



WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

*A First-Timers' Field Guide to Picture
Perfect Wedding Photos*

JACKSIMPSONWEDDINGS.COM



JACK SIMPSON

PHOTOGRAPHER

Hello Friends! I am a published wedding photographer based in Napa California. I'm a proud husband to my beautiful, amazing wife Jackie and reluctant guardian to a pair of completely ungrateful (but totally lovable) cats named Tyson & Evander.

Behind the lens, I bring years of EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE, AND PASSION to every wedding celebration and my goal is to help bewildered couples navigate the daunting task of choosing a perfect wedding photographer.

JACKSIMPSONWEDDINGS.COM

Your wedding day is one of the most significant moments of your life. It's a celebration of love, commitment, and the start of a beautiful journey together.

As you embark on this remarkable adventure, there is one element that has the power to freeze these cherished moments in time – your wedding photographer.

The choice of your wedding photographer is not merely a logistical decision; it is an artistic collaboration that will shape the way you remember and relive your special day for years to come.



CONTENTS

DEFINING YOUR PHOTO STYLE

BUDGET AND PRIORITIZATION

RESEARCHING POTENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

VIEWING PHOTOGRAPHY

UNDERSTANDING PHOTO PACKAGES

CONTENTS

06
COMMUNICATING YOUR VISION

07
THE WEDDING DAY

08
POST-WEDDING CONSIDERATIONS

09
FINAL TIPS & CHECKLIST



C H A P T E R

01

DEFINING YOUR STYLE
AND VISION

Your wedding photography journey begins with a crucial decision: the choice of photography style. Each style brings its own unique flavor to your wedding memories, and understanding them is essential in creating a vision for your wedding photography.

Reviewing Different Photography Styles



I. Traditional Photography:

- Characteristics: Classic and timeless, focusing on posed group shots.
- Ideal for: Couples who value traditional family portraits and want a structured approach to photography.
- Considerations: May lack the spontaneity of candid moments.

II. Photojournalistic (Documentary) Photography:

- Characteristics: Candid and unposed, capturing real emotions and moments.
- Ideal for: Couples who want a natural and authentic narrative of their day.
- Considerations: Minimal posing, so you'll need to be comfortable with candid shots.

Reviewing Different Photography Styles

III. Fine Art Photography:

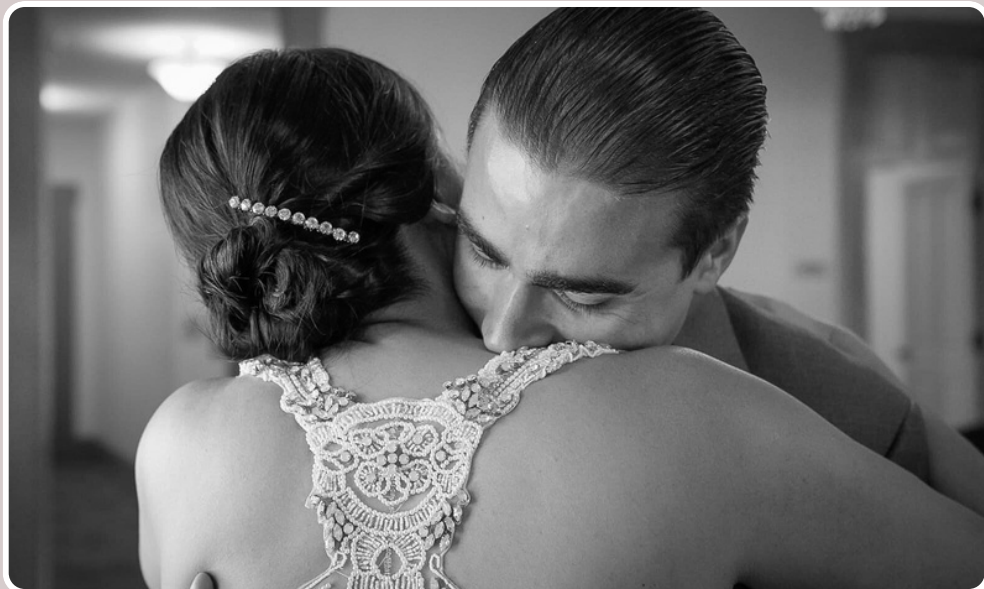
- Characteristics: Emphasis on creative, artistic, and often stylized shots.
- Ideal for: Couples looking for visually striking and unique images.
- Considerations: May require more time for set-up and creative compositions.

