

ELOPEMENT — — PLANNING *guide*



MEET THE *photographer*



Hi I'm Meghann, a creative soul with a love for romance.

I have always been creatively minded and had a deep love for true connection between humans, the unabashed real type of connection. I believe, at the end of the day, these true moments, even the smallest ones, are what mean the most. Weddings are filled with these tiny moments and the fact that I get to capture them, stop time and hand them onto you to be remembered forever means more than you may ever know.



FIRST, SOME Q&A

01

Q: WHAT IS AN ELOPEMENT?

A: Elopements, in my opinion, are wedding celebrations that are more concentrated on the couple confessing their love than on social events, the details and gifts.

Elopements are frequently without guests, however some will add a few loved ones to celebrate. Ultimately, this is all about YOU, therefore you get to choose who is allowed to be around.

02

Q: CAN WE INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY?

A: Of course! An elopement, in my opinion, is a small wedding ceremony witnessed by no more than 20 people, focusing on the two of you. I also have a couple suggestions for include loved ones who aren't physically present, so don't worry about leaving someone out who isn't physically available. If you want to have a larger wedding, that's OK; we can prepare for it instead!

03

Q: HOW MUCH WILL OUR ELOPEMENT COST?

A: The typical wedding day costs \$35,000, I kid you not! However, with a well-planned elopement, you may get married and enjoy an exclusive event for half the price or less.



Opting to elope or have a non-traditional wedding is a courageous decision, and I applaud you for contemplating it!

Getting engaged is the ideal approach for you to get rid of the superfluous and focus exclusively on what is important: YOU!

SAY HELLO TO AN
ADVENTURE YOU WILL
NEVER FORGET!



KEY STEPS TO PLANNING YOUR ELOPEMENT

01

DAYDREAMING VISUALISE?

Every plan starts with your imagination! Consider your perfect wedding day and proceed from there! Consider everything, from the venue to the weather, the backdrop to the seclusion. Make a list of all the alternatives to obtain a clearer understanding of what you want to produce.

02

RESEARCHING LOOK FOR OPTIONS

After you've compiled a list of options, it's time to choose which one is best for you. A professional elopement photographer (ahem, me) may be quite useful in this regard, but Google will always be a great source.





03 BOOKING RESERVATION

It's time to make your final selection now that you've narrowed down which of your original ideas are truly feasible and will meet your goal! After you've decided on a date and place, you can start reserving travel and lodging.

04 FINALISING CONCLUDE

When you've already agreed on a plan and a location, you may begin planning the remainder of your wedding day. Choose any remaining providers you wish to hire, and then seek for nearby experts who can mirror your vision.

05 CELEBRATING! PARTY TIME!

With the preparations behind you, you can totally immerse yourself in the wedding celebration that is genuinely, distinctively, and beautifully YOU! Kudos!

NOW, LET'S BREAK THOSE STEPS DOWN A BIT



01 DAYDREAMING

First and foremost, let us delve into your one-of-a-kind vision for your wedding day. What prompted you to go on this journey? Investigate the motivations behind your ideal wedding day to guarantee that the event lives up to your aspirations. Therefore, turn off netflix, put your feet up while you sip your fave choice of beverage and get on the thinking chair.

LOCATION IDEAS

Begin by making a list of places where you may imagine yourselves being married. You may have as many as you want! Here are several suggestions to get you started:



FOREST

Surrounded by mountains, in a calm and isolated location away from distractions and the rush and bustle of everyday life.



OCEAN

The sound of the ocean waves and salty wind will be the ideal accompaniment to your wedding day.



MOUNTAINS

As you exchange vows in the face of beautiful mountains, beauty abounds.



URBAN

Exploring the old buildings



Stay optimistic and unwind. The greatest place to discuss is in a calm, comfortable setting.

Pause for a moment and snuggle up on the couch together. Remember that this stage isn't about the specifics; it's merely a starting point.

02 RESEARCHING

After you've compiled a big list of potential elopement sites, it's time to begin filtering them down.

Before you feel a connection with a particular site, conduct extensive study to ensure that each possible destination is a feasible alternative. Investigate the aforementioned for each site you've enumerated:

- What are the local marriage laws and requirements? Can you be legally married there?
- Is the area accessible year round? If not, when will it be available? Does this match your vision?
- Are there any restrictions? For instance, Rocky Mountain National Park only allows wedding ceremonies in particular locations by permit only.
- How will you get there? Is this travel physically and financially feasible for you?
- How busy is the location?
- Will you be required to have a ceremony or photography permit?
- Where will you and any potential guests stay?
- What kind of transportation will you need? If there is a hike involved, how long is it?
- Are there any local dangers you should be aware of?
- Are there any medical advisories and will you need to update your vaccines?
- What clothing is seasonally appropriate and does it match your wedding day vision?
- What kind of footwear should you bring?

