



Wedding day time check list

So you've begin to visualise your wedding day and are starting to see how it may all come together. The problem is that like many couples this is most likely the 1st time you've planned a wedding and its pretty tough to work out how long things are going to take?

Clearly its important that you will want to enjoy yourselves on your wedding day and you want to be sure not to take too much onboard or feel like time is running away with you.

This short guide will help you put some timings down against key things and maybe even help avoid potential bottle necks too.

Its worth being realistic when relying on experience from friends or attending other weddings. Each couple will have their own priorities and sometimes the things others planned won't be right for you. For sure take on board things which went down really well but don't fall into the trap of thinking everything has to be done a particular way or that your wedding should follow suit.

The information here is based on years of photographing many weddings, working closely with couples to photograph a huge variety of different weddings.

Of course there is no 1. size fits all solution and you'll need to add your own interpretation for things like: number of people, travel distances involved, time of year and weather all of which can play their part.

I hope though to impart some real world perspective and to set you off in the right direction regarding the duration of these things which are mostly new to you. Beyond that it may also trigger some awareness of one of two new things which up to now may not have crossed your mind.



Wedding day time check list

Registrar meetings Allow **10 mins each meeting** its often very swift though

Groom arrival Typically **30 mins ahead** of ceremony

Guest arrivals

Civil ceremonies – Most guests gather first and then sit down **5 mins before**

Church wedding – Often guests will **arrive 10-15 mins** ahead of ceremony time

Bridal party arrival 5-10 mins before ceremony

Church weddings – Most vicars etc. will meet outside and settle the nerves:)

Civil ceremonies – Often a venue wedding team will assist. On occasions a registrar may meet the bride in the wedding car if travelling to a venue.

Ceremony duration (On average 50%+ of weddings start 10-15 mins later than planned!)

Short civil ceremony with no speeches	15- 20 mins
Civil ceremony with 1 or 2 speeches	25 -30 mins
Church wedding	Average 45mins to 1 hour
Catholic church wedding	Average 1hr 20mins

Exit from ceremony Allow between **5-15 mins**.

75 people will take about 10 mins to exit from a church.

Immediately after ceremony 20 mins+ One the best parts of the day! Everyone will want to speak with and congratulate you both so be sure to make time to enjoy it before rushing off.

Confetti run 10 mins – Best organised by wedding party with confetti handed out.

Travel to reception venue if applicable – Allow a good 15 min buffer to avoid any mishaps or traffic.

Drinks reception – Advise a minimum of 2 hours – Allow plenty of time for this period. Work out what you want to do and remember you'll want to speak with family and guests. If you are late arriving this is where the time will pinch and you could end up with a significantly shorter drinks reception than you first thought.

Group photos 25 mins – Based on my own well rehearsed time schedule for family and group photos. Many other photographers are known to take 40-50 mins

Bride & Groom photos 15-20 mins – I work quickly and this a great time to spend a few quiet relaxed moments together getting some great photos whilst guests find their seats.

Wedding breakfast Typically 2 hours overall – Speeches typically last **20 -40 mins**

Evening photos with bride & groom 15-20 mins – An evening walk around sundown is perfect, you'll feel much more relaxed by this time of day and ready for the evenings party to begin!