session before your wedding so we can get to know each other, and you don't have a 'stranger' behind the lens on your wedding day. (However if this isn't possible, don't stress about it).
- Even though I mostly focus on the candid moments that encapsulates your wedding in a unique way, I will never leave you hanging - I will pose and guide you to ensure we get the best versions of every moment.
- Make sure you get ready in a clutter-free space that makes you feel calm and comfortable before the big moment. Write each other love letters to calm the nerves! And set your details (ring, perfume, etc.) aside so I can quickly photograph them to save time.
- Be sure to fill me in on the details of your ceremony, especially in terms of lighting and space. Will it be indoor or outdoor? Can I use my flash? Are there any regulations I should be aware of?
- Make a list of *all the combinations you can think of* for your family photos.
- Set time aside to spend with your guests and make sure you keep something to eat and drink near at hand when we head off for your couples portraits.
- Fill me in on all the details for your reception - timeline, lighting, will there be a sparkler exit, etc. and be sure to inform the caterers not to serve the vendors last.
- *Relax, focus on what really matters and enjoy the day as it unfolds - it only happens once!*



if you can't imagine your day being captured by anyone else - this is where our adventure starts



THANK *YOU* you beautiful humans

I know that this has been a lot of information to digest, but keep in mind that not all of it applies to every wedding. Sit down and have a discussion with your partner about what feels right for both of you, and don't hesitate to get me on the line if you feel like you just need a human being to talk you through all of the text.

Should you choose me to be a part of your big day, I am forever grateful! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I genuinely can't wait to get behind the camera and create beautiful memories with the two of you!

WEDDING DAY

TIMELINE

DATE: _____

VENUE: _____

[illegible]

example wedding timeline (*winter*)

DATE: June / July

VENUE: Namibia / Cape Town

ACTIVITY	TIME	PLACE
bridesmaids makeup & hair	08:00	
bride makeup & hair	10:00	
detail shots get dressed & bridal portraits	11:30-12:30 13:30 - 14:30*	
groom getting ready + groom portraits	12:30 - 13:30	
first look (if applicable)	14:30	
ceremony	15:00	
confetti exit, group shot & family portraits	15:45 - 16:15	
canapes, spending time with guests &/or cake cutting	16:20 - 16:45	
wedding party portraits (second shooter gets decor & venue shots)	16:45 - 17:15	
newlyweds portraits	17:15 -18:00	
guests enter reception hall	18:00	
newlyweds enter reception hall	18:15	
speeches & first course served	18:30	
dinner served	19:30	
first dance; father-daughter dance; mother-son dance	20:30	
cake cutting; bouquet & garter toss; games	21:00	
sparkler exit (photographer/videographer leave)	22:00	

*once I'm done with the groom's getting ready shots, I'll go back to the bride for those last minute touch ups and beautiful bridal shots in her wedding dress, before heading out to the ceremony or first look,

example wedding timeline (*summer*)

DATE: February, March / April
VENUE: Namibia / Cape Town

ACTIVITY	TIME	PLACE
bridesmaids makeup & hair	09:00	
bride makeup & hair	10:00	
detail shots get dressed & bridal portraits	12:30 - 14:00 15:00 - 15:40*	
groom getting ready + groom portraits	14:00 - 15:00	
first look (if applicable)	15:40 - 16:00	
ceremony	16:00	
confetti exit, group shot & family portraits	16:45 - 17:15	
canapes, spending time with guests &/or cake cutting	17:20 - 17:45	
wedding party portraits (second shooter gets decor & venue shots)	17:45 - 18:15	
newlyweds portraits	18:15 - 19:00	
guests enter reception hall	19:00	
newlyweds enter reception hall	19:15	
speeches & first course served	19:30	
dinner served	20:00	
first dance; father-daughter dance; mother-son dance	21:00	
cake cutting; bouquet & garter toss; games	21:30	
sparkler exit (photographer/videographer leave)	22:00	

*once I'm done with the groom's getting ready shots, I'll go back to the bride for those last minute touch ups and beautiful bridal shots in her wedding dress, before heading out to the ceremony or first look,

FAMILY SHOT LIST

DATE: _____

VENUE: _____

[illegible]

FAMILY SHOT LIST

DATE: _____

VENUE: _____

FAMILY COMBO

DONE ✓

☐☐

10

☐☐

9



1