



FREE GUIDE FOR BRIDES

How to Look Fabulous on Four Wedding Photos



THANK YOU FOR DOWNLOADING THIS EBOOK

If you are reading this guide that means that your wedding photos are important to you and you are aware that, besides of your wedding photographer's choice there are many factors that can change the quality of your wedding photos and that the final result is depending on you as well. This guide is not intended to make the photographers job easier, but it describes the real life situations that we are facing on almost every wedding. We will tell you how to avoid things that may jeopardise the quality of your wedding photos and we encouraging you to remember at least some of them. We can assure you that the outcome will be worth it.

*Peter and Monika
the Umbrella Studio*







GENERAL TIPS FOR THE DAY

- Try to get a good sleep the night before the wedding. Swollen red eyes can not be hidden with make-up. Annoyance and sleepiness are also noticeable and do not serve the purpose well and even the best wedding photographer can not do anything about your tiredness.
- Do not leave everything to the last minute and furthermore do not work till late the night before. If you can not do something on time, ask friends or family to help you.
- You should really be aware that one way or another everything is going to be just fine. Accept that fact and do not be stressed by details. Instead try to think of your wedding day as a beautiful experience full of emotions instead of a stressful and exhausting event.
- Try not to think all the time that the photographer is now photographing you and do not pose nor wave to a camera every time when the photographer is nearby.
- Smile at each other and to your guests and enjoy everything. This is your day, not your uncle who dislikes the food. You should remember that you can not please everybody.





BRIDE PREPARATIONS

- Before having your hair done make sure that you are wearing a top which is easy to take off without destroying your hairstyle or makeup. Remember that your clothes should be nice looking as you will have them on for your preparations pictures.
- Do not wear anything which can leave marks on your skin (like tight socks) - you do not want to have red shackle marks on your ankles.
- Take your wedding dress from the cover in advance and hang it in a place which is accessible to the photographer. Nothing will happen to the dress throughout a couple of hours and if you leave it in a plastic bag it will gather electrostatic.
- During dressing, some brides put a cloth on their face to avoid staining the dress with make-up. It is very unattractive complication sometimes recommended by wedding dress salons, which basing on our experience as photographers is not justified at all.



BRIDE PREPARATIONS

- Do not forget to use the perfumes, but mind your face expression. The 99% of brides is doing a strange face expression in such an attractive moment for the wedding photographer to capture.
- If it turns out that the groom is already waiting and you are still not dressed, the worst thing to do is to start panicking. Do not allow the stress to take control. They are not going to start without you anyway :)
- Shut the door to the preparation room and leave only one person who will help you with the dress (mum, sister, friend) and remember that telling photographer to stop taking the pictures will not speed up things.





CEREMONY

- All the guests should enter the church/venue before the wedding ceremony. Parents and close relatives should take the first row of chairs. They should be as close to you as possible. Rows of chairs behind parents should always be taken as it looks really bad when they are left empty.
- Enter the church/venue slowly, do not rush and do not watch your step all the time - look forward.
- If the flower girls are going first, keep some distance between you and them.
- When you are walking down the aisle with your father, stop at the end for a moment and let him kiss you, do not turn your back on him immediately after you reach the groom, it does not look good and is quite disappointing for every father. This moment is also anticipated by every photographer.
- Smile, cherish and show your emotions. Weddings are serious, but most importantly they are a happy event.
- Do not be afraid of the priest. As through the whole ceremony, you could become stressed and focused on the person leading the ceremony, the pictures will not be interesting because you are the main subject.



CEREMONY

- During vows turn your faces towards each other not to the priest. When you make your vows look in each other eyes. It looks much better, not to mention how good it looks on photos.
- You should hold the wedding rings with both hands. Do not hide them in a fist, put it on slowly looking in each other eyes.
- If any of you drop the ring (not likely) do not pick it up. Bridesmaid or groomsman should do it.
- It is very important to inform the guests that they should not come to an altar with cameras. Their pictures won't be better than the ones taken by the photographer but their presence can spoil the best pictures. It is really worth emphasising that part and to pass that information to as many wedding guests as possible. Tell the guests that you would rather have them participating in the ceremony instead of observing it through the viewfinder. Assure them that you will gladly share pictures taken by professionals. Such information can be passed to wedding guests together with schedule of the day and invitations.



CEREMONY

- Find out exactly where you will sign the marriage act and tell that to the photographer. Make sure that the pen you are using is nice and elegant.
- If the ceremony is in a church, allow the guests to leave the church before you. This will avoid the situation where you will be first outside the church and the guests will be throwing rice on you from behind.
- Tell the guests that they should throw the rice up in the air, not in your face. This will make sure that the rice will fall down nicely and you will not have a defensive position and strange face expression.
- If you want a group shot taken after the ceremony, please inform your wedding photographer in advance.





PARTY

- After arriving make sure the photographer is with you before you enter the venue. You probably want to have the moment of Big Entrance on your photos. If the groom is going to carry the bride through the threshold, make sure that the photographer is already inside.
- During the first dance it is best to leave as much space for the bride and groom as possible. Ask guests not to crowd near you. You will feel more comfortable and your photographer will be able to catch intimate moments between you and the groom.
- It is not enough to turn down the lights in the room to create a romantic mood for the first dance. It is really worth spending some money on the professional lighting if your venue does not have it.
- When throwing the bouquet ask the bridesmaids to stand behind you. Sometimes they tend to form a circle and not all of them have equal chances to catch it.
- During the cake cutting, please be close to each other, cuddle and smile. Look at each other, hold hands and show that you love each other.





PHOTO SESSION

- If you are not sure what you want to try to define what you really would like to avoid. Then there will be no misunderstanding and your wedding photographer will more likely please you.
- If you want really romantic, intimate images, then it has to be you and your photographer only. No friends and family as they will be a huge distraction and you will feel uncomfortable when posing for photographs. That will have a big impact on your photographers work.
- Try not to look into the camera all the time. Even posed pictures should look natural.
- Try not ask “what should we do now?” all the time. Just be with your other half and show true feelings to your loved one. Cuddling and kissing are highly recommended! Your photographer will tell you if something is not right.
- Please remember, that poses which you might find strange will look very different on photos.
- Inconspicuous locations can provide a truly great background. If you like your photographers work, please do not resist his/her ideas and you will be rewarded with exceptional wedding pictures.





THANK YOU FOR READING!

We really hope that you liked our tips and you will use them on your wedding.

If you have any questions regarding wedding photography, wedding planning or you just need to chat with someone about your wedding, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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We would love to answer all your questions, even if you are not our customer.

We are really looking forward to hear from you!

Peter and Monika

the Umbrella Studio Wedding Photography