IV. Editorial Photography:

- Characteristics: Similar to fashion photography, with an editorial and glamorous feel.
- Ideal for: Couples who want a polished and magazine-worthy look.
- Considerations: Requires more direction and styling.

V. Lifestyle Photography:

- Characteristics: Blend of candid and lightly posed shots, emphasizing natural moments.
- Ideal for: Couples seeking a relaxed and authentic portrayal of their day.
- Considerations: Less emphasis on dramatic or highly stylized shots.



Now that you've explored these photography styles, it's time to set a vision for your wedding through the lens of these styles...

Setting a Vision for Your Wedding:

Reflect on Your Personal Style: Consider your everyday style and the type of photography that resonates with you. Are you drawn to the elegance of fine art, the authenticity of documentary, or the timelessness of traditional.

Venue and Theme: The style of your venue and the overall theme of your wedding can influence your choice. A rustic barn wedding may align with a more natural, documentary style, while a glamorous ballroom may suit editorial or fine art photography.

Emotions and Moments: Think about the moments and emotions you want to capture. If you want genuine, unscripted emotions, documentary photography might be your choice. If you want to create and capture specific moments, fine art or editorial styles may be better.

Communication with Your Photographer: Open communication with your chosen photographer is vital. Share your style preferences, show them examples you love, and discuss how they can align their approach with your vision.

Consistency: Ensure that your chosen style aligns with the entirety of your wedding day. Cohesion in style will make your wedding album a visual masterpiece.



Remember, there's no one-size-fits-all answer. The style you choose should resonate with your personalities and your vision for your wedding day. By understanding these styles and their implications, you can set a clear direction for your wedding photography that will result in a collection of images that truly reflect your story.



C H A P T E R

02

BUDGET AND PRIORITIZATION

By understanding how to manage your budget effectively and prioritize what truly matters to you, you'll be better equipped to capture the memories of your special day in a way that aligns with your vision and resources. So, let's dive into the world of budgeting and prioritization for your wedding photography, ensuring that every precious moment is captured without breaking the bank.

Establishing a Realistic Photography Budget

When it comes to budgeting for your wedding photography, one of the most critical steps is establishing a realistic financial plan that aligns with your overall wedding budget. Your wedding photographer will play a pivotal role in preserving the memories of your special day, so allocating the right amount of funds is essential. Here are key steps to help you establish a practical photography budget:

1. Determine Your Overall Wedding Budget:

Before diving into the specifics of photography, set a total budget for your wedding. This should encompass all expenses, from venue and catering to attire and decor. Knowing your overall budget will provide a clear framework for allocating funds to different aspects of your wedding, including photography.

2. Research Average Photography Costs:

Start your research by understanding the average costs of wedding photography in your area. Prices can vary significantly based on location, photographer experience, and package inclusions. Look at local wedding websites, ask for recommendations, and consult with recently married friends for insights.

3. Identify Your Priorities:

Consider what aspects of your wedding photography are most important to you. Do you want extensive coverage of the entire day, high-quality prints and albums, or additional services like engagement sessions or a second photographer? Identifying your priorities will help you allocate funds accordingly.



Establishing a Realistic Photography Budget

4. Assess Your Personal Finances:

Take a close look at your personal financial situation. Be honest about what you can comfortably afford without straining your finances. Remember that while your wedding is a special day, it's just one part of your lifelong journey together.

5. Be Realistic About Your Expectations:

Understand that exceptional photography often comes at a cost. Talented photographers with years of experience and a strong portfolio may charge more. Be prepared to adjust your budget if you find a photographer whose work truly resonates with you.

6. Consider Additional Costs:

Your photography budget should not only cover the photographer's fees but also additional expenses like prints, albums, or extra hours of coverage. Factor these into your budget to avoid surprises later on.



Establishing a Realistic Photography Budget

7. Leave Room for Contingencies:

Weddings can be unpredictable, and unforeseen expenses may arise. It's wise to allocate a small portion of your budget for contingencies to handle unexpected costs related to photography or any other aspect of your wedding.

8. Get Multiple Quotes:

Don't settle for the first photographer you find. Collect quotes from several photographers to get a sense of the market and the range of services offered. This will help you make an informed decision.

9. Seek Guidance from a Wedding Planner:

If you have hired a wedding planner, they can provide valuable insights into budgeting for photography based on their experience and industry contacts.



