

## How Many Hours You Should Book Creatives for Your Wedding?

Things to consider when choosing how many hours of coverage you need..

Your investing in your big day, why not invest in the coverage your getting to remember it!?

\*Biggest thing to consider what is included in the packages from the creative.

What they offer: Do you want *everything* or just the basics?\*

- **When is your sunset? -- big one! What time will EVERYTHING photo wise be done!**
- What time are you getting ready?
- How important are getting ready photos?
  - There is a lot of prep the morning of the wedding but it usually consists of hair, makeup and mimosas. This is a time where you and all of your bridesmaids relax sharing old stories, listening to music, getting in your dresses, and laughing. This can be a great opportunity to get some candid photos of you all hanging out and having a good time before the day gets started. It's a good idea to establish how important these photos are to you as it typically takes about an hour or more to photograph the getting ready part of the day. And while the photos really help tell the story of your wedding day especially in the album these photos
- Since you are doing a first look?
  - A first look is when you and your soon to be spouse see each other the day of the wedding before the ceremony and have it photographed. Why would this affect how much time you need to book with your wedding creative? Traditionally family photos, bridal party photos, and wedding portraits happen in between the ceremony and the reception. This is usually when the cocktail hour is for guests to keep them occupied while your bridal party and you are out busy with the creative. If you do a first look before the ceremony, you can also do all of your bridal portraits and bridal party photos if you choose! Freeing you up to go straight from the ceremony to the reception and meet with guests. Saving you an hour of time coverage.
- Are you wanting indoor or outdoor photos?
- When are you starting your ceremony?
- How long will it be?
- Are you doing a grand exit at the end of the night?
  - If you're doing a grand exit and you want the creative to cover, that will dictate the end of the coverage. So if you know your exit will be at 10, then you can work backwards from there. If you are not doing a grand exit, Budget for the creative to be at the reception for 2 hours. That's typically enough to cover the entrance, cake cutting, dances, toast, and after a certain amount of time all dancing photos start to look the same.

### **8 Hours of Wedding Day Coverage**

An 8-hour package is usually enough time for an average-size wedding, 8 hours of coverage will usually allow the creative to capture the tail end of you getting ready, some detail shots of the reception space, and the start of the dance party. Most weddings can be confidently captured with 8 hours of

coverage. This allows for about an hour of getting ready photos which is perfect as most of the girls are done with hair and makeup and we can capture you getting into the dress. Most couples do decide to do a first look but with 8 hours of coverage the timeline is not screwed up if you decide it's not the right choice for you. That leads us to the ceremony, then an hour to two hours to shoot all the family photos, bridal party photos, and your portraits before heading to the reception. Capture all the activities, entrance, first dances, cake, toasts, and all those great drunk dance moves from your guests! Like I said, for the majority of weddings 8 hours of coverage is perfect.

### **Things to consider**

- If you have your heart set on doing a first look, then we recommend at least 8 hours of coverage
- Even though 8 hours seems like a lot of time, this works best for weddings where the ceremony and reception are at the same location. Since 8 hours gives the creatives just enough time to take a few getting ready, detail, and dancing shots.

### **10+ Hours of Wedding Day Coverage**

Don't want to feel rushed to get all of the Pinterest-worthy shots everyone wants on their wedding day? Then at least 10+ hours of coverage is the right way to go. Since the creative are on site for most of the day, there is enough time to get all of the detail and prep shots, plus plenty of extra time for a first look (if you want to do one). On top of that, nobody will have to rush through any of the wedding party and family portraits before getting to dinner and dancing. Aside from it being more than enough time to capture all of the details of the day.

### **Things to consider**

- If the wedding ceremony and reception are taking place in different locations, we recommend at least 10 hours of coverage. This gives the creative enough time to travel to the second location and still get all of the shots
- Planning a grand exit? Unless you're willing to give up coverage in the earlier hours, 8 hours is usually not enough to have a creative there until the very end of the reception
- If you have a huge wedding party and family, we usually recommend 10+ hours of coverage. Why? With everyone in "party mode" it means that it can be hard to get and keep people's attention (not to mention the fact that it can be difficult to find and get the right people in the right place all at the right time!)
- If you're super into design and/or have the budget to make all of those Pinterest inspiration ideas come to life, it would be a bummer if all of those design details didn't get photographed. So, if you have the wedding signs, custom cocktails, and lounges that everybody dreams of, we definitely recommend 10+ hours of coverage to make sure every design detail gets the attention it deserves!

### **Adding It All Up**

These can/may overlap:

-Post-Ceremony: 1-3 hours (depending on when you have your first look) & getting ready, details, portraits

-Getting Ready: 2-3 hours (hair + makeup)

-First Look: 1 hour (prep, staging, the look, and photos after, and a breather)

Ceremony: 1 hour (guest getting in and out)

Cocktail Hour: up to an hour Photos will be done at this time if needed

Family Photos: 1 hour (both sides together, and separate)

Wedding Party Photos: 1-1 ½ hours (Groom, Bride, Groomsmen, & Bridesmaids)

Reception: 4-5 hours (grand entrance, first dances, cake, toasts, party shots, & possible exit) - remember your meal may take up to an hour in your timeline.

**TOTAL TIME: 10 - 12 HOURS**

### **AROUND 8 HOURS OF COVERAGE:**

These can/may overlap:

-Post-Ceremony: 1-2 (depending on when you have your first look) & getting ready, details, & portraits

-Tailend of Getting Ready: 1 hour (hair + makeup)

-First Look: 1 hour (prep, staging, the look, and photos after, and a breather)

Ceremony: 1 hour (guest getting in and out)

Cocktail Hour: up to an hour Photos will be done at this time if needed

Family Photos: 1 hour (both sides together, and separate)

Wedding Party Photos: 1-1 ½ hours (Groom, Bride, Groomsmen, & Bridesmaids)

Reception: 1-3 hours (grand entrance, first dances, cake, toasts, party shots) - remember your meal may take up to an hour in your timeline.

