



MARY BERG WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY WEDDING GUIDE



HELLO, HELLO, HELLO!

Congratulations, you have decided to marry the love of your life! And congratulations to us, too, because you've chosen Mary Berg Wedding Photography to join you on the best day of your life. Words cannot describe how honoured we are to be a part of your love story. We cannot wait to get to know you, capture your wedding day, and join you for your reception. There is so much to think about between now and then, and we are sure your heads are already spinning - making decisions about things you didn't even realize existed. So to make it a little easier, we have created this guide to help you through the whole process!



These are all the things that we as photographers have thought about. We've made it as comprehensive as possible so that you spend less time worrying about the details and more time getting excited for your wedding day! We created this photography guide, not as a rule book but aimed at preparing you as much as possible so that when The Big Day rolls around, you can kick back and enjoy the presence of each other and all your nearest and dearest.

WHAT TO *expect*

We believe it's our job to make sure that you feel calm, authentic, and engaged during a shoot with us, and we will go above and beyond to ensure this is the case. We will always direct and pose you so you don't feel or look awkward in any of your photographs.



Mary Berg Wedding Photography uses an app called Unscripted for posing inspiration, so together, we can plan out different poses that feel great for you to do (or we improvise and look at Unscripted when we get stuck). Either way, just know that we've got your back. We will capture your special moments perfectly!

As wedding photographers, we have seen it all - the cold feet, the wardrobe malfunction, the teary grandpa, and at least thirteen pairs of stashed stilettos in a bush. But one thing that we know for sure, is that regardless of how much planning you do, the wedding will always unfold as it is meant to be. People seem to swing between being extremely excited and beyond overwhelmed as they're going through the stages of wedding planning - so if you're feeling either of those things, know that this is totally normal!

ENGAGEMENT

session

If the thought of making lovey eyes at your fiancé makes you nervous or you feel you are awkward in front of the camera, then it's probably a good idea to book an engagement session. Not only is this an incredible way for us to have a bit of fun together without the pressure of a timeline, but spending some time together calms the nerves, inspires confidence in front of the camera, and allows us to create beautiful keepsakes in a calm atmosphere. Plus, who doesn't love a new profile pic?! We'll get to know each other better, come away from it, having a better sense of how we work together, and be ready to roll for your wedding day.

BONUS:

You'll have beautiful images to add to wedding invitations or save-the-date cards!



BRIDAL *shoot*

This session is perfect for getting beautiful photos of either brides or grooms in their wedding best before the big day. No time pressure, no waiting guests, no stress. Just you, me, my camera, and a creative adventure. Get a good trial run for your makeup or dress or tux or shoes, pick a location you love (remember it doesn't have to be anywhere near your ceremony venue!), and I'll meet you there! You also can use this as a dress-fitting shoot!



Want to plan the wedding of your dreams and keep your sanity, too?

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FROM US TO YOU:



Tune out the noise that says you should invite people based on social obligations! This is your day, you should stay true to how you want to do it.



There is no shame in asking for help. If you need to practice asking for help in small incremental steps, start now so that you're a pro at calling in some big favours that lead-up to the wedding. And, guess what? People who love you will be thrilled to help!



Hold on tight, and enjoy the process. It'll rush by faster than you know it.

TIMELINES

Timelines make your day flow smoothly, giving your guests, staff, and vendors a general idea of when and where everything will pan out. With timelines as with weddings, there is no one-size-fits-all approach, so it's super important to make a timeline that works for you. If you have a wedding planner, they'll be able to help you create something that aligns with your vision of the perfect day. But one thing to remember is that things almost always take longer than you think they will. Allow some time in between events so you have a second to breathe, kiss your partner, and drink some water. We always make sure to keep a 30 minute window of time before the ceremony without any photos to give you a chance to tame those flyaways or eat a quick bite!





Try to structure your timeline so that we are shooting the formal couple portraits at golden hour, just before the sun sets, with that beautiful afternoon glow all around you. There's nothing like this time of day to capture the mood and magic of the moment. Planning your wedding day with this in mind is very helpful and makes our job easier. Reach out when you're ready to discuss this, and we'll talk you through why it's necessary!



Want to just flow with the day and not worry about portraits? No problem. Let's talk about doing your fancy dress shoot or golden hour portraits on a different day!

GETTING READY

Both calm and chaotic, the getting ready part of the day has all of the feels crammed into a couple of nervous and tender hours. With all of the action buzzing around the bride and groom, it's easy to find yourself in a really chaotic, crowded, and cluttered space that inadvertently adds stress to the situation. Considering the right space for this part of the day is more important than most people think, which is why we recommend thinking about this early.



