

Simple Wedding Day Timeline Guide



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Welcome

Planning a wedding can feel overwhelming —
especially when you're trying to figure out
how the day is supposed to flow.

This guide shows you what actually happens on a wedding day,
how long things typically take,
and where couples benefit most from buffer time.

No pressure. No rushing. Just clarity.

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Getting Ready

- Hair & makeup timing (with buffer)
 - Getting dressed
 - Travel time reminder
 - Why buffer time matters

Buffer time during hair and makeup allows the photographer to begin capturing images during the final stages of getting ready, while ensuring the bridal party is dressed, on schedule, and able to arrive on time without feeling rushed.

First Look vs No First Look

- If you do a first look → timing impact.
- If you don't → where photos move later.

Both options work — it's just about planning the time correctly.

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Photos Without Feeling Rushed

- Couple photos timing
- Family photo timing
- Why grouping matters

Grouping photos intentionally reduces stress and allows you to stay present instead of being pulled away from your wedding day.

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Reception Flow

- Cocktail hour
 - Dinner
 - Toasts
- First dances
- Sunset note

If your reception takes place near sunset, timing is especially important — Florida sunsets are brief and easily missed, so a short, intentional pause allows you to capture those iconic moments before the light fades.

Morning Wedding Timeline

This timeline is a relaxed guide — beach conditions, tides, and light are always respected for the best experience.

- **Vendor Arrival**

- Your BWD vendors arrive at your wedding site ready for your big day.

- **Setup Windows**

- The set-up times are 1-3 hours prior to the start of your ceremony.

- **Getting-Ready Buffer**

- Wedding couples should be ready 1 1/2 hours prior to scheduled ceremony time.

- **Ceremony Start**

Guests and the wedding couple are encouraged to arrive early to allow a smooth ceremony start.

- **Photo Flow**

- Photo flow is relaxed and guided, with moments captured before, during, and after the ceremony.

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Afternoon & Golden Hour Timeline

This timeline is a relaxed guide — beach conditions, tides, and light are always respected for the best experience.

- **Arrival + Décor**

- Your BWDs team arrive 1-3 hours prior to your scheduled time.

- **Ceremony (approx. 15 minutes)**

- Your ceremony includes vows, sand ceremony, ring exchange, first kiss, BWDs officiant & photographer.

- **Family Photos**

- Family photos are completed efficiently, allowing time for relaxed couple portraits.

- **Couple Portraits (approx. 30 minutes or less)**

- The wedding couple with guided intimate photos as planned.

- **Sunset Buffer (VERY important in SWFL)**

Natural light and photography flow together to capture a warm Florida skyline during golden hour.

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Sunset / Evening Timeline

This timeline is a relaxed guide — beach conditions, tides, and light are always respected for the best experience.

- **Lighting Considerations**
- Ceremony and portraits are timed to capture the best natural light as sunset conditions shift.
- **Cocktail Hour Flow**
 - Guests transition comfortably into cocktail hour while the couple enjoys relaxed portraits nearby.
- **Reception Transition ***
 - The celebration continues seamlessly as the evening transitions into reception time or relaxed guest gathering.
- **Exit timing ***
- At reception, photos of your entrance, dance, cake & lifestyle images are taken as planned.

*You have options for purchasing our photography extra-bundle pack.

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A Thoughtful Ending

Planning a wedding doesn't have to feel rushed, overwhelming, or confusing.

If there's one thing I hope you take away from this guide, it's this:
there is no "perfect" wedding — only a meaningful one.

Timelines are meant to support your day, not control it.
They exist to create space for connection, calm, and moments you'll remember long after the sand has been brushed from your shoes.

Whether you follow these examples exactly or simply use them as a reference, trust that you are already doing enough.
The most beautiful weddings I've photographed weren't the ones that ran perfectly on paper —
they were the ones where couples felt present, relaxed, and fully immersed in the moment.

If at any point you need guidance, reassurance, or someone to help you navigate the details with clarity and care,
Beach Wedding Deals is always here as a resource.

Thank you for trusting me with a small part of your planning journey.
I hope this guide brings you confidence, peace of mind, and the freedom to enjoy what truly matters.

Your love is the reason for the day.
Everything else is simply there to support it.

Warmly,
Heather McGeever
Beach Wedding Deals

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Planning Notes

Use this page to jot down timing thoughts, questions, or adjustments as your plans come together.



BWD

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