

17 Essential Things You Should Know

BEFORE BOOKING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER

Here's a brief summary of the 17 essential things that you should be asking your wedding photographer before booking them...

1. **Leave enough time** - To avoid that last minute rush allow at least an hour and a half for your photographer to take photos of you getting ready, your bridesmaids, Mum, and anyone else you want close to you before you leave for the ceremony.
2. **Have an engagement shoot** - It allows you to get used to being in front of your photographer and having your picture taken.
3. **Choose someone you like** - Your photographer will be with you all day long, on one of the most important days of your lives, so it's vital that you feel comfortable with them.
4. **Think about lighting on the day** - Ensure that you discuss your wedding day venue with your photographer to equip them with some prior knowledge - a professional photographer should be willing to visit the venue before your wedding day to assess the lighting requirements.
5. **What about the 'golden hour'?** - That magic time of day shortly after sunrise or before sunset when daylight is warmer and softer. Make sure your photographer knows when this is.
6. **Have a Plan B** - If it's raining hard your photographer might not be able to take photos in that beautiful country meadow you've chosen for group shots. Make sure that you've discussed alternative locations. Consider taking some see-through umbrellas!
7. **Do you like their photography style?** - There's a place for group photos, reportage photos, *and* portrait photos on your wedding day. Make sure that you speak to your photographer about the styles that you prefer so that they can accommodate you.
8. **Copyright information** - By UK law, the photos that your photographer takes belong to them. So make sure that you have an agreement in writing, to make sure that you can use the photos as agreed with your photographer.
9. **The contract** - All professional photographers should provide a written contract detailing the services that they have agreed to provide. This is to protect *you and them*.
10. **Backup equipment** - Make sure that your photographer has backup equipment of a professional standard - this is vital.
11. **Insurance** - Your photographer must hold Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance.
12. **How much should I spend?** - Typically, around 15% of your wedding budget. If you find a photographer that you absolutely love, sit down with them so that they can produce a package that suits works for everyone.
13. **What's included?** - Be careful to see what's included in the package you're looking at. Things like second photographers, additional hours, albums, and engagement sessions may or may not be included.
14. **Avoid hiring family or friends** - Although this may be tempting, it is highly likely that this person will not have the technical expertise and experience to give you the best photos. Are they willing to spend all day, maybe 8 - 12 hours behind the camera and not participate in the wedding as a guest?
15. **Can't we get away with just using an iPhone?** - There's no intrinsic reason why you shouldn't do this. However, if you ask friends to step up to the mark it will be very stressful. They'll miss things - it happens. Imagine trying to get that amazing shot at the altar with a smartphone!
16. **Find out about the post-production** - Make sure you know how your photographer does the post-production of the photos, if at all.