

A romantic wedding scene featuring a bride and groom embracing under a canopy of warm string lights. The bride is wearing a white lace gown, and the groom is in a white shirt and jeans. The setting is decorated with white curtains, tall silver candle holders with white candles, and lanterns on the floor. The background is a bright, out-of-focus outdoor area.

THE *Now your Booked* GUIDE

Frequently Asked Questions and Tips



Welcome!

You're getting married...

And I am SO excited for you! This guide is designed to help you throughout the entire process and is full of helpful tips. My desire is to be so much more than just your photographer.

We will be spending a ton of time together on your wedding day, so I'd love for you to consider me your friend!



where to start

What is important to you?

Planning your wedding can be so exciting, but it can also be overwhelming. There are so many decisions you will be making! My best advice is to decide on about three things that are absolutely important to you. Maybe it is finding an amazing photographer, the perfect venue, and the best food. These will be areas of your budget you will want to allocate more to. Also start thinking about how you want your day to feel (maybe you want a cozy, intimate feel, or maybe you want a BIG party!) -- this will help you make decisions down the line too.

Create your budget.

Wedding expenses can quickly add up, so it is important to set a budget before you start booking your vendors. The average wedding cost in the US is \$35,900. Now, I have seen clients spend far more and far less on their dream days. As I mentioned above, I recommend spending in line with your priorities. There are many ways to save money and cut costs on the areas that are not necessarily a priority to you. Here are some of my best money-saving tips for your wedding day:



money saving TIPS

01. Curate your guest list.

I love small, intimate weddings for many reasons. Because more guests will lead to more expenses, intimate weddings can naturally be more budget friendly. More guests = more money.

02. Venues.

Your venue will likely be the biggest expense. While traditional wedding venues often come with a high cost, there are many unconventional options you can consider to drastically reduce your venue expense. Check out air bnb properties (be sure to check with the host first to make sure they allow weddings!), consider a backyard wedding, or look into local parks, beaches, or other nature areas. Restaurants or cafes will also often allow you to rent their space. Think outside of the box and you will be surprised what you can find!

03. Speaking of venues... BYOB.

You can save thousands by finding a venue that allows you to bring in your own alcohol. This will allow you to choose alcohol to be served that fits your budget. You can also buy from somewhere that will allow you to return unopened bottles. If you are not big into drinking but would still like to provide alcohol for guests, consider having limited wine and beer options only as another way to cut drink expenses.

04. Florals.

Florals are another area that can add up quickly. While I am admittedly obsessed with florals and personally know it would be one of my splurge areas, if flowers are not so important to you, consider...

- Choose in-season flowers only
- Make your own bouquet if you have a creative touch
- For centerpieces, opt for less expensive greenery or other decor items (fruit can be surprisingly pretty to incorporate!)

A romantic photograph of a couple kissing on a bridge. The man, wearing a dark green sweater and blue jeans, is lifting the woman. The woman, with long blonde hair, is wearing a maroon top and dark pants, and is barefoot. They are standing on a wooden plank deck. The background features a large, rusty steel truss bridge structure and some autumn foliage. The text "vendor recommendations" is written in a white, cursive font across the middle of the image.

vendor recommendations



my favorite...

PLANNERS.

DJ'S.

Prestige Productions
Frank Kuttner
Party Master
Victor Vargas

FLORISTS.

Floral Cottages
Jessica Meghan

HAIR & MAKEUP.

Trudy Mack Simms
Stephanie Lowitz
Meraki Salon

VENUES.

Bernies Holiday Restaurant
Barn on hubbard
Blue Hill Lodge-Clarryville
Villa Roma Resort and Spa
Timber Wolf Lake Camp

CATERING.

This depends on what you would like served

OTHERS.

Vintage Photobooth Rental-Ishot Films

Not local to the New York area? I am still happy to help you find amazing, local vendors... just ask!



creating your timeline



Let's talk about first looks...

