

YESHUA PHOTOGRAPHY'S WEDDING



GUIDE

VALUABLE ADVICE FOR YOUR WEDDING
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPHERS PERSPECTIVE)

BY: JUAN A. PEREZ JR.



YOU'RE ABOUT TO TIE THE KNOT

YOUR
ADVENTURE
AWAITS



First of all, congrats on your engagement! You're about to get married! Remember—during the frustrating moments of trying to pull everything together, always come back to the reason you're doing this: THE PROFESSION OF EACH OTHER'S LOVE in front of **friends, family, and, if you are of the faith, God.**

I've seen how planning for your wedding day can be overwhelming. **But do you want to know a secret?** It doesn't have to be! I've compiled a lot of tips and tricks I've learned over the years and from the **hundreds of weddings** I've attended. (Yes, I've attended close to a hundred!.)

This guide is coming from a photographer's perspective, but it still has plenty of advice outside of photography.

Nonetheless, all the photos in this guide were shot by yours truly, “Juan A Perez Jr.” **My goal is to document my couple's wedding with photos and videos that, even if 100 years pass, their grandchildren (if God willing) could still admire them.**

Before you dive in, may I introduce myself on the next page?

POSSIBLY YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER?



Juan A. Perez Jr

INTERGRITY | COMPENTENCY | TRANSPARENCY

Hey there! Sharing a little about me, I've been shooting since 2020 and i must admit it has been such a blessing for every client that has hired me! Personally, I've never really liked social media, which is why you may not see much content on Yeshua's socials. However, I digress. Most weekends, you can find me at Quinces and weddings, either capturing memories through photo and video or serving as a barista for Kairos Coffee Catering.

I created this guide because I care about you and I've seen some of the **worst practices vendors have done in the valley.** Photographers wearing crocs and T-shirts, MC's that don't know when to stop talking. bands that use the couple's wedding as a marketing opportunity rather playing for the couples guest. Event coordinators that are not keeping track of the wedding itinerary. Event centers not keeping maintenance up to date like restrooms. vendors creating shady contracts for couples to sign...

I will be extremely transparent, **I HATE SALESMEN.** Personally, I believe in the golden rule **"treat others as the way you'd want to be treated."**

I don't want salesman selling me junk in the same way i wont do that to you.

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YOUR JOURNEY
STARTS HERE

YESHUA-PHOTOGRAPHY

SO WHERE DO YOU START?

✿ BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION

Planning is key to making your wedding dreams come true. Choosing a date and venue is just the start. To turn your vision into reality, **you need a clear plan that matches your desires and budget.**

✿ THE VISION FOR YOUR BIG DAY

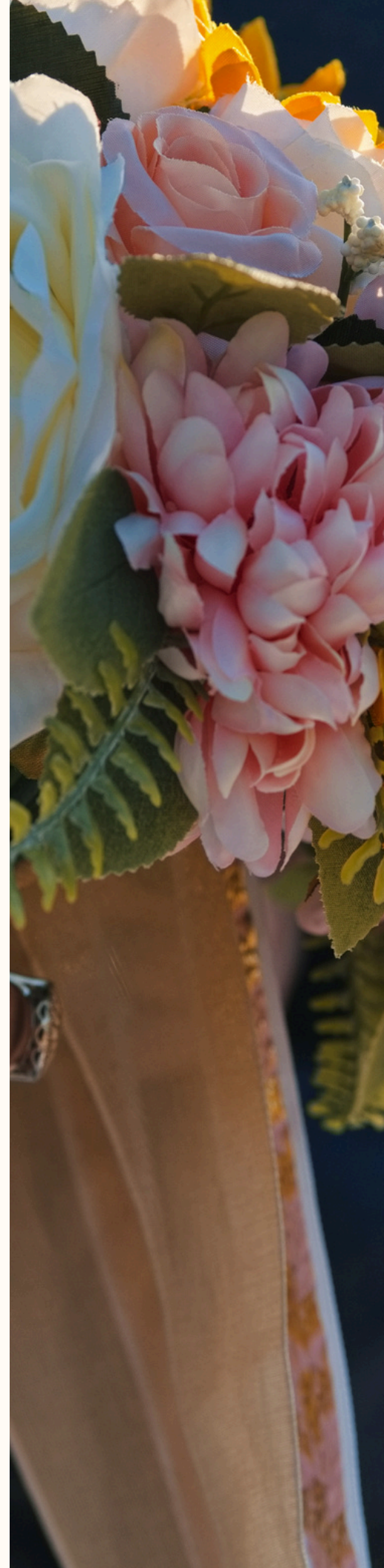
Do you want your wedding to feel romantic and elegant Or maybe adventurous and fun?

