

# Bride to Be

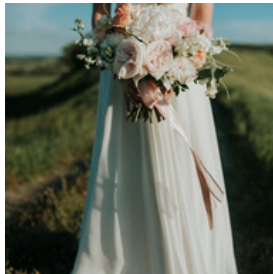
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WEDDING PLANNER

BY INSPIRE ME PHOTOGRAPHY

# The Complete Bride's Guide to Wedding Planning

*A comprehensive resource from [Inspire Me Photography]*



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## Introduction

Congratulations on your engagement! This guide is designed to help you navigate the exciting journey of planning your wedding with confidence and joy. As experienced wedding photographers, we've witnessed countless couples through this process and have compiled our best advice to help make your planning experience smooth and your special day unforgettable.

Remember, while planning a wedding involves many details, the ultimate goal is to celebrate your love and commitment. Keep this at the center of all your decisions, and you'll find the process much more enjoyable!

## 12-Month Wedding Planning Timeline

## 12+ Months Before

- Celebrate your engagement!
- Set a budget and determine who's contributing
- Create a guest list draft
- Choose your wedding party
- Research and visit potential venues
- Select your wedding date
- Book your venue(s)
- Research photographers, videographers, and other key vendors



## 9-12 Months Before

- Book your photographer and videographer
- Research and book caterer
- Shop for wedding dress and accessories
- Create wedding website
- Send save-the-dates
- Book entertainment (band, DJ)
- Reserve accommodations for out-of-town guests
- Meet with officiants and plan ceremony

## 6-9 Months Before

- Choose bridesmaids' dresses
- Register for gifts
- Book florist
- Book transportation
- Order invitations and other stationery
- Plan rehearsal dinner
- Schedule hair and makeup trials
- Book honeymoon accommodations

## 4-6 Months Before

- Choose groom's and groomsmen's attire

- Purchase wedding rings
- Schedule dress fittings
- Finalize menu and cake
- Book rehearsal dinner venue
- Plan welcome bags for out-of-town guests

## **2-3 Months Before**

- Send wedding invitations
- Create wedding day timeline
- Purchase gifts for wedding party
- Finalize ceremony details
- Apply for marriage license
- Confirm details with all vendors
- Finalize reception seating plan

## **1 Month Before**

- Final dress fitting
- Create shot list for photographer
- Confirm RSVPs and finalize guest count
- Confirm honeymoon details
- Break in wedding shoes
- Prepare wedding vows
- Arrange final vendor payments

## **1 Week Before**

- Get mani/pedi and other beauty treatments ●
- Pack for wedding night and honeymoon ●
- Confirm all transportation arrangements ●
- Prepare final payments and tips for vendors ●
- Drop off welcome bags at hotels
- Attend rehearsal and rehearsal dinner

## **Wedding Day**

- Eat breakfast
- Give wedding rings to best man/maid of honor
- Allow plenty of time for hair and makeup
- Relax and enjoy your special day!

# The Ultimate Bride's Checklist

## Attire & Beauty

- ☐ Wedding dress
- ☐ Veil/headpiece
- ☐ Shoes
- ☐ Undergarments
- ☐ Jewelry
- ☐ Something old, new, borrowed, blue
- ☐ Hair accessories
- ☐ Makeup trial scheduled: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Hair trial scheduled: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Nail appointment scheduled: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Dress fittings scheduled: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Wedding dress steamed/pressed
- ☐ Fragrance

## Important Documents

- ☐ Marriage license
- ☐ Passport/ID for honeymoon
- ☐ Vendor contracts
- ☐ Wedding day timeline
- ☐ Vows
- ☐ Rings



## Pre-Wedding Events

- ☐ Engagement party
- ☐ Bridal shower
- ☐ Bachelorette party
- ☐ Rehearsal dinner
- ☐ Welcome party for guests

## Day-Of Items

- [ ] Emergency kit
- [ ] Comfortable reception shoes
- [ ] Lipstick for touch-ups
- [ ] Copy of vows
- [ ] Gifts for parents and wedding party
- [ ] Wedding party timeline
- [ ] Overnight bag for wedding night