Using this checklist, reduce your location options down to at least three. Then it's time to start thinking about vendors:

- Are you hoping to have your hair and makeup professionally styled? Can this be done in the location you're considering?
- Do you want to hire a florist for your bouquet and other flowers? Is there one nearby?
- What are you hoping to do about food? Is your ideal option easily accessible from that location?
- What other vendors are you hoping to incorporate? Is that even possible in your location?
- Do you want to decorate the ceremony site with a rug, candles, flowers, etc? Can you do this in each potential location?
- Are you planning to incorporate music? Is music allowed?
- What do you want to do during the ceremony itself? Will this be possible in every location you're considering?
- Will you be required to have an officiant in the location you are considering?
- Do you want to have a reception alternative incorporating a first dance, toast, or food? Can you do this in your location?
- What other activities are you hoping to incorporate into your day, and do they make sense for each location?



03 BOOKING

Since you've settled on a venue what you'd like to be included in your elopement, it's time for making it official! First and foremost, choose a date!

Bare in mind that weekdays are typically less busy, so if you can avoid Saturday and Sunday, that'd be great!

- Book your flights.
- Find the perfect place to stay, ideally as close to your ceremony location as possible.
- Decide where you're going to be getting ready, and if you're doing a first look, ensure you have two getting ready spaces.
- Find lodging for any potential guests (optional).
- Arrange your day-of transportation.
- Arrange guest transportation (optional)



04 FINALISING

You'll be able to relax and enjoy the days leading up to your wedding day once you've finalized all of your arrangements, made all of your reservations, and booked everything. Here's a time-based checklist to help you finish things up:

4 MONTHS OR MORE BEFORE "I DO"

- Nail down your location.
- Book travel and accommodations.
- Find the perfect outfits for your special day. Most bridal shops suggest starting 6-12 months in advance with 3 fittings before your day.
- Contact photographers, seeking someone who is experienced in elopements and who connects with you and your vision.
- Book your photographer.
- Book your hair and makeup artists(optional).
- Book your florist or find a flower alternative (optional).
- Book your officiant.
- Make a decision about food, and hire your caterer or private chef if you want to go that route.





3 MONTHS BEFORE "I DO"

- Purchase your rings.
- Find the perfect shoes for your ceremony location.
- Shop for jewelry and accessories.
- Decide on the spot for your ceremony.
- Arrange for transportation to and from your ceremony location.

2 MONTHS BEFORE "I DO"

- Arrange for any additional activities (optional).
- Write your vows.
- Decide how you want to incorporate music into your wedding day (optional).
- Create your day-of timeline, incorporating plenty of time for a relaxed, stress-free day.

1 MONTH BEFORE "I DO"

- Finalise your ceremony plans.
- Organize any day-of surprises for your partner (optional).
- Finalise music selections, readings, etc.

1 WEEK BEFORE "I DO"

- Pack in advance to ensure you don't forget anything, like your rings, permits, vows, etc.
- Check the weather and make any necessary adjustments to your plans.
- Finalise plans with any vendors.
- Pick up your marriage license.
- Take care of yourself by staying hydrated, getting sleep, and eating healthy.
- Check in with any guests to ensure they are ready to go!



05 CELEBRATING!

Yippee! Way to go! All of your planning, researching, booking, and completing has finally paid off, and you can finally enjoy your ideal elopement!



9 CREATIVE WAYS TO MAKE YOUR ELOPEMENT CEREMONY UNIQUE

You've chosen a stunning place for your elopement. You've decided on a date. And you've asked a handful of your favorite ones to join you in celebrating.

Only one question still stands...

What precisely do we do at our celebration to make it memorable and special?

Understand that your ceremony is one of the finest parts about eloping. You are not constrained by time, family obligations, or antiquated customs.

Simply put, you get to be yourself!

But if you're looking for ideas to make your elopement adventure really unique, I've got you!

I. CONSTRUCT YOUR OWN VOWS

Let's admit it: conventional "fill in the gaps" vows aren't particularly memorable. Instead, personalise your ceremony by including personalised vows to your lover.

You might compose them in a customised promise booklet and then swap them as a present with your spouse after the ceremony. Alternatively, you may write your vows on special paper and frame them for your main house wall.

