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Rental Agents

THE  
ENGAGEMENT GUIDE





YOU'RE ENGAGED!

## Now what?

Just so you know, even though I'm sending you this detailed guide, it's totally cool if you prefer to just show up ready to roll without diving into these tips. This guide is here to assist if you find it helpful, but definitely not a strict rulebook. Do what feels right for you! Everyone's style and session is always their own. Whether it's hiking to your favorite spots, sipping a pint at your go-to pub, or popping champagne at a picnic – this session is exclusively yours. Let's capture the essence of your style and relationship. I'm not just your photographer; I'm here to hang out and get to know you as a couple. So, whether you're up for an adventure or prefer something more chill, let's create some memories that reflect your journey together. I can't wait to see who you are as a couple and capture those awesome moments in time!







## Planning Your Session

There are a few key pieces that go into crafting your dream shoot. All of these things are adjustable, and they may or may not apply to what you want or require, which is totally fine! As always, if you have any questions or even a crazy idea for something, don't hesitate to contact me—chances are I'll be entirely on board!





## *Timing*

First things first – think about the vibe you're going for. Some of my couples want a totally different feel from their wedding day. Maybe it's a change of season or an offbeat location you won't get to explore on the big day. Your engagement date is all about what suits you best.

I am booked up on weekends for weddings so engagements are weekday adventures.

Plan for about 1.5 hours of hanging out together. Your edited photos will always be ready within 2 weeks.

## *Location*

It's important to consider what kind of vibe you're drawn to as well as what represents your relationship. If you already have a location in mind, that's fantastic! If not, I'm always here to help. Let's start with the basics: do you want to do it in the city or in the forest? Lakes or cocktail bar? Street photography or a more manicured location? Together we will find a place that's a perfect for you. If that means hiking 5 miles to an incredible view spot that you and your partner adore, let's go for it!





# Light

This is where the magic happens. Typically, the best golden evening light is captured two hours before sunset and onwards. Alternatively, you can get up before sunrise (probably with a strong cup of coffee!) and shoot for those hours immediately after the sun rises. Don't worry if the day doesn't bring you any sunshine. Overcast and foggy sky can be quite stunning as well. And if the weather looks extra terrible we can always reschedule!

As we begin planning your engagement shoot, I'll look up the best time for us to shoot and let you know when we will start so that you can plan accordingly.



# Inspiration

For me, the joy of gathering inspiration is one of the most exciting parts of the planning process. It not only sparks creativity but also gives you a clearer vision for your session.

Feel free to dive into my Instagram page, explore Pinterest, or hit the road in your car to discover locations that match your vibe. I absolutely love when couples stumble upon a unique spot that resonates with them! If you have any specific places in mind that you'd love to explore, just let me know, and I'll make it happen. Let's turn your vision into reality!









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Let's talk locations – I'm up for anything and everything to make your engagement session uniquely yours! Whether it's hiking to secret waterfalls, chasing sunsets on hilltops, or exploring hidden city streets, I'm all in.

Feel like hopping into a cute bar for a cocktail, grabbing pizza outside your favorite joint, or even renting a boat for a sunset cruise? Absolutely, let's make it happen!

Whether you've got a clear vision or just starting to brainstorm, I'm here to make your engagement session uniquely yours! I always love hearing your ideas first, but if you're feeling stuck or just want some suggestions, I've got your back. Together, let's craft a session that perfectly reflects your style and story – the possibilities are endless, and I'm genuinely excited to explore them with you!









## *What to wear?*

Surprisingly, one of the most common reasons for concern when organizing an engagement or photo session is attire. To make it as simple as possible, I normally recommend two outfits. These can be anything you want but if you are really struggling choose one for a nice date night and one for a more informal occasion. It's also okay if you only want to wear one outfit!

Choose an outfit that's not only comfortable but also makes you feel confident and downright badass. You can order something new or dive into your closet and picking out those favorite, tried-and-true pieces. Whether or not comfy shoes are part of your ensemble, it's always a good idea to bring a pair just in case we decide to explore a bit more.



# Things to keep in Mind

## *movement*

Feel free to bring an outfit that makes a bold statement, even if it's a bit restrictive, but make sure to also bring one that allows for easy movement. If something limits your movement or makes sitting comfortably a challenge, it's worth reconsidering it for the session. I love to capture candid moments that involve movement, so wearing clothing that's too tight or restrictive might hinder the natural flow of our shoot.

