

Ultimate Wedding Photography Checklist

Pre-Wedding Photography

Bride Getting Ready

- ☐ Bride's dress hanging up (full length)
- ☐ Wedding dress details (lace, beading, embroidery)
- ☐ All bridal accessories laid out (shoes, jewelry, garter, etc.)
- ☐ Bride having hair styled
- ☐ Bride having makeup applied
- ☐ Bride looking in mirror after hair and makeup
- ☐ Bridesmaids helping bride into dress
- ☐ Mother of bride helping with dress/veil
- ☐ Bride putting on jewelry
- ☐ Bride putting on shoes
- ☐ Final adjustments to dress and veil
- ☐ Bride's complete look (full length)
- ☐ Bride's portrait (close-up)
- ☐ Bride with mother
- ☐ Bride with father
- ☐ Bride with parents
- ☐ Bride with bridesmaids
- ☐ Bride with maid/matron of honor
- ☐ Candid moments and reactions

Groom Getting Ready

- ☐ Groom's attire hanging up (suit/tuxedo)
- ☐ Groom's accessories laid out (shoes, tie, cufflinks, boutonniere)
- ☐ Groom getting dressed
- ☐ Groom putting on tie/bow tie
- ☐ Groom adjusting cufflinks
- ☐ Best man helping groom
- ☐ Groom fixing hair
- ☐ Groom's complete look (full length)
- ☐ Groom's portrait (close-up)
- ☐ Groom with best man
- ☐ Groom with groomsmen

- ☐ Groom with father
- ☐ Groom with mother
- ☐ Groom with parents
- ☐ Candid moments and reactions

Wedding Details

- ☐ Wedding rings
- ☐ Bride's bouquet
- ☐ Bridesmaids' bouquets
- ☐ Groom's boutonniere
- ☐ Groomsmen boutonnieres
- ☐ Invitation suite
- ☐ Wedding program
- ☐ Vows (if written out)
- ☐ "Something old, new, borrowed, blue" items
- ☐ Bride's perfume
- ☐ Groom's cologne/watch
- ☐ Wedding gifts exchanged between couple
- ☐ Any special meaningful items or heirlooms

Ceremony Photography

Ceremony Setup & Venue

- ☐ Exterior of ceremony venue
- ☐ Interior of ceremony venue before guests arrive
- ☐ Altar/ceremonial space
- ☐ Flower arrangements and decorations
- ☐ Aisle decorations
- ☐ Reserved seating signs
- ☐ Guest book and pen
- ☐ Ceremony programs displayed
- ☐ Musicians/musical instruments

Ceremony Arrivals

- ☐ Guests arriving
- ☐ Guests being seated
- ☐ Wedding party arriving
- ☐ Mother of the bride being seated

- ☐ Mother of the groom being seated
- ☐ Officiant arrival/preparation
- ☐ Groom and groomsmen at altar
- ☐ Flower girl/ring bearer getting ready

Processional

- ☐ Bridesmaids walking down aisle
- ☐ Maid/matron of honor walking down aisle
- ☐ Flower girl/ring bearer walking down aisle
- ☐ Bride with father/escort at entrance
- ☐ Bride walking down aisle
- ☐ Groom's reaction seeing bride
- ☐ Parents' reactions
- ☐ Guests' reactions
- ☐ Bride being given away

Ceremony

- ☐ Bride and groom at altar
- ☐ Ceremony wide shot with guests
- ☐ Officiant speaking
- ☐ Exchange of vows
- ☐ Exchange of rings
- ☐ Unity ceremony (candle, sand, etc. if applicable)
- ☐ First kiss as married couple
- ☐ Signing of marriage certificate
- ☐ Introduction of newlyweds
- ☐ Recessional of newlyweds
- ☐ Wedding party recessional
- ☐ Family reactions
- ☐ Guest reactions
- ☐ Post-ceremony celebrations/hugs

Post-Ceremony Photography

Family Formal Portraits

- ☐ Newlyweds with bride's parents
- ☐ Newlyweds with bride's immediate family
- ☐ Newlyweds with bride's extended family

- ☐ Newlyweds with groom's parents
- ☐ Newlyweds with groom's immediate family
- ☐ Newlyweds with groom's extended family
- ☐ Newlyweds with both sets of parents
- ☐ Newlyweds with all immediate family
- ☐ Newlyweds with grandparents
- ☐ Newlyweds with children in wedding party
- ☐ Any other special family groupings

Wedding Party Portraits

- ☐ Newlyweds with entire wedding party
- ☐ Bride with bridesmaids
- ☐ Bride with maid/matron of honor
- ☐ Groom with groomsmen
- ☐ Groom with best man
- ☐ Bride with groomsmen
- ☐ Groom with bridesmaids
- ☐ Funny/creative wedding party poses
- ☐ Wedding party walking
- ☐ Wedding party candid moments