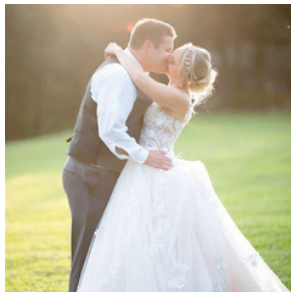
## Working with Your Photographer

### Before the Wedding

- Schedule an engagement session to get comfortable in front of the camera
- Create a shot list of must-have photos
- Discuss locations, lighting preferences, and photography style
- Share any specific concerns or insecurities
- Provide family grouping lists for formal portraits

### Wedding Day Photography Timeline

- **Getting Ready:** 2 hours before ceremony
- **First Look:** 30 minutes (if applicable)
- **Wedding Party Photos:** 1 hour
- **Family Portraits:** 30 minutes
- **Couple Portraits:** 30-45 minutes (split between pre-ceremony and sunset)
- **Reception Details:** 15 minutes (before guests enter)
- **Reception Coverage:** Include first dance, toasts, cake cutting, and at least 1 hour of dancing



### Photo Communication Tips

- Designate a photo-savvy family member to help gather people for group shots
- Let your photographer know about any family dynamics to be aware of

- Discuss any sensitive topics (family estrangements, body insecurities)
- Share your favorite features you'd like highlighted
- Communicate any must-have shots that aren't obvious

## **Wedding Day Emergency Kit**

### **Beauty Essentials**

- Makeup for touch-ups
- Lipstick/gloss
- Blotting papers
- Hairspray
- Bobby pins
- Hairbrush/comb
- Deodorant
- Perfume
- Breath mints

### **Clothing Fixes**

- Fashion tape
- Safety pins
- Sewing kit
- Stain remover pen
- Lint roller
- Static guard
- Extra earring backs
- Clear nail polish (for stocking runs)

### **Health & Comfort**

- Pain reliever
- Antacids
- Bandages
- Tissues
- Eye drops
- Allergy medication
- Tampons/pads
- Contact lens solution
- Blister pads
- Comfortable shoes for reception

## Miscellaneous

- Phone charger
- Cash for tips
- Wedding timeline
- Vendor contact information
- Snacks
- Water bottle
- Straws (to drink without ruining lipstick)

## Posing Tips for Beautiful Photos

### General Posing Tips

- Practice good posture
- Create space between your arms and torso
- Angle your body slightly instead of facing the camera straight-on
- Chin slightly forward and down
- Relax your hands and fingers
- Take deep breaths before important shots

### Standing Poses

- Put weight on back foot Bend front knee
- slightly Create a subtle S-curve with
- your body
- Hand placement: lightly on hip, holding bouquet, or gently touching dress

### Sitting Poses

- Sit at the edge of chair or surface
- Cross ankles or legs at angle
- Sit tall through torso
- Arrange dress carefully for shape and detail

### With Your Partner

- Connect through touch
- Create different heights (sitting/standing combinations)
- Walking shots: walk slowly and naturally
- Whispering moment: have partner whisper something genuine to create natural laughter



## Candid Moments

- Be present and emotional
- Don't avoid tears - they make beautiful photos
- Interact naturally with loved ones
- Remember to pause and take mental photographs throughout your day



## Post-Wedding Tasks

### Immediately After

- ☐ Return any rented items ☐ Preserve wedding dress ☐ Send
- thank-you notes for gifts ☐ Review vendors ☐ Change name (if
- applicable) ☐ Share selected images with photographer for
- blog/social posts
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### Photo-Related Tasks

- ☐ Review and select images for album
- ☐ Order prints for family
- ☐ Create thank-you cards with wedding photos
- ☐ Share digital gallery with guests
- ☐ Select and print images for your home
- ☐ Archive digital files in multiple locations

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*This guide is provided by [Inspire Me Photography](#)*

***For personalized wedding photography that tells your unique love story, contact us at  
[[contact@inspire-me-photography.com](mailto:contact@inspire-me-photography.com)]***

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