



THE
WEDDING
EXPERIENCE

A Guide for all Lucylou Photography Brides



W E L C O M E

Hello Bride-to-be and Welcome! This is such an exciting time for you! I'm sure your mind is racing with all that needs to be planned. It's all very exciting, but it can also be somewhat overwhelming. You're planning the day that you've been anticipating your whole life and yet you only get one shot at it! By the time you get the hang of it, the planning is over! My goal as a wedding photographer is to make this one aspect of the planning process simple. Photography is more than just images, it's a real part of your day. Not only do you deserve beautiful images, you also deserve an amazing photographic experience. The goal of this guide is to help you plan your wedding day in a way that will allow me to provide you with the BEST experience possible. I'm beyond excited to be working with you!! I cannot wait to get to know you both better and a great way to do this is through an engagement photo session and I talk about the benefits of this later in the guide.



GET TO KNOW LUCY

You may have already gotten a hint of this already... but I LOVE what I do! Documenting your wedding day is such an honour!! Since we'll be spending a lot of time together on the big day, I want to make sure you really feel like you know me and understand why I'm in love with my job! Keep reading to learn more about which parts of your wedding day are going to be extra close to my heart!

WEDDING DAY FAVORITES

You may not realise this but every photographer has parts of the wedding day that they favor! My favorite moments of the day stem from my own experience as a bride and also the experience I have had photographing hundreds of weddings. I look forward to these specific parts of the day every time I'm shooting!



BRIDAL DETAILS

I love starting off the day with beautiful details! I consider this my "warm up" time. These details allow me to be creative from the moment I begin shooting on your wedding day and I love having this time to prepare for the rest of your day!



BRIDE & GROOM PORTRAITS

Portrait time with the bride and groom is hands down my favorite part of the day! This is when I produce my best work and when my couples get to spend some time together and really get to enjoy their wedding day.



THE SPEECHES

The speeches are so special as well! This is when all your guests are relaxed as they've had a bite to eat and a glass of bubbly. It is during this time that I am able to capture the most authentic moments as the speeches can be quite emotional. I love capturing genuine smiles, laughs and even tears and these photos will be so memorable!



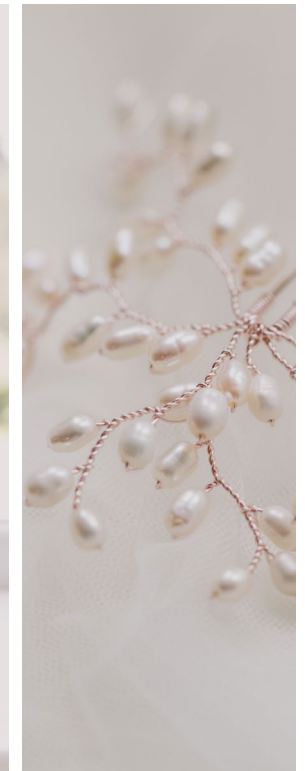
In June 2017 I married my amazing husband, Jak, who I have been with since February 2007. We live with our dog, Cobey in Locks Heath and had the absolute pleasure of becoming parents to our beautiful little girl, Ellie in December 2018. I love the summer, travelling makes me feel alive and I'm huge fan of rustic styling.

MEET COBEY

Cobey is our sweet dog and is a Beagle crossed with a Jack Russell. He makes me smile daily and often makes me laugh with his funny little habits. Don't be fooled by that cute face though as he can also be quite naughty sometimes. The thing that annoys me most is that Cobey gets up in the morning, at the slightest sign of movement, which is before Ellie has even woken up half the time and he shakes his head and his floppy ears make so much noise! Anyone that knows me well knows that I'm not a morning person so I can wake up quite grumpy because of the early wake up call!



TABLE OF CONTENTS



7	The Gift of Friendship
10	Engagement Session Intro
11	Engagement Prep Tips
13	Engagement Outfit Selection + Inspiration
21	Preparing Your Groom
25	Sample Timeline Breakdown
29	Weddings through the Seasons
31	Pre-ceremony Prep
37	Bridal Details & Timing Tips
45	What Makes a Veil Fly
47	The First Look
57	The Daddy / Daughter First Look
59	The Unplugged Ceremony
61	The Ceremony

63	Ceremony Prep & Tips
65	Planning Destination Weddings
67	The Family Portraits List
69	Your Romantic Portrait Time
71	Trusting the Portrait Locations
73	High Impact Planning
75	Rainy Wedding Days
77	Your Bridal Party
79	Reception Planning + Tips
83	The Controlled Exit
85	Creating Your First Heirloom
87	Your Online Gallery Explained
89	Ordering Prints
91	Recommended Suppliers



LETS TALK ABOUT
me and you



THE GIFT OF
friendship.

This may not be what you were expecting to find in your photographer's client guide, but if you don't read anything else in this magazine, please read this. It's so important for me to explain how I view my relationship with my couples. A year into my business, I longed for more purpose and more impact in my business. I loved the images I created but I knew there was something missing. I started realising that what I desired in my business, more than anything, was a personal connection to my couples. Everyone wants to be known, seen, loved and befriended. I don't know if I've ever met a human being who didn't appreciate someone caring about who they are, what they're passionate about, etc. In the early years of my business, I committed to forming friendships with my clients and intentionally caring to get to know them. It changed everything. Having a heart for genuine friendships in my business has made our business so much more than how I pay my bills, it's a huge part of my purpose in life. Not only is my friendship with my couples a gift to me, but it positively impacts my client's wedding day experience. When you are getting ready the morning of your wedding day, it will be a relief to feel like a friend walks through those doors with a camera and not just a random hired vendor. Friendship breeds comfortability and comfortability leads to trust... and trust is something that EVERY bride needs to have in their relationship with their wedding photographer! I'm so excited to get to know you and a great way of doing so is through an engagement session!



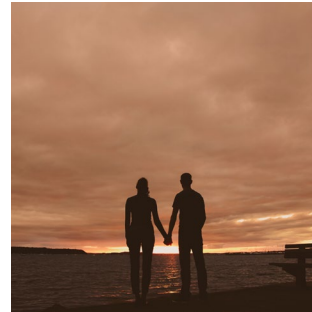
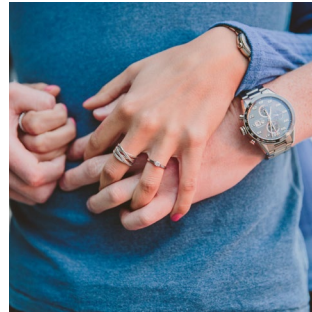
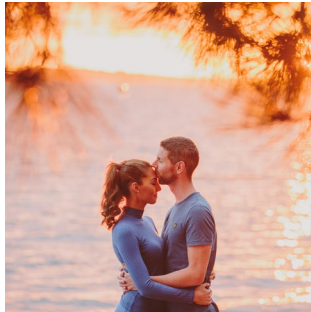
YOUR ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Now that you have picked a date, a venue and now a photographer as well, you can celebrate! Those are some of the toughest decisions in wedding planning and you can cross them off your list! Hooray!! Now on to the fun stuff... like your engagement session! If you have chosen to book an engagement session or it is included in your package, I can't wait to shoot your session! I truly believe that they are a VITAL part of the entire process. During your engagement session, you'll have the chance to get to know me, experience how I shoot and how I handle posing and lighting. This session will make a HUGE impact on how the wedding day flows. I'll arrive on your wedding day already knowing how you two interact, what your best poses are and how to photograph you in a genuine way! What I will learn about you during your engagement session is invaluable! You will feel like such a pro on your big day because of the great practice you had during your engagement session, and that's how it should be!

Your engagement session can be scheduled anytime before your wedding day. I normally suggest booking it at least 3-6 months in advance to avoid stress. Because my weekends are filled with weddings, I shoot engagements on weekday evenings, normally from 5-7pm depending on the light and the time of the year. In the winter months, 2-4pm is a normal time frame for an engagement shoot! As you start to plan for your engagement shoot, you will need to start brainstorming about location ideas. I LOVE it when couples pick a location that is special or sentimental to them in some way! If you can't think of anywhere specific that you would like to shoot, I can help you decide on a location! As long as the light is great, I can make ANY location look awesome! I shoot at farms, beaches, forests and even in the town centre for a more urban look! Do not shy away from crazy ideas! The more creative, the better! Be sure to keep reading to find out more about outfit ideas and inspiration!

ENGAGEMENT PREP

It's always a little intimidating to have your picture taken even if it's just a photo on an iphone that is taken by a friend. We still want to look nice, make sure nothing is in our teeth and that our hair is behaving! I realize that preparing for your engagement session can be a little overwhelming. Over the next few pages, I'll be providing tips for outfits, handling nerves and recommendations that will make your shoot the best it can possibly be!



the basics + what to bring

POCKETS | Empty your pockets! Literally. You don't want to have key chains or phones showing through your pockets. (This is for the guys especially!)

TIMING | The sun sets quickly especially if your shoot is not in the summer months. The later you arrive, the less time we have to shoot! Once the sun is set, the shoot will be over.

RING CLEANING | Clean the ring! I love to shoot a few rings shots while you change outfits! The cleaner the better.

CHANGING CLOTHES | As much as I would like to say that we always have toilets for outfit changes, more often than not, my clients do quick outfit changes in their car if there are no other options!

DEEP BREATHS | I'm going to help you along the way and it's going to be a blast! Enjoy this time together, and make a date out of it! Plan dinner afterwards and celebrate!!

PARKING FEE | This may not apply to your shoot, but you always want to plan in advance for a cash-only parking fee that we may encounter or any tolls. I've had instances where this has caused some stress and stress is what we want to avoid!

CLOTHING | Some couples like to have one casual, everyday outfit and then one outfit that is dressier! This will give your shoot two totally different "looks". If you choose to bring 2 outfits I recommend beginning with the dressy outfit first! If you're unsure about a few pieces, feel free to bring all options and I can help you decide.

LIP COLOUR & HAIRSPRAY | You may need to apply more lip color after one outfit change and a few kisses. (If you have a bold lip color, try to have a matte finish so it won't transfer to your groom as intensely!). Hairspray and a brush will be helpful if your hair struggles in the humidity!

FLIP FLOPS | If you're wearing shoes that are difficult to walk in but look awesome, bring some comfy shoes to change to while we walk to each shooting location!





DECIDING ON YOUR
STYLE

what style do you prefer?

BOLD or **NUETRAL**

DRESSY or **CASUAL**

CLASSIC or **TRENDY**

These choices represent the three main decisions you will have to make in regards to your outfit choices. There are no right or wrong answers! Maybe you want one outfit to be dressy and the other to be casual. Maybe you want one outfit to be very light and neutral but you want to wear more color in the next outfit. These categories will hopefully help you determine what you're hoping for in your engagement session. If you're feeling stuck and can't seem to determine what you prefer, that's very normal!

