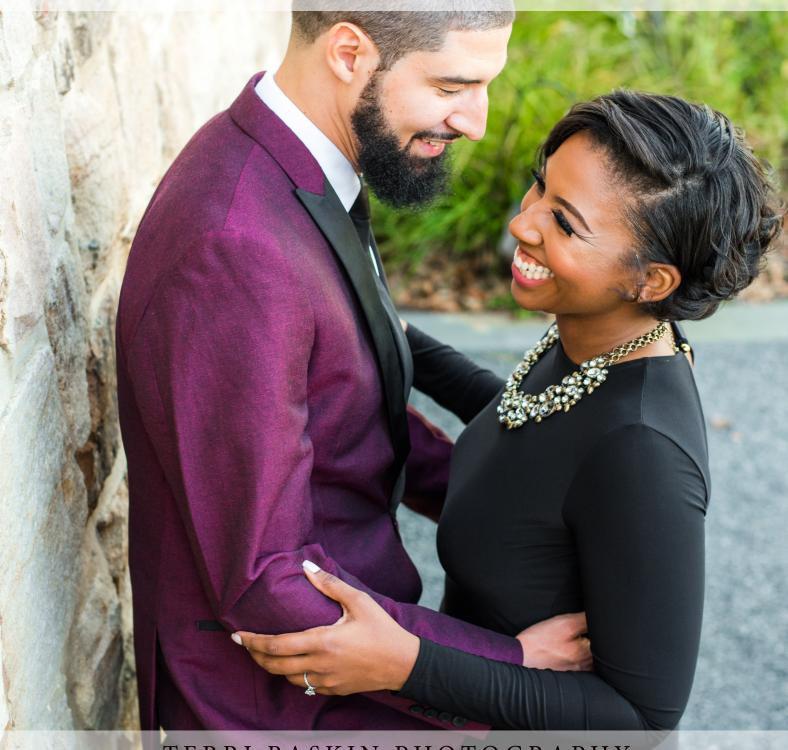
YOUR GUIDE FOR A PERFECT

ENGAGEMENT

SESSION



TERRI BASKIN PHOTOGRAPHY



ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Your engagement session can be scheduled anytime before your wedding day. I normally suggest booking it at least 3-6 months in advance to avoid stress. Because my weekends fill fast with weddings, I shoot engagements based on availability, normally from 5-7pm depending on the light and the time of the year. In the winter months, 3-5pm is a normal time frame for an e-shoot! As you start to plan for your engagement shoot, you will need to start brainstorming about location ideas. I LOVE it when couples pick a location that is special or sentimental to them in some way! If you can't think of anywhere specific that you would like to shoot, I can help you decide on a location! As long as the light is great, I can make most locations look awesome! I shoot at fields, campuses, downtown alleys and restaurants...you name it!I'm serious! Do not shy away from crazy ideas! The more creative, the better! Be sure to keep reading to find out more about outfit ideas and inspiration!



APPROXIMATE START TIMES

WINTER DEC-MAR: 3-5PM

During December through Mid-March you can plan on your engagement session taking place around 3-5pm. However, the time changes Mid-March and so that will make the start time one hour later.

SPRING APR-MAY: VARIES

The sunset time drastically changes throughout the course of these two months and so our shooting times change as well. You can plan on approximately 5:30-7:30 in April and 6:00-8:00 in May.

SUMMER

JUN-AUG: 6:30-8:30PM

Summer engagements, just like all engagements, take place two hours before sunset. This will hopefully mean that the shoot will be during the cooler part of the day.

FALL SEPT-NOV: VARIES

The sunset time changes drastically during these three months. In Sept, you can plan on 5:30-7:30 until the third week and then you can plan on 5:00-7:00 until Mid- Oct. After the first week of Nov, 3:00-5:00pm.





CONSIDER TWO OF

THESE LOOKS FOR

YOUR SESSION

POLISHED LOOK:

This is my ultimate favorite because it's an instant confidence booster!

There's something about putting on a dress or gown and seeing him in a suit that's not only sexy, but sophisticated! Anytime my clients arrive feeling amazing, it reflects naturally in their photos and lowers any nervousness they may have felt prior to the day. These looks also look stunning framed in your home or displayed at your wedding.

POPULAR LOOK:

These are the looks, styles and colors that are trending in fashion. You'll often find these outfits put together many times on Pinterest and include styles like the popular material of the season or feature the Pantone Color of the Year. There are many variations that you can do to add a personal touch or twist allowing it to live past its trendy era.