What's your ideal wedding location? Do you envision a grand entrance with fireworks to grab your guests' attention? Or are you more comfortable with an intimate, relaxed reception? Do you want to exit with sparklers? Or perhaps include carnival robot/costume dancers with pogo sticks?

These are important questions to consider when discussing your shared vision. **Couples often get derailed when they're not clear about what they want and are overwhelmed by too many options.**

Before moving forward, start journaling in your phone or a physical journal dedicated to your dream wedding. Make a note of every detail you can think of so you have a quick reference and won't forget any of your ideas.

This will help you stick to your vision, narrow your focus, and feel less overwhelmed. **For example, if you want sparklers, there's no need to consider Bubble Exit!** Focus on what you really want and ignore the rest.





SET A WEDDING BUDGET

Deciding on your vision and if you want help is half the battle. Next, you need to tackle the budget. This can be tricky and overwhelming, but it's totally doable.

Start by creating a spreadsheet of your expected costs to keep track of what you're spending. Then, decide how much money you're comfortable investing in your wedding. You can research general vendor and venue costs to give yourself an estimate to work with, then adjust as needed.



HIRING HELP

Even though you've hired a few vendors already, you can hire a planner at any step of the journey to take over. Of course, there are DIY options if you're trying to save money, but I can tell you from experience that **even a little help goes a long way.**

An experienced wedding planner will make sure everything is running smoothly and on schedule, handle last-minute emergencies, coordinate vendors and guests, secure permits or licenses if necessary, keep track of all contracts and payments, provide décor suggestions, and a lot more.

At this stage, it's important to remember that having an extra pair of hands to assist with planning makes life easier. **You don't have to do it all yourself!** Also, remember that day-of planners and coordinators are also available.

If hiring help for the entire planning process is out of your budget, **many planners are available for one day only** to lift the weight off your shoulders so you can focus on enjoying your special moment.



A NOTE ON "MUST-HAVES"

It's easy to get caught up in wanting everything you see on Pinterest, but your budget should be the deciding factor when it comes to upgrading or downgrading certain details. This is where research and communication become invaluable.

Sit down with your fiancé and make a list of what each of you deems most important. Something that often **gets overlooked is a good audio system**, so people can hear you. While it's not always expressed, it's one of those small details that matters! Even if music isn't important to you, it really hurts to see a speech happening and no one can hear.

Finally, don't forget the hidden costs that might come up during the planning process (gratuities, taxes, credit card processing fees). Talk about these items too so when those moments arise, nothing is a surprise.



MONEY SAVING TIPS



MAKE YOUR GUEST LIST THE A-LIST ONLY

It should go without saying that a smaller guest list is better for both your budget and your sanity! No matter how many guests you have, trimming the list can help you go from feeling overwhelmed to feeling that everything is manageable. **An intimate celebration usually requires less money and effort**—plus, it comes with a priceless bonus: more quality time with the smaller group of guests you invited!

Here's how to trim your list:

- Make a list of your immediate family and very close friends. These are your "A-list" names that will definitely get invited. Using just this list, estimate your food costs and write down the total.
- Make a second list of B-list people who you will only invite if it fits within your budget. These may include friends your parents want to invite, distant family members, and friends you haven't spoken to in over a year.
- Compare how much you'll spend on food for your A-list to what you have budgeted for food and drinks. If there's wiggle room, meaning your A-list doesn't use up your entire food budget, you can look at your B-list and decide if you want to invite a few more people.
- Be honest with yourself about the numbers: decide how many guests you can comfortably host and be firm about sticking to it.



MICRO WEDDING

While it may not seem ideal, instead of a big wedding save it for a down-payment for your home. Either by making it a MICRO wedding and getting the minimum like a venue and photographer. (little bias) Or by not even having a wedding.