The factors that contribute to us getting good photos are also the ones that contribute to a more relaxed day for everyone. Here's what we've learned we need:

- A clutter-free space
- Good natural light and lots of it!
TIP: A big window is ideal when taking portraits of people getting their makeup done. (The makeup artist will love the extra light, too!)
- A space with an interior style that suits your own. If at home, don't forget to get rid of all of the day-to-day clutter like electric fans or socks or dog beds. Fill the space with flowers, your favourite things, and just a couple of your favourite people.
- Enough time (at least one hour for each partner, but longer if you're rolling with a big crew). Mary will be sure to show up right as the finishing touches are being placed, and Peter will head over to your fiancé to spend some time with them too. *TIP: A great way to maximize our time is to put all of the things aside that we need for the detail shots. The ring, the shoes, the cuff links, the love letters - put it all aside so we can arrange them and swap through quickly.*
- While everyone is getting ready, chances are you'll be filled with nerves. As you won't have each other for comfort in these moments, consider writing a love letter for your fiancé to read before the ceremony. It'll be a nice little keepsake, make for some incredibly emotion-filled images before the ceremony, and help build the excitement in the leadup to the 'I-do's'.

FIRST *look*

First looks are probably hands-down one of the sweetest new wedding traditions, shaking off old school traditions that say you shouldn't see each other until you're on opposite ends of the aisle. They kick up the romance a couple of notches, allowing you both to share a private moment without your guests, and allowing us to capture some of the unfolding awe and excitement between you.

They're a really fun opportunity for all of us to put our heads together and get creative, but they're also sooo time-sensitive. Planning is key to make sure that the light's right and we can be in the right spot to capture the surprise and wonder of the moment. When you're ready, let's talk about where you'll each stand, where we'll be, and how we can line everything up so the shot is absolutely perfect.



We're a big fan of first looks because they ease the pressure of portraits during the ceremony knowing we've got a few good ones in the bag. As soon as the ceremony is over you can loosen the tie, kick off the heels, and get silly with your friends and family.



CEREMONY &

reception

We'll start by saying this: take things slow. With the kiss, with the walking, with everything. Tell everyone else to do so, too. Resist the urge to rush through and just savor every moment! This allows us plenty of time to get the shot we need, too.



UNPLUGGED WEDDING

An unplugged wedding is not only an amazing opportunity for your guests to disconnect from their devices and to connect to the present moment but they also help us get unobscured shots of you and the rest of the ceremony. There are so many pivotal moments that happen in the blink of an eye - if someone jumps out in front of us with their iPhone while you and the love of your life have your first kiss as forever partners, chances are you'll have a big iPhone shaped blur in the foreground and we'll miss the shot.



Side note: this picture was taken during the pandemic and she was live for family and friends who couldn't be there.

It's hard to ask people to keep their devices in their pockets. And although the people you've invited undoubtedly love and respect you, it can sometimes be hard to disentangle ourselves from our technology. Set out little reminders for your guests to help nudge them in the right direction. Make some cute signs to put up, add a note to the programs, and let your celebrant know so they can remind them before the ceremony begins.

And tell them not to worry - we are on the job of capturing some great images for everyone to take home.

FAMILY PORTRAITS

Depending on your family dynamics, there are several configurations we can photograph the wedding party in. Some with everyone in them, some with each of your immediate then extended families, and some variations of smaller and larger groups. One thing that's absolutely necessary for this part of the day is that everyone knows it's happening, everyone's on board, and there's someone (Wedding planner? Sibling? Best friend?) who knows who everyone is and can help us herd everyone in the right direction at the right time. Before the wedding, the two of you should sit down and write down a list of every person in your family and where they should be at. Give the list to your designated person, so we can fly through these and get everyone back to celebrating as quickly as possible! TIP: if you have a certain configuration you want your family photographed, give us a list, otherwise we'll just go through our usual order.

An ideal time to do this is immediately after the ceremony, but before the couple's portraits. Once the reception starts, it's hard to track everyone down (and likely we might capture hors d'orderves debris between someone's teeth).



WEDDING PARTY

If you have a fleet of bridesmaids or groomsmen (or both), it's worth getting some images of everyone with the flowers and the dresses and the ties and the cute matching outfits. Just make sure people know what's happening, and talk to the wedding planner so they can put it in the schedule for the day - it'll help everyone know where to be and when.

