



PLANNING YOUR WEDDING DAY TIMELINE

In this document, we offer up two different wedding day timeline examples for an average eight-hour wedding day: one with a first look, and one with all portraits post-ceremony, during your cocktail hour. While every wedding is different, we hope these can serve as a baseline for beginning to plan out your events. Of course, there are plenty of factors that can impact one's timeline, so before reviewing the timelines that follow, please keep the following in mind:

1. TRAVEL TIME

Wedding days often have more than one location. The attached timelines are based on the full day occurring at a single venue. However, if you have different ceremony sites, getting ready locations, and receptions, then you'll need to cushion your timeline with a hearty helpful of travel time between sites. Don't forget to factor in the possibility for traffic and slow-downs as well as parking. Overestimate for lots of extra transition time and you'll ensure a relaxed and stress-free fun day.

2. WEDDING PARTY SIZE

Wrangling groups is a big factor in allotting time for group portraits. If you have a wedding party of eight attendants on each side, it will simply take much longer to wrangle and photograph your group than if you had three per side, not to mention just getting a whole group from place to place can take time and effort. Same goes for a long list of family photos OR just a large number of family members in each group photo. Be sure to cushion with extra time in those cases.

3. RECEPTION EVENTS

If you have three dance performances scheduled, if you have eight speeches specheduled, if you wanted to perform a special song... any special events that are beyond the typical scope will call for more time. Allow for the possibility of delays for dinner kicking off, for a speech going long, etc. Not to mention that the more you love to get wild on the dance floor, the more coverage of it you may desire. We recommend a minimum of an hour of open dancing coverage.



SAMPLE WEDDING TIMELINE - 8 HOURS OF COVERAGE

TIMELINE A: FIRST LOOK

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
PRE-CEREMONY		
8:00am	Prep: Wake up, shower, eat	Venue (or nearby hotel)
10:00am	Prep: Hair & makeup kickoff	Getting ready room @ venue
2:00pm	Getting Ready: Photographers arrive, begin candid coverage and details	Getting ready room @ venue
3:00pm	Getting Ready: Outfits & accessories go on	Getting ready room @ venue
3:15pm	First Look: Photographers set up revealee	Venue exterior
3:30pm	First Look: Photographers bring revealer to revealee for first look	Venue exterior
3:40pm	Couple Portraits	Venue exterior
4:00pm	Wedding attendants gather for group portraits [ceremony site setup complete]	Venue exterior
CEREMONY		
4:30pm	Couple may go into hiding as guests arrive (touch-ups, hydrate, bathroom)	Getting ready room @ venue
5:00pm	Official ceremony start time on invites, wedding attendants line up	Ceremony site
5:05pm	Ceremony: processional	Ceremony site
5:30pm	Ceremony: recessional	Ceremony site
COCKTAIL HOUR		
5:30pm	Greeting guests and family as guests transition to cocktail hour location	Ceremony site / Cocktail area
5:45pm	Family portraits (while cocktail hour begins, second photographer shoots candid)	Ceremony site / Cocktail area
6:00pm	Portraits: Couple steps away for glowy golden hour photos (optional)	Throughout venue
6:15pm	Cocktail Hour: couple joins guests, photographers shoot reception details	Cocktail area
6:45pm	Guests invited to find seats in reception area, couple pit-stops for touch-ups	Cocktail area/Getting ready
RECEPTION		
6:55pm	Guests seated, couple and wedding attendants line up for grand entrance	Reception space
7:00pm	Grande entrance	Reception space
7:05pm	First dance	Reception space
7:10pm	Welcome toast	Reception space
7:15pm	Buffet opens	Reception space
8:00pm	Toasts begin	Reception space
8:20pm	Parent dances	Reception space
8:30pm	Dance floor opens	Reception space
9:00pm	Cake cutting into bouquet/garter toss	Reception space
9:10pm	Open dancing	Reception space
9:30pm	Last call	Reception space
9:50pm	Sparkler or confetti send-off setup complete, guests invited to line up	Venue exterior
9:55pm	Send off, photography wraps	Venue exterior
10:00pm	Guests out, vendors strike	Venue



SAMPLE WEDDING TIMELINE - 8 HOURS OF COVERAGE

TIMELINE B: NO FIRST LOOK

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
PRE-CEREMONY		
8:00am	Prep: Wake up, shower, eat	Venue (or nearby hotel)
10:00am	Prep: Hair & makeup kickoff	Getting ready room @ venue
2:00pm	Getting Ready: Photographers arrive, begin candid coverage and details	Getting ready room @ venue
3:00pm	Getting Ready: Outfits & accessories go on	Getting ready room @ venue
3:30pm	Individual & group portraits begin with Partner A's side	Venue exterior
3:50pm	Group A is tucked away	Getting ready room @ venue
4:00pm	Individual & group portraits begin with Partner B's side	Venue exterior
4:20pm	Group B is tucked away	Getting ready room @ venue
CEREMONY		
4:30pm	Couple may go into hiding as guests arrive (touch-ups, hydrate, bathroom)	Getting ready room @ venue
5:00pm	Official ceremony start time on invites, wedding attendants line up	Ceremony site
5:05pm	Ceremony: processional	Ceremony site
5:30pm	Ceremony: recessional	Ceremony site
COCKTAIL HOUR		
5:30pm	Greeting guests and family as guests transition to cocktail hour location	Ceremony site / Cocktail area
5:45pm	Family portraits	Ceremony site / Cocktail area
6:05pm	Portraits: Full attendants group portraits (both sides)	Throughout venue
6:10pm	Portraits: Couple portraits while second photographer shoots reception details	Throughout venue
6:45pm	Guests invited to find seats in reception area, couple pit-stops for touch-ups	Cocktail area/Getting ready
RECEPTION		
6:55pm	Guests seated, couple and wedding attendants line up for grand entrance	Reception space
7:00pm	Grande entrance	Reception space
7:05pm	First dance	Reception space
7:10pm	Welcome toast	Reception space
7:15pm	Buffet opens	Reception space
8:00pm	Toasts begin	Reception space
8:20pm	Parent dances	Reception space
8:30pm	Dance floor opens	Reception space
9:00pm	Cake cutting into bouquet/garter toss	Reception space
9:10pm	Open dancing	Reception space
9:30pm	Last call	Reception space
9:50pm	Sparkler or confetti send-off setup complete, guests invited to line up	Venue exterior
9:55pm	Send off, photography wraps	Venue exterior
10:00pm	Guests out, vendors strike	Venue