



THE WEDDING DAY GUIDE

THE SOUL OF MY LENS WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

You're about TO TIE THE KNOT



This guide is packed with helpful tips that are aimed to assist you throughout your wedding day planning process. My goal is to be so much more than your photographer. I'd love for you to consider me your friend because we'll be spending a lot of time together on your wedding day! Over the years, I've picked up a few tricks that will help me ensure that your images are simply stunning since you deserve nothing less. Allow me to give you the lowdown on what you may expect.





THE WEDDING TIMELINE



While most weddings follow the same format, the order in which these events occur may differ based on your preferences. It's not a one size fits all. Please feel free to talk to me about the specifics of your day and I can help you work it out!

Create a detailed, hour-by-hour wedding day timeline to guarantee your wedding day runs smoothly. This will help you stay organized, stress-free, and on time. Share your wedding day timetable with your wedding party, wedding coordinator/planner, photographer (Me), caterer, florist, and other vendors once you've completed it so that everyone is on the same page.

To help you plan the perfect wedding timeline, here are some suggestions for how much time to give for each event as well as a general order of events.

SAMPLE TIMELINE

Typical Full-Day Coverage

10:00	Getting ready and detail photos
1:00	Ceremony/confetti
1:45	Family photos (30 min)
2:15	Drink reception
2:45	Couple Portraits (15min)
3:15	Grand entrance
3:30	Wedding breakfast
5:30	Speeches
6:00	Fun Wedding Party Photos (15 minutes)
7:30	Cake cutting, first dance
8:00	Bouquet & garter toss, Dance party
8:30	Sunset Couple Portraits (20 minutes)
9:30	Sparklers exit

Please note: This is just a sample timeline.

I believe scheduling the Family Group photos after the ceremony is a great decision, and having a two-hour gap between the ceremony and the start of the wedding breakfast is also beneficial. Other than that, most aspects are open to flexibility.





DETAIL SHOTS

You have probably spent hours and hours carefully picking various details of your wedding and I enjoy photographing them as part of your day's story! Please gather all of your wedding details and have them available for me to shoot when I arrive. After greeting you, I'll begin taking detail photographs while your hair and makeup are being done. I suggest gathering these items in a box ahead of time.

Quick tip: If you want clutter-free images, designate a room or a section of the room as the bag area and keep most of your belongings there.

DETAILS

For the bride

- Shoes
- The rings
- All other jewelry
- Headpieces
- Perfume
- Bouquet
- Garters/handkerchiefs
- Pretty Dress Hanger
- Wedding stationary with envelopes i.e. invitations, programs, thank you cards.



For the groom

- Shoes
- Pocket square / Tie / Bowtie
- Belt
- Socks (If patterned)
- Cologne
- Cufflinks
- Watch

Other

- Vow Books
- Ring Box
- Any other special details

GETTING READY

I'd like to capture your excitement and emotion while you prepare – those priceless moments with your bridesmaids, mother, sister, or anyone else assisting you. This part is primarily candid. However, I try to ensure everyone is mostly ready before photographing them. You probably don't want a photo of yourself with half-done makeup or hair.

Please note: we need about 20 minutes to capture those beautiful moments when your mom or best friend closes your dress, the last touch-ups of your makeup, the first time your dad sees you as a bride or the first time your bridesmaids see you as a bride. Ideally, you need to be in your dress an hour before leaving for the ceremony. Please let your MUA and Hairstylist know so they can plan accordingly.



WHAT TO WEAR

You'll want to ensure that you're getting ready in a way that you'd want to be captured in photos. It's absolutely up to you how you go about doing so. For some brides, having their bridal party wear matching outfits is the way to go. Others would think of it as giving everyone a customized shirt or robe to wear while getting their hair and makeup done.



THE SPACE

After your venue and ceremony area, the getting ready space is the most important location on your wedding day. It's where you'll spend the morning with your wedding party, get ready and have photographs taken. When picking a location for getting ready, look for an open space with plenty of natural light. Consider renting out a lovely Airbnb or boutique hotel room if the space provided by your venue does not seem to be a suitable fit.





THE GROOM PREP

There's a unique energy in the air as you get ready, the anticipation building with every tie knot and cufflink fastened. It's those candid glimpses of nerves mixed with excitement, laughter and banter with your closest friends that make these moments truly special.

There are usually three options for how to capture the groom prep.

- The first option is when we have a second photographer, the whole story of the preparation can be captured.
- The second option, if I am the only photographer and you are getting ready at the venue, I can pop over from the bridal prep and spend 30 minutes taking photos of you and your groomsmen.
- The third option is when you are not getting ready at the venue and I am the only photographer I can go to the groom prep first thing in the morning but that means you have to get ready early.
- Bonus option, very popular amongst grooms- Don't worry about groom prep, just concentrate on the girls :)

Let me know what options you like best and we make it work!