Rather in a couple years once you and your fiance are more settled, Do your "official" wedding as a vows renewal. **Hey, it does not benefit me to tell you to not do a wedding but its not about me its about you and your fiance.**

PICK A LOCATION THAT LOOKS GREAT AU NATUREL

Allow nature's beauty to work for you in outdoor areas with stunning views! Venues that already have inspiring natural features, like a **beach, garden, or barn**, can save you hundreds (or even thousands) of dollars—all you have to do is supply the finishing touches.

Many couples use **minimal decorations** in beautiful venues. You might be surprised at the impact just a few simple items can make.



COFFEE CART OVER AN ALCOHOL BAR

Alcohol can easily get very expensive. Instead of spending absurd amounts of money on alcohol, consider getting a coffee cart (or two).

While coffee isn't cheap, it's still more affordable than alcohol. Plus, **coffee can be a luxurious service**, especially espresso-based drinks from places like "**Kairos Coffee Catering.**"



HAVE YOUR CEREMONY AND RECEPTION AT ONE LOCATION

Having both your ceremony and reception at the same place can save you a ton of money—not to mention **simplify the planning process.**

If one site is just too costly, consider holding your cocktail hour in a separate area from the main venue or researching nearby spaces for rent that are affordable. **If you can have the entire wedding in one spot, you'll also save on transportation costs.** (not to mention time)





A FOREVER
KIND OF LOVE



On your wedding day, let's make sure it's a smooth sail! Whether you're flying solo or have a planner by your side, **a detailed hour-by-hour schedule is your golden ticket to a stress-free day.**

Once your timeline is ready, spread the love! Share it with your entourage, coordinator, vendors, and of course, your (MAYBE) photographer (that's me!). Let's make sure everyone's singing from the same hymn sheet!

While weddings usually have a typical flow, feel free to mix it up to suit your style. It's your show after all! And hey, if you need a hand figuring out the nitty-gritty details, let us know!



EVERYTHING IS INTERCHANGEABLE



THE WEDDING TIMELINE

NOTE: SOMETIMES WEDDINGS WILL FALL BEHIND SCHEDULE, IF THIS HAPPENS ITS OK! IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD. BUT IT CAN EFFECT THE PACE OF YOUR WEDDING.



EXAMPLE TIMELINE

10 HOURS OF COVERAGE WITH A FIRST LOOK



- 11:00 Getting ready and detail photos
- 1:30 First look and Wedding party photos
- 2:00 Ceremony
- 3:00 Family photos
- 4:00 Couple photos
- 5:00 Grand entrance
- 6:00 Dinner begins
- 7:00 Speeches, first dance
- 8:00 Cake cutting, bouquet & garter toss
- 9:00 Dance party
- 10:00 Grand exit

NOTE: This is considering buffer time needed to travel and transition to other programs of the wedding.

THE DETAILS



THE DETAILS ARE SO IMPORTANT

There's something special about capturing your wedding day's small details. As a photographer, I focus on telling your story in the most meaningful way to you, by documenting all of the special moments throughout the day—from getting ready to walking down the aisle to dancing with your guests.

You've probably spent hours carefully picking the various details of your wedding, and I enjoy photographing them as part of your day's story!

Please gather all of your wedding details and have them available for me when I arrive. After greeting you, I will begin taking detail photographs while your hair and makeup are being done. To save time, I suggest gathering the items in a box the day before.

Quick tip: If you want clutter-free images, designate a room at the venue or a section of a room as the "bag area" and keep most of your belongings there.



DETAILS BOX

FOR THE BRIDE

- Shoes
- The rings
- All other jewelry
- Headpieces
- Perfume
- Bouquet
- Garters/
handkerchiefs
- Pretty Dress Hanger
- Wedding stationary
with envelopes i.e.
invitations, programs,
thank you cards.

FOR THE GROOM

- Shoes
- Pocket square / Tie /
Bowtie
- Belt
- Socks (If patterned)
- Cologne
- Cufflinks
- Watch

OTHERS

- Vow Books
- Ring Box
- Any other special
details

PRE - WEDDING MOMENTS

✿ GETTING READY ✿

Getting ready photos are primarily candid.

However, your photographer should try to get everyone mostly ready before they start photographing yall.

You probably don't want a photo of yourself with half-done makeup or hair! So just **relax and focus on preparing**, knowing that your photographer likely won't capture anything unflattering.



✿ GET READY IN A WAY THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO BE CAPTURED IN PHOTOS ✿

It's up to you how you want to prepare for photos. Some brides choose matching or custom robes or shirts for their bridal party.