After the family portraits are complete, we head to a different location to photograph the wedding party. This is also a perfect time to set aside some portraits for the two of you.



portraits

BRIDE & GROOM

It's guaranteed that you'll walk away from your wedding day with so many incredible memories in your pockets. What's not guaranteed is that you'll walk away from your wedding day with a portrait of yourselves that you're both absolutely in love with--unless we set some time aside for it. So let's give ourselves at least an hour (preferably an hour of the blue or golden persuasion) in a beautiful pre-scoped location to capture some special moments together. And, for the record, we are not opposed to sneaking away for portrait time more than once throughout the day.





There will be plenty of time for us to become friends before your big day, but if you're a little unsure about spending time in front of the camera, let us know. Most people have some reservations about it, and we always do our best to get to know you so that we can give you the kind of direction that feels authentic to you. We have many prompts ready for the shy and the rambunctious alike, so you will never be left wondering what to do with yourselves.



Portraits like these allow you to create precious keepsakes, step back from the buzz, look into each other's eyes, and take a few grounding moments for yourselves.

LIGHTING

Whether your ceremony is indoor or outdoor, there are a few simple but effective things that can be done to make sure that all of the images sparkle as bright as your memories of your wedding day.



If outdoor, let's consider the following:

- What time is your wedding, and what will the lighting be like at that time? Can we ensure you're both evenly lit? Will we be shooting into the sun? We recommend we shoot with the sun behind the alter so the shadows facing us. But if this isn't feasible, it's ok, we can work with what we have.
- What will your background look like? Can we make it pretty? Will there be anything that could cast shadows onto your faces?
- If we have more physical space to play around with we'll be able to get a nice mix of different types of shots. Close-ups, details, wide-angles, and various candid guests.
- Elevate the composition of your shots by having a symmetrical space. If you say your vows under an arch or between an arbour, your images will have that extra little aesthetic oomph.

If indoor, let's consider the following:

- What type of windows does your venue have? Do they use natural or artificial light? Sometimes artificial light can make things look cold or clinical, but it's possible to warm things up a bit by stringing up some warm festoon lights or candles.
- Are there any rules surrounding your place of worship (if this is where we're having the ceremony) that we should know? If you are unsure, consult with your religious leader and ask them if they have any rules they would like us to know about.
- Would you like us to avoid using flash?
- Do you have a preference as to how much we move around during the ceremony/reception? Would you like us to jump in the mosh or hang back?
- Different photographers have different styles. Chances are, because you have booked us, you have a feel for our vibe. We always do our best to be as emotionally aware as possible, but it never hurts to have a chat before the ceremony so that we're across it all.

after THE CEREMONY...

You'll probably get mobbed! Which is great and loving and so much fun, but we want to capture all of the tears, the hugs and the high-fives. So, if you can, try not to get mobbed in a tiny hallway or in front of the bathroom. Angle for a shady spot outside or a well-lit spacious room so we can be sure to capture the many happy moments in all their happy glory. If there's a flower petal throw, bubble parade or an eco-confetti moment, let us know ahead of time so we can capture you guys grinning from ear to ear behind all of the airborne fragments.



RECEPTION *+ dinner*

The more we know about the layout of the venue and the kind of lighting that will be used, the better prepared we'll be to make sure all of the details line up in favour of amazing images.



From the details of where you'll be sitting and what you have in the background, to where you'll be in relation to the person giving speeches, all of this is super helpful for us to get a lay of the land and understand where to get the best shots. Will there be a sit-down dinner or will people be making their way around with snacks all night? When will you be cutting the cake? Is it formal or more of a relaxed thing? If you're having a DJ, will they be using their own lighting? The more fairy lights and candles and non-directional lighting the better, multi-coloured disco strobes don't look good on guests or their food! And no laser lights, please.

Also, most people don't like to be photographed while they're eating, so this is a good time for us to grab a quick bite too and be well-prepared for the rest of the night! It's great to put in a request with the kitchen that we get our meal first so that we can eat before the speeches start!

FIRST DANCE & *sparkler exit*

Whether choreographed and theatrical, or shy and a little clumsy, the first dance is one of the most tear-jerking moments of the day. For us to capture this perfectly, ask everyone to give you two some time before flooding the dance floor - we'd love to get pics that contrast the quiet and the chaos equally.

Ditch the cool, directional overhead lights in favour of sparklers, candles, and warm atmospheric lighting. A warm beam of light backlighting the two of you is a great addition as well.