PERSONAL LOOK:

Another one of my faves! Your personal style is most reflective of who you are as a couple. This look usually includes jeans mixed with a nice shirt, favorite team jersey, screen print tops with words or phrases, something that you would wear every day or what you were wearing when you first met. These will be your most recognizable look and the one you identify with the best.





CLOTHING TIPS

- 1) Be careful with your colors. Choose colors that work well with your skin tone and does not clash with your location.
- 2) Select a standout point! Choose a fierce shoe, a print or pattern, or a pretty jewelry piece that is unique. Please be careful with very tiny patterns because those are hard for the camera to read.
- 3) Consider dressing in layers for one of your looks. This gives you the option to change your outfit without really changing which ultimately is a huge time saver!
- 4) You are welcome to send me pictures of your outfits. This helps us to visualize beforehand the locations and colors. A text message is fine- 703.791.9111.
- 5) Don't forget to accessorize! A hat, cute necklace, earrings, or scarf can complete any look!
- 6) Try on your clothing completely with undergarments and shoes to ensure that everything works well together. If you feel comfortable, you will look comfortable!
- 7) Use a steamer to release any wrinkles from the garments to avoid making any markings.
- 8) Pack a small or carry-on bag containing your clothing and anything you need for hair and makeup touch-ups and bring it with you.
- 9) Wear your POLISHED look first because your makeup is fresher and your PER-SONAL look last, as you're more willing to do some creative and fun posing.





THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKE-UP

SETS THE VISUAL TONE FOR THE SHOOT:

Let's face it! You know you feel amazing when your hair and makeup are done! Without a doubt, most women absolutely HAVE to have their hair professionally done before their engagement shoot but opt to do their own makeup to save costs. I totally understand saving money where you can, but I would beg to say professional make-up is a detail I wouldn't pass on and further compliments your polished look.

CAMERAS TEND TO WASH OUT OUR SKIN:

By getting your makeup done professionally, your skin appears more smooth and your features are enhanced naturally for the camera. Professional make-up artists know how to get you camera ready with a natural look by using products and colors that are flattering to your skin tone! Avoid SPF and mineral make-up the day of your shoor as they have reflective particles that may cause bright areas on the skin when you're outdoors.

USE AS A BRIDAL TRIAL FOR THE WEDDING DAY:

One of the smartest reasons for getting your makeup done is because your engagement shoot can double as the bridal trial for your wedding day makeup. Bridal trials are a must and what better way than to kill two birds with one stone! Working with your makeup artist before the wedding day is just as important as working with your photographer. I hope this post is helpful! By combining the engagement session with the makeup bridal trial, you're able to start envisioning what you'll look like on the wedding day.

CHOOSING A LOCATION

THIS IS THE TIME TO THINK outside the box! I encourage you to brainstorm unique locations that you might have special access to that most people don't. For example, maybe you, or someone in your personal or professional network, can secure permission to a location that would otherwise be off-limits, like a beautiful private estate, country club or resort. Maybe it's a family ranch, upscale hotel or even an airplane hangar. The sky is literally the limit!

Spend a few minutes thinking about it and checking around. You'll be surprised with what you come up with. Plus, if something seems out of reach, just remember: you never know until you ask! My couples have secured permission to some pretty amazing places in the past. If you get stuck or need inspiration, I have some great go-to locations around town that we can always hit. Just give me an idea of what you like and we can go from there! Continue reading for additional ideas!



CHOOSING A LOCATION

FAVORITE HOBBY OR ACTIVITY:

Sometimes when thinking about the perfect location, you just have to think outside the box. Make it an adventure and have fun doing one of your favorite activities. There are so many different types of activities that you both can do together, so be creative and open-minded. Treat it as a date night, while at the same time allowing your photographer to document the both of you having fun!

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING:

If you are picking a location first, then your outfit needs to compliment that location. I always like to suggest to my couples to pick at least 2-3 outfits and a minimum of 2 locations just so they have a variety of everyday, informal, and formal images. If you have a theme in mind, select a location that has those structural elements. For example, if you got engaged at a football stadium, you can wear your favorite football team jersey and shoot your session there.

PERMISSIONS OR RESTRICTIONS:

Research the location that you are interested in and make sure you have permission to shoot your engagement session there. You might be required to obtain a photography permit and or pay a fee to shoot there. Please be prepared to handle any types of special access requirements for your session. At the end of the day, capturing the emotion and intimacy between the both of you is much more eye catching than having a gorgeous backdrop behind you. A great location just becomes the icing on the cake!

