

MICHELLE KENNAUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

BUILDING THE PERFECT

# WEDDING DAY TIMELINE

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Whether you choose to do a first look or the traditional (not seeing each other until the bride walks down the aisle), I will work with you to create the perfect wedding day schedule. Take a look at the examples below to get a general idea of when to plan for photos on your wedding day.



# SAMPLE ORDER OF EVENTS

TOTAL ESTIMATED TIME: ~10 HOURS

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## *getting ready & detail photos: 2 hours*

This includes time for hair and makeup, getting dressed, and capturing detail shots of the wedding attire, rings, and other accessories.

## *first look and couple portraits: 1 hour*

Allow time for you and your partner to have a private moment and capture photos together before the ceremony.

## *wedding party photos: 1 hour*

Allocate time for group photos with the wedding party, including bridesmaids, groomsmen, and any other special attendees.

## *ceremony: 20 minutes to 1 hour*

The duration of the ceremony can vary depending on the type of ceremony and any special rituals or traditions involved.

## *cocktail hour / family photos: 1 hour*

Guests can enjoy a cocktail hour while you and your partner take photos with immediate family members and close relatives.

## *grand entrance: 15 minutes*

This includes the announcement of your arrival and any special introductions.

## *dinner: 1 to 1.5 hours*

Account for the time it takes for guests to be seated and served their meals.

## *speeches and first dance: 30 minutes to one hour*

Allocate time for speeches from the wedding party or close family members and your first dance together.

## *cake cutting, bouquet/garter toss: 30 minutes*

Include time for the cake-cutting ceremony and any additional activities like the bouquet and garter toss.

## *dancing: 2 to 3 hours*

Guests can enjoy dancing and celebrating on the dance floor.

## *grand exit: 15 minutes*

End the evening with a grand exit, such as a sparkler send-off or a farewell with your guests.

WITH A  
*first look timeline example*

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12:00 PM	COVERAGE BEGINS & DETAIL SHOTS
12:45 PM	BRIDE GETS DRESSED + FIRST LOOK WITH DAD
1:00 PM	BRIDAL PORTRAITS + BRIDES AND BRIDESMAID PORTRAITS
1:30 PM	GROOM'S FINAL PREPARATIONS & DETAILS
2:00 PM	GROOM + GROOMSMEN PORTRAITS
2:30 PM	FIRST LOOK PORTRAITS
3:15 PM	BRIDAL PARTY PHOTOS
4:00 PM	HIDE BRIDE AWAY
4:30 PM	CEREMONY DETAIL SHOTS
5:00 PM	CEREMONY BEGINS
5:30 PM	FAMILY PHOTOS + COCKTAIL HOUR
6:15 PM	PHOTOGRAPH RECEPTION AREA + DETAILS
6:30 PM	RECEPTION BEGINS
6:40 PM	GRAND ENTRANCE + FIRST DANCE
6:45 PM	DINNER IS SERVED
7:15 PM	TOASTS, SPECIAL DANCES, & DANCING
8:00 PM	EXIT PHOTOS + COVERAGE ENDS





WITHOUT A FIRST LOOK

*traditional timeline example*

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1:00 PM	COVERAGE BEGINS & DETAIL SHOTS
2:00 PM	BRIDE GETS DRESSED + FIRST LOOK WITH DAD
2:30 PM	BRIDAL PORTRAITS + BRIDES AND BRIDESMAID PORTRAITS
3:00 PM	GROOM'S FINAL PREPARATIONS & DETAILS
3:30 PM	GROOM + GROOMSMEN PORTRAITS
4:00 PM	PHOTOGRAPH CEREMONY SITE
4:30 PM	PHOTOGRAPH GUESTS ENTERING CEREMONY
5:00 PM	CEREMONY BEGINS
5:30 PM	FAMILY PHOTOS + COCKTAIL HOUR
5:45 PM	BRIDAL PARTY PHOTOS
6:10 PM	BRIDE + GROOM PORTRAITS
6:45 PM	PHOTOGRAPH RECEPTION AREA
7:00 PM	RECEPTION BEGINS
7:10 PM	GRAND ENTRANCE + FIRST DANCE
7:15 PM	DINNER IS SERVED
8:00 PM	TOASTS, SPECIAL DANCES, & DANCING
9:00 PM	EXIT PHOTOS + COVERAGE ENDS



# FIRST LOOK

WONDERING IF A FIRST LOOK IS  
RIGHT FOR YOU?

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It's a special moment when you see your other half for the first time on your wedding day. It's a moment worth remembering whether you do a first look or wait for an epic reveal as you walk down the aisle.

If you're wondering whether or not to do a first look on your wedding day, here are some ideas to consider.





### *1. a first look gives you a quiet moment alone*

Wedding days go by in a blur. As soon as the day begins there is so much to do and so many people to see. Doing a first look will give the two of you a moment alone (with a camera shooting from afar) to soak it all in and think through what the day means to you.

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### *2. more time for pictures & your reception*

When you have a first look, we can take pictures of the two of you, the bridal party, and some family pictures before the ceremony even begins. This makes the day less rushed and allows us to take more pictures too! Once you're married, we won't need as much time set aside for photos and you can get to your cocktail hour and reception sooner!

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### *3. possibly avoid bad weather*

If there's bad weather on the forecast, a first look gives you the option to get pictures done earlier in the day and possibly avoid being stuck in the rain!

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### *4. get out all your tears without the audience*

A first look give both of you a moment to cry without the audience of all your wedding guests. You can get all your tears out knowing you'll have time to freshen up before pictures too.



*First look or not, the  
first time you see  
each other on your  
wedding day will  
be special.*





GET IN TOUCH

# THANK YOU

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Thank you for downloading this guide! If you would like to book a wedding package with me, please shoot me an e-mail or use the inquire form on my website. I will be there every step of the way for you. I hope to hear from you soon!

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