It is no secret that wedding photographers LOVE first looks. Why? Not just for the special moment and beautiful, emotive photos we get to capture when you do, but its fun and adds a new element of tradition to your day.

When you do a first look, this allows us to do photos of the two of you and group photos BEFORE your ceremony. This means we can knock out couples photos, wedding party photos, and even some family photos if you want! Doing this before your ceremony allows for a far more relaxed experience.

If you do not do a first look, that's ok! We will plan accordingly and keep it regimented for a quick turnaround to get you to your cocktail hour.

other timeline

TIPS

01. First looks.

If you are absolutely set on NOT doing a first look, it is your wedding day and I completely respect your decision! We will just need to work together with your planner to ensure we will still have adequate time for all of the photos you want.

02. Buffer time.

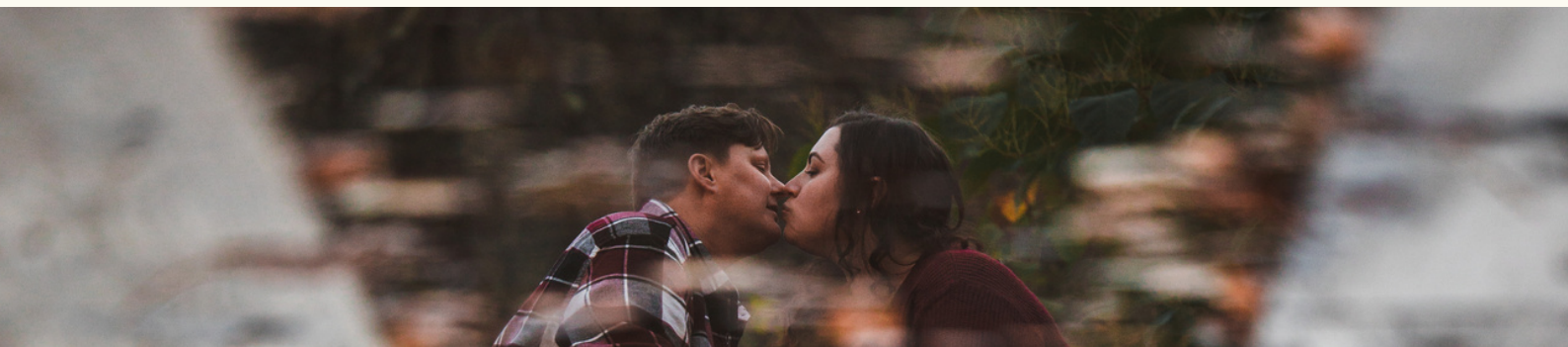
I always recommend clients to build buffer time into their timelines. For example, if you expect something to take 30 minutes, build 45 minutes into your timeline so that you will not feel stressed or rushed if things are running behind. Hair and makeup can often take longer than expected!

03. Time for just the two of you.

As I mentioned earlier, time spent alone with your partner on your wedding day is rare! I always ensure that the two of you get a quiet moment together while we are shooting. This is intentional time spent with your partner, these are the best and most intimate images to capture. I love sneaking my couples away for golden hour photos then letting them have a few moments to themselves before returning.

04. Grand exits/entrance.

If I will not be staying until the end to photograph your exit, I recommend doing a grand entrance into your reception instead! Sparklers still look pretty in the daylight, or you can consider doing confetti (eco-friendly please), rose petals, or other fun options.



sample timeline...

8 hours of coverage with a first look

- 12:00 Getting ready & detail photos
- 1:00 First look & couples photos
- 2:00 Wedding party photos
- 3:00 Ceremony
- 3:30 Cocktail hour / family photos
- 4:30 Grand entrance to reception/first dance
- 5:00 Dinner
- 6:00 Speeches, cake, etc..
- 7:00 Dance party!
- 8:00 Dance party!

*** A quick note! I love doing some couples photos of you during golden hour for the best lighting. What time this will be depends on the time of year.



Find the perfect space.