Remember that your wedding photography is an investment in capturing the moments that will last a lifetime. By establishing a realistic budget tailored to your preferences and financial capacity, you can make well-informed decisions that ensure you have beautiful memories of your special day without compromising your financial stability.

Average Photography Related Costs

Average Wedding Photography Package: \$2,500 - \$4,000

This typically includes a full day of coverage (usually 8-10 hours), a second photographer, edited high-resolution images, an online gallery for viewing and sharing photos, and printing rights.

Engagement Session: \$300 - \$800

Many couples choose to include an engagement session in their package. This session provides an opportunity to get comfortable in front of the camera and create beautiful pre-wedding photos

Albums and Prints: \$500 - \$1,500

Costs for physical products like albums, canvas prints, or framed photos can vary depending on size, materials, and customization.

Additional Hours: \$100 - \$300 per hour

If you want your photographer to stay longer than the standard package, expect to pay an additional hourly rate.

Travel Fees: Varies

If your wedding is outside the photographer's usual service area, travel expenses may apply, including accommodation and transportation.

Second Photographer: \$500 - \$1,000

Some couples choose to have a second photographer to capture more angles and moments during the wedding day.



Average Photography Related Costs

Special Editing Requests: Varies

If you have specific editing requests or want extensive retouching, there may be additional charges.

Additional Services: Varies

Some photographers offer extra services like engagement photo books, photo booths, or videography. Prices for these services can vary widely.

Print Rights and Copyrights:

Included in most packages

Many photographers include print rights in their packages, allowing you to print and share the photos as you wish. However, copyright ownership may come at an additional cost.

Deposit:

Typically 20-50% of the total package cost

Most photographers require a deposit to secure their services for your wedding date.

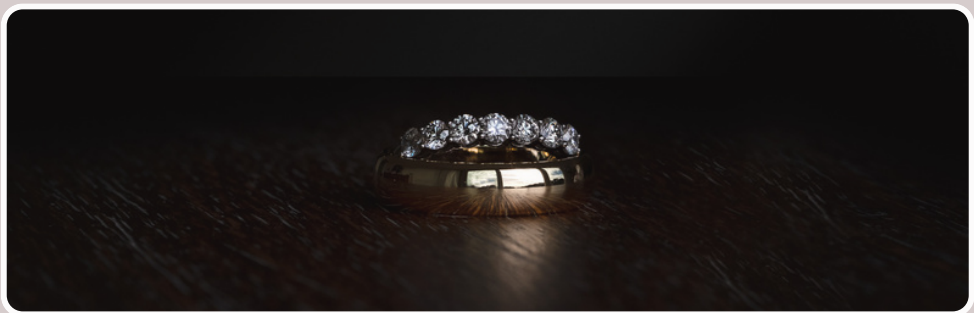
Remember that these are average estimates, and actual wedding photographer costs can differ significantly based on your specific needs and location. To obtain the most accurate and current pricing information, reach out to local photographers and request quotes based on your preferences and wedding details.



Prioritizing Photography in Your Overall Wedding Expenses

we've explored the importance of allocating a realistic budget for your wedding photography. Recognizing that your wedding photographer plays a pivotal role in preserving your special day's memories, we discussed essential steps for establishing a practical photography budget:

- Begin by determining your overall wedding budget, which serves as the foundation for allocating funds to various aspects, including photography.
- Research average photography costs in your area to set realistic expectations.
- Identify your photography priorities, such as extensive coverage, high-quality prints, or additional services.
- Assess your personal finances honestly and allocate a budget that aligns with your means.
- Be realistic about your expectations, understanding that exceptional photography often comes at a cost.
- Consider additional expenses like prints, albums, and additional hours of coverage.
- Leave room for contingencies to handle unforeseen photography-related costs.
- Get multiple quotes from photographers to understand the market and service offerings.





C H A P T E R

03

RESEARCHING POTENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

In this chapter, we explore the art of seeking recommendations, offering guidance on whom to ask, what questions to pose, and how to make the most of these referrals from those whom have said “I do” before you.

Asking for Recommendations

Your trusted network of friends, family, and acquaintances can be a valuable resource when searching for the right wedding photographer. Here's how to make the most of it:

Whom to Ask

Identify individuals in your circle who have recently tied the knot. They can provide firsthand insights and recommendations based on their experiences.

