

Wedding Photography Checklist #1 - Getting Ready for 'Getting Ready' Shots!

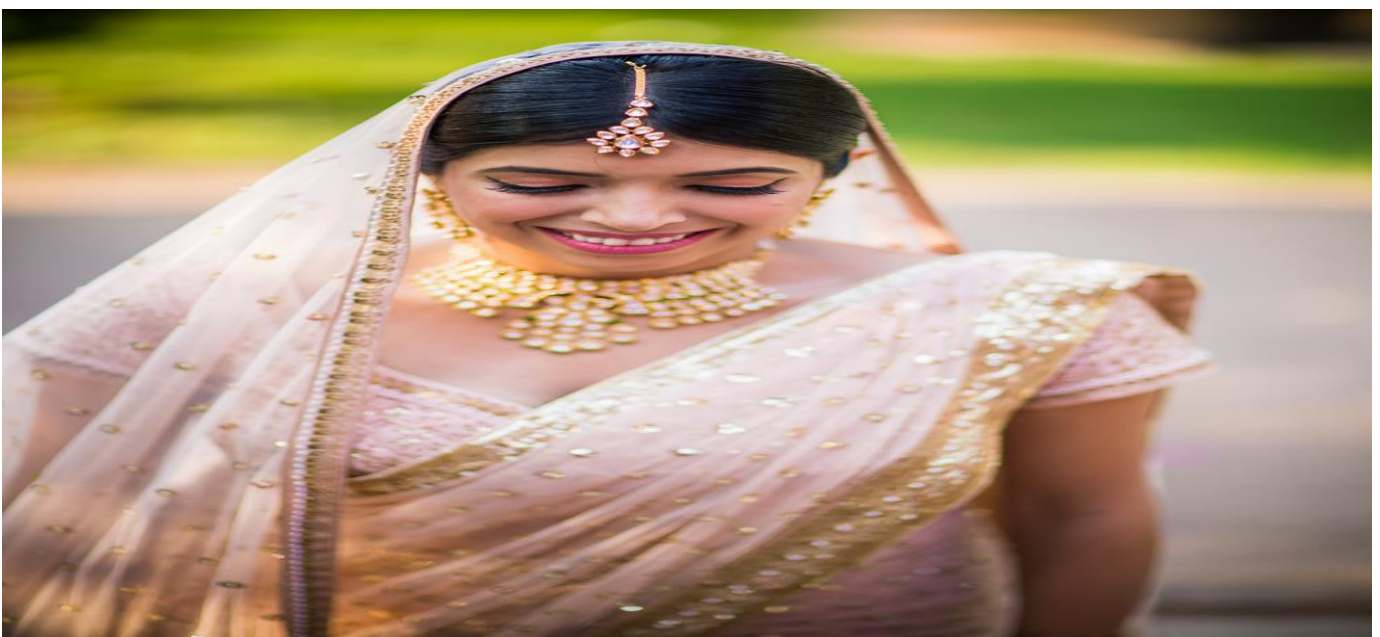
Those quintessential getting ready shots will always be close to your heart, but they require some 'before-hand' prep from your end as well.

- Have the lehenga/sherwani/customized bride-groom hangers ready and available.
- Shoes, accessories, safe, extra dupattas, makeup kit and all little things needed for those getting ready shots available in advance



- Identify the spots where you will hang your outfit and other good spots to get clicked in your bridal suite. Is it well lit? What kind of extra lighting is required in your bridal suite? Think of these and discuss with your photographer in advance.
- For those personalized accessories - shoes with messages, or phones with 'bride name' – make one of your bridesmaids responsible for arranging them beforehand and keeping them ready.

#2 Handling Jewellery for Jewellery Shots



A lot of time, effort and a good portion of your wedding budget goes into your wedding jewellery. But at the last minute when brides are actually getting ready, they often miss out getting those precious jewellery shots done!



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This is simply because there is so much to do at that moment and you can't really accompany the photographer, nor leave the heavy jewellery alone.

So my advice is, assign a trusted family/friend to take care of the wedding jewellery for the sake of getting them shot with the photographer while you are busy elsewhere.





