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MOMENTS IN LIGHT

A Guide to your Wedding Photos





Your Wedding Photography Guide

Wedding photos are one of the few tangible things that remain once the day is done. They do more than record an event — they hold the mood and the emotion of it. They let you feel your way back into that moment: the warmth of family and friends, the nerves and the laughter, the happy tears, the joy.

This guide walks through everything worth knowing before, during, and after your wedding day when it comes to your photos.

You don't need to remember all of it — that's my job. But knowing what to expect can make the day feel easier, and a little preparation goes a long way toward beautiful, natural images.

Before Your Wedding

The Practice Shoot

They say practice makes perfect, which is why I like to include a practice shoot with you before the big day. Most couples do this around a month before the wedding, though some prefer to schedule it closer to booking so the images can be used for invitations, save-the-dates, or a seating plan. The timing is entirely up to you.

I'll send through a few short videos with some simple poses to try beforehand — think of them as a safety net rather than homework.

Everyone carries a little nervous energy in front of the camera, so a small amount of preparation goes a long way. I'm experienced at posing people of every comfort level, and I'll take great care of you throughout.

You might feel a touch awkward at first, especially the grooms — that's completely normal, and I promise it feels natural in the moment.

"I Don't Like Having My Photo Taken"

I hear this often, and my answer is always the same: it's not that you don't like having your photo taken, it's that you don't like bad photos of yourself.

Most people only see their own unedited images. A professional photographer shares only the strongest photographs, and polishes each one with care before it ever reaches you. What you'll actually receive often looks nothing like what you're picturing.

"I Don't Know How to Pose"

That's completely fine — that's my job. I'll share some simple posing guides beforehand so you know roughly what to expect, and we'll practice together so you have a few natural poses to draw on for the day itself. On the day, I'm right there to guide you into place with a few easy prompts, quietly cheering you on rather than directing you like a drill sergeant. Besides, the very best photographs are rarely the posed ones. They're the moments where your real emotion shows through — joy, love, and connection captured while you're fully present in the moment.

My goal is to make the whole experience as relaxed and stress-free as possible, so you can simply enjoy your day while I take care of the rest.

Consider an Unplugged Ceremony

More and more couples are choosing to ask guests to put their phones away during the ceremony, and it's worth thinking about for your own day.

When everyone is watching through a screen, they miss what's actually happening in front of them — and a phone or an arm reaching into the aisle for a photo has a way of ending up in your own images too.

A simple line in your ceremony program, or a gentle word from your celebrant before you walk down the aisle, is usually all it takes, and your guests will understand completely.

Should You Do a First Look?

A first look is a private moment where the two of you see each other before the ceremony, away from guests. It isn't for everyone, but it's worth knowing it's an option.

It gives you a quiet, calm moment together earlier in the day, away from the nerves and the eyes of a full room, and it means your couple portraits can be done earlier too — which often means more time to relax and enjoy your own cocktail hour later on, rather than spending it away having photos taken.

Whether you'd love this or would rather save that first glance for the aisle is entirely a personal choice, and either way I'll make sure it's beautifully captured.

Pre-wedding meeting

When planning your wedding it's really important that everyone has a good idea of what to expect. I always have a pre-wedding meeting so that we can run through the schedule for the day, I can give feedback on the timings and you can ask any questions that you might have. It's a good time to tell me about any special things that are happening on the day.

This could be a Haka, a special choreographed dance with the bridesmaids and bride or even having your dog bring the rings up the aisle. Knowing these things upfront lets me be in the best spot to get the pictures.

As a photographer I want to get all the important moments but it's not always possible. It's really important that you let your photographer know which moments are most important to you and then trust them to do their job for the rest of the day.

The Wedding Day

Bridal Preparation

For bridal preparation photographs, I typically arrive around an hour before the bride puts on her dress. This gives time to capture hair and makeup in progress and to set the mood for the day ahead. If you'd like flat-lay images of your flowers, rings, or other small details, this is when I photograph them, along with your dress if there's a beautiful spot to hang or lay it out.

A small tip that's easy to overlook: your rings, invitation, perfume, and shoes are among the most requested detail shots, and the ones couples most often forget to have on hand at the getting-ready location. It's worth setting these aside the night before so they're ready and waiting when I arrive. These images act as section dividers in your galleries and albums later on.





The Ceremony

A few small things make a real difference to your ceremony photographs:

- Take a breath before you begin — there's no need to rush.
- Walk slowly, slower than feels natural. Let me get those aisle shots!
- Stand centrally in the aisle. If you're at all unsure, ask your celebrant to check the positioning in advance.
- Have your matron of honour smooth your dress into place once you're standing.
- Hold your flowers low, near your belly button, with the blooms facing outward. Most florists position the pin at the back of the stems, so if your thumb rests on the head of the pin, you're holding them correctly.
- If anything quirky or especially personal is planned for the ceremony, let me know. That means I can be in the right spot to capture it. Otherwise I might be standing in the wrong place. Don't worry — I can absolutely keep a secret. Take your time with your first kiss. A second one is always welcome, and your guests will love it.
- On the way back up the aisle, pause once more for another kiss. With your family and friends smiling in the background, this often becomes one of the most beautiful images of the entire day.

Once the ceremony has ended, it's natural for guests to want to congratulate you. Allow some time for this — these unscripted moments, full of hugs, laughter, and happy tears, are often among the most treasured photographs from the whole day.



Group Photographs

Group photographs take far more time than most couples expect. Getting a whole crowd of people to look the same direction, smile, and hold still for even a minute can feel a little like herding cats.

