

A Full Wedding Day, *Hour by Hour*

Example schedule for a 5:00 PM ceremony with a first look. Shift every time to fit your ceremony and sunset.

Getting Ready

11:00 AM	Hair + makeup underway About 45–60 minutes per person
12:30 PM	Photographer arrives Have rings, invitations, shoes + heirlooms in one spot
12:45 PM	Detail + getting-ready photos
2:00 PM	Getting dressed Partner gets ready with second shooter

Before the Ceremony

2:45 PM	First look + couple portraits
3:30 PM	Wedding party photos
4:00 PM	Immediate family photos (optional)
4:15 PM	Tuck away, hydrate + touch-ups
4:30 PM	Guests arrive

Ceremony

5:00 PM	Ceremony Most run 20–30 minutes
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Cocktail Hour

5:30 PM	Extended family photos Send your shot list ahead of time
5:45 PM	Join cocktail hour Reception details photographed before guests enter

Reception

6:30 PM	Grand entrance + first dance
6:45 PM	Dinner is served
7:30 PM	Toasts
7:45 PM	Parent dances, then dancing opens
Sunset	Golden hour portraits About 20 minutes, right before sunset
9:00 PM	Cake cutting
9:30 PM	Dance floor + party photos
10:30 PM	Grand send-off

A few tips from me

- Look up sunset for your date and build around it.
- A first look frees you up to enjoy cocktail hour.
- Ask someone to round up family for photos.
- ABOVE ALL, YOUR DAY SHOULD REFLECT YOU + YOUR VALUES. DON'T BUILD IT AROUND PHOTOS (OR ANYONE ELSE) — BUILD THE PHOTOS AROUND YOUR DAY.

- Add 15–30 minutes of buffer before the ceremony.
- Make a family photo list with names.
- Send this to vendors + your wedding party a week out.