If you are planning a sparkler exit, be sure we get the memo about this! It works best if there is a designated sparkler hander outer so that everyone's sparklers are burning bright together! If you've booked a venue that does not allow for a sparkler exit, you could opt for bubbles, eco confetti, or Chinese lanterns-- just let us know so we can ensure there is enough light available for the shot.

This is usually where our job ends, and we will leave everyone to party on into the wee hours while we head home super excited about all of the incredible moments we've witnessed throughout the day.





PHOTO DELIVERY

It takes me (Mary) six to fourteen weeks (depending on the package size you chose) to select, edit, and deliver your gallery of photos after the wedding. I'll be sure to sneak you a couple of previews within 48 hours so you can share them with family and friends while everyone's still buzzing from the big day.

When I eventually do hand over all of the images, it's always such a special moment for everyone! A few of our couples have invited friends and family over for a special viewing event--it's always amazing getting to relive that day with your nearest and dearest. Plus, any excuse to make a batch of popcorn is always welcome.

Feel free to share your images with your guests so they can share them on their social media. But please don't forget to tag us on our socials. Not only does it help others find their way to our page, but it's always so fun for us to see which pictures everyone loves most.

Please refrain from adding filters when reposting (it goes against the rules laid out in our contract). If you want editing tweaks, please reach out.

If vendors want to use any of my images for their business pages, refer them to us, and we can provide them with the gallery and photo rights.

DAY AFTER

session

If you opted out of the pre-wedding fancy dress shoot, an after-wedding session is a great way to get everyone together again and relive some of those memories (with a bonus honeymoon glow!).

Put on your dresses and suits and get any photos we missed taking on the day of the ceremony without the added time pressure, like the golden hour shots. Some for the albums, some for the cards, and some for social media.



WEDDING ALBUMS

and prints

How often do you flick back through the photos on your phone just to reminisce? It does not happen all that often if you are anything like us. This is why we are a firm believer in the photo album. A physical object, an heirloom, and a beautiful way to memorialize your special day.

I can create a selection of photos or take your lead, but I'd love to work with you in creating an album that holds a special place in your home. I've taken the time to cultivate relationships with top-notch printers who render images faithfully and never compromise on quality.

I'll design it over the course of a couple of weeks, send it to you for approval, and get it back from the printers within three weeks. -Mary

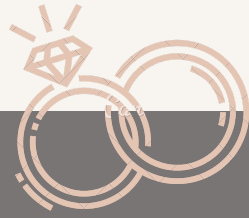




THANK YOU

We know that this has been a lot of information to digest, but please know that not all of it applies to every wedding. Sit down and have a discussion with your fiancé about what feels right for both of you, and don't hesitate to get us on the line if you feel like you need a human being to talk you through all of the text.

We are so grateful you chose us and we can't wait for your big day to roll around so we can start capturing some beautiful memories together!



LET'S RECAP

- We will always direct and pose you so you don't feel or look awkward in any of your photographs.
- Write love letters to one another to read while getting ready if you can.
- Give us the DL on lighting at the ceremony and reception.
- Don't forget to talk to your celebrant or religious leader about their preferences and our role as photographers during the ceremony.
- Slow down, don't forget to breathe, take it all in, and have a good time.
- Provide snacks and water wherever possible.

talk soon

VENDOR RECOMMENDATIONS

List of references, favorite people in the industry, and where to find their work: All @ are Instagram handles

WEDDING PLANNERS

- @simplyforever.weddings

VIDEOGRAPHERS

- @_petersphotographx
519-329-3295
petrosmediamotion@gmail.com
- @jessicaknelsenfilms

FLORISTS

- @karasrosegarden
- @tina_harms_1319
519-983-2958

MAKE-UP ARTISTS & HAIR

- @make.upbychris
- @twistnpinbridal
- @curlsnpearls.bridal
519-819-5822

FLOWER PRESERVATION

DJS

- A&M Sounds Disc Jockey

RENTALS

- @simply_elegance_events
simpleelegantsevents@hotmail.com
- @plate_mates__
info@platemates.ca
- @rustic_rose_decor
Anna 519-324-6430
Sara 519-325-8620

CAKE

- @helenascakestilbury
226-627-2014
- @cakesdessertsbysarah
519-809-2269
- Mama Bears-Kingsville

DRESS SHOPS

- @marthas_dressup
226-349-4039

CATERERS

- Carmen's Catering



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