A few things help enormously:

- Less is more. Consider how many combinations you genuinely need — photo fatigue is real, for guests and couples alike, especially on a warm day.
- The full group photograph is usually the very first image taken after the ceremony. I bring a small ladder and a wide lens to capture everyone at once, with both a formal version and a more relaxed, fun version. Once this shot is done, guests who aren't needed for smaller group combinations are free to head off for a drink or a breather.
- Nominate a friend, family member, or your celebrant to act as the day's "people wrangler." Having someone with the group list who can gather the right people ahead of each shot keeps things moving smoothly. If your families are large, it often helps to have one wrangler from each side, so both sets of relatives can be gathered at the same time rather than waiting on one person to track everyone down.
- Ask your matron of honour or to check on your dress and hair. Consider a lipstick touch up now that you've had your first kiss.
- Group every combination involving the couple together, so the bride in particular can stay in one place rather than being moved back and forth, and there's no need to keep re-arranging a dress between shots.
- Gently discourage guests from gathering behind the photographer to take photos on their phones. It slows things down, and more importantly, guests often glance toward that person mid-shot rather than toward the camera, which shows up in the official images.

The Couple's Portraits

When we slip away for your just-the-two-of-you portraits, a few small details noticeably improve these images:

- Start with a short pause together. Emotions run high on a wedding day, and many venues will offer a little champagne and something to nibble on — take ten minutes simply to be a couple. It might be the only quiet moment you get all day.
- Bring a bridesmaid along to regularly check your dress and hair as we move between locations.
- Keep a touch-up lipstick or balm on hand.
- Take a small leap of faith. Relax into the experience and let the love you're feeling shine through naturally.
- Don't feel pressure to hold a wide smile the whole time. A soft, relaxed, loving expression photographs beautifully, and lets the moment feel real rather than performed.



A Note on Golden Hour

If you've heard the term "golden hour" and wondered what all the fuss is about, it's simply the last thirty to sixty minutes of daylight before sunset, when the light turns soft, warm, and wonderfully flattering.

If your timeline allows even fifteen or twenty minutes together during this window, it consistently produces some of the most beautiful images from the whole day. I'll always keep an eye on sunset timing for your date and venue, and where possible, We can just step outside together and make the most of it, I'm always watching the light..

If the Weather Turns

It's one of the most common worries couples share with me, so it's worth saying plainly: rain or an unexpected change in weather doesn't ruin wedding photos. Some of the most memorable images I've captured have come from moments that didn't go entirely to plan — a sudden shower, a huddle under umbrellas, laughter instead of panic. On the day, I'll adapt using shelter, doorways, covered walkways, and the available light to keep things moving smoothly, and we'll still come away with a beautiful, honest gallery of your day, whatever the sky decides to do.





Delivery of Your Images

Beautiful things take time. During peak wedding season, your images can take up to four weeks to process and deliver. A full wedding requires at least three full days of careful editing, and this isn't a process I rush — every image deserves the care and attention it's given.

Usually the day after your wedding, I'll send through a small sneak peek of around ten images so you have something to enjoy straight away. Once your full gallery is complete, you'll receive an email with a link to your own personal online gallery.

Your gallery remains live for at least six months, though in practice it stays online for much longer. That said, I always recommend downloading and safely storing all of your images once they're delivered.

From your online gallery, you're able to:

- Browse all of your photographs by scrolling through the full collection.
- View any image larger by simply clicking to expand it.
- Share your favourite images easily on social media.
- Download individual photographs whenever you like.
- Purchase beautiful wall art, fine art prints, or a printed album, for yourself or as a gift for family.
- Download your entire gallery in one click using the download button.

A couple of extra things worth knowing: not every photograph taken on the day is worth editing or sharing, and there will naturally be some duplicates along the way. Every image I consider worth editing is included in your final gallery — nothing good is ever held back.

If there's an image you'd rather not include when sharing your gallery with friends and family, you're able to hide it with a simple click of the eye icon. It moves to the very end of the gallery list and won't be seen by anyone you share the gallery with. It can be brought back at any time if you change your mind.

Why Print?

It isn't truly a photograph until it's printed. There's something about a physical print that a screen simply can't replicate — a memory you can hold, hang, or frame, something tangible in a way a photo on a phone never quite is. Both have their place, but a printed image carries a different feeling entirely, whether it's destined for your own wall or given as a gift.

To make printing simple and affordable, I work within standard print dimensions wherever possible. Prints can be ordered directly through your online gallery, produced on beautiful archival photo paper through one of two carefully selected professional photo labs. If you have any questions about ordering prints, I'm always happy to help.

The standard sizes I work with are 8x10, 2x3 (also known as 4x6), and 16x9. These proportions fit the most popular paper and framing sizes available, which keeps costs down when it comes to buying prints and frames. The 16x9 ratio suits wide images beautifully and works well both as a screen background and within albums.

For smaller prints, I'm able to produce these in-house up to A3. I'd always recommend avoiding high street print shops, as professional labs use proper colour profile matching to ensure your prints are accurate and true to life. On some devices, images can appear brighter or darker than intended — my edits are completed on a colour-calibrated screen under controlled lighting, which helps ensure your prints match reliably to what I intended.

Some images also simply come alive in black and white, which is why both colour and black-and-white versions are supplied.



Wedding Albums

There are two ways to approach designing your wedding album.

Assisted

The simplest option is to let me create the initial layout for you. To get started, you'll choose your preferred album size and paper options, then mark your favourite images in the gallery using the heart icon. From there, I'll put together an initial design, and it's completely normal for there to be a little back and forth until the layout feels exactly right before you place your order.

DIY

For couples who'd prefer to design the album themselves, your online gallery makes this simple to do. A short video guide is available directly on the gallery page to walk you through the process step by step.





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