THE CEREMONY

And we're finally here! This is the moment you've been looking forward to. It's easy to get caught up in all the preparations and stress but remember the most important thing is that this is the beginning of your lives together. Savour this moment!

The usual ceremony lasts approximately 30 minutes, but if you want to include any specific traditions, I'd recommend giving yourself an hour.

Two important tips that I have are asking your officiant to move out of the way before the first kiss so they aren't in the background or foreground of the photo and holding your kiss longer than usual for lots of shots!

THE FAMILY FORMALS

My goal is for you to have the most enjoyable and efficient family photos possible! While they may appear daunting, I am here to make them go smoothly. Here are some tips:

Let your family know

Make sure the family members who will be in your group shots are aware ahead of time. You can also have your officiant make an announcement asking family members to meet for photos after the ceremony in a designated location.





prepare a shot list

Before your wedding, I will send you a group photo list so that I can get all of the family photo combinations you want. This way, we can the person in charge call out who is up next and we won't forget any shots that you listed.

person in charge

It can be a huge help to have a friend or family member who knows your family to ensure everyone in the family photos is there and ready to go.

It also helps if the person in charge is someone who has a loud voice ;)

big to small group

I suggest starting with the largest group and working your way down to smaller groups so that any visitors who are no longer required can be dismissed. I also recommend taking photos of grandparents or older guests first so that they can be dismissed earlier as well.

Sometimes couples opt for not having formal family group shots, instead, they just want casual photos with their loved ones. The choice is yours, just let me know.

THE WEDDING PARTY



It's time for the wedding party! I'll take some shots of just the bride and her bridesmaids and just the groom and his groomsmen and then a group shot of everyone. We can also grab individual shots of the two of you with members of your party. We can do this section after the ceremony or after the wedding breakfast.

I know you want your wedding to be fun for all of your best friends. So, like with the couple's shoot, I avoid stiff poses. One of my favourite wedding party prompts is to have the couple kiss while everyone else cheers loudly and we can also add some confetti.

Get everyone's bouquets ready and buttonholes on!

THE RECEPTION

You've done it! Woohoo! You're married, it's time to celebrate! I'll shoot some candid and group shots during the reception, so if you have any friends or extended family members you need photos with, now is the time! During the reception, a lot of things happen and I'll photograph everything. You have the freedom to make the reception your own! The possibilities are endless!



Here are the usual reception events:

- grand entrance
- speeches
- cake cutting
- first dance
- bouquet toss
- garter toss
- dancing
- sparkler exit



COUPLE'S PHOTOS

When it comes to couple portraits, I like to capture a mix of natural, romantic moments, along with some elegant formal shots and unique creative compositions.

I want to give you a diverse collection of images that truly reflect the essence of your special day.



but we're awkward in photos..

That's one of the most common worries I hear. When this concern is brought up, it typically means "I've never had professional photos taken before" or "I'm awkward/nervous in front of the camera"

Don't worry at all!

I offer complimentary engagement photo sessions.

It's a great opportunity to practice being in front of the camera, leading to increased confidence and better wedding day photos. Additionally, the engagement session provides a chance to understand each other's dynamics as a couple, resulting in authentic and meaningful photos that reflect your unique love story.

You'll have a lot of photographs capturing your love for each other. Believe me when I say you're going to look amazing!



MY USUAL SHOT LIST

getting ready

dress
suit
shoes
jewelry
bouquet
boutonnieres
rings
invitations
getting makeup done
putting on wedding
attire
putting on jewelry
putting on shoe
candids of everyone

reception

grand entrance
cake
decorations
guests interactions
toasts & speeches
first dance
parent dances
guests dancing
cake cutting
bouquet toss
garter toss

bridal party

each side
separately
individual photos
entire party

the couple

shot of rings, bouquet, dress
individual photos
couple together
romantic, fun and creative
shots

ceremony

ceremony site & details
everyone walking down the
aisle
each partner's reaction
exchanging of rings
reading of vows
first kiss
guests

family

Every family situation is different. Please prepare a list of family combinations that you want photographed.

Please Note: I always do my best to get all those shots, but sometimes, things beyond my control might get in the way.

SELF CARE



Don't forget about the most important person in your wedding – you! Wedding planning isn't simply time-consuming; it can also be intimidating at times. You might be stressed, overwhelmed, and spread a little (or a lot) too thin as your big day approaches.

Self-care is a very vital aspect of wedding planning, as well as life, that many people overlook. No matter how overwhelmed you are with wedding planning, your physical and mental health should not be taken for granted.

Sure, there may be snags along the way or even on the big day, but the most important thing is that you're being married and all of your friends and family will be there to celebrate with you! The couples that have the most fun during their weddings are those who focus on the important things and don't sweat the small stuff.





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Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything else I can do to assist you beyond this guide!

Sincerely, Zoltan



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