Here are some general "rules of thumb" when it comes to styling during an engagement session. Once you read through these, you may have a better understanding of what you prefer and you can start planning your outfits. These "rules of thumbs" are based off of my experience and aren't concrete rules that can't be broken. However, if you have questions about one of them in regards to what you want to wear, just email me and we can talk about what would be best! :

Things to Avoid:

1. **Colours to avoid** : Neons, bright oranges and sometimes bright reds (they reflect color onto skin and can be difficult to edit!)
2. **Avoid patterns smaller than a quarter** : Tiny patterns cause something called "Chromatic Abberation" in digital images. Men's checkered shirts are fine if the "checks" are on the larger side.
3. **Alternate Heaviness**: If one of you is wearing very dark jeans, the other may want to wear lighter bottoms. If one of you is wearing a navy top, the other shouldn't wear a dark/heavy colored top. To a certain degree, alternating the "heaviness" of your outfits can make your images look more balanced.
4. **Avoid one of you being casual while the other is more dressy**: This can look a bit awkward in photos. If one of you is dressed up and the other is casual, it can look a little odd.
5. **Other things to avoid**: Graphic tees, Bold logos on shirts, Sunglasses & Baseball Hats

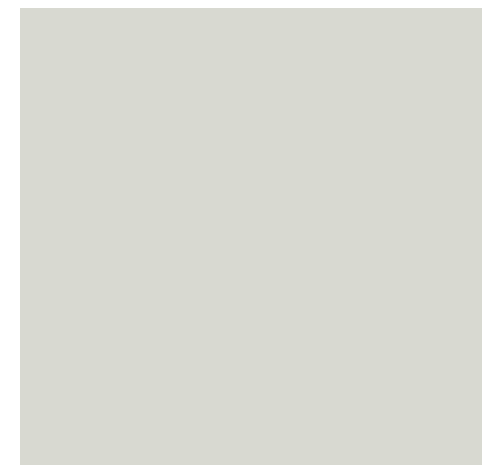
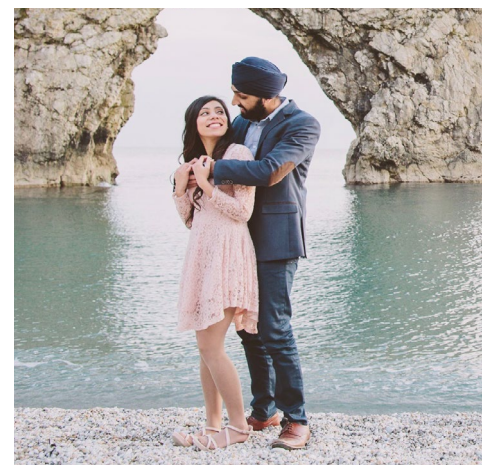
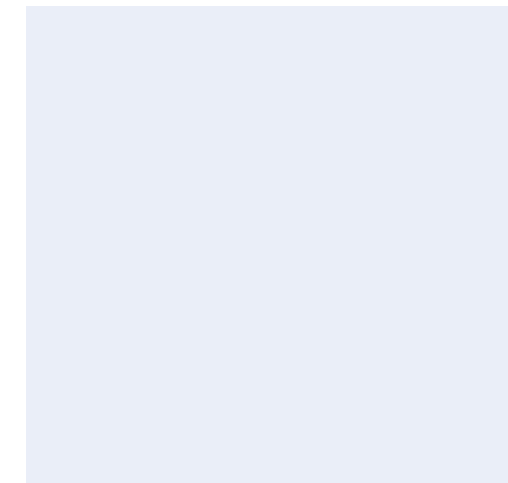
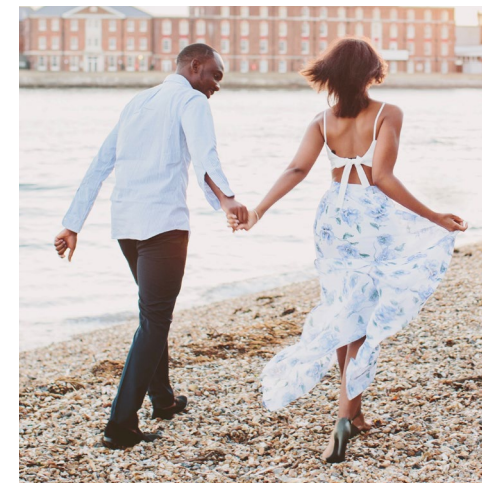
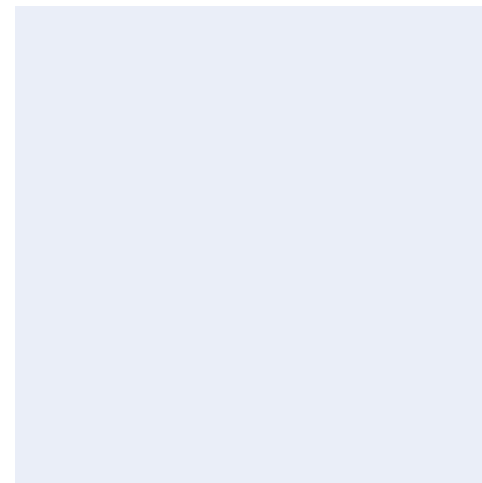
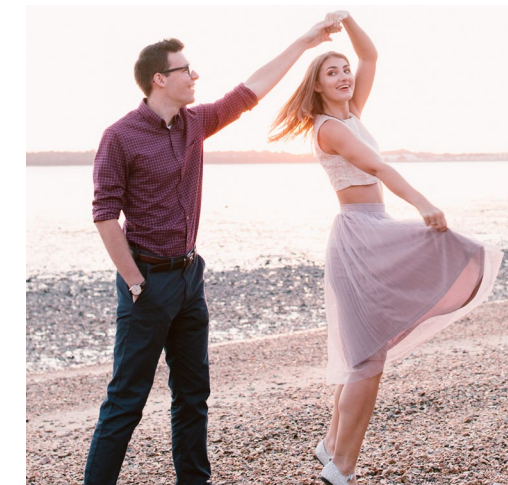
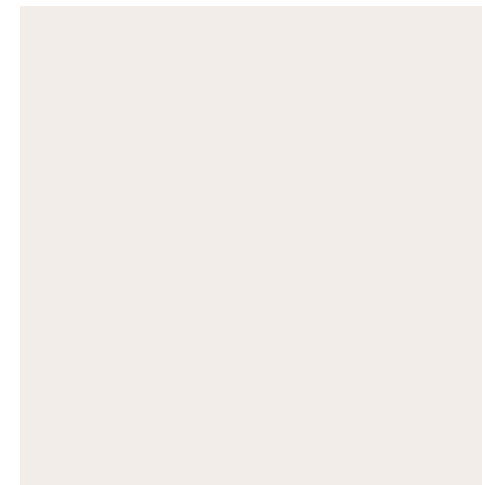
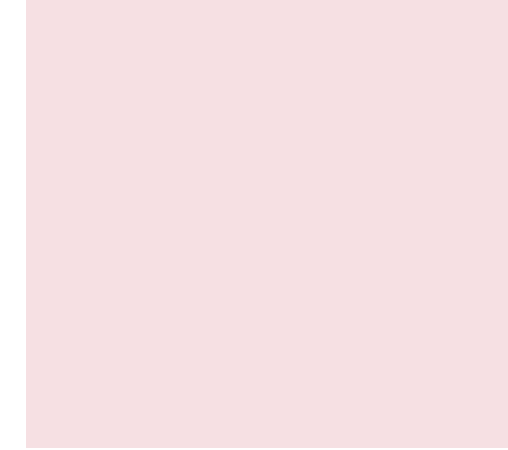
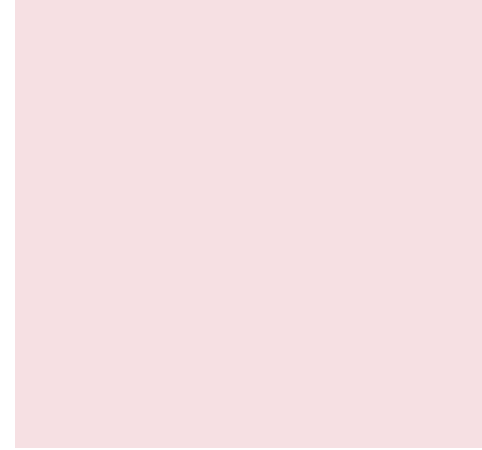
ROMANTIC STYLE RECIPE

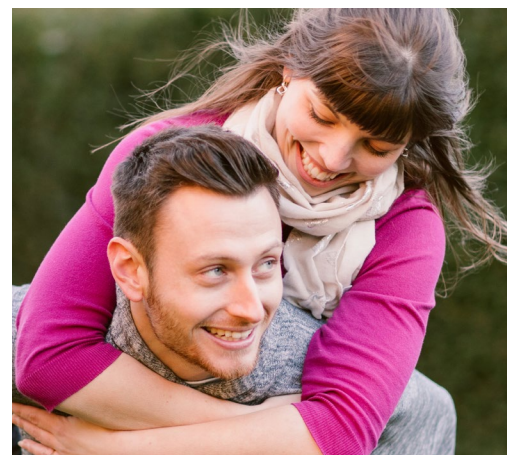
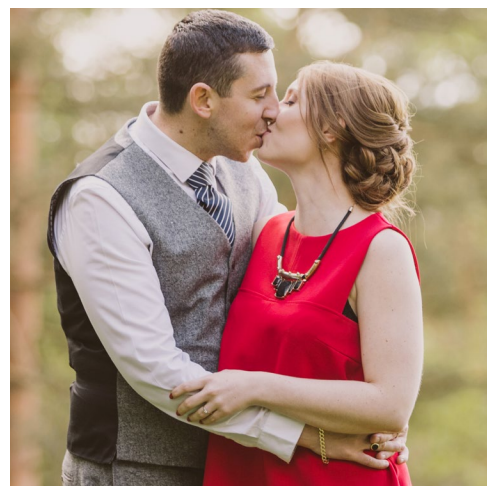
If you're hoping for a more romantic style of shoot that includes "light" and "airy" colours, you can actually make outfit choices that will lend your images to turn out brighter, softer and extra photogenic! Here are some ingredients that go into creating a romantic styled shoot. It's important to note that you do not need to choose all of these ingredients in order to have a light and airy style to your images but the more ingredients you include, the more romantic it will be:

- *Neutral Colors:* Blushes, tans, light pinks, faint blues and light minty teals, creams, greys and whites will always result in more of a light and airy look in your images. These colours photograph softer and more romantically!

- *Long, Flowy Skirts/Dresses:* Dresses and skirts with feminine ruffles, multiple layers of fabric and the ability to blow and move in the wind will always photograph beautifully! You would be amazed at how impactful moving fabric softens an image.

- *Khakis vs. Jeans:* If you really want your images to be as bright as possible, consider having your groom wear lighter trousers / chinos instead of dark dressy trousers or dark jeans.





BRIGHT & BOLD RECIPE

Just like the “Romantic” recipe, you don’t have to apply all of these “ingredients” to get a perfectly BRIGHT & BOLD look to your engagement session. These ingredients include:

- *Only one wears a pattern:* If one of you has a bold pattern, it’s very important that the other doesn’t. The more bold the pattern, the more important this rule is!

- *Bold Backgrounds:* Sometimes, if my couples are going for a bold and bright look, I will notice solid coloured backgrounds to use for part of their engagement session! It’s a double win if the background coordinates with their outfits!

- *Only one bold colour:* If you really want a bold and bright look but you want to do it well and tastefully, I would suggest that only one of you have a bright and bold coloured outfit and the other stay in a solid neutral to avoid over-doing it!

- *Large Patterns are Preferred:* If you really want to wear a pattern, my only request is that your pattern is on the larger side. Patterns that are smaller than a twenty pence coin can be difficult to photograph. This isn’t true of all patterns but it’s a good general rule to go by!



ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Approximate Start Times

WINTER

Dec-Mar 2:00-4:00pm

During December through Mid-March you can plan on your engagement session taking place between 2-4pm. However, the time changes in Mid-March and so that will make the start time one hour later.

SUMMER

Jun-Aug 6:30-8:30pm

Summer engagements, just like all engagements, take place two hours before sunset. This will hopefully mean that the shoot will be during the cooler part of the day.

SPRING

Apr-May - Varies

The sunset time drastically changes throughout the course of these two months and so our shooting times change as well. You can plan on approximately 5:00-7:00 in April and 6:00-8:00 in May.

AUTUMN

Sept-Nov - Varies

The sunset time changes drastically during these three months. In Sept, you can plan on 5:30-7:30 until the third week and then you can plan on 5:00-7:00 until Mid- Oct. After the first week of Nov, 2:30-4:30pm.

LOGISTICS:

I photograph engagement sessions on weekday evenings because my weekends are dedicated to photographing weddings!

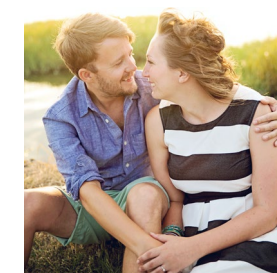
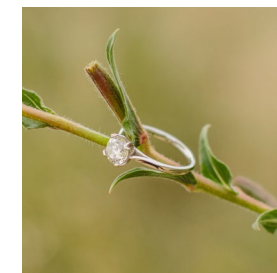
- I love shooting at gorgeous locations. I recommend two locations max for engagements. A general rule of thumb is the more locations and outfits, the less images, but the more variety you'll have!

- I can do sunrise sessions if necessary! I require sunrise shoots for those who want to take portraits in a very crowded locations like the beach in the summer.

- I love to travel for engagement shoots! However, if I have never been to your desired location, I may need some advice on where to park!



PREPARING YOUR GROOM



PREPARING YOUR GROOM

If you're a bride that is a little anxious about how your groom is going to react to this whole "picture" thing, you're not alone. I receive so many emails from brides who are worried that their groom won't be into it and I have great news for you.... you both are more photogenic than you think! I am constantly surprising couples by discovering their hidden modeling skills and my most common response from my Grooms is "That wasn't as bad as I thought! It was actually fun". Boom! Mission accomplished! When the groom says that taking pictures was FUN, I have done my job well! Your engagement session is supposed to be fun and relaxed, not forced or awkward. As you prepare for your shoot, there are a few things that you can do to help your groom know what to expect. First of all, I highly recommend sitting down with your guy and showing him 2-3 of your favorite engagement sessions that I have photographed. Spend some time together scrolling through a few blog posts, this will allow him to gauge what his expectations should be. I also recommend that you allow for plenty of time to get to your shoot! There is nothing worse than when a couple shows up late, and they have been arguing in the car! That is definitely going to put your groom in a bad mood! Last but not least, remember to have patience with him, and don't assume that he's not going to have a good time... I think you'll be surprised how much you will both enjoy your session with me!

YOUR
WEDDING
DAY



SAMPLE TIMELINE

Bridal Details 10:30-12:00



After the details have been photographed, it's time for the bride to get into her dress! This is a big moment! I usually ask the mother of the bride and all of the bridesmaids to be dressed by the time the bride is ready to get into her dress. This ensures that everyone will look nice in those images. After the bride is in her gown, she can put on her jewellery, veil, shoes, etc. and I will shoot some additional bridal portraits!

Every bride loves having those beautiful shots of her bridal details. It's an important part of the story and I love having some time to shoot the dress, shoes, jewellery, invitations, etc. These shots allow me to get warmed up for the rest of the big day. I normally like to allow at least 1 hour for this part of the day. While I'm shooting details, I'm also capturing some shots of the bride and her girls having hair and make up done and getting ready! If the groom is getting ready at the same venue I will also be able to capture some shots of the boys getting ready / before the ceremony too.



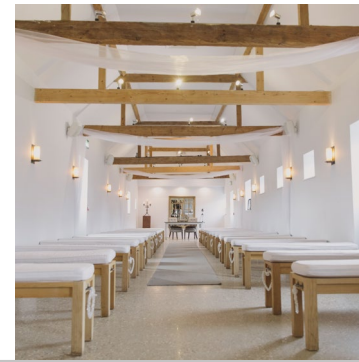
12:00-12:25 *Bridal Prep*

Final shots *Pre-Ceremony* 12:25-12:30

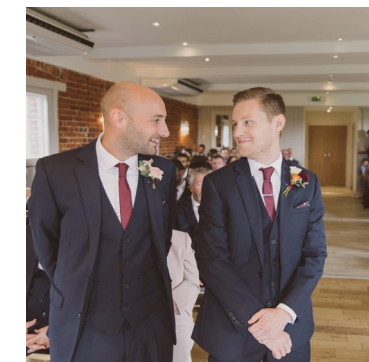


If there is time, before I leave for the ceremony, I always try and get a few extra shots of the bride and her bridesmaids all ready as well as a couple of photos of the bride and her parents. These shots are just extras if time allows but can always be taken later in the day if we are pushed for time.

Ceremony *Venue Details* 12:40-12:45



If I can and the room is still empty when I arrive, I love to be able to capture a few photos of the room all set up for the ceremony and details of any floral arrangements on the chairs.



Groom before *Ceremony* 12:45-1:00

Ceremony 1:00-1:30



I like to capture a few shots of the groom and his best man as they get psyched for the big moment of the bride walking down the aisle as well as some of the guests.



It's time to get married!! Most ceremonies are 30 minutes long. If your ceremony is longer than 30 mins, we'll make adjustments to the timeline! If you are getting married in a church, you will need to allow an hour as religious ceremonies always require extra time for prayers & hymns etc. Cherish these moments! Your ceremony will pass by so quickly!

Here's the page that can be somewhat intimidating! The TIMELINE! I know this isn't the most exciting aspect of the wedding day, but this is the one thing that can make or break your photography! These next two pages will outline an ideal wedding day working off of a 1pm ceremony timeframe and assuming that the bride is either getting ready at the venue or very nearby. Some couples may choose to do a first look, which will hugely benefit your wedding timeline and give you more time for couple portraits. You can read more about that option a few pages over! Remember that all wedding days are different, and your timeline may differ due to travel times and unique situations.

THE TIMELINE CONTINUED...

Confetti & Mingling 1:30-1:50



If the reception is in the same location as the ceremony, I will use this time to shoot 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 wedding breakfast begins and guests start laying down purses and coats on their seats!

Family Portraits 1:50-2:35

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.



We'll need at least 45 minutes for family formals as I will also be taking bridal party photos during this time. I will send a questionnaire before the wedding where you can list out the shots that you want. I recommend shooting portraits outdoors if possible so that they resemble more natural family portraits, especially if the ceremony location is dark! Try and allow 5 minutes per group photo.

You've spent so long planning out every little detail of your big day, deciding on a colour scheme and venue decor. I love to spend some time capturing those details for you including table decor and place settings, the table plan, guest book, cake etc.



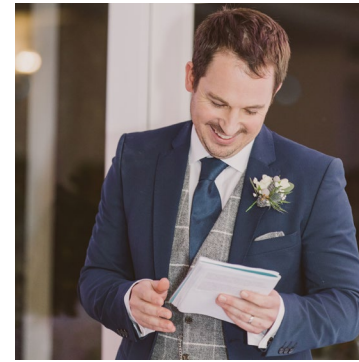
Venue Details 2:35-3:00

Bride & Groom Portraits 3:00-3:30



Now it's time for your couple portraits! We will use a couple of locations for your bride & groom portraits to make sure that there is variety in your photos. As you're having your last 5-10mins of portraits your guests will be seated and you will then be called in to be introduced for your wedding breakfast.

Speeches & Toasts 5:30



My personal preference is for speeches & toasts to take place after the wedding breakfast so you've had time to relax and eat and by then so will I. This means I can come back in the room fresh and ready to capture speeches and guest reactions. Generally allow for 2 hours for table service and for everyone's tummies to be full of food before commencing speeches. By this part of the day, my timeline isn't as strict as all of the main photos will have been taken during the drinks reception.

Now it's time for you to cut the cake to start the evening off, which then flows nicely into your first dance. I include 10 hours of coverage so that I can be present for the main events of the wedding day and about half an hour of dancing! With this time line you can expect me to stick around to capture some dance floor action until 8:30, I'll then give you a hug goodbye and leave you to party the night away!



Cake cut & First Dance 8:00

I love having a few extra minutes with the bride and groom to take a few "sunset" photos of the bride and groom in the glowy golden light if time allows after the wedding breakfast. I generally work off of the natural light and so after the sun is set, my portrait time is over and I begin focusing on the reception events! 28

APPROXIMATE TIMES:

DETAILS & BRIDAL PREP : 2.5 HOURS

COUPLE PORTRAITS : 30 MINS

BRIDAL PARTY : 15 MINS

FAMILY FORMALS: 30-45 MINS

VENUE DETAILS: 25 MINS

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

WEDDINGS & SEASONS



Portrait & Timing Tips for: WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER & AUTUMN

WINTER

Winter weddings are gorgeous! However, they do take some additional planning simply because of the sunset time. The hard part about a winter timeline is the fact that the sun sets around 4pm or even earlier. This means that all of your portraits have to be done before then! This isn't a problem if you choose to have an earlier ceremony to allow for the natural light closing in a lot earlier, please just be aware that later ceremonies will have very limited time for portraits and we'll have to get more creative with the light, introducing flash.

SPRING

Spring weddings are wonderful because the clocks have gone forward, allowing more time for daylight! They are usually the perfect temperature as well, not too hot or cold. However, I recommend having plenty of Piriton on hand just in case allergies start to flare up during portrait time. Spring weddings normally mean the potential for some pretty blooms! If we happen to find any type of blooming tree or plant, it will be worth it to give us a few minutes for portraits with it! You'll LOVE the result!

SUMMER

Summer weddings are amazing! I love that there is so much daylight! In some months, the light will last until 9pm! So, if you're having a summer wedding, you'll need to plan on having a few minutes to slip out of the reception for your sunset portraits! You will NOT regret this! This is the absolute best light of the day and you're going to want to have portraits during this time period. Usually these portraits happen during the downtime before the first dance so that no one even notices that you're gone for a few minutes!

AUTUMN

I love the temperature and the colours of an Autumn wedding! I just want to encourage you that all I need is one tree with some colour in order to make it look like Autumn! The warm, orangey tones of the leaves will look beautiful and a little bit of colour can go a long way!! Your portrait time will vary depending on your wedding date! We'll be sure to discuss this when I approve your final timeline!



PRECEREMONY



Let the day begin!

This portion of The Wedding Experience really sets the stage for the entire wedding day. The next few pages will share tips and tricks that will ensure a seamless morning of bridal preparation and beautiful portraits!



GETTING READY

It's the morning of your wedding! Hopefully all of the little details are taken care of and you're relaxing with your best friends while your hair is being done. If certain items haven't been checked off of the to-do list, it's time to hand them over to someone else. Delegation is a key part of a stress-free wedding day. I know it's hard to hand over the decorating duties and all of the last minute things that need to be done, but it really is important to relax on the morning of your wedding. The rest of the day is going to be fast paced and filled with a lot of emotions! Take advantage of this down time! There are a few things to consider about the "getting ready" portion of the day. Do you want to share a "first look" with your dad or any other person who plays a huge role in your life? Will you and your groom be exchanging gifts during this time? If so, who would you like to deliver them? Are there certain women in your life who would appreciate seeing you get into your dress? Some brides want very few people around for this moment. Other brides love having aunts and grandmas present! It's totally up to you!