Questions to Pose

Craft thoughtful questions when seeking recommendations. Ask about their photographer's professionalism, communication, and the overall experience. Inquire if they would choose the same photographer again.

Leveraging Online Communities

Expand your reach by joining online wedding forums and social media groups. These communities often share candid reviews and recommendations.



Online Research and Portfolio Review

The internet opens up a world of possibilities for discovering talented wedding photographers. Here's how to navigate this digital landscape effectively:

Where to Look

Start with wedding photography websites and directories to find local photographers. Popular platforms like The Knot and WeddingWire can be valuable resources.

Evaluating Portfolios

When reviewing portfolios, pay attention to a photographer's style, creativity, and consistency. Look for diverse examples that showcase their versatility.

Contacting Potential Photographers

Reach out to photographers whose work resonates with you. In your initial contact, inquire about their availability, pricing, and the services they offer.



Where to Look:

Instagram: Many photographers showcase their work on Instagram. You can search for photographers using relevant hashtags or by exploring wedding-related accounts.

Wedding Blogs: Wedding blogs often feature real weddings, and they typically credit the photographers. Websites like *Style Me Pretty* and *Junebug Weddings* can be excellent sources for discovering photographers.

Pinterest: Pinterest is a treasure trove of wedding inspiration. You can find photography ideas and discover photographers through the images and boards posted by others.

Local Wedding Directories: Many regions have local wedding directories or magazines that list photographers. These directories often categorize photographers by style, location, and budget.

Wedding Planning Apps: Wedding planning apps like WeddingWire and Zola have extensive directories of wedding vendors, including photographers. You can filter your search based on your preferences.

Facebook Groups: Joining wedding planning or local community groups on Facebook can connect you with couples who have recently hired photographers and can provide recommendations.

Professional Photography Associations: Organizations like the Professional Photographers of America (PPA) have directories of accredited photographers who adhere to high standards.

Google Maps: When searching for "wedding photographers" on Google Maps, you can see photographers in your area and read reviews from other clients.

Referral Websites: Websites like Fearless Photographers and ISPWP (International Society of Professional Wedding Photographers) feature directories of award-winning photographers known for their exceptional work.

Bridal Shows and Expos: Attending bridal shows and expos in your area can allow you to meet photographers in person and see their work firsthand.



C H A P T E R

04

VIEWING PHOTOGRAPHY

In your quest to find the perfect wedding photographer, viewing sample albums is a crucial step that goes beyond the surface. It's a window into a photographer's storytelling abilities, attention to detail, and overall style.

Importance of Seeing Full Wedding Galleries



Viewing the The Gallery Beyond Highlights

While beautiful highlights and portfolio images are impressive, it's essential to see complete wedding galleries. These provide a comprehensive view of a photographer's storytelling abilities and how they capture moments throughout the day.

Understanding the Flow

Full galleries allow you to understand the flow of a wedding day, from the preparations to the ceremony and reception. It helps you gauge if the photographer can capture the essence of your entire day.

Realistic Expectations

Full galleries give you a realistic expectation of the number of photos you can expect from your wedding. This insight is crucial for managing your photography budget.

Analyzing Consistency and Quality

Consistency Across Lighting Conditions

Pay attention to how a photographer handles various lighting conditions, from bright daylight to dimly lit receptions. Consistency in exposure and quality is a sign of a skilled professional.

Composition and Framing

Assess how images are composed and framed. Look for balanced compositions that draw your eye to the subject while capturing the atmosphere of the moment.

Capturing Emotions

Analyze the ability of the photographer to capture genuine emotions. Emotional moments are the heart of wedding photography, and a photographer's skill in this area is pivotal.



Assessing Editing Style

Color Palette and Tones

Examine the photographer's editing style regarding color. Are the colors vibrant and true to life, or do they lean towards a particular aesthetic, such as muted tones or vintage looks?

Retouching and Enhancements

Assess the level of retouching and enhancements applied to images. Determine if the editing style aligns with your preferences for natural or more heavily edited photos.

Storytelling Through Editing

Consider how editing contributes to storytelling. Editing can enhance the narrative by creating a mood or emphasizing specific moments. Ensure it resonates with your vision.

By thoroughly examining sample albums, including full wedding galleries, analyzing consistency and quality, and assessing editing style, you'll gain a holistic understanding of a photographer's work. This insight will enable you to make an informed decision and choose the photographer whose style aligns seamlessly with your wedding day vision.





