



Samantha Taylor
PHOTOGRAPHY

ELOPEMENT PLANNING

Tool Kit





OVERVIEW



HOW TO
CHOOSE
A LOCATION



PLANNING
CHECKLIST



QUESTIONS TO
ASK WHEN
CHOOSING A
PHOTOGRAPHER



SAMPLE
ELOPEMENT
TIMELINES



ACTIVITY
IDEAS



PACKING
CHECKLIST



ELOPEMENT
DAY
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ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES

ELOPEMENT PLANNING CHECKLIST

The big decisions

- Choose a time of year and general location (state/region)
- Choose a photographer
- Decide if you're including guests
- Choose a location from the custom location list made by your photographer

Dive into details

- Book travel and lodging
- Choose other vendors (hair, make up, florals, chef)
- Pick out wedding day attire
- Think about what activities to include in your day
- Gather any other gear items you may need based on activities
Put together personal details
- Ask friends and family to write letters for you to read on the day
- Review your perfect elopement day timeline from your photographer

Get ready to go

- Create flexible itinerary for the days around your elopement
- Review packing list
- Make sure your guests are prepared
- Make your marriage license appointment
- Screenshot any important directions or lodging info

The Day Before

- Eat well
- Sleep Well
- Lay out all details in one place
- Copy vows into vow books
- Pack your day-of bag
- Pick up cake
- Relax- its going to be amazing!

HOW TO CHOOSE A LOCATION

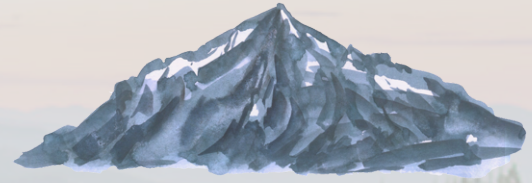
All good photographers will help you find your dream location! Here are a few things to consider when narrowing down options or filling out a location questionnaire

What is your overall vision?

- What kind of views do you imagine?
- Do you want to hike?
- Sunrise or sunset?
- Do you want to offroad?
- What time of year are you imaging?
- Are you including guests?
- Are you okay with high altitude?
- Do you want specific seasonal features like fall colors or wildflowers?
- Is there anything you really want to avoid?

Privacy and seclusion considerations:

- Day of the week (weekends are busier)
- Time of year
- Proximity to major cities/airports
- Ease of access
- Amazing scenery spots are more popular



Tips for when you have your custom location list:

- Don't rule out multiple locations- its the best way to have everything you want
- Keep in mind that easily accessible alpine lakes with amazing views and lots of privacy are hard to come by
- Be super honest about how much you want to hike on your wedding day- you'll be carrying more than normal!
- Start thinking about a back up location just in case



ELOPEMENT DAY ACTIVITY IDEAS

Keep the traditions you want and throw out the things you don't!! Your elopement doesn't have to just be saying vows and a few photos. Really dive in and celebrate!



Jeep tour
or off road



Special dinner
(cook together
or hire a chef!)



Fishing



Camping



Have a
picnic



Sit by the
fire



Horseback
riding



Stargaze



Play a
game



Have a first
dance

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER

A photographer specializing in elopements will have more in depth location, permit, and general mountain knowledge as well as help you plan a non traditional timeline.

Can you help us find a location?

You want to make sure they are familiar with the area and can help you find the perfect location for your day!

What is your editing style?

This is something that is unique to each photographer and part of their art. Its really important that you like their style!

We're not sure how much time we need. Can you help?

Creating a timeline that includes everything you want, flows well, and doesn't feel rushed is an important part of creating your dream day! The photographer can recommend a number of hours based on your vision for your day

What are the next steps to book?

There should always be a contract to protect both of you, and there is often some sort of retainer. Then walk through what happens after you're officially booked!

What is your approach to documenting elopements?

This will help you get a good feel of what it will be like to have them there on your wedding day, what to expect, and what they focus on

How do you handle emotional moments where we may want privacy?

Especially for big moments like a first look or exchanging vows, you may not want a camera in your face.

Can you help us navigate permits?

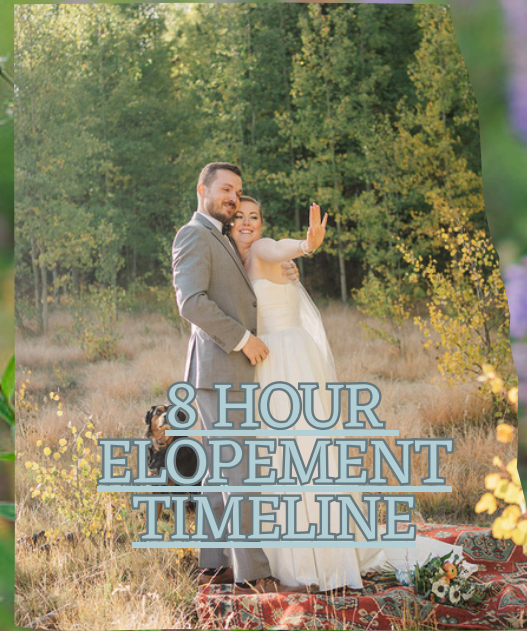
Permits are really important, and can feel a little scary! Your photographer should be knowledgeable enough to help you navigate this.