A few other things to consider.... as you get ready to put your dress on, refrain from putting any jewellery on. I love shooting all of those final steps once you're in your gown! Speaking of the gown, if your gown is on a plastic hanger, try to make a note to bring a wooden or pretty silk hanger along for picture sake. If you forget, no big deal! I generally bring a couple of wooden hangers with me at to weddings! A clean, tidy space is always more appealing for the photos. Think about what you'd like in the background of your photos and try to hide away any clutter. Also, the larger the space the better, especially if you plan on having a lot of people getting ready with you, as the room can feel quite crowded and be difficult to take photos in these situations. It's a great idea to have back up shoes if you will need to walk across grass at any point on your wedding day and you're worried about getting your lovely heels muddy. Think about how much your feet will hurt from being in heels all day! Wellies are optional but can make for some quirky photos if it has been raining. Keep reading along for more "getting ready" tips to help you prepare!

THE DRESS

Think about who you would like helping you into your dress and who you'd like to surprise, seeing you in it with all the finishing touches for the first time. It is always lovely to capture people's reactions when seeing you in your dress for the first time. Make sure that the person / people who are getting you into your dress know what they are doing before hand as, dresses can take a while to do up, particularly if they are lace-up or have lots of buttons. A crochet needle is always a helpful aid for doing up buttons. It's also a good idea for the person / people helping you into your dress to all be ready in their outfit before hand as it makes for prettier photos.

THE WINDOW EFFECT

By having just a simple window in the bridal prep area, I am able to create beautiful portraits with soft light. I prefer natural light so the more windows, the better!





RINGS, SHOES, 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 beautiful way to showcase all of the little things that you have chosen especially for your wedding day and I love having ample time to stylise, and shoot everything from the dress, to the jewellery, to grandma's handkerchief! To the right, 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 hi to everyone and then begin with all the goodies! (Please assure your mum that I will take GREAT care of the dress, I promise!)

WHAT TO BRING



- dress
- veil / hair pieces
- rings (all three)
- shoes
- bouquet & boutonnieres
- jewellery
- perfume
- garter
- gifts
- special / sentimental items
- invitation & RSVP
- borrowed & blue

DAY-OF REMINDERS



GATHER the goods.

If possible, collect all of your details before I arrive so that I can begin quickly and have more time for some “getting ready” shots of you and your girls!

EXTRA elements.

Sometimes, depending on the theme and “look” of the wedding day, there may be some extra elements that you could include when you gather your details. For example, if you’re having a country-themed wedding, you could include a piece of burlap or lace. If you’re having a rustic-themed wedding that includes some wooden elements, maybe save a small piece of wood for me to use when I’m shooting your rings and jewellery. This REALLY makes for beautiful, consistent album spreads!

KEEP all three rings.

The most common detail missing when I arrive are the rings! Mums, officiants and planners will tell you to hand over your wedding band to the best man before the day begins. However, it’s actually better to hand it over just before the ceremony so that I can shoot some great ring shots in the AM! If you forget, no worries, I can always shoot the ring shot at the reception if there is extra time!

BRING the bouquet.

Don’t forget the Bouquet! Have the bouquets and boutonnieres delivered to the bride in the morning on the wedding day. No worries, if it’s hot, we’ll be sure to keep it in water as much as possible before the ceremony!

When you're planning a wedding day timeline, the best advice I could give is to ADD CUSHION TIME! Sometimes the most simple things can take an extra 20 minutes and then all of a sudden, the whole morning is thrown off. I have seen "getting the bride in her dress" take almost 45 minutes because of a button malfunction and another time the bridesmaids were unsure how to lace the dress up. It's a smart idea to add in an extra ten minutes here and there so that we have some wiggle room to work with! This way, if one part of the day gets thrown off by 20 minutes, I can help you compensate that time in other areas. There are so many different things to think about when you're planning a wedding day, and so here are some tips for the preceremony timeline! I realise that every single wedding day is different and so not all of these tips will apply to every wedding day schedule. Something else to consider is that not EVERYTHING will go as planned, and I promise you, that is completely normal!!



TIMING TIPS



BOUQUETS AND BOUTS

You will need your Bouquet & boutonnières for your First Look! Have them delivered to the room where the bride is getting ready.

TRAVEL TIME

Be sure to think about the travel time and TRAFFIC to and from your getting ready location and your venue!

HAIR & MAKEUP

I encourage brides to have at least their makeup half done before I start because who wants a ton of shots without their makeup on?! Nobody.

GROOMSMEN PREP

I will photograph the guys getting ready if they are getting ready in the same location as the bride and will arrive half an hour earlier if this is the case, to allow time for the additional shots.

GETTING IN THE DRESS

I'll instruct you to get into your dress close to a window and it would be fabulous to have your bridesmaids dressed when you're getting in your gown!

CREATE A CUSHION

A 10 minute cushion every now and then is a GREAT idea! It's amazing how fast time slips away the day of!



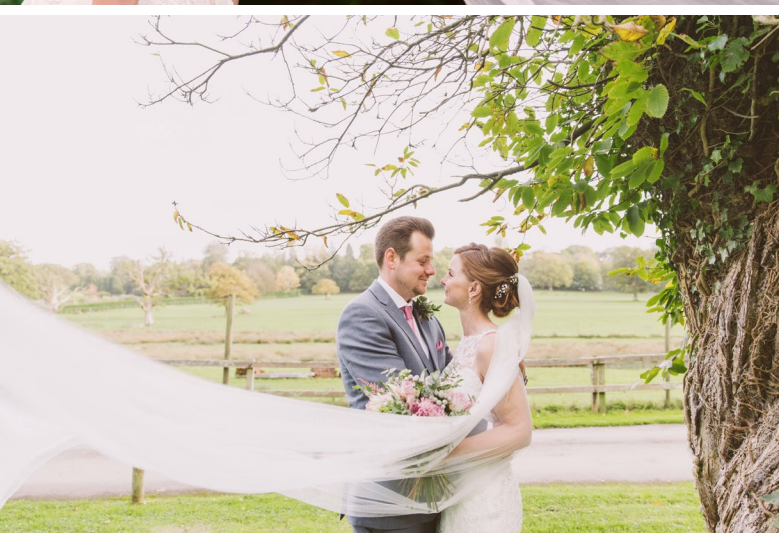
THE BRIDAL BOUQUET

There are so many expenses when it comes to wedding planning. Many brides have to prioritise what they want to invest in. I just want to give a little tip that can save money and make a huge impact on the way your images turn out. If you're having trouble making a decision about your florals, here is what I suggest. I recommend making your bridal bouquet a big priority! When I'm photographing a wedding, if the bride has a gorgeous bouquet, I can make the entire day look like there were beautiful florals everywhere! I can use the bridal bouquet to spruce up bridal details, reception details AND even bride and groom portraits as well! The bridal bouquet is a focal point for me when it comes to your photography, and so I highly recommend getting your DREAM bouquet and investing less on the bridesmaids bouquets since they will not be photographed nearly as much!

THE VEIL

I recommend that the bride wear her veil for as much of the day as possible because it's a beautiful part of your wedding outfit that you will of course only wear once and it looks great in the photos! EVERY bride needs to have a "Veil Blowing in the Wind" shot of their own! Your groom just has to be a little careful that he doesn't pull it out when he cuddles you and that he doesn't step on it when you're walking together if it is a floor-length veil. This happened at my own wedding as we were making our grand entrance for the wedding breakfast and I nearly fell over, but it did make us all giggle! Of course you can take your veil off in the evening during dinner and dancing to make you feel more comfortable and to avoid your groom tripping over it during your first dance.





WHAT MAKES A VEIL fly?

As your wedding photographer, I feel that it's my duty to let you know that not all veils have equal flying power! It's true! Some veils do not fly! It's actually very disappointing for a bride to realise on her wedding day that it's impossible to capture the "flying veil" shot she always dreamed of because she selected a veil that has too much detail and is weighted down too much to fly! So, if a flying veil shot is very important to you, here are some tips for selecting a veil that can easily go airborne and is extra photogenic! :

1. *Avoid heavy beading* and detail that weighs down your veil.
2. *One layer is best!* Multiple layers of tulle can be hard to toss.
3. *Off-white is best.* Some veils can actually photograph "blue" if they are a pure white and that is very hard to hide in editing! This is true for stark white dresses as well. Off-white, light ivories and creams are actually better for pictures!
4. *Fine tulle flies more freely.* Stiff tulle is a little more rigid.



YOUR FIRST LOOK

Your first look is an amazing part of your wedding day! If you aren't sure about this tradition which is really popular in the USA, the next few pages will explain why it would be a romantic addition to your wedding day celebration that not only adds to the experience but also reduces stress. Please know that I would never want any of my couples to feel pressured to go with this option. However, I do want to make sure that I share all of the benefits of a first look!

THE FIRST LOOK *explained*



First looks are AWESOME! However, not everyone is aware of how awesome they are, because they get caught up in how “non-traditional” it is, and they immediately write it off. I totally get it, you want a REACTION...You want your man to be so surprised and overcome with joy when you walk down the aisle that he bawls at the first sight of you! This reaction is actually even more likely to happen if you have a first look as there is no pressure and no audience, just you two together and your groom being overwhelmed by your beauty.

Some brides love “traditions”... but what a bride REALLY wants when it comes to her groom seeing her for the first time, is a REACTION. Those who are not interested in a First Look usually think that by seeing each other beforehand, they will lose part of that reaction. They also assume that it will not be as emotional or as intimate as it would be if they were coming down the aisle. The irony is that it is the total opposite! Everyone knows that wedding days are a bit stressful for the bride and groom. The whole day is focused on them, they need to look their best, they need to be on time, the groom has no idea what side the boutonniere is supposed to go on and little by little... the tension grows.

It's before the ceremony and the gravity of what is about to happen starts to sink in and the calm, collected groom who was playing golf just a few short hours ago is now starting to feel a little anxious. So what happens next? The groom waits in a little room somewhere for his cue from the coordinator. It seems like it's taking FOREVER. Finally, the coordinator leans her head in and hurries the groom to get ready. With clammy hands, the groom enters the ceremony and what does he find? he finds anywhere from 50-150 people and they're all looking where? Right at his face... because everyone has expectations and anticipation about his first reaction. This is the farthest thing from a private, intimate moment. Sure, it's SO powerful and SO wonderful. ... But by having a first look it will really calm the nerves as the pressure will be OFF and by the time the ceremony rolls around he'll be ready to ENJOY your beautiful day!

The nerves will be gone and when the nerves are gone... true emotions are free to be expressed. So if I were to condense what I just wrote... basically, Grooms normally become incredibly nervous on wedding days.... even if they seem cool and collected.

