

WEDDING GUIDE

TIPS FOR PICTURE PERFECT IMAGES



is a way
is a way
of feeling of touching.
of loving...
it remembers
little things long after
you have forgotten
everything

AARON SISKIND





WELCOME & THANK YOU

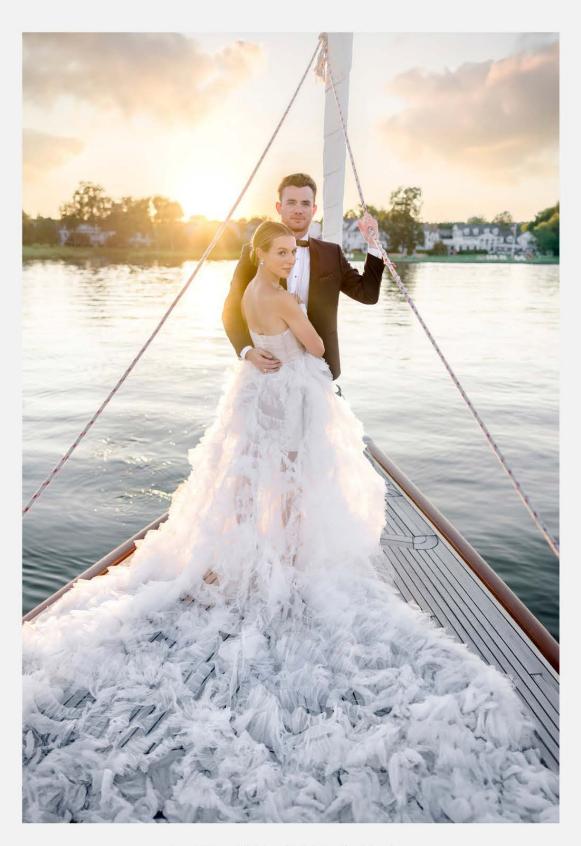
FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART

Thank you for taking the time to read through this comprehensive guide. It is intended to be a helpful tool in your wedding planning process. Thus, I've included valuable tips and tricks from a photographer's perspective to enhance your special day and to have it flow seamlessly. In essence, when you have an incredible experience and radiate beautiful stress-free energy, it will be translated into your wedding photography.

At Anna Schmidt Photography we're known for creating dynamic and enduring images of uncompromising quality and classic style while still maintaining an efficient process so that your wedding day feels effortless & fun. The secret behind our photography lies in our approach: we don't simply capture moments; we narrate your love story by balancing direction with unobtrusively documenting those intimate interactions that naturally unfold. Photographing the people, settings, finely curated details, and emotional aspects of your event culminates in your complete wedding story that transforms fleeting glances into everlasting treasures.

Explore more in the pages ahead to discover what you need to make your wedding photography experience picture perfect.

Anna

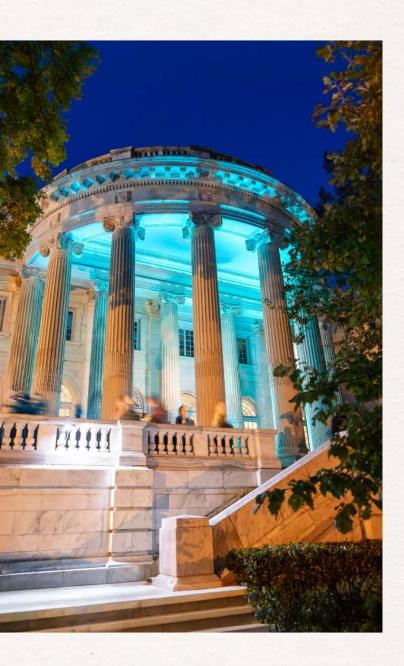


 $Inn\ at\ Perry\ Cabin\ -\ St.\ Michael's,\ Maryland$

Dro Tips

You and your planner are designing your dream wedding and putting in countless hours of decision making for every single detail. You want your wedding guests to have an incredible, one-of-a-kind experience as they celebrate your union. But years from now all that will remain are the moments, emotions, and details that are captured in your wedding photos. Here are 15 tips and tricks that couples can do to create the very best images on your big day!





I. HIRE A TALENTED WEDDING PLANNER

With over a decade of experience in this industry, I can confidently say that choosing a talented and reliable professional wedding coordinator is not only absolutely essential for you - it is also a requirement for working with me. If you have already hired a pro wedding planner that is fantastic, you are on the right track! If not, I am more than happy to refer you to a few incredibly talented planners after booking with me. They can turn your wedding dreams into a reality and ensure a smooth process for both of us leading up to and throughout your big day.