When choosing your getting ready location, look for somewhere that is nice and open with lots of natural light. This is your wedding day, so you want to feel comfortable! If the space your venue offers for getting ready does not seem like a good fit, consider renting out a cute air bnb or boutique hotel room.

Keep it clean.

If you would like to have clutter-free photos, designate a room or corner of the room to be the bag area and try to keep most stuff in that corner.

Have details ready.

You have likely spent time specially selecting certain details of your day, so I love to photograph them as a part of the story of your day! Please have all details gathered and ready for me to photograph when I arrive. After greeting you, I will immediately start on detail photos as your hair and makeup is being done.



For the bride

Shoes
Perfume
Jewelry
Nice hanger for dress
Rings
Bouquet ***Please have florist deliver in time and if possible, ask for spare blooms to be used in detail shots.*
Any other special details

For the groom

Shoes
Watch
Cuff links
Cologne
Any other special details

Other

Rings + ring box
Vow books
Any stationary



unplugged wedding

Why consider having one...

I get it, your wedding day is exciting and your friends & family are probably eager to snap some phone photos! During certain parts of the day (such as the reception), this is completely acceptable; however, many guests do not realize that certain moments (such as the ceremony) are not the time to be on their phone.

I have seen many instances where a guest sticking their phone out into the aisle obstructing the moment as it unfolds, but I do capture these moments. Its the candid and documentary style of approach for your wedding day.





family photos

TIPS

My desire for you is to have the smoothest and most efficient family photos possible! While they can seem daunting, I am here to make them easy-breezy. Here is my advice:

01. Alert your family.

Let the family members who will be in your group photos know ahead of time, and/or have your officiant make an announcement for family to gather for photos in a designated place after the ceremony. If you are doing immediate family only, make sure to have the officiant make this distinguishment.

02. Shot list.

Your welcome to create a shot list. Although it is not necessary. My posing flow is fluid and works generationally. For example: Family shots will always include the bride and groom. Your nuclear and extended families will be posed around that flow.

03. Start Simple.

Having grandparents/older guest photos done first so they may be dismissed earlier will help with the flow. but keeping them near by for an entire group photo would be ideal.

04. Designated helper.

Having a helpful friend or family member who know your families well and is willing to assist in making sure all included in family photos are present and ready to go can be a big help!

05. No phone photos please.

When a guest is taking a phone photo over my shoulder, this can confuse the people in the photo with where to look and can also really slow things down.

A bride is the central figure, wearing a white lace wedding dress with a full skirt and a long, sheer veil. She is holding a large bouquet of flowers, including blue and white roses, in her right hand. She is looking down at the bouquet. The background is a blurred green lawn and a stone wall. The text "self care for your wedding" is written in a white, cursive font across the middle of the image.

self care for your wedding

Holistic health.

You may be tempted or feel pressure to go on some crazy, fad diet to get in “wedding shape” -- but friends, please prioritize your well being (physical and mental!) first. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be more active and healthy, but remember that your mental health is just as important. I recommend trying out yoga classes, drinking lots of water, and doing your best to reduce stress where you can.

Set aside time to plan.

Don't let wedding planning consume your whole life! Try setting aside certain days to plan, meet with vendors, etc. You can also make wedding planning a date with your partner! Grab your favorite take out food and make it something fun together. Lastly, if you feel overwhelmed, consider hiring a wedding planner -- they are worth the investment and can really help take some pressure off of you.

Focus on what matters.

Sure, there may be unexpected bumps in the process or even on the day of your wedding, but what matters most is that you are getting married! (And all of your people are going to be there, celebrating with you). The couples who have the BEST time at their weddings are the ones who really focus on what matters, and don't sweat the little things.

soak it all in...





I'm here for you!

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can help you in any way beyond this guide! As a reminder, we will have a final phone call and walk through everything one month out from your wedding. If you have any questions in the meantime, I'd love to help.

845-807-4565

jasmine@ishotstudios.com

www.ishotstudios.com

Jasmine