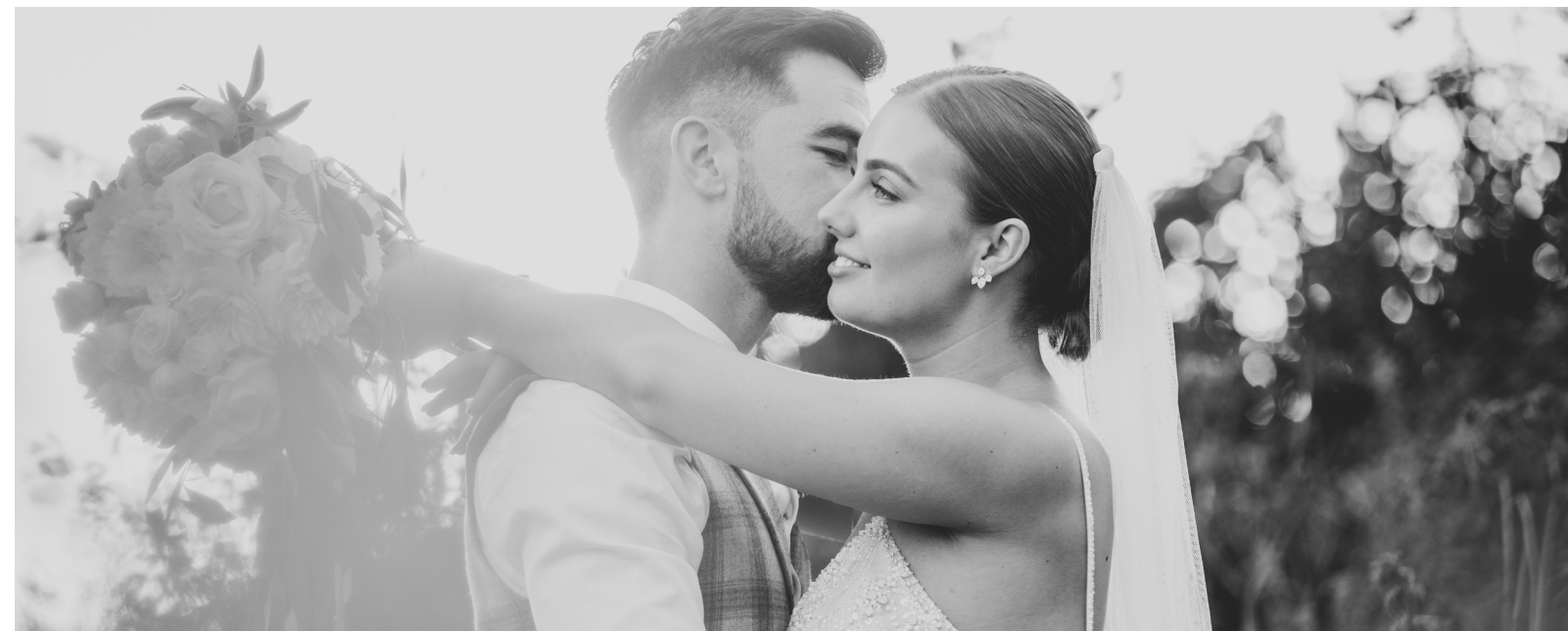
For most grooms, the nerves kick in before they see their bride because when they see her, everything becomes VERY real! So when the nerves start creeping up, instead of keeping the groom in a secluded space until his time to enter the ceremony, what if you took him to a private place... no people, no on-lookers, no distractions.... and you let his beautiful bride, the love of his life, quietly call his name and have him turn around to see her for the first time. He would turn around and finally get his first look at his stunning bride and not only would he get to see her... he could embrace her... cry with her... kiss her... and ENJOY that moment with her for as LONG as they wanted. As she shows him her dress, twirls a few times and then asks him what he thinks... his nerves start to diminish. After all, she's the one who can make him most comfortable anyway.

Because they aren't on a time crunch... they casually move into their romantic portraits. No one is around, the coordinator isn't announcing “15 minutes left”, and there is no pressure. It's just the two of them and their photographer.... capturing the excitement and the joy of their wedding day. This is their time to be TOGETHER...and to be ALONE. When does that happen on a wedding day? Without a First Look.... it doesn't.

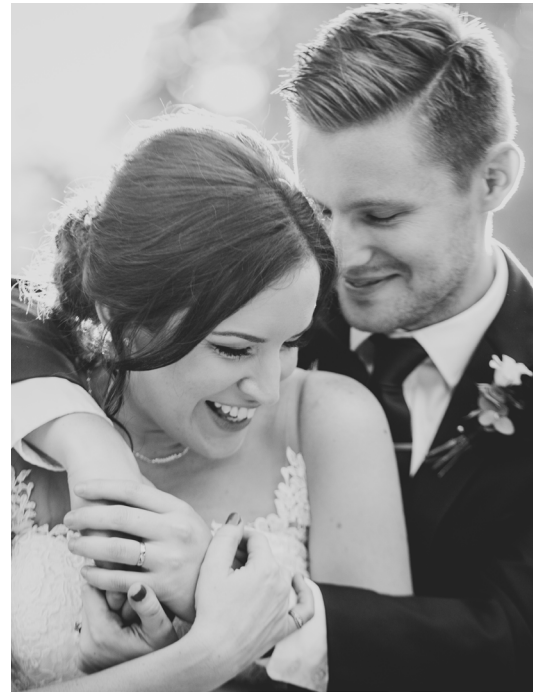
There aren't any guests waiting impatiently at the cocktail hour and there isn't a DJ coming to find the photographer to get a time check. It's wonderful! If there's time, you can also bring in your bridesmaids and groomsmen after your portraits with just the two of you. That way, we get all of the bridal portraits done before the ceremony and your bridesmaids and groomsmen are free to enjoy the reception.

After couple portraits are done, The guests begin to arrive and the ushers are in place. Pretty soon it's time for the processional music to begin and one by one, the bridesmaids make their way down to the front of the ceremony. As the groom clasps his hands... they aren't clasped out of nervousness but excitement. The music builds, the mother of the bride stands and all of the guests follow her lead. The groom looks up, and here comes the BRIDE!!! His best friend, his companion, his sweetheart....she's stunning.... ABSOLUTELY stunning. The closer she gets, the bigger he smiles.

Now let me put a disclaimer on here before we continue...my clients are not required to do a First Look by any means! I don't want to push anything on you. However, I've seen the benefits of a first look, and so I only share this because I want the BEST for my couples!! It's totally ok if couples choose not to share a first look! It's just a great idea to do one for many reasons.... Keep reading to find out more of the benefits of sharing your first look privately! For brides not interested in a First Look, I suggest to allow at least 2 hours after the ceremony to capture all the shots that you are hoping for, including a confetti shot if your venue allows confetti, family formals, bridal party photos couple portraits, candid photos of guests mingling & venue details with the room all set up beautifully for your wedding breakfast. There's a lot of photos to capture in a short space of time!



FIRST LOOK | *Why it's Worth It*



40% MORE PORTRAITS

You're investing a lot into your wedding photography. With a first look, you'll receive 40% MORE portraits of the two of you... and those are the images you will decorate your home with! (Believe me, our house is PACKED full of our portraits!) With a first look, you make the most out of this large investment and get the most for your money.

ENJOY THE SURPRISE FREELY

You actually get to have intimate time on your wedding day with your man. Most brides don't realise that when you come down the aisle and totally SHOCK him with your gorgeous-ness... he can't even tell you how amazing you look. He can't touch you, embrace you or even SPEAK to you. You have to wait until 30 minutes later when the ceremony is over for him to react and tell you how amazing you look. And after 30 minutes of the ceremony, the reaction isn't the same as the initial first glance.

EXTEND YOUR DAY

First Looks allow you to extend your wedding day. Normally the wedding day would start when you come down the aisle, then the ceremony would end, you would rush through portraits so that you're not late for the wedding breakfast and then it's party time. With a first look, your wedding day is extended! Instead of being rushed for your couple portraits and bridal party photos... you actually get to enjoy them and have fun hanging out with your partner and best friends on your wedding day.

YOUR ONLY ALONE TIME

First Looks allow you to be TOGETHER and alone on your wedding day. When you see each other for a first look, not only is it intimate, it will probably be the only time to be alone the whole day! You may cry and laugh and cry some more (Happy tears of course)... and then that will put you in the PERFECT mood for your romantic portraits. Normally portraits are a little rushed after the family formals, and it can be hard to really get back into that "loveyy dovey" mode.... especially with family around! When you have just shared your first look, you're READY to love on each other, and I will capture some super sweet images during those moments!

DIMINISHES NERVES

You get rid of your nerves! Most grooms think that they would not be fans of a first look, however, because they have never experienced their wedding day before, they don't know how nerve racking it can be. Most grooms who initially weren't a fan of the first look afterwards admit to being SO much more relaxed and ready for the ceremony!



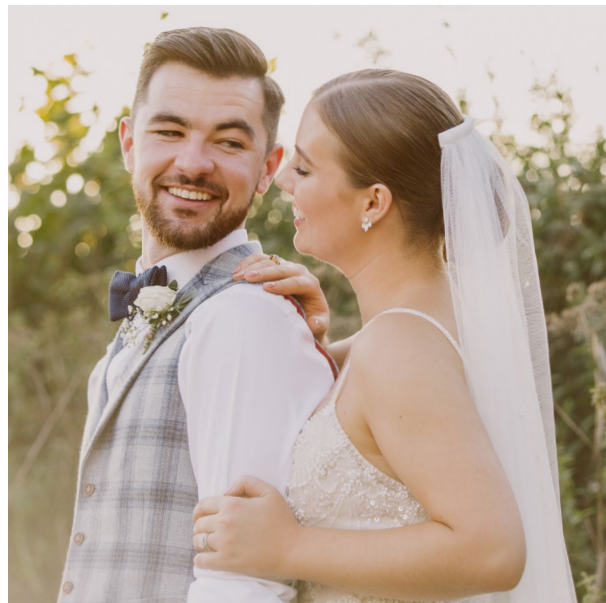
FOR THE BRIDE

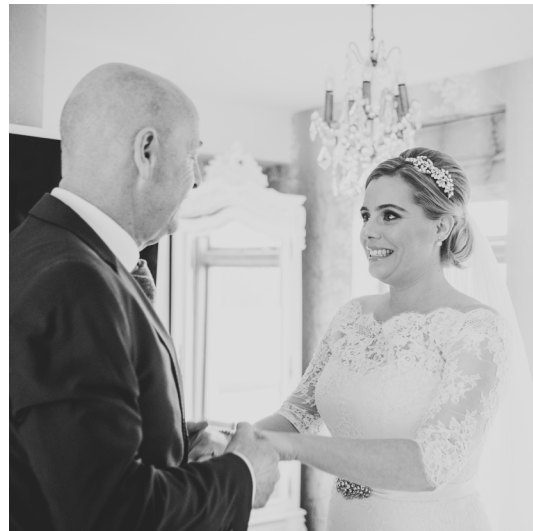
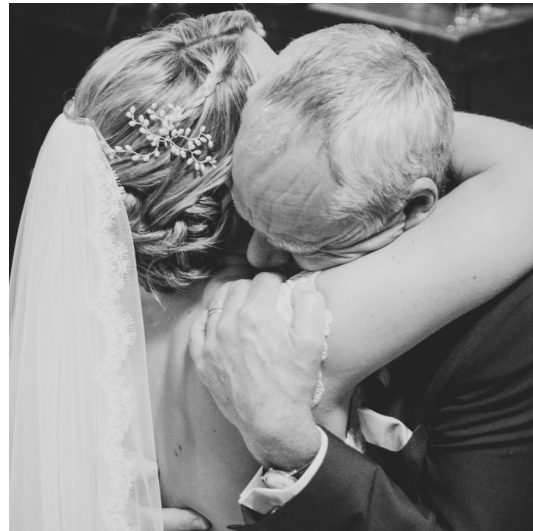
FIRST LOOK

EXPECTATIONS

Bride's, if you have never seen your man cry or get emotional, you can't expect him to be overly emotional on your wedding day. Some guys just embrace their brides and never cry.... and that's OK. Some guys show very little emotion when their bride is coming down the aisle and that's ok too. Just enjoy this amazing day, and try not to put any expectations on him. If you take this advice to heart, I could potentially be saving you a lot of disappointment on your day. One thing I have noticed after shooting over 200 weddings is that the stress and nerves that come with a wedding day can sometimes make it hard for some grooms to truly express their emotions. It's just a lot to take in all at once. This is a great reason to share a first look and also a great reason to give some grace to your guy! Sure, you deserve to feel beautiful, but my encouragement to you is to enjoy this time together, no matter what his reaction is like!

