

Looking for ways to save money with wedding photography?

Wedding photography is expensive! You may wonder how it's so expensive – well, wedding photography is a lot of work, a lot of education, a lot of equipment, and most importantly, experience that can't be gained with just one or two weddings either – it takes hundreds of weddings to be a very good wedding photographer, and a great wedding photographer never stops learning.

The first thing you may think to do is find a less experienced wedding photographer or a family friend – unfortunately this is the last thing you should do! Why? Well, rather than go into it here, please check out another article on “Hiring my Friend to Shoot My Wedding”.

So how can you save some money with professional photography and not break the bank? Find ways to reduce the time where you need a photographer. You think you need 8-10 hours? Probably not.

- Decide what is most important for your professional photographer to capture and have them focus on that!
 - Prep Time: While you may want your entire day documented from start to finish, this can get very expensive. Find one or two events you want photographed (makeup/hair, putting on the dress, time with your family, etc) and let those be what your photographer captures.
 - First Look: Depending on your plan for First Look, this will be 30 – 60 minutes. If having a First Look moment is important to you, I wouldn't recommend shortening the event.
 - The Ceremony: I wouldn't recommend shortening the ceremony.
 - The Formals: Depending on the size of your wedding party and attending family, this will be 30 – 60 minutes. You can trim down time by only focusing on the wedding party, or only the wedding party and immediate family.
 - Cocktail Hour: A way to save time is to overlap the cocktail hour and formals
 - The Reception: The reception is often the best event to cut time from your photographer's schedule. Get the formal or traditional events out of the way by “front loading” the First Dance, Mother/Son Dance, Father/Daughter dance, toasts, and cake cutting. Talk with your DJ, they will also often recommend this.
- Unless you are having a formal or festive exit – like sparklers or a carriage ride – then there's no need for the photographer to be there through the night, and generally all they are doing is taking photos of people as they drink more and just dance.
 - Plan to collect all those smart phone pictures your friends took too – especially after the professional photographer leaves.

Bottom Line

**Find the best photographer you can afford &
work with them to help plan your wedding.**