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He or she will handle your jewellery and be present the entire time when your photographer is clicking them - maybe in the garden or on a velvet cushion or wherever he wishes to!

Trust me, this is the only way to get these pictures clicked in a 'no-tension' systematic way.

#3 Importance of Lights



Lighting is to photography, what a pen is to a writer! Whether you have outdoor wedding events or indoor or a mix of both, speak to your photographer and planner and discuss the lighting arrangements together.



- Discuss the timeline and lighting arrangements at each event - this helps your photographer understand what more lighting equipment is required from his end for those perfectly lit photos at each function.
- For indoor events like receptions in a banquet - you should discuss if the existing lights are enough or ask the planner to install additional lighting appropriately.



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- People often forget the lighting at the mandap and how many memorable wedding pictures will be taken there! So, the lighting inside your mandap has to be perfect for the pictures to turn out perfectly romantic and divine.
- If it's an evening/night wedding, lighting plays an even more important role. So, make sure your planner and photographer are aware of the available light setup and ready to make additional arrangements as required.

#4 Photo Booth and its Peripherals



It's important to get your photobooth ready according to your wedding theme and event.

While a classy floral photo backdrop works well almost anywhere – from reception to sangeet; a quirky kitschy photobooth is just what you need for a pool party or a mehndi party but will definitely not work well for a reception.



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Also, if yours is a typical big fat Indian wedding where you expect large groups to be photographed together; your photo booth should be big enough to accommodate all! Typically, 12 feet by 15 feet photobooth should be perfect, so people are not left out of your group shots.

#5 Weather Check!



The most unpredictable factor in an outdoor wedding is obviously the weather. It goes without saying that you need to keep a lookout for the weather forecast on the day of your event and plan ahead for alternate arrangements with your wedding planner.



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As for your wedding photography, it helps to keep umbrellas, raincoats and towels handy if you're venturing out for a photo session in your heavy outfits and expect a downpour anytime soon.

If you're not dressed heavily and don't mind getting wet in the rain, plan accordingly and be prepared to get some 'drenched in love' candid shots done!

#6 Décor and Venue Recce



Once your wedding theme and venue have been finalized, it's best to take your wedding photographer along to the venue once and make sure the planner is present too.

- Together, you can discuss and better visualize the different design elements that are expected to be placed and which of these could be used as photo-ops by your photographer.



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- Identify the best photo spots with your photographer and let your planner know if you need any additional decor/lighting/drapes or props there to add impact to ideas.
- Also, list down the best corners and spaces for couple or group pictures and make sure you have this list handy when you actually rush for the pictures on the wedding day or in between functions.

#7 Beach Wedding Special



Aren't beach weddings all about those fun and romantic heavenly beach shots captured before or after the wedding! They are... but only if you plan ahead and keep everything ready.

Talk to the hotel reception to arrange for an assistant to help at the beach whenever you head out for photography. He needs to be on the spot with a stash of towels, drinking water, umbrellas or any other essential tid-bits; so that you and the photographer don't end up running to and fro from the beach to the hotel a hundred times!



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Also, it's usually windy and sunny at the beach, so don't forget to carry your hats, sunglasses and make-up kit (water proof!) for the sessions.

#8 Shooting Schedule



I know it's not possible to have a rigid plan, as there will always be delays; but sharing a tentative flow of events with your photographer will help.

- He can accordingly plan in advance and be ready with his ideas, concepts and equipment



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- Discuss with him when you both can flit out for quick half an hour photo session in between events, so that he knows!

#9 'People Finder'



- Share a 'Family and Friends' list with your wedding photographer – please!
- And if possible, assign a relative to him (one who knows all the key family members and friends), so he can call them and help him spot them when needed.



- Also, at events please arrange to have your elderly relatives clicked first, so that they don't tire around waiting for their turn.



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Trust me; don't have your photographer waste time searching for people he doesn't know. In the end, you're the one who'll feel disappointed if your wedding album misses out people close to your heart!

#10 No Surprises, Please!