Remember, **you're not just making memories—you're preserving them.** Candid moments are usually best, though some photographers may pose you.

My personal opinion **Posed shots can never replace the authenticity of genuine moments.** While They might not be as structured, but they capture the true essence of your wedding day.



THE LOCATION

Before your reception and ceremony location, the “getting ready” space is the most important place. It's where you'll spend the morning with your wedding party, prepare, and have photographs taken. When picking a place, **look for an open space with plenty of natural light.** Consider renting out a lovely Airbnb or boutique hotel room if the space provided by your venue doesn't seem suitable.



THAT DAY, THAT PLACE,
THAT EVERYTHING




✦ THE FIRST LOOK

Let's face it: your wedding is both the best and one of the most stressful days of your life. I usually advise my couples to do a first look since it allows them to have a quiet moment with their partner or parent away from the crowds at the ceremony. They get to take a break from the pressure and spend some quality time together and soak up the love and excitement.


When you're in front of an audience, it's difficult to concentrate on anything other than the faces staring at you.

I've discovered that having a first look gives you **a safe space to be emotional and enjoy the moment.** After seeing each other, you can hug, kiss, twirl, and get a good look **without feeling rushed.** First-look photos give you a pause in your crazy day to share your love for one another in private.

Truthfully the first look is common with bride and groom but it can be done with bride and father as well!



COUPLES PHOTOS



If you choose to have a first look, **We could add the mini photo session on top of this.** So you can hit two birds in one stone. You would just need to adjust your wedding itinerary for this.

During the couple photos we are going to pose you a bit, You can skip this part if you want really it's up to you! Would we recommend it? Uhhhh, It is really preference, this is the part where you get some of your more "beautiful" photos. While it is staged these photos do look beautiful!

Here's a industry secret, these are typically the photos and video most photography, photo & video, media, production, videography and even cinematographers will use on their social media or marketing materials.

It looks great! **It's traditional,** and you will probably use these photos yourselves! haha, really its up to you!

Our recommendation: Have it in your wedding itinerary to have this session.

"BUT WHAT IF WE'RE ALWAYS AWKWARD IN PHOTOS?"

Don't stress! That's one of the most common worries I hear. Whenever a couple brings this up, it typically means "I've never had professional photos taken before" or "I'm awkward / nervous in front of the camera." It's one of my favorite questions to answer because I always say, "It doesn't matter!"

While Yeshua-photography is all about authentically documenting your wedding, we will pose you and while Being posed may feel weird, wait till you see your self in the end results, You going to be like:

"Whaaat oh my gosh, we look like we can be on a magazine!"



THE WEDDING PARTY

POSING WITH YOUR WEDDING PARTY

Once your photos are taken before or just after the ceremony, it's time for the wedding party. Your photographer may capture some shots of just one partner's side, then the other's, and then a group shot of everyone.

Your photographer may also try to grab individual shots of the two of you with members of your party. If you're skipping the first look, you can also do this section after the ceremony.

Before your wedding day comes up **if you have any special request regarding poses feel free to let us know or your photographer.** We know some brides want to certain types of poses maybe its being goofy poses or maybe being serious like an Italian mafia.

Really everyone is different maybe you don't have any special request and you just want beautiful photos. Aye we got you! haha!

THE CEREMONY

CEREMONY

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



This is the moment you've been looking forward to for months. It's easy to get caught up in all the preparations and stress, but remember that the most important thing is that this is the beginning of your lives together. Savor this moment!

The usual ceremony usually lasts approximately 30 minutes, but if you want to incorporate any particular traditions, I'd suggest allowing yourself an hour.

THREE IMPORTANT TIPS: (YOU MAY FORGET)

- Asking your officiant to move out of the way before the first kiss so they aren't in the background of the photo
- Hold your kiss longer than usual for plenty of shots! **(Ideally)**
- **Walking Slowly Down the Aisle take your time.** which gives your photographer plenty of opportunities to capture every detail, from your dress to your expressions.



THE FAMILY



HERE'S WHAT TO KNOW AND DO IDEALLY:

My goal is for you to have the most enjoyable and efficient family photos possible. Although they may seem daunting, I am here to make them go smoothly.



TELL YOUR FAMILY ABOUT THE PHOTOS

Make sure the family members who will be in your group shots are aware ahead of time. **You can also have your officiant make an announcement**, asking family members to meet for photos after the ceremony in a designated location.



