

the
BRETT MUÑOZ
wedding photo/video guide



“What lies behind us, and what lies before us are
tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Your engagement session checklist

Let's start here, with engagement sessions. They are a great way for us to get to know each other and for you to get comfortable being in front of the camera. Below are some tips to prepare for your session. Keep in mind these are not hard rules, just some general guidelines.

location

Selecting the perfect location holds significant importance, as it should reflect your identity as a couple. Opting for a setting that offers diverse backdrops will enable us to capture a wide range of styles throughout our session. Fortunately, I am situated in Ventura County, strategically positioned between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, granting us access to a plethora of potential locations. Whether you decide on a spot that resonates with your wedding's ambiance or prefer a striking contrast, what truly matters is commencing about two hours prior to sunset.

wardrobe

I typically recommend that clients opt for fitted, solid-colored attire. It's best to leave any patterns or dotted clothing in the closet for these sessions. If you'd like, you're welcome to bring along a second or even a third set of clothing, and I can assist you in making the final choice when we meet. Additionally, feel free to share images of your outfit ideas via text, so I can offer feedback beforehand. Typically, due to time constraints, we're able to capture shots in 1-2 distinct outfits.

make-up & hair

I know I'm stating the obvious but I just want to make sure of a couple of things. Eyes look great when they have a dark eyeliner, it makes them stand out. How heavy you go is up to you however, the bottom eyelid is important. Also, bring blotting paper in case the day is warm and you begin to shine. This applies to guys and girls.



Wedding Schedule

Every wedding is unique, and I always prioritize honoring your preferences when it comes to scheduling. My aim is to provide helpful guidelines that can lead to optimal outcomes. As a general rule, if your ceremony is scheduled for earlier in the day and there's a substantial gap before the reception, adhering to a traditional schedule is often recommended. Conversely, if your ceremony is planned for later in the day and there's a limited gap before the reception, it might be worth considering a first look. This approach grants us more time to capture formal shots. Below, I've provided rough examples to illustrate the typical flow of a wedding day.

01 OF 02 FIRST LOOK SCHEDULE

Getting Ready - 3-3.5 hours before the ceremony

- When we arrive we will start on details. Please try to keep clutter to a minimum. Have the dress hanging on a nice hanger. Have out shoes, jewelry, invitation and other accessories.
- We will spend about 45-60 min doing getting ready shots, you should be done with hair and makeup by the time I arrive or by the time I finish shooting details (about 15-20 min).
- Total time I spend will depend on how far I am from ceremony location.

Guys Getting Ready - 3-3.5 hours before the ceremony

- If you want full coverage, consider adding the third shooter.
- Whenever possible, bride and groom should be getting ready in same location (i.e. same hotel).
- If no third shooter then I will capture a few shots just prior to the starting first look.
- Groom should begin getting ready when we arrive.

First Look & Formals – 1-2 hours before the ceremony

- I will go to where the guys are and prep the groom for the first look.
- Once I have groom in position. I will need the cell number to the bride or a bridesmaid to let her know we are ready.
- First look will be about 10-15 minutes.
- I will shoot family photos right after first look (parents, grandparents and siblings). This typically takes about 20-30 minutes depending on size.
- Right after family we will shoot bridal party which will take 15-30 min.
- Any extra time will be spent with bride and groom however, we do need about 20-30 minutes lead time to prep for ceremony.

Ceremony

- I need at least 20 minutes before ceremony to prep cameras, flashes and tripods (Does not include travel time).
- I will attach a small recorder to groom and also plug in an audio recorder to the PA (PA not available in most Catholic churches).

FIRST LOOK SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Bride and Groom Formals During Cocktail – Typically about 45-50 minutes

- Finally some alone time, the moment you have been waiting for all day! Get some cocktails ready and take a breath.
- During this time we can also shoot any extra family that was not able to make it to the earlier formal session.