Wedding celebrations are once-in-a-lifetime occasions with sophisticated details, packed timelines, beloved friends and family, and lots of raw emotion. An experienced and trusted wedding coordinator can elevate your initial vision beyond what you imagined and allow you (and your guests and vendor team) to thoroughly enjoy the no stress wedding day of your dreams. I like to work closely with my couples' pro wedding planners and collaborate with them on the wedding day timeline to ensure my team and I are afforded those opportunities to capture all the beautiful and meaningful elements of your event. My team and I find that photographing your wedding is much more efficient when we work with an expert wedding planner and are able to focus solely on creating impactful imagery.



II. SELECT FINE DETAILS THAT MAKE A STATEMENT

My team and I are dedicated to beautifully capturing the fine details that make your wedding unique to you. Artisan signage, monogrammed flower walls, dramatic overflowing bouquets, and luxe paper goods adorned with calligraphy are just a few of those special components that can elevate your wedding photos. Magnificent floral bars and specialty crafted cocktails can add a magical touch to your wedding and transform your quest experience. These carefully selected elements showcase your personal style and define the tone of your wedding day,

III. FOR MY BRIDES: WEAR A LONG VEIL

If you are considering a long veil, I vote, "Yes!" The epitome of timeless luxury and classic elegance, there is no other wedding accessory more magical and transformative than a dreamy long and flowing veil that makes you feel like the most beautiful bride on your wedding day. Long veils create some of the most stunning portraits, and this is why I always encourage my brides to choose them as a fashionable addition to their look.







IV. CHOOSE BEAUTIFUL SPACES FOR EACH OF YOU TO GET READY

Wedding photography begins before your hair and makeup completes during your getting ready timeframe. These first few hours of photography are an important aspect of setting the scene for your story. allowing me and my team to document your wedding day details, take your initial portraits, and capture moments of great anticipation for what is to come. Whether you choose a bridal suite, large hotel room, or other location to prepare for the wedding, consider the backdrops for these images for both you and your partner. Choose spacious locations for each of you with ample natural light and similar decor to the feel of your event so that those images flow seamlessly with the rest of your story. Open hotel suites and stylish AirBnBs are perfect for this reason.

V. ADD A CHAMPAGNE TOWER

There's just something about a champagne tower that evokes a timeless and glamorous celebration! Take this to the next level for your wedding day toast by having a tower display of coupes at your cocktail hour or reception, pop the bubbly, and fill the glasses together with a mesmerizing pour as your guests cheer you on! This is a fun way to kick-off the night with your cherished friends and family, and is always a great moment to capture.



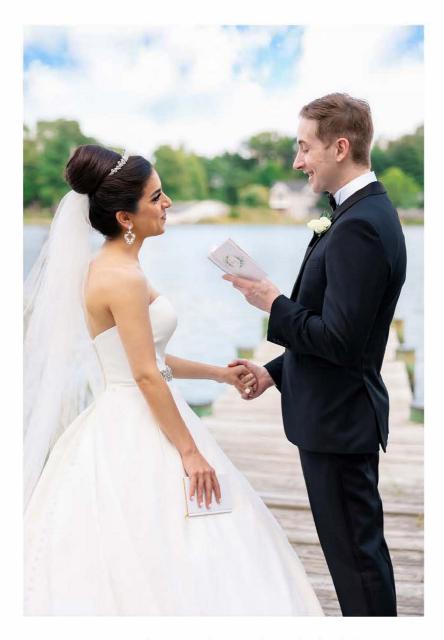


VI. OPT FOR A FIRST LOOK

The decision to opt for, or skip, a first look as a very personal one that you should take some time to thoroughly consider. Traditionally, you and your partner would see each other for the first time walking down the aisle during your ceremony. However, the first look gives you an opportunity to see each other beforehand, and that comes with several perks!

The first look is a beautiful emotional moment that is often one of my favorite parts of your wedding day to photograph. It is a great decision for couples who want to spend some quality time together before the ceremony, allowing you to privately connect and take a deep breath before guests arrive. You'll be overwhelmed with emotion no matter what, so having a first look and seeing your partner is the perfect way to ease your nerves. I also highly recommend taking the bulk of your portraits prior to the ceremony, and having a first look allows us to accomplish this. Not only will this afford us more time to create beautiful portraits of you and those who matter to you most, but it will allow you to enjoy more of the postceremony festivities. And if you're having a winter ceremony first look photos are vital to capturing portraits in natural light since sunset happens between 4:30pm and 5:30pm in colder months. Whether you decide to have a first look with your significant other, or opt for tradition, my team and I will coordinate with you and your wedding planner to ensure your wedding day photos are seamless.