C H A P T E R

05

UNDERSTANDING PHOTOGRAPHY PACKAGES

Understanding photography packages is crucial as you choose your wedding photographer. This chapter offers insights on package elements, customization, and payment management, empowering you to confidently select photography services that suit your wedding day perfectly.

Additional Services & Extras

In addition to the standard elements included in wedding photography packages, many photographers offer a range of extra services and add-ons that allow couples to tailor their photography experience to their unique preferences and needs. Here's an overview of some common additional services and extras:

1. Engagement Sessions:

Engagement sessions are a popular extra. They provide an opportunity for you to get comfortable in front of the camera, build rapport with your photographer, and capture beautiful pre-wedding photos that can be used for save-the-date cards and wedding invitations.

2. Second Photographer:

Some couples opt for a second photographer to capture multiple angles and candid moments throughout the day. This is particularly valuable for larger weddings with multiple events happening simultaneously.

3. Extended Coverage:

If you want photography coverage beyond the standard hours, you can often extend the coverage by adding extra hours or additional days to capture rehearsal dinners, post-wedding brunches, or other related events.

4. Albums and Prints:

Many photographers offer the option to create custom wedding albums, canvas prints, or framed photos. You can select the type, size, and design to create beautiful physical keepsakes of your special day.

5. Photo Booths:

Photo booths have become a fun and interactive addition to weddings. Some photographers offer photo booth services with props and instant prints for your guests to enjoy.

6. Drone Photography:

For breathtaking aerial shots and unique perspectives, some photographers offer drone photography as an extra service.

7. Videography Services:

In addition to photography, some photographers offer videography services to capture your wedding day in motion, creating a cinematic wedding film.

Customizing and Tailoring Your Package

One of the great advantages of many wedding photography packages is the flexibility to customize and tailor them to your specific needs and preferences. Here's an excerpt on how to go about it:

Customization Options:

Many photographers are open to customizing their packages to fit your vision. This might involve adjusting the number of coverage hours, adding or removing services, or modifying the types of products included in the package.

Special Requests:

Don't hesitate to discuss any special requests or unique moments you want to capture with your photographer. Customization allows you to ensure that your photography package aligns perfectly with your wedding day aspirations.

By exploring these additional services, extras, and customization options, you can personalize your wedding photography package to create a truly unique and memorable experience that reflects your style and preferences. Be sure to communicate openly with your photographer to ensure that your customized package meets your expectations.



Benefits of Engagement Sessions

Building a Connection with Your Photographer

Engagement sessions allow you to build a rapport with your wedding photographer. This connection can lead to more relaxed and authentic wedding day photos as you become comfortable with the person behind the lens.

Capturing Authentic Moments

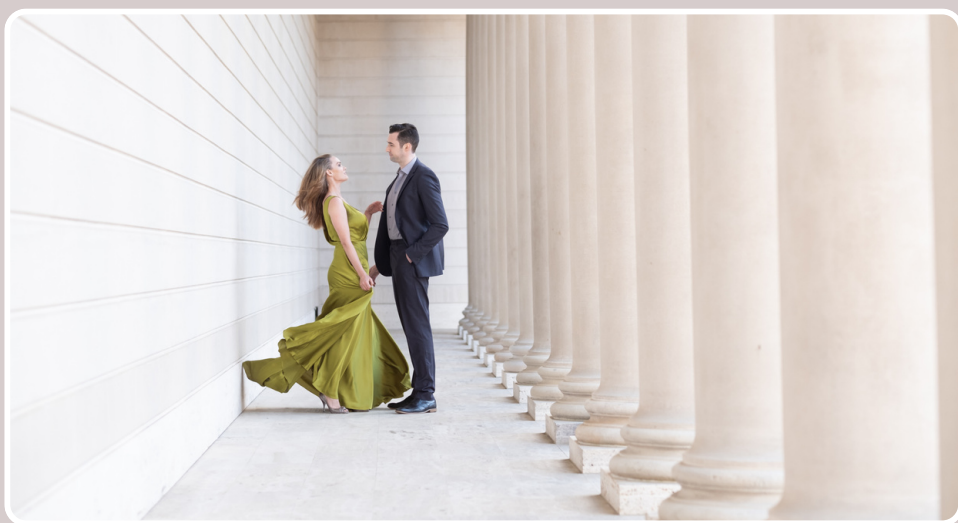
Engagement sessions provide an opportunity for you to express your unique personalities and the dynamics of your relationship. They capture genuine emotions, smiles, and interactions, resulting in photos that tell your love story authentically.