FIRST LOOK





The Daddy / Daughter

FIRST LOOK

This is for all of the brides who have a sweet spot in their heart for their dad. I have to admit that Daddy/Daughter first looks make me a little teary. For a lot of dads, this is when everything feels real and it hits him... "My baby girl is getting MARRIED!" These are precious moments to photograph and I highly encourage any daddy's girl to make time in their timeline for this moment. It doesn't take long at all! The hardest part is making sure dad shows up on time! If dad doesn't show up on time, the whole timeline can get thrown off, or we'll have to skip the daddy/daughter first look. Another sweet idea is having the father of the bride escort the bride to her first look if you're having one!



Options for notifying guests the your ceremony is

UNPLUGGED :

1. *Signage* : Have a simple sign that guests see as they are entering the ceremony
2. *Spoken* : Have your officiant politely mention that you prefer no cell phones
3. *Program* : Include your Unplugged Ceremony request in your program design

THE UNPLUGGED CEREMONY

Imagine this with me.... you're in my shoes.... the most important moment of the day is about to happen. You've checked your camera settings, you've taken test shots and you're ready to capture the bride coming down the aisle to her groom. You want to capture reactions, variety of angles and every moment of joy and emotion in those few seconds. However, just as everyone stands and the music plays, not one, but three different family members and friends get so excited that they take just one step out into the aisle with their iPhones in hand trying to capture the moment. I'm scrambling. My couple is trusting me not to miss this!!! But now I'm dodging guests who are trying desperately to have a good Insta-story to share and they have no idea that the back of their heads, their arms and their phones are blocking me from capturing the bride and her dad walking down the aisle. It's honestly one of the most terrifying things that can happen to a photographer during a ceremony and the hard part is, it can always be avoided. This issue is a growing one. Every wedding season I experience more and more of these issues. However, there is a solution! I highly recommend having an "Unplugged Ceremony". This is just another way of saying that you want only your photographer to be capturing photos and you would like everyone else to enjoy the ceremony instead of trying to capture it themselves.





THE CEREMONY

Here it is! The moment everyone has been waiting for! The music is playing and the guests have been seated. Ushers make their way to the front of the room, and the coordinator is lining up the bridesmaids while giving the musicians a 5 minute warning. The bride is about to walk down the aisle to the love of her life..... and if she's like most girls, she's dreamed about this moment for a long time! Vows will be shared and promises will be made... this is what it's all about!! In a world full of wedding blogs, Pinterest and bridal magazines, it's easy to be overwhelmed and consumed by the "prettiness" of the event. While details do matter and planning is necessary, it's important to never lose sight of the real purpose of this amazing day!



LIGHTING

Ceremony lighting is really important. If you get married outdoors at 12pm, the lighting will be extremely harsh and not only will there be harsh lines of light on your faces, you will also be squinting. The lower the sun, the more romantic the lighting but understandably, you wouldn't want to have your ceremony in the evening, just be cautious of the ceremony set up and if there is a building or tree blocking some of the harsh mid day sun, this will be useful. If you are having an indoor ceremony, it is always best to have EVEN lighting at the altar. If there are two spotlights on the bride and groom, I will not be able to expose the rest of the bridal party. It is better to have soft, even light across the whole altar.

ORDER OF SERVICE

I have seen so many couples do so many AMAZING things during their ceremony. Some couples share in communion while some light a unity candle. As you plan your ceremony, make sure you design it to be exactly what the two of you envision it to be. This is your day!! If you have the freedom to be creative, then by all means, be creative!! You could write your own vows or if either of you are good singer, you could sing the song you walk down the aisle to, which will make it extra special and personal and be a surprise to your partner. It's useful if you can make me aware of anything unusual you might be planning on before hand so that I'm prepared to capture photos of it.

PROGRAMS & DETAILS

The BEST advice I have for the program-making process is to remember that not EVERY guest needs a program! A lot of people print a program for everyone attending their wedding but quickly realise that most families only take one and you will have wasted valuable wedding money on printing! If you're having a church wedding with hymns that people will need to read off, one order of service between two people is usually sufficient as people can share. Also, before ordering your programs, have SEVERAL people check it for spelling and grammatical errors. Programs and the ceremony decor are things that the bride can plan in advance but then delegate the actual job of setting it up to a friend or coordinator. The last thing a bride needs to be doing the morning of her wedding is running around setting up floral arrangements! This leads me into my next column!

COORDINATION

Hiring either a full event planner or just a day-of coordinator is SO important!! Brides realise very quickly that if they do not have someone in charge of the coordination of the day, that responsibility will automatically fall on the mother of the bride, the photographer or the BRIDE! When a photographer is in charge of the timeline and the coordination of the day, the images will suffer. All of my most stressful wedding situations were caused by a lack of organisation and coordination. It's so important to make this a priority as well as allowing plenty of time for photos and cushion time in case things take longer than expected, and trust me, they almost always do! If you need any recommendations on wedding coordination services I would love to share some of my favorite vendors with you!

DESTINATION *Weddings*

If you are planning a destination wedding, a lot of the details in this guide will not apply to you! Your details, your timeline and even your preparation for the big day will be much simpler. However, it is a good idea to start thinking about a few key components of the day such as: your ceremony time and your ceremony/portrait locations (some destination weddings require some planning to find portrait locations without tourists in the background). Be sure to check the sunset time at your wedding location before settling on your ceremony time. As your wedding day draws closer, we'll begin to chat about the timeline of the day and the travel arrangements. Get excited!! This is going to be amazing!!





Sample List for

FAMILY FORMALS

I absolutely love meeting my couple's families on the wedding day! Family formals are normally my first interaction with them and so I love to have a game plan for this part of the day! Around eight weeks before the wedding, you'll receive a questionnaire from me that will ask you to list out the family formals you want me to capture. Here is a sample family formal list to help you start preparing what shots you need. We do have to limit the family formal time in order to ensure that we have plenty of daylight for your romantic portraits. However, any family group shots that we don't accomplish during family formals, we can be sure to capture later at the reception and just use flash if needed!

B&G with Bride's Immediate Family
(Parents, Siblings, Nieces, Nephews)

Bride with her Siblings

Bride with her Parents

B&G with Bride's Grandparents

B&G with both sets of Parents

B&G with Groom's Immediate Family
(Parents, Siblings, Nieces, Nephews)

Groom with his Siblings

Groom with his Parents

B&G with Groom's Grandparents

B & G with all guests

B&G with all family members if time allows

ROMANTIC PORTRAITS

If we're being honest, all of the wedding day images are important, but the real favorites are almost always from my time with the Bride and Groom! These romantic portraits of just the two of you will be the images that you frame beside your bed or over your mantle, and they will also be the images that will fill your album for generations to enjoy. These images are always my favorite not only because of their beauty, but because this is such a sweet portion of the day. For this brief moment in time, you will be alone with your groom on your wedding day. You will have a chance to love on each other and really connect before the craziness begins! Romantic portraits are either done before the ceremony (after the "First Look") or after the ceremony once you have had a little time to mingle and your guests have congratulated you. I also LOVE shooting a few evening portraits after the wedding breakfast as well! This is when the light is low and golden! It's such a romantic time for bride and groom portraits! This is season dependant though as it gets darker a lot quicker in the winter months. Sometimes I might spot a great opportunity with the light for some photos in between food courses and will ask if you're happy to pop out for a few extra photos. If you're not interested in a first look, make sure to include a lot of time after the ceremony for these beautiful portraits!



TRUSTING PORTRAIT LOCATIONS

One of my favorite parts of my job is taking something so ordinary and making it look absolutely amazing! This happens most often when it comes to picking portrait locations! If there is one thing that I love and appreciate about my couples, it's that they trust me! Sometimes I select portrait locations that most people wouldn't consider attractive. For example, the image on this spread was taken on the side of a car park! I spotted the beautiful blossom tree and knew it would make for some amazing portraits. There's also been times where we have pulled off on the side of the road as we found poppies growing next to the pavement so the bride and groom stood in this spot for a few minutes, because the light was just perfect! There was nothing particularly special about this place. It was just a side of the road from everyone else's point of view except mine! However, because my couple trusted me, and they were willing to pull over and run across the road into this spot, they now have the most beautiful portraits! So my encouragement is to just trust me! You don't have to worry about a thing! Trust my locations, and I promise you, you'll LOVE the results!



HIGH - IMPACT PLANNING

There are so many expenses when it comes to wedding planning. Many brides have to prioritize what they want to invest in. Over all of the years I've been photographing weddings, I have found that there are certain things to avoid investing in and other parts of the day that a little extra investment will go a very long way! My hope is that this list will help you invest in the parts of your day that will be high-impact and will help you avoid spending money where it doesn't matter.

1. Invest in your bridal bouquet over other florals : Make your bridal bouquet a big priority! When I'm photographing a wedding, if the bride has a gorgeous bouquet, I can make the entire day look like there were beautiful florals everywhere! I can use the bridal bouquet to spruce up bridal details, reception details AND even bride and groom portraits as well! The bridal bouquet is a focal point for me when it comes to your photography and so I highly recommend getting your DREAM bouquet and investing less on the bridesmaids bouquets since they will not be photographed nearly as much!

2. Go with greenery over blooms : Greenery is beautiful and photographs well but it can be half the price of ordering blooms. I recommend actual flowers for your bridal bouquet and other bouquets but then decorating other aspects of the day with greenery to save money but still make a huge visual impact!

3. Have one well-done Installation instead of a lot of small vignettes of decor : If you're hoping for a heavily detailed reception but the cost is adding up, focus on one focal point instead of trying to decorate everywhere. For example, invest in a beautiful, large, hanging chandelier or unique lighting elements but do shorter, simpler floral centerpieces on 1/2 of your tables and candles on the other 1/2.

4. Double purposes for decor: Maybe you choose to have an epic, well-styled entryway decor for your ceremony and reception that also doubles as an amazing photobooth later on throughout the evening once party dancing has started!

5. Avoid spending money on tiny details : Customised favors, personalised M&M's, etc.... it all adds up and at the end of the day, your hard work in the tiny details can often be overlooked.