(Also consider a father-daughter or mother-son first look before the ceremony, as these can be sweet moments with your parents as well.)



An emotional moment reading vows during their first look.

Persian Fusion Wedding. <u>Exclusively Events by PG.</u>





VII. HIRE TRANSPORTATION

If your wedding day is taking place at multiple locations, hiring a large bus, or shuttle trolley, is the most efficient way to get your wedding party and family members to and from for photos. Transportation can be a significant variable for photography, and when all parties are in the same vehicle (including the photography team), it makes this aspect ten times easier for everyone! Consider getting a vintage car exclusively for your yourself and your fiance. Whether you choose a sleek Rolls Royce or a luxury convertible decorated with flowers, your ride will be a memorable and photo-worthy moment!

VIII.
HAVE AN UNPLUGGED CEREMONY

Many guests attending your ceremony will love to capture your most memorable moments, such as walking down the aisle, your vow exchange, and sealing your marriage with a kiss. While I understand that they would love to snap a few photos with their smartphones, I advise you to ask them to refrain from it. Guests with cell phones, iPads, and cameras can create great obstacles for my team and me during your ceremony. These gadgets often end up in your professional wedding photos and create unfortunate distractions while also blocking important elements of your story, including the faces (and emotions) of you both and your loved ones. As your photographer, I would like for your loved ones to enjoy the ceremony to its fullest instead of being hidden behind a small screen. The best candid photos of your wedding are created when your guests put away their cell phones and are truly present when you say "I do." For these reasons I would highly recommend noting this information in your wedding invitation and on your wedding website, sending out a notice to guests ahead of time, and also asking your officiant to make an announcement just before the ceremony starts. We find that there is always at least one guest (usually sitting in an aisle seat) who ignores these requests, so informing guests through all of these methods ahead of time never hurts.

After the event your professional photos are saved to an online gallery via a hyperlink that you can share with all of your wedding guests and upload to social media - and this also includes the preview gallery of photos I send you right after the wedding! This method of easily giving you and your guests access to your professional wedding photos is a win-win for everyone involved, as it affords you an opportunity to relive your special day and allows us to get the photos you deserve without complications.





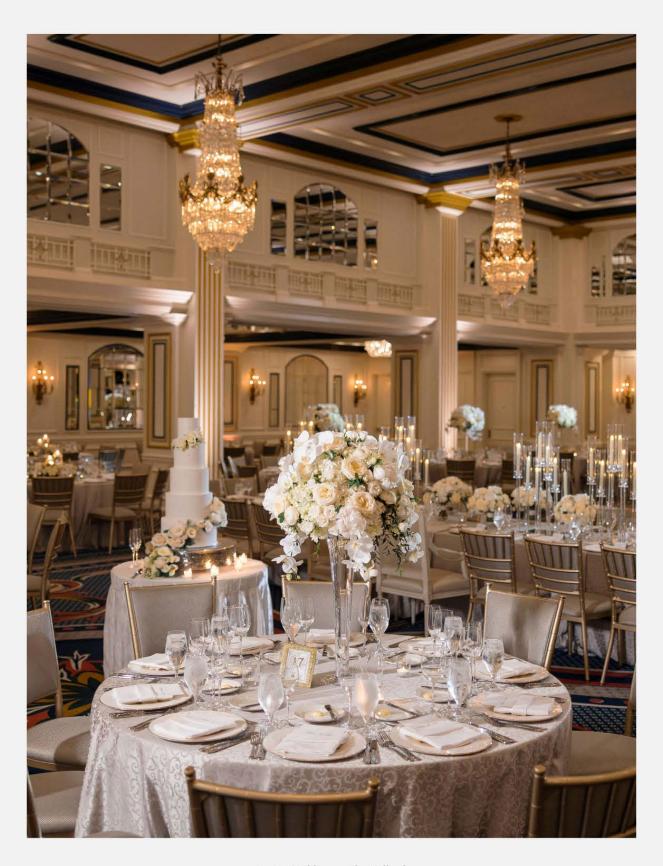
IX. GET EXCITED ABOUT YOUR PRE-WEDDING PORTRAIT SESSION

Your engagement session is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It's the perfect chance for us to get to know one another, for you to feel comfortable in front of the camera, and for you to experience being photographed together. I find that engagement sessions make my couples feel 100% more at ease on the big day, and it's also a creative and fun way to produce amazing images without the restrictions of a wedding day timeline. I like to make your engagement portrait session comfortable and enjoyable! It's always my recommendation that my brides hire a trusted professional beforehand for hair, makeup, and nails. (I can refer professionals to you if you don't have someone in mind already.) Engagement sessions can sometimes also afford us an opportunity to collaborate with your wedding planner or stylist for high end styling and extra-special touches.