Save-the-Date and Wedding Decor Use

Engagement photos are perfect for creating save-the-date cards, wedding invitations, or even as decor elements at your wedding venue. They add a personal touch and set the tone for your big day.

Trial Run for Hair and Makeup

Consider scheduling your engagement session on the same day as your hair and makeup trial. This allows you to see how you'll look in professional photos and make any necessary adjustments before the wedding day.





CHAPTER

06

COMMUNICATING YOUR VISION

Effective communication with your wedding photographer is the key to ensuring that your wedding day is captured exactly as you envision it. In this chapter, we'll explore various ways to convey your vision, including sharing mood boards and Pinterest ideas, discussing special requests, and creating a shot list. By openly and clearly communicating your expectations and preferences, you'll work together with your photographer to make your wedding photography dreams a reality.

Sharing Mood Boards and Pinterest Ideas

Sharing visual inspiration can be an effective way to communicate the mood and style you want for your wedding photos:

Creating a Mood Board: Collect images, colors, and themes that resonate with your wedding vision. Tools like Pinterest, Canva, or even a physical collage can help you assemble your ideas.

Collaborating with Your Photographer: Share your mood board with your photographer. They can gain valuable insights into your style preferences, color schemes, and the overall atmosphere you want to convey.

Discussing Key Elements: Talk with your photographer about specific elements you love in the images you've collected. This could be lighting, poses, candid moments, or creative compositions.

Discussing Special Requests

Every couple has unique preferences and special requests for their wedding photos. Here's how to ensure these are conveyed effectively:

Open Communication: Don't hesitate to discuss any special requests or moments you want to capture with your photographer. Whether it's a particular family portrait or a candid moment, your photographer should know your priorities.

Timeline and Logistics: If you have specific timeline requirements for capturing events like sunset shots or group photos, communicate these clearly to your photographer. This ensures they plan accordingly.

Cultural and Religious Traditions: If your wedding includes cultural or religious traditions, inform your photographer. Understanding these customs helps them capture these moments respectfully and authentically.

Creating a Shot List

A shot list helps your photographer ensure that no essential moments are missed on your big day:

Essential Shots: Begin with a list of must-have shots, such as the first kiss, exchanging vows, and cutting the cake. Your photographer will prioritize these moments.

Family and Group Photos: Compile a list of family and group photos you want. Include names or relationships to ensure no one is left out.

Special Details: Note any special details or items you want photographed, like heirloom jewelry, your bouquet, or personalized decor.

Unexpected Moments: Sometimes, the most memorable moments are unexpected. Allow your photographer the freedom to capture candid moments as they unfold.



By effectively communicating your vision through mood boards, special requests, and a thoughtfully created shot list, you and your photographer will be on the same page. This collaborative approach ensures that your wedding photos reflect your unique style, priorities, and the moments that matter most to you.



CHAPTER

07

THE WEDDING DAY

This chapter guides you through the crucial aspects of preparing for your photographer's arrival, collaborating effectively with them, and making decisions regarding candid moments versus posed shots. By understanding the dynamics of the wedding day, you'll ensure a seamless photography experience that captures the essence of your special day.

Preparing for the Photographer's Arrival

Creating the perfect environment for getting ready on your wedding day is essential for achieving the best photographic outcome. A clutter-free and thoughtfully prepared space ensures that your photographer can capture stunning photos of this special moment in your journey. Here's how to set the stage for beautiful photographs:

Declutter the Space: Begin by decluttering the area where you'll be getting ready. Remove any unnecessary items, such as food, branded items like water bottles or soda cans, and trash. An uncluttered space not only looks more aesthetically pleasing but also allows your photographer to focus on you and your bridal party.

Designate a Clean Surface: Choose a clean and uncluttered surface for laying out your dress, rings/accessories, and other small items to be photographed. A tidy surface provides an elegant backdrop for detail shots and ensures that your wedding attire is showcased beautifully.

Natural Light: If possible, select a room with ample natural light. Natural light enhances the quality of your photos and provides a soft, flattering glow. Position yourself near a window to make the most of this beautiful light source.