Surprises always feel good to your sweetheart... But not so much to your wedding photographer! ;)



Whether you're planning a flash mob performance or a surprise proposal for your better half, it makes sense to loop in your photographer into the plans so that he is ready and available with necessary equipment on the spot.



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Think that'll spoil the surprise? Discuss with him and work out a way for him to be 'undercover' or waiting close by for your signal (yes that works!) But it will be a shame if your photographer misses out on capturing the lovely surprise because he's not available around on time with his video camera or lights or batteries!

While me and every other wedding photographer worth his salt understands and appreciates the spontaneity and madness of wedding photography – this little checklist goes a long way to help you get the most of your wedding album, without last minute sweat!



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Booking a Wedding Photographer - Important Questions you MUST Ask!

Booking a wedding photographer can be a daunting task! Your wedding festivities will be over soon but the memories will last a lifetime.

Being in this field for more than 15 years, I've seen my fair share of highs, lows, questions and queries. So here are some important questions you need to ask - BEFORE you book your wedding photographer!



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Booking a Wedding Photographer - #1 Get the Basics Right!



Once you know that the shortlisted photographer is available on your dates, fix up a meeting with the photographer in person or (if he's not in your city) through a video call.

It's the best way to judge if you're comfortable around your photographer, as he'll be capturing you two in your most intimate and romantic moments too. So it's important to gauge if you gel together.



Questions to ask at your first meeting -

- Number of years of experience in wedding photography? And more importantly – what is his style of photography?
- Ask to see the full set of recent albums and not just his portfolio. Also, when it comes to videos – see the full videos (rather than trailers) to get a better idea of his style and precision.
- How many people are there on his team?
- Have they done weddings of your scale? If not, it's always better to go with a photographer with a bigger and more cohesive team than splitting your wedding among different teams (from bride and groom's side or for stills and video.)



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- If you're planning a destination wedding, you must ask him if he has worked in that location before. Also ask if he's planning to visit the venue in advance.
- This might not be so important, but it still helps to know if the photographer and his team have worked with your wedding planner, decorator etc before.

#2 - Photography Style

It is best to know, as a client, that your ideas of a dream wedding album and the photographer's style are in sync!

- What is his wedding photography style? Does he prefer taking candid or choreographed shots? Photo-journalistic or posed? Abstract or people oriented?
- Ask him to describe his work and how he perceives the shots in terms of composition. There should be cohesion between your needs and his style of work.



- Don't feel shy of asking him to give examples of the technical lingo which you don't understand during discussions.
- What kind of lighting equipment would he be using - at both indoor and outdoor locations?
- Discuss your creative ideas and preferences and ask him how he will implement them.



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#3 - Deliverable and Packages

Once you've realized that the photographer is a right fit for you, go a step further and discuss the finer details of what shall be a part of the wedding photography package.



- What all will be included in the package and what are the add-ons in the more expensive packages?
- How many albums will you get and by what date?
- Will you get an extra set of parent's albums for your parents to keep?



- How long will it take to deliver the albums and final edited wedding videos
- What will be the length of the video trailer and the whole wedding video?
- If you are a private couple, do ask him if he is going to publish it on his website or social media accounts?



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#4 - Legalities

When both you and he have to come to a final decision, it is best to sign a formal agreement when booking a wedding photographer. Apart from everything else, your agreement must also contain the following details -

- What is the cancellation and refunds policy?
- How will the payment be made and what is the schedule/bifurcation for it?



- Will he have backup equipment if his camera gets damaged?
- What is his backup plan if he has to cancel for some unexpected reason?
- How will he accommodate if your wedding date/venue changes at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances?



While your wedding is all about creating happy memories, it is equally important to have everything in place to ensure that!

A thorough discussion and transparency with your wedding photographer is something that lets you enjoy the real moments later like you should – without worrying about little if's and but's'.



With this list of questions on hand, you are now ready to meet and finalize among the photographers you've shortlisted. Feel booking a wedding photographer is almost like finding your perfect match? You're not alone :p ! And if you feel we fit the bill, connect with us NOW regarding our latest wedding photography packages, availability and ideas. Be a good friend and share this blog to help others also figure out their photographers.