X. SCHEDULE TIME FOR A ROOM REVEAL

This is the moment when you finally get to see the stunning reception decor you've been dreaming about for months! It's the perfect opportunity for me to capture your genuine reactions, as well as photographing a quick portrait session in the beautiful space your vendors have created for your exceptional celebration without wandering quests in the background.





Iconic Wedding at The Willard.



XI. CREATE A LIST FOR FORMAL FAMILY GROUPINGS

Weddings are a noteworthy time for families and friends to come together, often from different areas around the globe. Whether you are inviting 50 guests, or 500, you should think ahead of time about which VIP attendees you would like formal group photos of on your wedding day. Even though my team and I know to cover the basic groupings with your immediate family, if your great aunt holds a special place in your heart we want to make sure we know to capture that photo of her with you to commemorate the special occasion. Thinking about these different people ahead of time and making a list of groupings is extremely helpful! As you create your list please consider special family circumstances (ie. divorce, step-parents, etc.) so that my team and I can appropriately recognize all of the meaningful relationships in your life. The length of your list will influence how much time we schedule for photographing these groupings (about 2-5 minutes per group on average). On the day of your event we will bring the list for formal family photos and cross of each grouping as we capture them. Often these formal group photos make their way into your wedding album and the silver frames that beautifully decorate your home.

XII. – CHOOSE A SECOND OUTFIT FOR YOUR RECEPTION

While your wedding dress may be the ultimate choice for your walk down the aisle, it may not be quite right for your reception. Whether you want something more easy and less restricting to wear throughout the evening, or you're a fashion lover who wants two different looks on your big night, opting for an outfit change will surely add to the fun and comfortability at your party! Chic and sparkly white dresses and stylish designer jumpsuits are just two options to check out.





XIII. PREP YOUR BRIDAL DETAILS IN ADVANCE

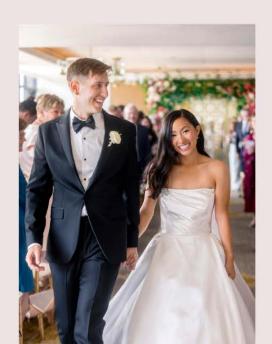
Upon arriving at your getting ready locations and greeting everyone, the first thing we will do is style your meaningful wedding day details and photograph them beautifully on a flat lay. These details can include items such as your invitation suite, perfume, heirloom items, wedding shoes, all three rings, etc. Preparing these details in advance, collecting all of your items in one place, removing all tags and getting them ready for their close-up will ensure that I can photograph them promptly upon arrival.

XIV. **OPT FOR A WEDDING ALBUM**

The photographic portrayal of your wedding day will be a visual keepsake of your most beloved memories. Technology comes and goes, but having printed photos is timeless. Your heirloom wedding album plays an especially vital role in documenting your family history, carrying memories for generations and honoring your legacy. Our exceptionally crafted flushmount albums are individually designed to flawlessly preserve your wedding story and are hand-constructed with great care and attention to detail. The finest archival methods and premium materials ensure that your album is built to last a lifetime. Thick, gap-free archival pages feature museum-grade prints on matte, acid-free photographic paper, and spreads are tightly creased in the center for a seamless lay flat design without a gap. Luxurious Italian leather or fabric protects the outside cover. We value ooutstanding craftsmanship, and high-quality printing, adopting the highest standards in the industry.

XV. ENJOY THIS TIME, AND TRUST US FULLY!

It's important for me to get to know you and hear about your wedding day vision prior to booking. I enjoy learning about both of you, your personalities, your family, and your backgrounds so I can get a solid sense of who you are and your unique love story. (I also love hearing about your proposal!) I am always up for discussing anything wedding-related, and want to hear about all of your wedding hopes and dreams! After our consultation and booking, you'll experience your engagement session and feel completely comfortable with photos and know what to expect on your wedding day. You should relax and enjoy this special time in your lives just be yourselves, and leave the photography to me and my team!





Bride and Groom embrace after ceremony. Indian Fusion Wedding. <u>CG&Co. Events</u>.

THANK YOU

FOR TRUSTING ME

Now that you've learned my top 15 tips for getting the best photos possible on your wedding day, it's time to pop the champagne and celebrate! I sincerely hope that what you have discovered through these pages will prove to be useful for you, making you even more excited about what is yet to come!

I'd love to hear more about you both and your upcoming celebration.

Inquire About Your Date(s)

Anna



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