

TIPS FOR EACH PART OF YOUR WEDDING DAY

Bridal Details



Every bride loves having those beautiful shots of her bridal details. It's an important part of the story & I love having some time to shoot the dress, shoes, jewelry, invitations, etc. I normally allow at least 45 minutes for this part of the day. While I'm shooting details, I'm also capturing some shots of you and your girls getting ready! Make sure to designate someone to help ensure that your getting ready space does not get cluttered as this will show in your pictures! If the groom is getting ready nearby, me or my second shooter will begin photographing the boys close to 30 minutes before the first look since it always takes them less time to get dressed! If they aren't getting ready in the same place, I will make sure to take some mock shots at the ceremony, time permitting!

Getting in the Dress



A bride getting into her dress is a big moment! I usually ask the mother of the bride and all of the bridesmaids to be dressed by the time you are ready to get into your dress. These pictures should be taken in a room with at least 2 windows or outside for lots of natural light! I will have you stand in the place with the best light for these pictures! After you are in your gown, you can put on her jewelry, veil, shoes, etc. and I will shoot some additional bridal portraits! Take your time putting on your jewelry & shoes as I will be photographing this and instructing you a little along the way as to where to look or smile to!

First Look *(if included)*



This is one of my favorite parts of the wedding day!!! I will find the perfect location for your First Look prior to the getting ready portion of the day! Don't stress about that one bit! If you'd like it to be more private and secluded, let me know so I can take that into account! Consider having a family member walk you to your first look! I will set up your groom looking away from you and then will instruct you when I'm ready to have you walk up to him, tap his shoulder and have him turn around to see you for the very first time!! Take as much time as you need together & then let me know when you'd like to get started on portraits! Make sure to have your bouquet and bout for these pictures :)

Portraits



After the bride and groom take their time with the First Look or after the ceremony, I will begin taking a few romantic portraits of the two of you while the excitement is still present! I will find the locations for these shots as well! Remember, the LIGHT determines where we shoot and so I can't decide on portrait locations until the day-of. As we shoot these portraits, the bridal party can start making their way to us for Bridal Party portraits! I will be sure to take some pictures of your groom individually if I was not able to capture him getting ready at a separate venue! Please allow 30-45 minutes in your timeline for these portraits!

Bridal Party Portraits



Now it's time for Bridal Party shots! I buffer in extra time throughout the day just in case we have some unexpected things that hold us up! One way to make sure we stay on schedule for bridal party portraits is to have someone put the boutonnieres on the guys BEFORE they arrive for portraits and make sure that the girls have their bouquets. During Bridal Party portraits, I will make sure to take some great shots of the guys and girls both separately AND together! If we have extra time, I usually like to get a shot of each bridesmaid with the bride and each groomsmen with the groom as well!

Ceremony



Cherish these moments! Your ceremony will pass by so quickly! I recommend **TAKING YOUR TIME** walking down the aisle so I have plenty of time to capture both of your expressions as well as those of the people in the audience as you are about to get married! I recommend having someone make an announcement at the beginning or including a sign letting your guests know to stay out of the aisle during the ceremony so they are not in my shots or making it difficult for my camera to focus on you and the most important people at your day! Also, please make sure to let me know if the ceremony site has any restrictions on photography so I can account for it beforehand! Having to stand a certain distance back or not being able to use flash will limit how these pictures will look, so please be aware of this beforehand! I will do my best with any restrictions!

Family Portraits



Family formals normally take place immediately following the ceremony. It's best to save all of the family formals until after the ceremony because ALL family members will be present at that time. Make sure to let everyone that needs to be present for family formals know beforehand that they must remain AT the ceremony space as to avoid having to track anyone down during these pictures! I will go off of the list that you have provided in your questionnaire first and if we have time remaining at the end, we can include other combinations! Otherwise, more combinations can always be taken at any point during the reception! I recommend photographing these portraits outdoors in order to have natural light, especially if the ceremony location is dark!