DESIGNATE SOMEONE TO BE IN CHARGE

Having a friend or family member who knows your family can be a huge help in making sure everyone is present and ready for the photos.

As truthfully family knows family better any wedding vendor..



PHONES...

So while some photographers don't mind taking photos with your guest's phones. **This can slow down the process of getting your family photos** with professional camera equipment compared to a phone. (There is a difference in quality especially in low light environments.)



THE FAMILY

★ WE WILL WORK BIG TO SMALL

I suggest starting with the largest group and working your way down to smaller groups so that any guests who are no longer required can be dismissed.

I also recommend taking photos of grandparents or older guests first, so they can be dismissed earlier.

★ ASK EVERYONE TO PUT THEIR PHONES AWAY

When a guest takes a photo over my shoulder, **it can confuse folks about where to look and slow down the process.**

Please ask guests to refrain from taking photos with their phones. **They will have plenty of time for that once we're done.**



✦ THE RECEPTION ✦

RECEPTION MEMORIES

Finally, some rest and relaxation. You're married, and it's time to celebrate! During your reception, I'll take some candid and group shots, **so if you have any friends or extended family members you need photos with, now is the time.**

During this time, a lot of things happen. So **Don't stress about the photos, focus on enjoying your time.** The reception is your time to shine, so dance, laugh, and celebrate to your heart's content!



HERE ARE THE USUAL RECEPTION EVENTS:

- Grand entrance
- Toasts
- First dance
- Parent dances
- Bouquet toss
- Garter toss
- Cake cutting
- Grand exit

UNPLUGGED WEDDING



Once more on phones

The phones will come out in your photos and video.

If you don't want phones in the your photos and videos you need to ask guest to refrain from taking photos with their phones, Especially in tight spaces.

At the end of the day, photos from phones will always be of lower quality compared to our cameras especially in low light scenes.

a solution to the problem is having an unplugged wedding.

How to inform guests

- **Tell them early through the invitation:** Add a line that reads, “We would love for you to be there, but we are having an unplugged wedding; we kindly request that you do not take any photos during the ceremony.”
- **Ask the officiant to make a brief announcement:** Before the ceremony, your officiant can request that guests turn off their phones or at least refrain from taking pictures.



SELF CARE

DON'T NEGLECT YOUR HEALTH

As your big day approaches, you might feel stressed, overwhelmed, and stretched thin in knowing this everyone has different coping mechanisms. **And it happens to be that eating is one way some people cope with stress, careful.**

FOCUS ON WHAT'S IMPORTANT

Sure, there may be hiccups along the way or even on the big day, but the key is to remember the reason you're celebrating: **your commitment to each other!** Enjoy the moment and focus on the joy of having your friends and family with you.

SELF-CARE TIPS

- **Take a Break :** Step away from wedding planning and engage in activities you love.
- **Habit building :** Build good habits like eating not too ugly or working out. Even something as small as putting your steps in, Or choosing the "healthier option".
- **Spend Quality Time :** Enjoy moments with your partner, friends, and family. Don't forget to go on dates!
- **Seek Support :** If needed, talk to someone you trust for additional support.



THANK YOU FOR READING THIS GUIDE, WE CANNOT WAIT TO DOCUMENT YOUR DAY!

MY SHOT LIST

GETTING READY

- dress
- suit
- shoes
- jewelry
- bouquet
- boutonnieres
- rings
- invitations
- getting makeup done
- putting on wedding attire
- putting on jewelry
- putting on shoe
- candids of everyone (FAV)

RECEPTION

- grand entrance
- cake
- decorations
- guests interactions
- toasts & speeches
- first dance
- parent dances
- guests dancing
- cake cutting
- bouquet toss
- garter toss
- grand exit

BRIDAL PARTY

- each side separately
- individual photos
- entire party

THE COUPLE

- shot of rings
- individual photos
- couple together

CEREMONY

- ceremony site & details
- everyone walking down the aisle
- each partner's reaction
- exchanging of rings
- reading of vows
- first kiss
- guests

FAMILY

Every family situation is different. Please prepare a list of family combinations that you want photographed.

YOUR SHOT LIST

If you have any special request you can write your must have shots here. plus, You can send me a photo afterwards and we can brainstorm if you like!

FAMILY

OTHER

COUPLE