THE CASE OF A RAINY WEDDING DAY

One of the most frequently asked questions that I receive during wedding season is “Soooo, what do you do if it RAINS?!” I want to reassure you that even if it rains, you will still have beautiful portraits and BRIGHT colors in your images! Overcast skies mean vibrant colors! I know that rain isn’t ideal, and no bride would wish for rain on their big day, but if it happens, it happens..... and it’s going to be JUST fine!! Some of my best weddings have been on rainy wedding days! Here are a few things to remember:

1. All I need to create natural light portraits on a rainy wedding day is a porch! Just one porch! That means that you get to stay dry and still have beautiful natural light portraits. I also always have 2 big white umbrellas in the back of my car in case it rains and you want to make the most of your venue grounds, which I recommend if you’re happy to venture outside.
2. Let me worry about the pictures. You have enough to think about. If there is a chance of rain, I’ll be sure to do some extra scouting to find a covered location or two, for us to use for your romantic portraits and bridal party portraits.
3. Take it one step at a time. Don’t think about your entire day and what will happen if it rains. That will only overwhelm you! Definitely have a rain plan for your venue, but then let your vendors do the work of handling the rest of the day if rain is in the forecast.



This was the last shot of the night and it so perfectly shows that the rain can’t keep us from taking beautiful images! It can actually give a real magical feel to some photos. Don’t let the fear of rain steal your joy. You can’t control it, and I promise I will make the best of it!!!



your bridal party.

Lets chat about your bridal party! This is when the fun REALLY begins! I know from experience that all brides want their closest friends to have an AMAZING time during their big day, and I will make sure that happens! Bridal party portraits should be a ton of FUN! After you share your first look, depending on the locations and the timing of the day, your bridal party can join us for portraits! If all goes well, we will be able to accomplish ALL of your bridal party portraits BEFORE the ceremony. This means that your guys and gals will be free to mingle in the evening if they wish! If there are flower girls and ring bearers involved, they can either join us for the pre-ceremony portraits or we can take a couple of group photos with them straight after the ceremony, before they run around and potentially get dirty or drop food down their clothes. Be sure your groomsmen arrive with boutonnières on, and your bridesmaids arrive with their bouquets!



RECEPTION DETAILS



The party is here!! Receptions can be a blast! However, it's important to make sure that you have your event well thought out. This is the job of your coordinator and your DJ/Band. Your caterer will also play a big role in the design and set up of your event. Every aspect of your reception affects the overall outline of the evening. For example, if you're not having a plated meal, your reception will need to be set up in a way that allows movement. Guests will need to be able to find the food stations easily, and there will be a mixture of dinner tables and hightop cocktail tables. This will encourage guests to mix and mingle. If you are having a plated dinner, you will more than likely need a table plan, with full place settings and space for all of your guests to be seated comfortably. Whatever the style of your event, make sure that you plan out all of the aspects of the evening. Your wedding coordinator and DJ can help you set up the evening so that guests won't leave early or experience long periods of waiting for the next thing to happen.

Much like the ceremony, you have the freedom to make your reception your own! It's your party, it should be exactly how you want it to be! Here is a list of some key events that often happen at receptions:

- *Welcome by Father of the Bride*
- *Speeches*
- *Cake Cutting*
- *Bouquet Toss*
- *First Dance*
- *Daddy-Daughter Dance*
- *Mother-Son Dance*
- *Group portraits with friends*

RECEPTION TIPS

The fun has begun! It's time to relax, dance and celebrate!! Your reception should be a BLAST! The last thing you need to be worrying about is your timeline. Your coordinator and DJ should take care of making sure that everything stays on schedule so that you can enjoy your night. Here are some useful tips that will help your reception flow smoothly.

- **GUEST CONSIDERATION** : *Take your guests into consideration when planning your timeline. If you have a lot of elderly guests that will not be staying until the very end, make sure you schedule the cake cutting at a relatively early time so that they can be a part of it. Grandma's love seeing this sweet tradition!*

- **KEEP IT MOVING** : *Chat with your coordinator about how you can plan your reception in a way that will keep guests engaged and moving all night!*

- **MAKE IT YOUR OWN** : *If you want to have a special dance with your grandparents, do it! Make your reception a reflection of who you are and don't feel tied to traditions. Also, make sure you give your DJ or Band a "Do Not Play" list if there are some songs you really don't want to hear during your reception!*

- **DON'T GET CAUGHT UP** *in the formalities and the details. Sure, details are pretty and fun to photograph, but they can steal the joy of the day if you get too caught up in them. (Just speaking from experience here) Plan your centerpieces, welcome table, etc. well before the wedding date, and teach your coordinator or family friend how to set them up so that you aren't even thinking about those things the day of!*

- **RECEPTION COVERAGE** : *Standard coverage time for your photography is 10 hours, which generally covers you up until the first dance and some dancing shots of guests afterwards. I recommend planning your timeline so that you can have at least half an hour of dancing photographed as everyone will have had a few drinks by then and I can get some great dance floor shots of your guests having fun and showing off their moves! The guests who dance during the first hour will still be dancing in the third hour! Half an hour of dancing is usually enough time to really capture the joy of your reception, however if you'd like to purchase more coverage, it is available at £100p/h*





RECEPTION:
CONTROLLED
EXITS

Exits! As standard coverage lasts 10 hours and will end before your exit, you have the option of planning a faux exit with your bridal party! This is more common than you may think. Instead of saving your exit until the very end, you can plan a faux exit with just the members of your bridal party and a few family members! This allows me to have more control over these shots and the party NEVER has to stop! In most cases, no one even notices that the bride and groom are missing for a few minutes! Also, it's almost impossible to tell that the whole wedding party isn't there waving sparklers and sending off the happy couple! If you are planning to have sparkler photos, something to bare in mind is the time of year, as you need it to be almost dark outside for the sparklers to have full impact, which is a lot later during the summer months and therefore may require extra coverage to be purchased if you'd like this moment captured. Another consideration is how are you going to light them all at the same time? I suggest purchasing a blowtorch to make it as easy as possible, however you need to delegate the task of getting the sparklers lit to someone responsible and careful. I also suggest purchasing the larger 18" sparklers as these will last longer, meaning you get more sparkler photos!



LEGACY ALBUMS



I made my wedding album right after I was married on 08.06.17 and I will treasure it! Having digital images is wonderful, but having a printed keepsake that tells a visual story of your wedding day is priceless! If you haven't already invested in a Legacy Album of your own, you can always come back to me at any time and order one. If you decide that you'd like to upgrade to an album package, you can do so any time up until your final payment is due 30 days before your wedding. After this point, albums can still be purchased but will be full price as they are discounted especially for my packages. I am not a photography business that pushes product sales at all. However, these albums are important not just for my couples to have... but for their grandchildren to enjoy one day as well. Various cover options and colours are available including Rustic Tuscany Leather, presented in a beautiful wooden box (Opulent Package), Buckram, Linen, micro leather, photo cover and wood, all presented in an elegant box.

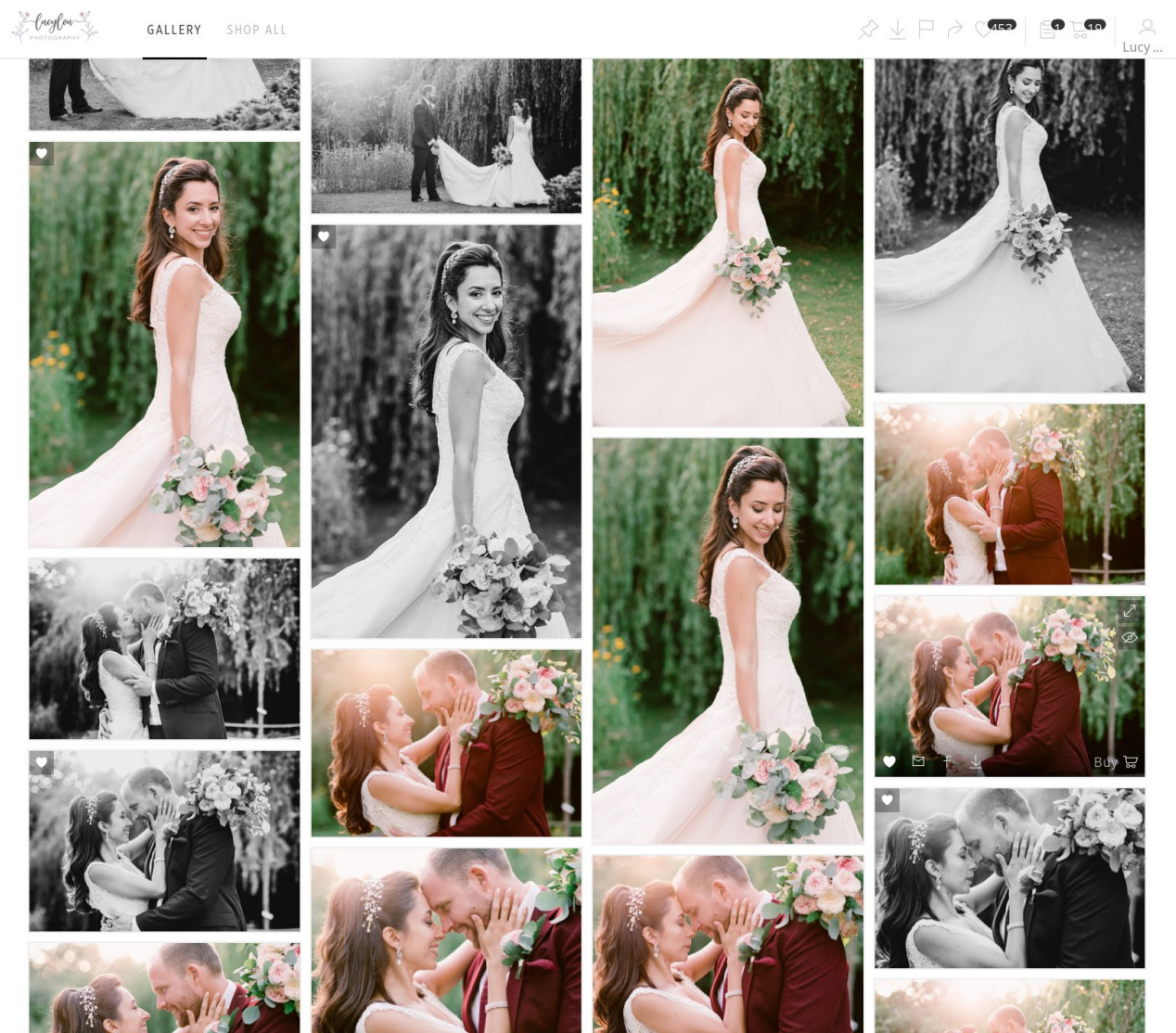
SIZE OPTIONS:

10x10, 12x10, 12x12

SAY THANK YOU WITH A PARENT ALBUM :

My husband and I didn't have any trouble picking out our parent's Christmas gifts the year we got married! A lot of the time parents do so much to make their children's wedding a dream come true and so why not surprise them with their very own albums for Christmas! Parent albums can be added on to any album purchase or album package in multiples of two and will be smaller duplicates of the main album, although you can choose to have a different cover for the parent albums. If you would like to receive your albums in time for Christmas, let me know before November 1st so I can get them designed and ordered!