Couple Portraits

- ☐ Romantic portraits of newlyweds
- ☐ Bride and groom full-length
- ☐ Bride and groom close-up
- ☐ Couple kissing
- ☐ Couple holding hands/walking
- ☐ Couple showing off rings
- ☐ Couple with bride's bouquet
- ☐ Backlit romantic portraits
- ☐ Silhouette shots
- ☐ Portraits at multiple locations on venue grounds
- ☐ Couple in/near ceremony location
- ☐ Couple in/near reception location
- ☐ Couple in scenic areas of venue
- ☐ Couple with vintage car/transportation (if applicable)

Reception Photography

Reception Setup & Venue

- ☐ Exterior of reception venue
- ☐ Interior of reception venue before guests arrive
- ☐ Table settings and centerpieces
- ☐ Head/sweetheart table
- ☐ Place cards/seating chart
- ☐ Guest book and pen
- ☐ Gift table
- ☐ Card box
- ☐ Table numbers
- ☐ Menu cards
- ☐ Bar setup
- ☐ Lounge areas (if applicable)
- ☐ Reception lighting details
- ☐ Overall room shot from different angles

Reception Details

- ☐ Wedding cake
- ☐ Cake topper
- ☐ Cake table decorations
- ☐ Groom's cake (if applicable)
- ☐ Dessert table/bar
- ☐ Favor display
- ☐ Cocktail hour setup
- ☐ Signature drinks
- ☐ Food stations
- ☐ Buffet setup (if applicable)
- ☐ Reception entertainment setup (band/DJ)
- ☐ Photo booth (if applicable)
- ☐ Any special decor elements

Reception Events

- ☐ Grand entrance of newlyweds
- ☐ Grand entrance of wedding party
- ☐ First dance
- ☐ Father-daughter dance
- ☐ Mother-son dance

- ☐ Wedding party dances
- ☐ Guests dancing
- ☐ Toasts/speeches
- ☐ Cake cutting
- ☐ Feeding cake to each other
- ☐ Bouquet toss
- ☐ Garter toss
- ☐ Money dance (if applicable)
- ☐ Anniversary dance (if applicable)
- ☐ Special cultural traditions
- ☐ Bride and groom mingling with guests
- ☐ Candid guest interactions
- ☐ Children at reception
- ☐ Guests signing guest book
- ☐ Musicians/DJ performing
- ☐ Last dance
- ☐ Grand exit/send-off

Special Moments & Candids

Special Moments

- ☐ "First look" (if arranged)
- ☐ Gift exchange between couple
- ☐ Reading letters from each other
- ☐ Prayer moments
- ☐ Tears and emotional moments
- ☐ Laughter and joyful moments
- ☐ Unexpected moments
- ☐ Special dances
- ☐ Guest congratulations
- ☐ Quiet moments alone as a couple

Candid Shots

- ☐ Guests enjoying cocktail hour
- ☐ Guests finding seating
- ☐ Guests at their tables
- ☐ Children playing
- ☐ Elderly guests' reactions

- ☐ Guests laughing
- ☐ Guests dancing
- ☐ Guests eating
- ☐ Wedding party relaxing
- ☐ Behind-the-scenes moments

End of Night Photography

- ☐ Sunset/nighttime portraits of couple
- ☐ Night shots of venue
- ☐ Sparkler exit
- ☐ Bubbles/rice/confetti exit
- ☐ Couple leaving in getaway vehicle
- ☐ Final dance
- ☐ Last guests
- ☐ End of reception venue shots

Photography Tips & Reminders

Equipment Checklist

- ☐ Primary camera body
- ☐ Backup camera body
- ☐ Primary lenses (24-70mm, 70-200mm, 50mm, etc.)
- ☐ Backup lenses
- ☐ Flash units
- ☐ Backup flash units
- ☐ Extra batteries (camera and flash)
- ☐ Extra memory cards
- ☐ Battery chargers
- ☐ Light stands
- ☐ Diffusers/reflectors
- ☐ Tripod
- ☐ Cleaning kit
- ☐ Emergency kit (tape, scissors, safety pins)

Pre-Wedding Preparation

- ☐ Scout locations in advance if possible
- ☐ Create a shot list with couple's input
- ☐ Discuss must-have photos with the couple

- ☐ Review timeline with wedding planner
- ☐ Check sunrise/sunset times
- ☐ Prepare for indoor/outdoor lighting conditions
- ☐ Have family grouping list prepared
- ☐ Charge all batteries
- ☐ Format all memory cards
- ☐ Pack all equipment the night before

Day-of Reminders

- ☐ Arrive early
 - ☐ Meet with wedding coordinator upon arrival
 - ☐ Identify key family members
 - ☐ Check lighting at all locations
 - ☐ Set camera settings for venue conditions
 - ☐ Take test shots
 - ☐ Stay hydrated and bring snacks
 - ☐ Have timeline easily accessible
 - ☐ Coordinate with videographer
 - ☐ Have business cards ready for guests who ask
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Customization Notes:

- Add or remove items based on cultural or religious traditions specific to the wedding
- Adjust family portrait combinations based on family structure
- Note any special requests from the couple
- Include any unique venue features worth capturing
- Account for seasonal or weather considerations

Download this checklist as a printable PDF at inspire-me-photography.com/resources

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