

Wedding-Day Timeline Checklist

A flexible planning tool for photographs, film, voices, movement, and the people you want time to be with. Use it to ask better questions - not to force your celebration into one universal schedule.

Wedding date: _____	Venue or location: _____
Planner or point person: _____	Photo / film coverage hours: _____

Before you build the clock

- ☐ List every getting-ready, ceremony, portrait, and reception address.
- ☐ Choose the moments and people that matter most; let those priorities shape coverage.
- ☐ Decide whether you want a first look, an aisle reveal, or another private moment - without treating any choice as a rule.
- ☐ Ask each venue for current access times, parking or shuttle instructions, sound rules, power availability, and weather-backup details.
- ☐ Name the person who can answer vendor questions so the couple is not the operations desk.

Travel, light, and weather

- ☐ Map the real route, parking, walking time, elevators, and loading access between locations.
- ☐ Add a travel buffer instead of relying on the map's ideal drive time.
- ☐ Confirm when direct light leaves the ceremony and portrait areas; buildings, trees, and mountains can matter more than published sunset.
- ☐ Choose one close portrait route and one indoor or covered alternative.
- ☐ Name the weather decision-maker and the time the indoor-outdoor decision must be final.
- ☐ Keep guest mobility, footwear, heat, cold, smoke, wind, rain, or snow needs in the plan.

People and portraits

- ☐ Write a concise family-formal list using names and relationships, not vague groups.
- ☐ Assign one helper from each side or family group who can gather people quickly.
- ☐ Tell the team about mobility, privacy, sensory, or family-dynamic considerations before the wedding.
- ☐ Protect a few unscheduled minutes after portraits or the ceremony so the day can breathe.

Ceremony, voices, and film

- ☐ Share the ceremony order, readings, cultural or faith traditions, and any privacy boundaries.
- ☐ Confirm the DJ or sound contact and the microphone plan for vows, readings, musicians, and speeches.
- ☐ Tell the film team which voices are especially important to preserve.
- ☐ Confirm whether interviews, private letters, or recorded messages are part of the coverage.
- ☐ Treat drone footage as optional; it depends on safety, weather, permission, airspace, and whether it adds meaning.

Reception and final handoff

- ☐ List entrances, planned dances, toasts, blessings, cake or dessert, performances, and the exit - including who introduces each event.
- ☐ Schedule vendor meals early enough that the team is ready for the next planned moment.
- ☐ Choose one person who can approve a small timeline adjustment if dinner or speeches move.
- ☐ Share the final timeline, family list, addresses, parking notes, and key contacts with every lead vendor.
- ☐ Confirm the primary availability or emergency contact method for the wedding day.

Final timeline review

TIME	MOMENT / LOCATION	WHO NEEDS TO BE READY	BUFFER / BACKUP

Want a photo-and-film timeline built around your actual locations and priorities?

[Check Your Date with Wildwood](#)