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Photography tips for your Hawaii Wedding

How many weddings have you been to? How many weddings have you photographed the Bride and Groom for the entire day? Do you think over the years your wedding photographer has seen a lot and knows what will work, what won't, and what you should watch out for? Of course they do. Here you'll find a wide variety of tips, advice and ideas that can make your day go from good to great!

I'm sure you already know that choosing the right wedding photographer is just as important as choosing the right groom. Well... maybe not that important. There are many things that you can do to ensure that your wedding photos and your Hawaii wedding are as good as they can be.

Arrange a Pre-Wedding Shoot

Consider an engagement photo session or bridal portrait session before the wedding. This will make you feel more comfortable with the photographer and how he works. You will get some great photos during the session and your wedding photos will look more natural

Arranging a pre-wedding photo shoot is perhaps one of the best things you can do to improve your wedding pictures. Think about it, your wedding photographer will be very comfortable on his end of the camera. The time you spend with your photographer in front of the camera will help you become more comfortable being the subject.

Try to get to know your wedding photographer. Have fun. Be crazy and let your photographer be creative. Let's face it; those "magazine bride photos" that you have been looking at do not happen all by themselves. They are well planned, rehearsed, and the photo that you finally see in the magazine was probably picked from hundreds of photos. The more time you spend with your photographer, the more likely it is that he will capture that one special moment that only happens once.

Work on the Pose

"Chin up, a little to the left, shoulders back, stand on one foot, hold your breath...hang on, don't move." Any good wedding photographer should be able to pose you in an elegant and attractive position. Do you know the reason for all these the contortions? By lifting your chin you banish the double chin.

Holding your elbows away from your body reduces the apparent width of your torso and accentuates the bosom. Shifting your weight to your rear foot cocks your hips into a position that gives you a sexy curviness. There are many other little tricks your photographer may teach you. Just listen and he will not lead you astray.

Hair and Makeup

Your wedding day is not the right time to experiment with makeup and hairstyles. Be sure to plan a separate day to have a hair and makeup "dress rehearsal". If you plan to wear a headpiece, use this time to make sure that it will fit with your hairstyle. If you plan it right, your photographer may be available to take some formals on this day too.

Props

Give you photographer the tools he needs to be creative. When ordering flowers for the wedding, be sure to order an extra single rose, boutonniere, ribbon or other inexpensive items that the photographer can use in your photos. Don't forget to have a copy of your wedding invitation that he can incorporate into the detail shots of your big day. Photos of wedding rings with flowers, invitation, maybe even your shoes and garter can really add to your album.

The Bouquet

How should you hold a bouquet? In a single word...DOWN!! Never hide your thousand-dollar dress with a hundred dollar bouquet. If you are a five-foot bride, do not order a 3 foot cascading bouquet. It's going to be a long day. By the end of the day, you will be wishing that your bouquet was smaller, lighter, more durable, and

maybe even artificial. And if it's too big you may even injure your guests during the bouquet toss.

Backgrounds and Angles

Remember, your wedding day is all about you. Many times complicated backgrounds in your photos distract the viewer's attention away from the bride and will take away from your photographs. Keep backgrounds as simple as possible. Interesting angles are what keeps the images of a professional photographer from looking like the images of "Uncle Joe". Everyone knows what a wedding looks like from 5 feet 6. You may see your photographer lying on the ground or climbing trees. Don't laugh at him. That's why he gets paid well for doing a great job.

Lighting

When choosing your venue and time of day, keep lighting in mind. If your wedding is outdoors, the best light happens 1-2 hours before sunset. If your wedding is indoors, try to avoid buildings with high dark ceilings and few windows. Since natural light will look much better in your photos, try to plan your wedding when the room will be the brightest. By the way, photographers hate fluorescent lights. They make you look green.

Wedding Timeline

With so much going on during your ceremony and reception its important to have a timeline prepared so nothing is left to chance. Work with your photographer ahead of time, either planning the timeline together or sharing the details of the day with them. Here you'll find some great ideas and advice from our wedding photographer members on how to improve the wedding timeline and make sure you get the photo moments you don't want to miss.

How Many Posed Pictures Should I Take?

Even brides looking for a photojournalistic style of wedding photography still want to include some posed family and wedding party shots.

One of the questions I am asked most frequently is "how many posed pictures should I do?"

When determining the flow and number of posed pictures, keep in mind that everything tends to take longer that you think it would. Depending on the size of your wedding party and family, a few quick poses can turn into an hour or two of wrangling everyone together. To assist, make sure that everyone involved in group posed shots is aware of the details of the photo session - where, when and how long has been allocated.

Think about what you are going to do with the photos after the wedding. It might seem like a good idea to have every variation of siblings, parents, grandparents, etc. but which photos are you really going to look at down the road? The less time your photographer spends on posed group shots, the more time available for capturing candid moments of celebration.

Family Pictures

Compile a list of the group photos you want long before your wedding day. Share the list with your photographer ahead of time. Also appoint a bridesmaid or relative to help wrangle the groups and put faces with names.

Often it helps to start with large groups and move to small, so the majority of the people can be released quickly to go to the reception

Improving Communication With Your Wedding Photographer

The best way to avoid problems down the road is to have an open and honest discussion about your expectations in your wedding photographer and their expectations in you. To do this you need to establish a great relationship and communication with each other.

Your not just renting wedding cameras and equipment! Your hiring a talented artist who will capture the moments you'll treasure forever.

Single Use Cameras

Lots of people use them and they seldom work. You may get a few good photos here and there but don't expect too much. You'll probably get a whole camera full of photos of Cousin Skip's girlfriend that you hardly know. Your three year old niece will probably take a lot of pictures of people's belly buttons. And if anyone gets tipsy at the reception you may get a lot of photos of the ground, shoes, or eyeballs (from holding the camera backwards). Your photography is best left to professionals.

Congratulations on your big day. Now let's make those memories last!

Partially based on notes taken from several on-line articles including an article by Mark Parker, a Birmingham, Alabama Wedding Photographer. His work can be seen at: www.marksbrides.com.