## *colors*

If you are struggling on finding your look, solids or "quiet" patterns + neutrals and earth tones always photograph well. Logos and busy prints can be distracting, so it's usually best to avoid them. Instead of you both wearing the same color, try coordinating colors that complement each other. This adds visual interest without being too matchy-matchy..

## *location*

Think about the backdrop of your engagement session. If it's a natural setting, earth tones, soft pastels, or jewel tones can work well. In an urban setting, bold and vibrant colors might pop. Consider the season and choose colors that harmonize with the surroundings. Lighter tones for spring and summer, and richer, deeper hues for fall and winter.



No matter what. Make sure you feel confident in your outfits!







# hair & makeup

If you want to schedule a hair and make-up trial before your wedding, now is the time! The engagement session is an excellent opportunity to connect with your beauty team before the big day!

On the subject of makeup- just like your outfit you should focus on doing something that makes you feel confident. You don't need to go bolder for photos. Do you! If you're used to wearing no makeup or just a light tinted

moisturizer with mascara, don't go for big false lashes, deep contour, and overdrawn lips; you won't feel like yourself.

The same may be said of your hair. Just because other couples do it, doesn't mean you have to wear a formal updo or have "wedding hair" also. Do whatever makes the most sense to you and will make you confident in your wedding day and in your photos!







# *Feeling awkward?*

One of the most common concerns I hear is when someone says, "I've never had professional photos taken before" or "I'm awkward/nervous in front of the camera." This is actually one of my favorite things to address because my response is always, "It doesn't matter!"



Feeling a bit anxious about posing for your engagement portraits? Totally normal! Many folks worry about feeling awkward or nervous, especially if it's their first time in front of a camera. I get it, and here's the good news – any initial jitters usually last about two minutes. After that, I aim to create a casual and comfortable environment where you can truly be yourselves.

I won't have you stiffly posed or nervously standing in an uncomfortable position long enough to wonder what your hands are meant to do. You've probably had enough of that with awkward school portraits, right?

To keep things easygoing, I usually have some music playing during our session. It helps create a laid-back atmosphere and hopefully makes you guys feel more relaxed. Pumped to hang!

# Other Tips

## *yes, bring those fur babies!*

Considering bringing your fur babies to the engagement session? Absolutely! I love capturing the joy pets bring to your life, and they can add some really cute moments to the photos.

It's important to plan for their comfort too. After we get some fantastic shots with them, it's best to either leave them in the car for a bit (with proper ventilation, of course) or arrange for someone to pick them up. This way, they won't distract you during the remainder of the shoot, and you can fully focus on hanging out together!

## *champagne party*

Thinking about bringing some champagne to the engagement session? Cheers to that! Whether you're aiming for that killer pop and spray shot or just want to enjoy some casual sipping while you cozy up, these shots always turn out cute. If you need a bit of liquid courage, I'm all for it – no judgment here. I've even tailgated for a shoot before, so whatever you need to get in the zone, count me in! Not champagne people? No problem. Bring your favorite brewski or the fixings to make your favorite cocktail as the sun goes down.

## *plan for a date after*

Since you're already going to be looking and feeling amazing, why not make the most of it by planning a date right after the shoot? I always encourage my couples to secure a reservation at their favorite spot or try out a new restaurant. It's the perfect way to continue the good vibes and celebrate your awesome session. So, go ahead, treat yourselves – you've earned it!

## *have fun*

Here's a crucial tip for your engagement session: make sure the most important thing you do is have fun and not take it too seriously! These sessions are not just about capturing beautiful moments; they're about me getting to know you and creating a comfortable atmosphere. I genuinely enjoy connecting with my couples before the big day, and my ultimate goal is to ensure you have a fantastic time during the session. So relax, enjoy the moment, and let's make some great memories together!









*get in touch*

Drop me a message if you need anything else beyond this guide! In the meantime, enjoy the planning for your engagement session!

Cheers,  
RZ

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A full-page photograph of a young couple walking down a residential street at sunset. The woman is on the left, wearing a white halter-neck jumpsuit and high-heeled sandals, smiling broadly. The man is on the right, wearing a white button-down shirt with a small logo on the chest, dark trousers, and brown shoes, also smiling. They are holding hands. The background shows brick buildings and a warm, golden light from the setting sun.

*Let's do the dang thing!*