YOUR ONLINE GALLERY

Years ago you had to order prints of the images that you wanted to have forever. That isn't how I work around here! I want you to have ALL of your memories in your possession forever and ever! I also want you to share your images freely and without any hesitation. This is why I deliver your images via an online gallery! This means that you'll have access to them wherever you are and you won't have to wait on a package in the mail, although you will also receive a beautiful USB with your images! I've listed some important information that will help you understand your online gallery and all that it can do on the next page! Enjoy! :

DOWNLOADING PHOTOS:

You will be able to download your edited images directly from your online gallery, and they will be high resolution! This process is very simple! All you have to do is click the "downwards arrow icon" and you will be prompted to enter your name and email. Once you enter your name and email, you will be asked if you want to download just that one photo or if you would like to download all photos! Your photos will download directly to your "Downloads" folder. If you opt to download the entire gallery, you will be notified via email when your entire download is ready. It takes a little while to prepare for hundreds of images to be downloaded!

FAVOURITES & ALBUM DESIGN:

You will be able to select your favourite photos from the gallery by clicking on the 'heart symbol' and any friends or family that you invite to view the gallery will also be able to select their favourites too! When I send you the link to your online gallery, I will also explain about choosing your photos for your album if you have albums included in your package, and I will send you a separate email to make your photo selection for your album.

ORDERING PRINTS:

You can actually order professional and affordable prints from within your online gallery and have them shipped directly to your house! Multiple print sizes are available and are printed in a professional UK lab to ensure colour and contrast accuracy! You are more than welcome to print images on your own. However, I would warn you to avoid printing in the supermarkets and instant machines that you get in Boots etc. I cannot promise that your colours will print true-to-life if you choose to print at those stores. If you don't print through your gallery, I recommend using <http://dscourlabs.co.uk>!

GALLERY EXPIRATION:

I have great news! Your galleries will not expire for at least 1 year from your wedding date! Isn't that amazing?! However, even though you will have access to your images for a long time, I would still recommend downloading them and saving them in multiple places for safe keeping!

SHARING, WATERMARKING & EDITING:

You have the freedom to share your images in any way that you choose! These are your images, and I want you to love them so much that you can't help but share them! I don't believe that it is necessary to watermark my images. All I ask for is some type of credit whenever you use an image on social media! I only have ONE rule when it comes to what you can and cannot do with my work. I always encourage my clients not to re-edit their images. Let me do that hard work! However, if you have an image or two that you want to print at a very large size and you find an imperfection, I will gladly perfect it!

NON-PROFESSIONAL PRINTS

How bad could it really be?



This is the original image that I edited and delivered to my couple. To the right, you'll see the most common print issues that clients experience when they choose to not print through their online gallery that I provide for them. I make sure to offer as many print sizes as possible at the most affordable price so that my clients can have access to professional quality prints for the images that they invested to much in. Investing in high-end photography but ordering prints at Asda is similar to wearing an evening gown to a date night at Nandos. It just doesn't make sense.

SAMPLE PRINTING ISSUES:
High contrast, over-saturation and de-saturation

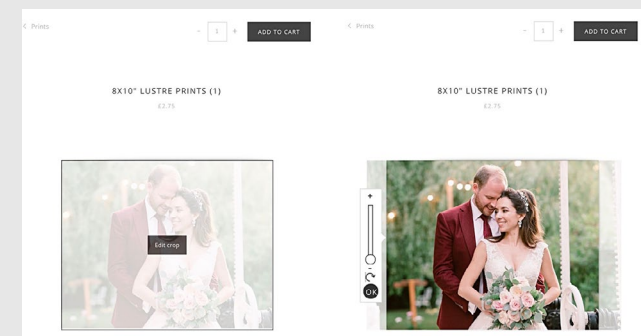


Once your images have been delivered via your online gallery, you can begin ordering professional prints. Your prints will be printed in a professional lab and then shipped directly to you.

USE THE CODE : "UUK1AMBN" for \$30 off an order of \$60 or more!

Special Care for
8x10's and 5x7's

For some reason, our culture has normalized print sizes that are not similar size ratios to the ratios that a camera captures. This means, when you are ordering an 8x10 or 5x7 print, you will need to pay attention to the "Crop" option and adjust the crop of your print before ordering! See example to the right!



RECOMMENDED SUPPLIERS

MAKE UP:

CLASSIC BEAUTY THERAPY BY AISHA

Aisha is my sister and she's amazing!

Telephone: 07821570047

<https://www.facebook.com/Classicbeautytherapybyaisha>

ELEGANCE BRIDAL COIFFURE

Telephone: 07737 899 237

<http://elegancebridalcoiffure.co.uk>

HAIR:

NATASHA MACKENZIE

Telephone: 07795 231492

<https://www.facebook.com/WedhairwithNC/>

FLC HAIR & BEAUTY

Telephone: 07453280488

Email: info@fionalucyclark.co.uk

<https://www.fionalucyclark.co.uk>

CAKES:

KAREN' CAKE COUTURE

Telephone: 07706672375

Email: karen@karencakecouture.co.uk

<https://www.karencakecouture.co.uk>

FANCIE BUNS

Telephone: 07796 614978!

<http://www.fanciebunscakery.co.uk>

BRIDAL DRESSES

ANNA BRIDAL COUTURE

Telephone: 01425 471176

Email: info@annabridal.co.uk

<https://annabridal.co.uk>

CREATIQUES

02392 82 66 22

couture@creatiques.co.uk

<https://www.creatiques.co.uk>

WEDDING PLANNERS

BELLISSIMO

Telephone: 01202 533014

Email: info@bellissimo-weddings.co.uk

<http://bellissimo-weddings.co.uk>

BLANK CANVAS WEDDINGS

Telephone: Lyn - 07824 809664

Heidi - 07776 152396

Email: info@blankcanvasweddings.co.uk

<https://www.blankcanvasweddings.co.uk>

MARQUEE HIRE

BEES MARQUEES

01691 839 917

Email: info@beesmarquees.co.uk

<https://www.beesmarquees.co.uk>

WHITE BISON TIPI HIRE

Telephone: 0778 887 2846

Email: powwow@white-bison.com

<https://www.tipi-hire-berkshire.co.uk>

VIDEOGRAPHERS

DEVOTED FILMS

Telephone: Richard – 07792 928585

Mark – 07824 379716

Email: info@devotedfilms.co.uk

<http://devotedfilmswedding.co.uk>

BLUSH WEDDING VIDEOS

Telephone: 07527874987

Email: info@blushweddingvideos.co.uk

<http://www.blushweddingvideos.co.uk>

SPICE WEDDING VIDEOS

Telephone: 07903527415

Email: info@spiceweddingfilms.com

<https://www.spiceweddingfilms.com>

FLORISTS

LITTLE VIOLETS FLORAL DESIGN

<http://little-violets.co.uk>

CONCEPT FLOWERS

Telephone: 07933715461

<https://conceptflowers.co.uk>

LITTLE LILLIES FLORAL SCULPTOR

Telephone : 02380 22 1000

Email: owen@little-lillies.co.uk

<https://www.little-lillies.co.uk>

SARAH GUILD FLORAL DESIGN

Telephone: 07766 223 692

Email: hello@sarahguildfloraldesign.co.uk

<https://www.sarahguildfloraldesign.co.uk>

BRIDAL FLOWERS DIRECT

Telephone: 023 9259 1422

Email: clare@nurseryfresh.com

<https://bridalfloresdirect.com>

TRANSPORT

DORSET DUB HIRE

Telephone: 01202 848857

Email: Catherine@dorsetdubhire.com

<https://www.dorsetdubhire.com>

VINNIE'S VINTAGE VEHICLES

Telephone: Vince: 07989 518427 | Karen: 07812 543057

Email: hello@vinniesvintagehire.co.uk

<https://www.vinniesvintagehire.co.uk>

ALLENBY LIMOUSINES

Telephone: 07737428281

Email: enquiries@allenbylimousines.co.uk

<http://www.allenbylimousines.com>

ENTERTAINMENT:

ANDREW KELLY - MAGICIAN

Telephone: 07746 321 011

Email: info@andrewkellymagic.com

<https://www.andrewkellymagic.com>

CHRIS PIERCY - MAGICIAN & HYPNOTIST

<https://chrspierymagic.co.uk>

VIVA LAS VEGAS CASINO HIRE

Telephone: 01202 762339

Email: info@vivalasvegasuk.com

<https://www.vivalasvegasuk.com>

PHOTO BOOTHS:

LUCYLOU PHOTO BOOTHS

Telephone: 07543165272

lucylouphotography@outlook.com

<https://www.lucylouphotoboosth.co.uk>

CATERERS:

SMALLPIECE CATERING

Telephone: 01489 877 931
Email: info@smallpiececatering.co.uk
<http://www.smallpiececatering.co.uk>

RED CHERRY CATERING

Telephone: 01202 476 461
Email: enquiries@redcherrycatering.com
<http://www.redcherrycatering.com/wedding-catering>

SIGNATURE CATERING

Telephone: 01425477665
Email: anita@signaturecateringco.co.uk
<https://www.signaturecateringco.co.uk>

MOLECULAR MAGIC

Telephone: 01202 041760
Email: magic@molecularmagic.co
<https://molecularmagic.co>

IDELICA PAELLA & TAPAS CATERING

Telephone: 07932 677255
Email: emma@idelica.com
<http://www.idelica.com>

LUCY'S HOG ROAST

Telephone: 07902008449
Email: lucysbbqandhogroast@gmail.com
<http://www.lucysbbqandhogroast.co.uk>

MUSIC

YOUR DJ

Email: book@yourdj.co.uk
<https://yourdj.co.uk>

ALL PARTIES & EVENTS DJ

Telephone: 02380 660 433 / 07879 801 475
Email: info@allpartiesandevents.co.uk
<https://www.allpartiesandevents.co.uk>

ALANI STRING QUARTET

Telephone: 07961 447 405
Email: hello@alani-quartet.co.uk
<http://alani-quartet.co.uk>

SAMANTHA LAURILLA VOCALIST

Telephone: 07889 403291
Email: samanthaurilla@hotmail.co.uk
<http://www.samanthaurilla.co.uk>

TOM MARTIN ACOUSTIC VOCALIST

Telephone: 07788262485
<https://www.facebook.com/TomMartinMusic/>

BIGTOWN BOPPERS BAND

Telephone : 07969 573523
Email: bigtownboppers@gmail.com
<https://www.bigtownboppers.co.uk>

THE BRIGHTSIDE BAND

Telephone: 07940 558 567
Email: info@thebrightside.com
<https://www.thebrightsideband.com>

KINGSMEN

Telephone: 07595 434336 / 07962 339968
<https://kingsmenmusic.co.uk/>





THANK YOU!

Last, but certainly not least, THANK YOU for trusting me with your special day. I am so honoured to be the one capturing your memories, and I cannot WAIT to celebrate alongside of you! Enjoy this season of planning but also remember that your MARRIAGE is more important than the wedding. The wedding will come and go in a matter of hours, but your marriage needs to stand the test of time. Continue to make time for one another, even with all that needs to get done. As you continue to plan, please feel free to contact me with ANY questions you may have along the way! Depending on your date, our next step would be to finalise an engagement session if you have chosen to have one or have it as part of your package! Also, about 8 weeks before the wedding, you'll receive a questionnaire that will provide me with everything I need to know for your big day!! I hope this guide has been helpful as you continue to plan and prepare for your wedding day!

Love, Lucy x

LET'S CONNECT



[/lucylouweddingphotography](https://www.facebook.com/lucylouweddingphotography)



[/lucylouphoto](https://www.pinterest.com/lucylouphoto)



[@lucylouphotography](https://www.instagram.com/lucylouphotography)



[Lucylou Photography Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/LucylouPhotography)

www.lucylouphotography.com | lucylouphotography@outlook.com