

Want More Time, Less Stress, and Better Photos?

Experience the Power of the First Look



Why Couples Say It's Their Favorite Part of the Day

A Private Moment Before the Public One

Many couples say their first look is the only time they truly have to pause and be alone together on their wedding day.

Genuine Emotions, Unfiltered

There's no pressure, no crowd—just raw, beautiful reactions captured in photos that tell your love story authentically.

The Calm Before the Celebration

A first look often eases wedding day jitters, helping both partners feel more relaxed, grounded, and connected before the ceremony begins.

First-Look Photo Checklist

Must-Have Shots (with room to personalize):

- The moment of the reveal (from both angles)
- Close-ups of emotional reactions (tears, laughter, gasps)
- A tender hug or kiss
- Full-length portraits of the couple
- A few candid walking or talking shots right after
- Bonus: Family members' peeking reactions or bridal party cheer

Tips for Location, Lighting, and Timing:

- **Location:** Choose a private spot with beautiful natural light, ideally shaded or softly lit.
- **Lighting:** Schedule 2–3 hours before sunset (the “Golden Hour”) for a dreamy glow.
- **Timing:** Build in 10–15 minutes of alone time before diving into formal portraits.

First-Look Timeline Templates

If Your Ceremony is at 1:00 PM

- 10:00 AM – Hair & makeup finishing touches
- 10:45 AM – Get dressed

- 11:15 AM – First Look
- 11:30 AM – Couple portraits
- 12:00 PM – Wedding party/family photos
- 12:45 PM – Hidden away before guests arrive

If Your Ceremony is at 4:00 PM

- 1:00 PM – Hair & makeup done
- 1:45 PM – Dressed
- 2:15 PM – First Look
- 2:30 PM – Couple portraits
- 3:00 PM – Wedding party/family
- 3:45 PM – Tucked away before ceremony

If You're Planning a Sunset Ceremony (~6:30 PM)

- 3:00 PM – Hair/makeup done
- 3:45 PM – Dressed
- 4:15 PM – First Look
- 4:30 PM – Photos
- 5:30 PM – Down time, freshen up
- 6:15 PM – Ceremony staging

Built-in Buffers Include:

- Time to walk between locations
- 10-minute breather before the ceremony
- Extra time if someone runs late or needs a touch-up

Bonus: First-Look vs. Aisle Reaction—What Really Changes?

Real Couple Testimonials:

“He still cried when I walked down the aisle—just like I hoped. But the first look let us really be present with each other.”

– Susan & James

“We were so nervous until the first look. After that, we were just excited to enjoy the day together.”
– Jessica & Marcus

Pro Tips from Photographers & Planners:

- Aisle reactions are not lost—they're enhanced because the pressure is off.
- First looks help keep timelines on track (especially for winter or early evening weddings).
- You get more photos done earlier, which means more time with guests during cocktail hour.

Pro Insight: How to Prepare for Picture-Perfect Emotions

What to Say:

Write a quick note or say something heartfelt when you tap them on the shoulder.
(Examples: “I can’t wait to marry you.” or “You look absolutely perfect.”)

What to Bring:

- Tissues for both of you
- A bridal touch-up kit (powder, lipstick, small mirror)
- Comfortable shoes for walking to the first-look spot

How to Stay Present:

- Take a deep breath together
- Hold hands or hug for at least 30 seconds
- Let the moment unfold naturally—no need to pose right away

Bonuses

First Look Photo Checklist + Timeline Planner

SECTION 1: Must-Have First-Look Photo Checklist

Check off the shots you want—and add your own at the bottom.

- The exact moment of the reveal (from both angles)
- Close-ups of emotional reactions (tears, laughter, gasps)

- A tight hug or kiss
- Full-length portraits of the couple
- A few candid walking or talking shots afterward
- Bride fixing groom's boutonniere / Groom straightening bride's dress
- Parents or bridal party sneaking a peek
- Group cheers or reactions from a distance
- Emotional moment alone (holding hands, foreheads together)

Other Shots We Want:

- _____
- _____
- _____

SECTION 2: First-Look Timeline Planner

Fill in your ideal times and buffer windows based on your ceremony start time.

◆ If Your Ceremony is at 1:00 PM:

- ____ AM – Hair & makeup finishing touches
- ____ AM – Get dressed
- ____ AM – First Look
- ____ AM – Couple portraits
- ____ AM – Wedding party / family photos
- ____ AM – Hidden away before guests arrive

◆ If Your Ceremony is at 4:00 PM:

- ____ PM – Hair & makeup done
- ____ PM – Get dressed
- ____ PM – First Look
- ____ PM – Couple portraits

- ____ PM – Wedding party / family photos
- ____ PM – Tucked away before ceremony

◆ **If Your Ceremony is at Sunset (e.g., 6:30 PM):**

- ____ PM – Hair & makeup done
- ____ PM – Get dressed
- ____ PM – First Look
- ____ PM – Couple portraits
- ____ PM – Down time / freshen up
- ____ PM – Ceremony staging

Built-In Buffers:

- Time to walk to and from the first-look spot
- 10–15 minute breather before ceremony
- Extra time for touch-ups or unexpected delays

SECTION 3: First Look Planning Notes

Location Ideas:

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What We Want to Say to Each Other:

(Optional—write it down ahead of time or bring a note.)

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Items to Bring:

- Tissues
- Comfortable walking shoes

- Touch-up kit (powder, lipstick, comb, etc.)
- Water bottle/snack
- First-look gift or note (optional)
- Vendor contact sheet
- Phone or playlist if you want a special song playing

If you have any questions or need help, please text me at (602) 370-1135.

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