Reception

- I need at least 15-20 minutes before ceremony to prep cameras, flashes and tripods.
- The flow of a reception varies; let me know if you do not have a coordinator helping you on a schedule.
- If we didn't get to do night / sunset shots during cocktail hour, around dinner time would be a great time to do so.
- Money dances can sometimes take up a lot of time and is not typically the most interesting footage. If you are having a long ceremony (an hour or more) and do not wish to purchase extra hours, please consider scheduling after our allotted time.

02 OF 02 TRADITIONAL SCHEDULE

Getting Ready - 2-2.5 hours before ceremony

- When we arrive, we will start on details. Please try to keep clutter to a minimum. Have the dress hanging on a nice hanger. Have out shoes, jewelry, invitation and other accessories.
- We will spend about 60-90 min doing getting ready shots, you should be done with hair and makeup by the time I arrive or by the time I finish shooting details (about 15-20 min).
- Total time I spend will depend on how far I am from ceremony location.

Guys Getting Ready

- If you want full coverage, consider adding the third shooter.
- If you guys are getting ready nearby each other, I should be able to manage a few shots.
- Should begin getting ready when we arrive.

Ceremony

- I need at least 20 minutes before ceremony to prep cameras, flashes and tripods (does not include travel time).
- I will attach a small recorder to groom and also plug in an audio recorder to the PA (PA not available in most Catholic churches).

TRADITIONAL SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Formals Photo Session – Right after ceremony

- I will shoot parents, grandparents and siblings during this time. This typically takes about 20-30 minutes.
- Bridal party will also take 20-30 min right after family photos. Extra time will be spent with bride and groom.

Reception

- I need at least 20 minutes before ceremony to prep cameras, flashes and tripods.
- The flow of the reception varies; let me know if you do not have a coordinator helping you on a schedule.
- If we didn't get to do night/sunset shots during cocktail hour, right around dinner would be a great time to do so
- Money dances can sometimes take up a lot of time and is not typically the most interesting footage. If you are having a long ceremony (an hour or more) and do not wish to purchase extra hours, please consider scheduling this when we leave.



Try Some Posing!

Time to put in some work! We will be guiding and directing you on your wedding day however, it doesn't hurt to get some pre-game practice in before the big day.

01. Placing your hands on your hips is quite common and it really helps to thin out arms. As you place your hands on your hips, shift your weight from one leg to the other while also slightly extending one leg out further than the other. Also, try moving one hand slightly higher than the other.
02. Chin placement is very important. Try standing in front of the mirror and slightly move your head left and right, not too much though. Now try standing sideways and moving your chin towards your shoulder.
03. Sitting pretty requires you to sit closer to the edge of a chair with your legs crossed at the ankles. Also, try sitting slightly angled. As for arm placement, here is where I will jump in and give direction.
04. Be a copy cat! Look up some photos that you really like. They can be wedding, fashion, portrait, it doesn't matter. What is important is that you get use to these positions and try to adapt them to your body. Try including your fiancé, he will be thrilled to be posing with you in front of a mirror.
05. When it comes to guys, our job is a lot easier. Practice leaning against a wall with your hands in your pockets. The key for guys in all these shots is to look relaxed and confident.
06. Acting! This one is important since weddings can sometimes be stressful and it really helps if you have your acting game together. I need you smiling and having a great time throughout the day! During formals, I may ask you to goof off, pretend to laugh or have a somber moment. These images will have a natural look to them and will help round out your collection.

10 tips to prepare for your wedding day coverage

01. Drink lots of water in days leading up to your big day.
02. Have a nice hanger for your wedding dress.
03. Have your getting ready details out when I arrive.
04. Practice posing your favourite shots as a couple in the mirror.
05. Keep in mind that the best time to shoot photos is one-two hours before sunset.
06. Practice bustling your dress and tying your tie.
07. Make your first kiss last longer than 2 seconds!
08. Pad time in between events and expect the unexpected.
09. Keep the getting ready room clean and feel free to decorate!
10. Feel free to share any Pinterest boards and photo ideas.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

805.341.6774

bm@brettmunozphoto.com

www.brettmunozphoto.com