Reception Details



If the reception is in the same location as the ceremony, I will try to photograph the reception decor UNTOUCHED. If the ceremony and reception are in different locations, I recommend having a cocktail hour outside of the main reception area if possible so that I can grab some great shots of your reception before the night begins and guests start laying down purses and coats on their seats! If this is not possible, I will focus on getting as many closer detail shots of the head table as I can to capture the essence of your reception!

Reception Begins!



Please make sure I have an updated timeline of the of the reception events (first dances, toasts, cake cutting, garter toss, etc.) & timings so I can be ready for these! It's vital that your DJ knows not flash any colored lights during these big events as these make unfortunate color casts in your images & videos that are impossible to correct while editing! Please be mindful that these events require a bit of switching my lenses to make sure I get the best possible shots for each type of reception event. I will always give you the go ahead for when I'm all set up! Also, please make sure to let your caterer know to provide a hot meal for me and my second shooter for dinner!

APPROXIMATE TIMES

DETAILS & PREP : 1.5 HOURS

FIRST LOOK & PORTRAITS : 30-40 MINS

BRIDAL PARTY : 30-40 MINS

FAMILY FORMALS: 30 MINS

EXTRA PORTRAIT TIME : AS MUCH TIME AS YOU'LL GIVE ME!



RINGS, SHOES, FLOWERS, JEWELS ...

The whole day begins with the DETAILS! This is one of my favorite parts of the wedding day, because it allows me to prepare and get my creative side warmed up for the rest of the day! I photograph a bride's details in a way that matches and showcases the style of the entire wedding day, sometimes using a bridesmaid's dress so it looks cohesive with your wedding colors! So, in some ways, the details set the stage for the look of the whole wedding and I love having ample time to stylize, and shoot everything from the dress, to the jewelry, to family heirlooms! Below, you'll find a list of the most common details that I shoot. I ask brides to gather any details they have before I arrive so that I can walk in, say hello, give you a big hug and then begin with them all! (Please assure your mom that I will take GREAT care of the dress, I promise!) I also highly recommend having your florist deliver your bouquet before I start photographing so I can include it in your detail shots to provide a cohesive look to your day!



WHAT TO BRING IN A BOX



dress & wooden hanger
 veil / hair pieces
 rings (ALL THREE!)
 shoes
 bouquet & bout
 jewelry
 perfume
 invitation suite
 borrowed & blue
 any gifts/family heirlooms
 bridesmaids dresses



WEEK - OF REMINDERS

If possible, collect all of your details (including all three rings & a hanger) in a box before I arrive so that I can begin quickly and have more time for some “getting ready” shots of you and your girls. Also shoe stoppers/a pair of extra shoes never hurt nobody!

Be sure to keep the getting ready area stays clean, designate a bridesmaid or sibling to be in charge of this!

I'll direct your bridesmaids & family members to be dressed before you get in your gown!

Have the bouquet and bouts ready for any portraits of you & your groom as well as your bridal party

Let me know about any photography restrictions your ceremony site has

Let guests know to stay out of the aisle during the ceremony

Ask family to stay at the ceremony site after the ceremony for family pictures

Ask someone to keep one table empty of guests' belongings at the reception space before I have photographed it

Let your DJ know not to project any colored light on you or your guests for main reception events such as first dances, toasts, or cake cutting!



YOU ARE ALMOST THERE!

I can not WAIT to celebrate your wedding with you soon! You're all set to go for what is going to be one of the best days of your life! THANK YOU for trusting me with your special day!!! I am so honored to be the one capturing your memories and helping you throughout your day! Make sure to take time as just the two of you at some point during your wedding day, it'll be something special that you will remember for years! Don't stress over the little things and focus on what's the most important, your marriage, you can let your vendors take care of the rest! I hope this little guide helps you cover all the details before your wedding day so you can enjoy it to the fullest!

Love, Manali