



# *The Secret to a Stress Free Wedding Day!*

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*A wedding timeline will ensure  
your wedding day goes  
smoothly. This cheat sheet will  
help you plan exactly how  
much time you need to allot for  
each section of your wedding  
day!*

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*Contact Us*

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## *Planning Your Wedding Timeline*

It can be difficult to know where to start when planning your wedding day timeline. This guide is your answer! Use these guidelines to help you begin to set up your timeline. Simply place the times that are set in stone into this plan and work forwards and backwards accordingly! Be sure to check out Episode #14 of the More Than Marriage Podcast for more details!

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### *Hair and Makeup - Approx 3 Hours*

You want the morning of your wedding to be full of relaxation and joy. Be sure to consider how many bridesmaids you have, how many HMUA will be present, and any changes in locations. During this time, your photographer can capture all your pretty details!

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### *Getting Ready Portraits - Approx 60 min*

These photos always end up being some of my favorites of the bride! Make sure to add some time for your mother and bridesmaids to get dressed so they can join and be a part of your beautiful transformation!

### *Bridal Robes - Approx 30 min*

Once you and your bridesmaids are all glammed up, be sure to make time for a few photos of you all in your bridal robes. Pop some champagne, put a swipe of mascara on, and have fun together!



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### *Bride and Groom Individual Portraits - Approx 30 min*



Don't forget to set aside time to capture some beautiful individual portraits of both the bride and the groom on the wedding day. I promise you will end up loving these photos!



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### *First Look - Approx 20 min*

Many couples are choosing to do a first look. Having a first look ensures that you and your groom will spend as much time together as possible! It also makes sure you have adequate time with your guests who have come to celebrate with you!



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### *Bride & Groom Portraits - Approx 1 hour*

Yay! You finally get to spend time together before the day really gets underway! This is such a sweet time for you to feel all of that excitement and anticipation!

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### *Wedding Party Portraits - Approx 1 hour*

Have your wedding party meet you at the location of your first look if possible to save time!

Keep in mind if you will have multiple photographers capturing the wedding party or if you will need to add extra time for a single photographer.



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### *Family Portraits - Approx 40 min*

Consider capturing your wedding party photos before the ceremony. Your family will likely all be present and everyone is looking their sharpest! Clearly communicate to all family exactly where and when to meet. Don't feel bad giving them *multiple* reminders before the wedding day. ;)



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### *Rest & Retouch Before Ceremony - Approx 30 min*

Don't forget to build in time between portraits and the ceremony. You'll need a bit to take a breath, retouch your makeup, drink some water, and be fully present in the moment! During this time your photographer can capture all of the ceremony details.



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### *Ceremony - Approx 40 min*

This approximation will depend on the type of ceremony you are having. A church ceremony will last longer than a more relaxed outdoor ceremony officiated by a friend.



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### *Cocktail Hour - Approx 1 hour*

A cocktail hour is the perfect transition from ceremony to reception. This can be your time to greet and catch up with your guests while your photographers capture your reception details!



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### *Guests Enter Reception Space - Approx 15 min*

Give your guests enough time to find their seats and settle in to the reception space.

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### *Grand Entrance - 15 min*

Grand entrances are a fun way to introduce the wedding party and the new Mr + Mrs to the guests!



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### *Dinner - Approx 1 hour*

Ensure that there is enough time allotted for all of your guests to eat dinner. Consider if you will have a buffet style, family style, or served dinner and how many courses you will have.



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### *Speeches - Approx 40 min*

Speeches should start after everyone has been served for dinner and once the head table and family tables have finished eating. We have found that if guests are still eating at this time they tend to be better listeners!



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### *First Dances - Approx 20 min*

Think about how long the songs that you choose for your first dances are as you block out this section in your timeline.



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### *Sunset Photos - Approx 40 min*

Take a break from the craziness and loudness of the reception and sneak off with your honey for sunset photos! These are our FAVORITE photos we capture of brides and grooms!



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### *Open Dance Floor - Approx 3 hours*

This estimate will depend on your goals for the reception, the time limit of your venue space, and the amount of hours you book your DJ for.

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### *Special Exit - Approx 15 min*

Don't forget to plan a beautiful exit for you and your new spouse! Create a plan for how this will be executed and have your wedding party or family members lend a helping hand!



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### *Additional Timeline Tips and Tricks*

I hope these estimations have helped you start to envision what your timeline could look like! There are a few extra tips I couldn't keep a secret from you. Know that each section of this guide can be adapted and changed to best fit your needs- there is no one perfect timeline! Be sure to check out the More Than Marriage Podcast on Spotify or Apple Podcasts for all of our best wedding planning tips. Happy planning!

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### *Tip 1: Plan Buffer Time*

Adding 10 - 15 minutes of buffer time between events on your timeline will save you the stress that happens when something gets behind schedule on the day of. Keep yourself from feeling hectic by adding in additional time. You'll be so glad you did!

### *Tip 2: Don't forget the little things*

As you are planning your timeline, I suggest having a copy for yourself that includes every little detail, down to who will place the centerpieces on the table and when they will do it. If you have a wedding planner, discuss these small details with them.

### *Tip 3: Update your timeline routinely*

Remind yourself throughout wedding planning that your timeline is fluid and not set in stone. Things will pop up along the way that cause you to have to rethink some aspects of your timeline. That is ok! As long as you are revisiting it routinely, you'll be sure to have an incredible day!

### *Tip 4: Communicate Your Timeline*

This tip could use it's own full guide! It is so important that you communicate the timeline to everyone necessary. Talk to your family about exactly where and when to meet for portraits and give them a personalized copy of the timeline. This will mean you won't waste any time waiting on members for portraits!

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