Keep Essentials Handy: While decluttering is essential, make sure you have all your essentials within easy reach. This includes your wedding dress, shoes, jewelry, and any makeup or hair products. Having everything organized and accessible saves time and ensures you're ready when the photographer arrives.

Coordinate with Your Photographer: Communicate with your photographer in advance about your preparations. They can provide guidance on ideal setups and angles. Be open to their suggestions, as they have the expertise to create stunning shots.

Personal Touches: Consider adding personal touches to the space, such as decorative elements, flowers, or sentimental items. These details can add character to your photos and make them more meaningful.

Stay Hydrated and Nourished: While removing food and drink clutter is important for photos, ensure that you and your bridal party stay hydrated and nourished throughout the morning. Have a designated area for refreshments away from the photography setup.

Minimize Distractions: Encourage your bridal party to minimize distractions in the getting-ready space. This includes turning off TVs or music when important photo moments are happening and ensuring that conversations don't disrupt the photography process.

Working with Your Photographer

Effective collaboration with your photographer is key to capturing the moments that matter most. Here's how to work together seamlessly:

- **Establish Communication:** Maintain open communication with your photographer throughout the day. Inform them of any last-minute changes or special moments you want to capture.
- **Trust Their Expertise*:** Your photographer has experience in capturing weddings. Trust their creative vision and expertise in finding the best angles and lighting.
- **Group Photo Coordination:** If you have specific group photos, designate someone to assist in organizing and gathering people efficiently.
- **Schedule Breaks:** Plan short breaks during the day to rest and refresh. This allows you and your photographer to maintain energy and creativity. Typically wedding photographers take time to break during the dinner, as most prefer to put down the cameras while people are eating.

*Relinquishing control of photography to the professional can be challenging but it allows you to focus wholeheartedly on the moments unfolding before you and allows the photographer to maintain focus. Trusting their expertise means you can be fully present, savoring the joy, laughter, and love that define your wedding day. By doing so, you not only ensure that the photographer captures the genuine emotions and candid moments but also create space for your own unfiltered happiness, resulting in photographs that authentically reflect the beauty of the day.





C H A P T E R

08

POST-WEDDING CONSIDERATIONS

Your wedding day has come and gone, and now it's time to cherish the memories captured by your photographer. This chapter delves into the post-wedding phase, covering key considerations such as receiving and reviewing your photos, requesting edits and albums, and preserving and sharing these precious memories.

Reviewing the Contract for Delivery Timelines

Understanding the Agreement: Revisit your photography contract to refresh your memory on the agreed-upon delivery timeline for your wedding photos. This timeline is typically outlined in the contract, and it's crucial to have a clear understanding of when you can expect your images.

Patience is Key: Recognize that wedding photographers are often busy during peak wedding season. While it's natural to be excited, understand that the delivery timeline may be based on factors like editing workload and post-production processes.

Editing and Possible Revisions

Discussing Edits: If you've agreed upon specific edits or revisions with your photographer, now is the time to communicate your preferences. Share your vision and any particular requests for retouching, color correction, or special effects.

Be Clear and Specific: When discussing edits, be as clear and specific as possible. Provide feedback that helps your photographer understand your desired outcome. However, remember to trust their expertise and creative judgment.

Realistic Expectations: Keep in mind that edits and revisions take time. Your photographer will strive to create images that align with your vision, but it's essential to have realistic expectations regarding the timeline for these adjustments.

While it's natural to be eager to see your wedding photos, remember that effective communication with your photographer after the wedding day is about understanding the agreed-upon timelines and collaborating on any editing or revisions. Your photographer is dedicated to creating beautiful memories for you, and maintaining a patient and respectful approach will ensure that the final product meets your expectations.



C H A P T E R

09

FINAL TIPS & CHECKLIST

This chapter offers a comprehensive checklist to guide you from the initial planning stages to the post-wedding considerations. Additionally, we'll discuss reviewing important to-dos and having an emergency plan in place for unforeseen circumstances, providing you with peace of mind as you prepare to relish your wedding memories.

Reviewing Important To-Dos

Confirm Final Details: In the days leading up to your wedding, confirm all final details with your photographer, including the schedule, locations, and any specific shots or moments you want to capture.

Collect Contact Information: Ensure you have your photographer's contact information on hand and share it with your designated point of contact for the day.

Check Weather Forecast: If your wedding involves outdoor photography, keep an eye on the weather forecast. Have a backup plan or suitable indoor locations in case of inclement weather.