When do we get to see the photos and how are they delivered?

This sets expectations for what to expect after your day, like if you get a sneak peek of photos before final gallery delivery, when to expect your full gallery, and if they're delivered online or in some other form

TIMELINE TIPS AND SAMPLE TIMELINES

- Include buffer time so you'll never feel rushed
 - Remember to give yourself enough time to experience each moment and activity
 - You can have down time, don't feel like you have to include a million things
 - Take driving distances into account
 - Getting ready takes more than 15 minutes especially with photos
- If you want amazing light plan around sunrise or sunset
 - A longer timeline does not mean your day will be more complicated
 - Try to find lodging within 30-45 minutes of your ceremony location
 - Decide how much time you want to spend with guests vs time just the two of you



ELOPEMENT PACKING CHECKLIST

- All important travel ID's & documents
- Marriage license
- Water bottle & water
- Snacks
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Bug spray
- Extra socks
- Boots/shoes with good tread
- Vows
- Rings
- Ring box
- Paper invites, announcements, or postcards
- Flowers
- Wedding attire
- Perfume or cologne
- Makeup & hair supplies
- Speaker for music
- Backpack(s)
- Rain jacket
- Jacket (very warm & windproof)
- Warm layers (skin-toned fleece leggings, wool base layers, gloves)



TIPS FOR THE BIG DAY

Be present, be you,
& let your
authentic
emotions show.

Lay out everything you
need the night before so
that you don't have to worry
about finding things
on your actual day

Slow down, soak in every
moment and enjoy
your intentional,
meaningful, perfect-for-you
day together.

Roll with the punches and
embrace what comes your
way,
you're bound to have an
amazing elopement
experience
(no matter what!).

The best pictures
come from
you actually
doing and experiencing
things (real moments)!

Bring layers if you're
in the mountains. It doesn't
matter the season- the weather
can do anything!

ADDITIONAL PLANNING RESOURCES



TIPS FOR A MEANINGFUL
ELOPEMENT CEREMONY

5 PLACES TO ELOPE
THAT AREN'T A NATIONAL
PARK



HOW TO MAKE YOUR
ELOPEMENT DAY FEEL
SPECIAL



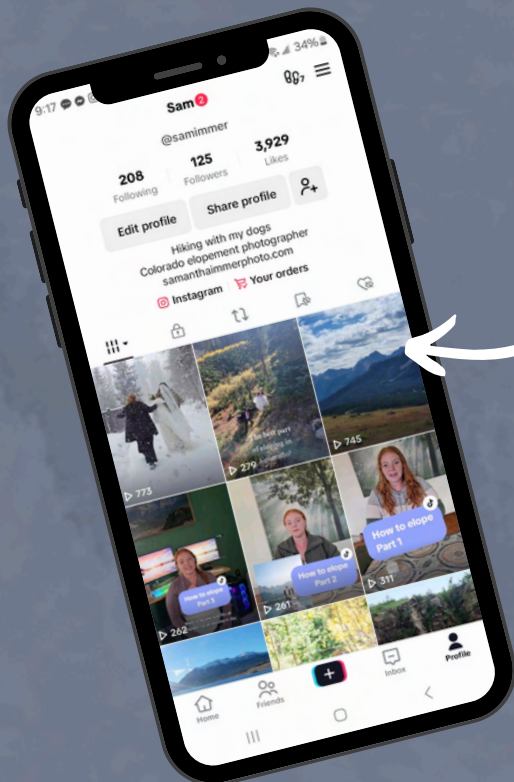
Even more resources at samanthaimmerphoto.com

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Hey, I'm Sam! I'm an elopement photographer based in Colorado and my favorite thing in the world is getting to help couples create wedding days that leave them saying "everyone should get married like this". I hike and explore Colorado in my free time and I love research which means I'm good at finding those less well known locations!

I'm also an introvert who doesn't love being the center of attention so I totally understand if you feel that way too. I'm super conscious of creating a safe and relaxed experience for the two of you- like not having a camera in your face during big emotional moments and using gentle direction when needed. There is no one size fits all template for what an elopement in Colorado looks like - the only rule is that it should be a day you're excited to experience!!



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