Nothing beats your own sincere vows, no matter how they're delivered.

Words have a lot of power.

And expressing messages of comfort and devotion will be a memory you'll always recall.



2. INCLUDE A HANDFASTING RITUAL

Have you ever wondered where the phrase "tying the knot" originated?

Hand fasting involves actually tying the couple's hands together to symbolise the joining of two lives.

Usually, you'd each select your own cord material or colors to utilise in the ceremony. Each color of ribbon or rope often represents a distinct virtue, such as dedication or strength.

3. READ MESSAGES FROM YOUR LOVED ONES

With an elopement, it is unavoidable that not all of your loved ones will be present to enjoy your wonderful day.

However, this does not exclude their inclusion.

You might ask them to send a short message with some advice or best wishes for your wedding. These statements can be read out loud during the ceremony or afterwards when you are alone.

4. CREATE AN ELEMENTS BOTTLE

If you're considering an outdoorsy or adventurous elopement, creating an elements bottle will be the ideal keepsake of your special day.

To bring with you on the day, select a beautiful bottle with a cork or cap. Fill the bottle with pieces from your elopement destination.

Soil, sand, small rocks, twigs, leaves, natural flowers, or petals from your bouquet might all be used.

Seal the bottle and it becomes a forever memento of your wedding day.





5. WRITE A NOTE TO YOUR FUTURE SELVES

Consider commemorating your silver wedding anniversary by exchanging words you sent to each other on the day of your wedding.

In 10 years, a lot may change! Replaying the feeling of your elopement ten years later, on the other hand, will produce a very unique occasion.

Therefore, let your ideas flow and write down what you actually feel.

Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

- Share anything about your union that you are looking forward to.
- Give three sincere facts why you adore your mate.
- Talk about where you envision the two of you in ten years.

6. SHARE A CHAMPAGNE TOAST OR A SHOT

A bottle of champagne shouts "celebration" like nothing else.

It's not only a pleasant way to commemorate such a momentous day, but it also gives a fantastic opportunity for stunning photographs. Especially if you open the container and spray it all over the place!

Maybe bubbles aren't your thing.

Instead, you might take a shot of your favorite booze. Alternatively, salute each other with a cherished bottle of wine.

7. WRAP YOURSELVES UP IN A BLANKET

Are you planning an elopement in the winter? Or perhaps a lovely place such as Tasmania?

The Native American custom of covering the married couple in a quilt or blanket, on the other hand, might be a welcome addition to your elopement ceremony.

As you face your future together, this custom symbolizes warmth and unity.

It also provides some excellent picture possibilities.

8. PUT TOGETHER A TIME CAPSULE OR ANNIVERSARY BOX

This is a great concept for saving your day's memories, similar to penning a letter to your future self.

To begin, select a unique box or container that you may save for a particular anniversary.

Then fill it with important mementos.

Letters to each other, your pair bucket list, photographs of each other, a particular bottle of wine, a dried flower from your ceremony, or a little piece of your wedding gown are all possibilities.

9. PLAN A 'FIRST LOOK' IN YOUR TIMELINE

Although most typical marriages involve the couple gearing up individually, an elopement makes this more difficult.

But initial impressions are truly unique.

As a result, an increasing number of couples are including a first look into their elopement plans.

As well as the photographs from these times, set amid your spectacular outside scenery, are still stunning.

REMEMBER,

THIS IS YOUR WEDDING DAY!

You are free to do whatever seems right for you.

If you don't want to, don't follow the normal customs.
And don't allow anyone else's expectations influence your decisions.

The most essential thing is to create a ceremony that is significant and unforgettable for both of you.
And besides, you are a one-of-a-kind couple.

And your elopement ceremony should be a reflection of that!



WHY DO YOU NEED A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR YOUR ELOPEMENT?

It's essential to have your wedding day captured!

As a result, your memories are recorded in photographs, allowing you to revisit all of the joy, enthusiasm, and love. That you may share with your family and friends.

Particularly those who were not present on the actual day.

Elopements are JUST AS SIGNIFICANT as conventional weddings. It's your experience, and it deserves to be shared.

WORK WITH ME



NEED ANY HELP?

WHETHER YOU ARE PLANNING A MORE
TRADITIONAL WEDDING, AN ELOPEMENT, OR
ANYTHING IN-BETWEEN. MY HOPES FOR YOU THAT
YOUR WEDDING DAY IS PLANNED AROUND WHAT IS
TRULY IMPORTANT TO YOU, NOT WHAT IS
“EXPECTED” OF YOU.

LET'S CHAT!

