Wedding Photography Checklist

A complete must-have shot list covering getting ready, ceremony, portraits, couple shots, reception, and details.

Before the Day

- [ ] Review and finalize your shot list with the photographer.
- [ ] Walk through the day-of timeline so coverage matches the schedule.
- [ ] Decide whether to do a first look and block time for it.
- [ ] Confirm hours of coverage and any second shooter.
- [ ] Share the venue address, sunset time, and any photo restrictions.
  Some ceremony sites limit flash or where the photographer can stand.
- [ ] Gather meaningful detail items in one box for early styled shots.

Getting Ready

- [ ] Photograph the dress, suit, shoes, and accessories laid out.
- [ ] Capture the rings, invitation suite, and heirloom details.
- [ ] Shoot hair and makeup in progress.
- [ ] Document candid moments with the wedding party.
- [ ] Photograph each partner putting on final attire.
- [ ] Capture a private moment reading letters or gifts, if exchanged.

The Ceremony

- [ ] Photograph the venue and decor before guests arrive.
- [ ] Capture the processional and each person walking the aisle.
- [ ] Frame the partner's reaction during the entrance.
- [ ] Document the vows, ring exchange, and the first kiss.
- [ ] Capture guest reactions and emotional faces in the crowd.
- [ ] Shoot the recessional and the exit toss or cheer.

Family and Group Portraits

- [ ] Work through the numbered family grouping list in order.
- [ ] Photograph each set of parents with the couple.
- [ ] Capture grandparents and extended-family combinations.
- [ ] Shoot the full wedding party together and in smaller groups.
- [ ] Take an all-guest group photo if the venue allows.
  A balcony or staircase makes a large group shot far easier to compose.
- [ ] Release family members once their portraits are done.

The Couple

- [ ] Capture relaxed walking and candid laughing shots.
- [ ] Shoot classic posed portraits in flattering light.
- [ ] Use the venue's best backdrops and architecture.

- [ ] Take golden-hour photos near sunset if the timeline allows.
- [ ] Capture a few quiet, intimate close-ups.
- [ ] Photograph the full attire from head to toe.

The Reception

- [ ] Capture the grand entrance and crowd reaction.
- [ ] Photograph the first dance and parent dances.
- [ ] Document toasts and the speakers' and listeners' expressions.
- [ ] Shoot the cake cutting and any traditions.
- [ ] Capture open dancing and candid guest moments.
- [ ] Photograph the send-off and getaway.

Details and Decor

- [ ] Photograph the tablescapes, centerpieces, and place settings.
- [ ] Capture signage, escort cards, and the guest book.
- [ ] Shoot the cake and dessert display from multiple angles.
- [ ] Document florals, lighting, and the overall room.
- [ ] Capture favors and any personalized touches.
- [ ] Photograph the bar and signature drinks.