CHOOSING A LOCATION

TIME OF DAY:

Sometimes, it not really about where you take your photos, but about when you take it. If there is one thing that photographers need to help capture a great photo is beautiful quality light. You can be in a stunning location, but if the quality of light is not great, your pictures could turn out looking flat, dull, and uninspiring.

TIME OF THE YEAR:

The time of year you schedule your engagement session will determine the style and feel of how your photos will look. The Fall and Spring are the most popular times of the year for them. I personally love shooting engagement sessions in the Fall. Trees are still full, colorful, and vibrant. Nothing beats the reds, oranges, and the yellows of the changing leaves. The best part is that the heat and humidity would have died down as well. During the Spring time, the flowers are in full bloom, the birds are chirping. You definitely can not go wrong having your session during either season!

A PLACE THAT IS MEANINGFUL TO YOU:

Make it personal. Think of a location that is meaningful or part of your love story. It could be where he proposed to you, at your Alma Mater where you first met, or an area that symbolizes the city that you both love. Meaningful locations are great because you're the most comfortable there.



ADDITIONAL TIPS

ARRIVE ON-TIME:

I schedule engagement sessions during two times of the day- sunrise or sunset. This is when the golden morning or evening light (1.5 hours after sunrise or before sunset) is most flattering when shooting outdoors. It's very important that you arrive on time for your session in order to capture this ideal lighting.

CLEAN YOUR RING:

During your engagement session, I will ask for the engagement ring in order to capture a few shots of this beautiful representation of your love. Please clean your ring prior to the session so that it photographs at its best! Additionally, I may take several close-up shots of your hands to showcase the ring, so prepare accordingly!

BRING WALKING SHOES:

During your engagement session, there is a strong chance that we will be walking from one location to another. Please bring a pair of flat shoes to walk in so that you are comfortable. The easier they are to slide in and out of the better!

HAVE FUN:

This is YOUR session! I offer suggestions while we are shooting but feel free to share any ideas you have as well! We will talk, we will laugh, you two will kiss, so just go with the flow and enjoy this time before your big day. There is no right or wrong way to take engagement photos! This is your love story being told thru images, make it yours!

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CLOTHING RETAILERS

RENT THE RUNWAY

H&M

MACY'S

NORDSTROM

NORDSTOM RACK

ASOS

BANANA REPUBLIC

ZARA

WHITE HOUSE BLACK MARKET

MAKE-UP ARTISTS

DC/VA/MD:

RENATA LYNETTE (WWW.RENATALYNETTEMAKEUP.COM)

TIYANNA ROBINSON (WWW.TIYANAROBINSON.COM)

DENYELLE D BEAUTY (WWW.DENYELLEDBEAUTY.COM)

GLAM QUI (WWW.GLAMQUI.COM)

SHAUNAE HAYES (SHAUNEHAYESMAKEUP.COM)

TIFFANY LUMPKIN (WWW.TIFFANYLUMPKIN.COM)

RICHMOND:

NICOLE LAUGHLIN (WWW.NICOLELAUGHLINMAKEUPARTIST.COM)

LOCAL SEPHORA OR MAC STORES

A FEW LOCATION IDEAS

DC:

CAPITOL BUILDING
SUPREME COURT
JEFFERSON MEMORIAL
PARKS / CITY STREETS
GEORGETOWN WATERFRONT / CANAL
KENNEDY CENTER
CHERRY BLOSSOM SEASON
HILLWOOD ESTATE AND GARDENS
MERIDIAN HILL PARK
NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
NAVY YARDS PARK
(INQUIRE ABOUT PERMITS)

VA:

OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA
BELLE ISLE (RICHMOND)
LIBBY HILL PARK (RICHMOND)
GREAT FALLS PARK
OPEN FIELDS / PARKS

MD:

NATIONAL HARBOR (DC)

INNER HARBOR (BALTIMORE)

FELLS POINT

MARYLAND PARKS

THE CHECKLIST

SET DATE, TIME AND LOCATION
REVIEW GUIDE FOR STYLE TIPS
SCHEDULE HAIR AND MAKEUP APPOINTMENTS
CHOOSE YOUR OUTFITS
GET YOUR NAILS DONE
CLEAN YOUR RING
PACK A BAG WITH:
- Flats or flip-flops for walking between photo spots
- Outfit two (including shoes and accessories)
- Touch-up makeup
- Water bottle (for warmer sessions)
- Coat or cover-up (for colder sessions)
PICK A FUN POST-SESSION DATE NIGHT SPOT

