

TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR ELOPEMENT



Hi there!

You have decided to elope. Good for you. You won't regret it. Deciding to elope is the first step. However, there is so much more that goes into planning that you may not have considered. I created this guide to do just that. BE A GUIDE. Planning an elopement is a strange wilderness, and you don't have to walk alone.

xo- vanessa

TABLE OF CONTENT

Getting started -pg. 3

A brief description of what goes into planning an elopement, so you can start getting those ducks in a row.

Where - pg 4

This page walks you through narrowing down your elopement location.

Non- negotiable -pg 5

This page is a guide to help you decide what is the most important for you on your elopement day and what you can pass on.

When - pg 6

This page walks through an overview of the timeline and the differences among elopements during specific seasons.

Planning tasks - pg 7

I love a good list, so I wanted to share one with you so you can stay organized and on top of all the little things you need to do.



GETTING STARTED



You probably chose to elope for several reasons. Your love story is wild and adventurous, and you need your wedding day to celebrate that. Or, you are uncomfortable when all eyes are on you for too long. You want to focus on the people that matter, you, your partner, and the closest people in your lives.

The first step is figuring out roughly when and where you want to elope. Do you want a fall-time elopement on a mountainside in NC? Do you want a spring elopement off the coast of Santa Monica? Getting comfortable and specific with what your vision of the day is will help you start planning.

The second most crucial step is to begin looking for a photographer. An elopement photographer can help you filter through permits, Airbnb locations, and timelines- along with capturing the most beautiful memories in your life.

WHERE

You can get married anywhere under the sun.

Deciding on a location can be the most daunting task. If you have an officiant and two witnesses present, you can get married anywhere.

I help all of my elopement couples pick locations, and then we make a location scouting trip.

I wanted to give some suggestions on things to consider when planning where you will elope. The first being, how far are you willing to travel? Do you want a local elopement in your grandparent's backyard, or do you want to stand on the beach in the Caribbean hand in hand with your lover.

Another thing to consider is mobility and fitness level. There are so many epic hikes and scenic locations out there, most of them require some effort. Consider if you or anyone in your party would have difficulty in the hike before picking that location.

“

Tell me what
it is you plan
to do with
your one wild
and precious
life?

-Mary Oliver

DECIDING YOUR NON-NEGOTIABLES

I have arranged some questions I want you to ask yourself to discover your elopement's important moments.

1 Who needs to be there?

Elopement is 20 people or less. Who are the most vital people you need by your side at that moment?

Elopements are just as impressive as large weddings. They may not come with the same price tag, but Airbnb, formalwear, permits, and photography are still crucial costs to factor into the elopement budget.

2 What is your budget?

3 What is your timeframe?

Are you planning to elope on the Carolina beach in three months, or are you planning a destination elopement in Aruba next summer? Knowing your timeframe will help you space out the required planning steps appropriately.

WHEN?

Seasons will vary based on where your elopement will take place. The climate and season in New Zealand are much different than in North Carolina. I am basing this part on the guide of NC's seasonal patterns.

1

Winter Perks: less crowded trails, snow, cozy snuggles

2

Early-spring less crowded, blooming flowers, warmer temps.

3

Spring warmer, tons of flowers, everything is more green

4

Early Summer hotter, longer days, epic sunsets

5

Summer everything is open, star gazing, summer night parties

6

Fall cooler temps, fall leaves color changing, epic sunrises

7

Late Fall colder, less crowded, more coco and cuddling


PLANNING STEPS

I laid out some simple steps you can take to plan your elopement efficiently. Hiring a photographer and an elopement planner can take a lot of this planning weight off of you.

● 1 Decide what month and year you want to elope.	● 2 Decide what your ideal location for eloping is.	● 3 Find a photographer.	● 4 Decide if you want a planner or to DIY.	● 5 Go dress and suit shopping, or dress/dress suit/suit.
● 6 Confirm date with friends and family	● 7 look at Airbnb/hotels	● 8 book Airbnb/hotel	● 9 Decide if you will have an after party	● 10 Call/ hire caterer for after party
● 11 Call/hire a cake maker	● 12 Find a videographer	● 13 Find and hire a officiant/ preist	● 14 Write you vows	● 15 Get married!

These steps are going to look different for each couple. However, this guide is a great starting guide to push you in the right direction of the planning process. I am always open and available for questions (even if you aren't a photography couple of mine. Feel free to reach out to me so I can help you along the way. Your elopement is going to be so perfect and hand-tailored to you.

I dont want you to feel overwhelmed by the steps. Finding a photographer will help ease the burden. Many have their recommendation list of vendors to hire and know where to find suitable locations and afterparty/ reception. The important thing to remember is that you are about to marry the love of your life! Everything else will fall into place.



If you want to know more about the experience, I craft for my elopement couples fill out the contact form on my website to get in touch. I would love to talk to you and your boo about making your elopement the best day ever.

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