



ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

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PHOTOGRAPHY



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01. WELCOME

If you're reading this, you may be in that "We're engaged! Now what?" stage. First off, HUGE congrats to you and your fiancé on this exciting time in your life. Cherish every moment, try not to stress too much, and don't blink - it truly does fly by!

As exciting as this time is, you probably have a bajillion questions. Where do we begin? What's the best timeline to follow? How do we sort out the right vendors for us? Should we just say screw it and elope?

Spoiler alert: Engagement photos are usually a great place to start! In this engagement guide, I start by explaining why you 100% should have engagement photos done and walk you through my engagement photography process. I then answer some common FAQs like the ones above and provide you with links to additional resources. Finally, I provide you with the next steps to follow should you want to move forward and book me as your engagement photographer.

I hope you find this guide to be an informative starting point in your wedding planning journey! My biggest piece of advice? This is *your* day - there are no rules. Don't let anyone, not even me, tell you how it should be done. I wish you the best of luck as you embark on this exciting journey!



THE
ENGAGEMENT
GUIDE

02. WHY HAVE ENGAGEMENT PHOTOS

Test your potential wedding photographer.

This is the perfect opportunity to test-drive your photographer before committing to them for the most special day of your lives. You'll get a sneak peek at the way they work, their editing style, and their overall professionalism. That's why, as an incentive to my clients to test me before booking their wedding, ***I'll credit the cost of your engagement session towards any wedding package you end up booking in the future.***

Get comfortable in front of the camera.

For most couples, your engagement session is your first time having professional photos taken together. Take this opportunity to get comfortable posing together ahead of your big day.

Use them for "wedding things".

From social media announcements, to save-the-dates, to guestbooks, to table numbers, to welcome signs & beyond, there are so many creative ways to use your engagement photos to showcase your love before, during, and after your wedding.

Commemorate this exciting time!

To me, this is the ultimate reason to have engagement photos (or any professional photos) taken. You only get to do this once, so make a big deal about it! Decades from now, you won't regret having professional photos to celebrate this momentous occasion.



03.

What sets me apart.



I am passionate about authentically telling your unique love story through your engagement and wedding photographs. I recognize that behind every beautiful, Pinterest-worthy photograph are two human beings, so in an industry where humanity is often forgotten, I work hard to get to know my couples and make sure that you feel comfortable, valued, and heard. I want your engagement gallery to not only be objectively beautiful, but also a stunning representation of your unique love story. Read more about me and my philosophy as a photographer [here](#).

Check out [this blog post](#) for more tips on finding the perfect engagement photographer for you!

04. MY PROCESS

01

Pre-Booking Consultation

A thirty-minute zero-obligation phone call to get to know each other and tentatively plan your session.

02

Contract & Retainer

Make things official by signing your booking contract and paying your 50% booking retainer. The remaining 50% will be charged one week before your session.

03

Your Session!

This is the fun part! Come prepared to laugh, play, and make some magic.

04

Gallery Delivery

You'll receive several sneak peeks within 72 hours of your session. The full gallery will be delivered after 3-4 weeks!

05

The Party Continues

The cost of your engagement session will be credited towards any wedding package you choose to book.

FAQs

"What should we wear?"

The short answer: Whatever makes you feel your best! The photos will look the best if you are comfortable and confident. When in doubt, neutrals always provide a clean, timeless look fitting for any setting. For a complete outfit guide, check out [this blog post](#) on my website.

"We're awkward in front of the camera. We'll need lots of help with posing!"

You and everyone else! Believe it or not, almost every single couple I meet with expresses this same concern. I'll guide you through your session with creative poses and gentle prompts to draw out your genuine joy and love for one another. It'll be super fun and not at all awkward - I promise!

"I'm overwhelmed by all the vendors out there. How do I know which ones are right for me?"

As a photographer and former bride, I can't tell you how much I relate to this. There is no perfect recipe, but here are some pointers:

1. Make sure that you see examples of what you're looking for in their portfolio. Don't trust that anyone can do anything. If needed, show them your inspiration and ask to see similar work from them.
2. Gauge their level of desire to work with you. If you don't feel valued by them as they should be trying to make a sale, how are they going to treat you once they already have your money?
3. Recognize that quality often comes at a price. Investing in a slightly more expensive vendor is, in my opinion, worth the peace of mind of knowing that the most important day of your lives is in the hands of a true expert.
4. Ask them what sets them apart from their competition, what the process looks like on their end, and what aspects of their business are most valued by their clients. Their answer will reveal a lot about their values as a business.

"Where do we even begin the wedding planning process?"

When you book a wedding with me, you'll receive an in-depth 90-page wedding planning guide that goes into extensive detail on all things wedding planning!

For now, if you're planning on having a traditional wedding, here is a rough timeline to get you started:

1. Have engagement photos taken
2. Decide what type of wedding you want
3. Pick a location and venue
4. Lock down a date
5. Pick bridal party (if desired)
6. Pick wedding colors
7. Hire a planner
8. Go dress shopping at least 10 months in advance
9. Send save-the-dates 6-12 months in advance
10. Pick other vendors, including:
 - Photographer
 - Videographer
 - Florist
 - Hair & makeup
 - DJ
 - Caterer
 - Cake
 - Getaway car
11. Lock down a rehearsal location
12. Send invitations 3-6 months in advance
13. Have bridal shower, bachelor & bachelorette events

By one month out, there should be no more planning left to do. Take this time to relax, spend time with your family, and get excited!

"We'd rather save the headache and just elope, but where do we begin?"

Elopements are becoming increasingly popular these days, and for good reason! Eloping gives you the freedom to throw out the rulebook and get married on your own terms. [Inquire here](#) about a possible elopement and I'll be happy to share my free elopement guide to get you started!



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NEXT STEPS

INTERESTED IN BOOKING?

If you're ready to kick things off,

use [this link](#) to schedule your zero-obligation pre-booking consultation! I can't wait to get to know you!

If you'd rather skip the phone call,

[shoot me an email](#) or [fill out my contact form](#). Let me know that you're ready to book now and I'll send over your booking proposal ASAP!

Once again, HUGE CONGRATS! I hope to hear from you soon!

07.

STAY IN TOUCH.



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