Prepare a Shot List: Finalize your shot list, including group photos and specific poses you want. Share this list with your photographer for reference.

Communication: Review your contract for delivery timelines and any agreed-upon edits or revisions. Reach out to your photographer to discuss any last-minute details or questions.

Emergency Plan for Unforeseen Circumstances

Backup Equipment: Ensure your photographer has backup camera equipment and accessories in case of technical issues. A professional always comes prepared.

Weather Contingency: If your wedding is outdoors and rain is a possibility, consider providing umbrellas for you and your guests. Communicate with your photographer about potential changes in the photography plan.

Communication Plan: Designate someone (not in the bridal party) to communicate with your photographer in case of unforeseen delays or emergencies. This allows you to focus on your special day while ensuring smooth communication.

Alternative Locations: Identify alternative indoor locations for photos if your outdoor plans are disrupted. Share these options with your photographer in advance.

Timeline Buffer: Build a little buffer into your schedule to accommodate any unexpected delays. This can help alleviate stress and ensure that you have ample time for photos.

CHECKLIST

Before the Wedding:

- Research and select a wedding photographer.
- Review portfolios and meet with potential photographers.
- Sign a contract that outlines all details, including delivery timelines.
- Share your vision, shot list, and special requests with your photographer.
- Confirm engagement and pre-wedding sessions, if included.
- Plan for a clean and clutter-free getting-ready space.
- Discuss a backup plan with your photographer for unforeseen weather or location issues.
- Designate a point of contact for your photographer on the wedding day.

After the Wedding:

- Review your contract for delivery timelines.
- Communicate any editing or revision requests clearly with your photographer.
- Store and back up your digital photos securely.
- Consider ordering prints, albums, or wall art of your favorite photos.
- Share your wedding photos with family and friends.
- Preserve your wedding memories for future generations.

Average Wedding Cost Sheet

Venue and Catering

Venue Rental: \$5,000 - \$10,000

Catering (per person): \$70 - \$150

Wedding Attire

Bride's Dress: \$1,000 - \$3,000

Groom's Attire: \$500 - \$1,000

Photography and Videography

Photography: \$2,000 - \$10,000

Videography: \$2,000 - \$10,000

Flowers and Decor

Floral Arrangements: \$2,000 - \$3,000

Decor and Rentals: \$1,000 - \$2,000

Entertainment

DJ or Live Band: \$1,000 - \$3,000

Photo Booth or Entertainment Extras: \$500 - \$1,000

Wedding Planner

Full-Service Wedding Planner: \$2,000 - \$6,000

Day-of Coordinator: \$800 - \$2,000

Invitations and Stationery

Invitations and Save-the-Dates: \$300 - \$800

Postage: \$100 - \$200

Wedding Cake

Wedding Cake: \$500 - \$1,000

Transportation

Limousine or Transportation Rentals: \$500 - \$1,000

Favors and Gifts

Wedding Favors: \$200 - \$500

Bridal Party Gifts: \$300 - \$800

Miscellaneous Expenses

Marriage License: \$50 - \$150

Hair and Makeup: \$200 - \$600

Wedding Rings: \$2,000 - \$6,000 (varies widely)



CONCLUSION

Your wedding day is a unique chapter in the beautiful story of your love. Through this guidebook to wedding photography, we've embarked on a journey to ensure that your wedding memories are captured in all their splendor. From the early stages of selecting a photographer to the post-wedding considerations, every moment has been dedicated to helping you create and preserve the moments that will define your lifetime together.

Remember, your wedding photographer is not just a professional with a camera; they are your storyteller, capturing the essence of your love and the joy of your celebration. Communication, trust, and collaboration with your photographer are the pillars that support this journey, from envisioning your dream photos to relishing the finished images.

As you move forward, embrace the beauty of your wedding day with confidence. Cherish the candid moments, savor the posed shots, and allow your photographer to weave them together into a tapestry of love. Your wedding photos are more than just images; they are the living testament to the joy, laughter, and shared promises that bind you as a couple.

With this guidebook as your companion, we hope you embark on this photographic adventure with excitement and peace of mind. May your wedding photos not only reflect your love but also serve as a timeless reminder of the extraordinary journey you've undertaken together. Here's to the love story you're about to create and the memories you'll cherish forever.

JACKSIMPSONWEDDINGS.COM