

# PLANNING YOUR DREAM ELOPEMENT

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO  
PLANNING YOUR DAY



*I've fallen in love with adventures, so I begin to  
wonder, if that's why I've fallen for you.*

*E. Grín*



# WHAT IS AN ADVENTURE ELOPEMENT?



Adventure wedding, intimate wedding, destination wedding, elopement.

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when someone says elopement?

A getaway? A couple running away from their parents to get married in secrecy? Or a couple who wants to devote their special day to themselves only?

Whatever you thought of, you were right! Elopement has changed its meaning over the years, and today, although still somewhat misjudged, it means an intimate marriage ceremony where either the couple is alone, or they invite several of their closest friends or family.

Imagine standing barefoot on the sand while the setting sun is filling the sky with orange-golden hues behind you on the horizon. You and your loved one reading each other the vows in complete intimacy with no one else around. What could be more romantic than that?

Or tying the knot of marriage in an intimate ceremony with just several of your loved ones watching. Sharing the love amongst your closest ones—Isn't that what all those meaningful moments are all about?





There aren't many couples as badass as you two, so I'm here to give you a massive high five and say HELL YES to making your own rules and doing things differently!

Planning an adventure wedding or elopement isn't always as easy and can feel a bit overwhelming.

So this is Ultimate Elopement Planning Guide to help get you through the planning process created by me (Sasha) adventure elopement & destination wedding photographer and makeup artist from Fifty Miles West.

# THE 5 STEP ELOPEMENT PLANNING



STEP 1 – DREAM BIG

STEP 2 – LEGALITIES & LOGISTICS

STEP 3 – MAKING PLANS

STEP 4 – FINAL PREPARATIONS

STEP 5 – HAVE THE BEST DAY EVER!

LET'S DIVE IN!



# STEP 1 DREAM BIG



IMAGINE THE BEST DAY EVER, WHAT COME TO YOUR MIND? WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT YOU DOING?

NOT TRY TO DECIDE EXACT DETAILS FOR NOW, FOCUS ON THE OVERALL VIBE AND ON THE OVERALL EXPERIENCE YOU WANT TO HAVE ON YOUR DAY.

NOT SURE WHERE TO START?

Try answering these questions:

**WHAT DO YOU WANT IN THIS DAY IN GENERAL?** Is this just for two of you or you want bring a guests?

**WHAT SEASON IS IT?** Do you prefer cold or warm weather? Do you love snow or blooming spring?

**WHAT SCENERY DO YOU LOVE?** Mountains, forest, ocean, desert, city?

**WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU WANT TO DO IN DAY OF ELOPEMENT OR APART OF IT?** Kayaking, skiing & snowboarding, multi day hiking, climbing, camping?

**HOW MUCH TIME ARE YOU ABLE TO USE FOR THE TRIP?** Do you want elopement day will be part of your honeymoon or dream vacation?





## DO YOU HAVE A VISION OF WHAT YOUR DAY LOOKS LIKE NOW?

It's usually during this stage is when most couples contact me as elopement photographer. I love helping them with the next steps in bringing their vision in to reality with location suggestion, travel experienced planning tools!



## STEP 2

# RESEARCH & LOGISTICS



## HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

YOU'VE COME UP WITH A VISION FOR YOUR DAY AND YOU WANT TO SEE IF YOU  
CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN.

WHEN YOU START YOUR RESEARCH MAKE SURE YOU LOOK INTO THESE IMPORTANT  
MOMENTS:





## HOW EASY IS THIS LOCATION TO REACH AND IS IT ACCESSIBLE ALL YEAR ROUND?

It's better to know upfront about any logistical issues.

Think about such things as transportation: would you need a hire 4x4 car or regular car will be enough?

Check if it is a seasonal location that can only be accessed in the summer or winter.

Can you still access this location in bad weather, and if not, what alternatives are there?

## HOW BUSY IS THIS LOCATION?

We've all seen pictures on Instagram of idyllic locations only to get there and realize we are sharing it with hundreds of other tourists. Research about high and low season for particular location. It's can affect how secluded your elopement location will be.

If it's an option consider go in off season or on shoulder season, but make sure if any seasonal road closure, or for example monsoons, hurricanes and etc can affect your plan.

In many location doesn't matter if it's a busy city like Paris or Rome or National Park or beach resort if you can start your elopement day really early you will have a very good chance to have a privacy you want simply because not a lot of tourists want wake up too early.

## WHAT IF WEATHER IS BAD?

This is always a risk or chance of bad weather with an outdoor elopement, so consider backup location and be flexible with your schedule.

## DO YOU WANT A LEGAL CEREMONY AND IS THIS POSSIBLE AT THIS LOCATION?

While eloping sounds like a fairytale and is all romantic, you do need to think about the legal things to make your marriage legal in the eyes of the state/country.

You may be able to get a local officiant to marry you on the spot while eloping.

You can also do your paperwork before the elopement or after the eloping when you come back from the trip. Inform yourself what documents you need to have based on where you live and go make it official!





## PERMITS OR SPECIAL PERMISSIONS

Even if you're not having a legal wedding ceremony, you might need special permission to have your ceremony or take pictures at a particular location.

## WHAT ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?

These could be things like enjoy the Blue Lagoon in the morning before getting ready, having a picnic on the mountain after your ceremony, helicopter ride, or ending the day stargazing in a private hot tub.

## WHAT VENDORS MIGHT YOU NEED?

Now that we have talked about the big things that require a little more planning let's not forget about the small things that make the whole elopement all the more beautiful.

Since you're hiring a professional photographer to create a story out of your perfect eloping, you may need to think about hiring a makeup artist and a hairstylist.

Think about a bouquet and the clothes you'll be wearing. There are no rules on wearing a gown when eloping. You can, and you don't have to if you don't want to. So, plan the clothes and think about a bouquet too. That might be a lovely addition.



LITTLE OVERWHELMED BY ALL THESE QUESTIONS?

Don't be I'm here to help you with this stage of planning!



# STEP 3

## MAKE CHOICES & START BOOKING

ALRIGHT!

You've found your dream location, so now it's time to start booking the most important details.

### SET YOUR DATE

Don't forget to check for holidays and special event that may affect your elopement location.

### PICK YOUR SPOT

Decide in general area you want to have your ceremony

### BOOK YOUR MAIN VENDORS

Booking your photographer, a wedding planner in your dream location as soon as you have your date. This is means not only will they then have your date reserved for you, but you'll also have more people who can help you with the rest of your planning.

### BOOK YOUR TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

Keep in mind the closer your lodging can be to your ceremony site, the more easy your day will be, but for some remote location, it's often closest hotel or AirBnb will be 1-2 hours drive.

Think about how many people you want to stay with you, is it enough separate rooms for get ready if you planning "first look", is it dog friendly if you want bring your fur baby along with you?





# YOU'VE DONE HARDEST PART OF PLANNING PROCESS!

The main aspects are all taken care of now. Location is choose, lodging and transportation booked, guests invited (if any). The rest is just details! Now take a break, relax and start getting exited about your elopement day!





# STEP 4

## FINAL PREPARATION

AS YOUR WEDDING DAY APPROACHES, HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO CHEK OFF YOUR PLANNING LIST:

### DETAILS

- DRESS/SUIT
- SHOES Make sure to wear comfortable shoes, especially if you planning hike on your wedding avoid wear shoes you don't hiking before is very critical!
- LAYERS (e.g. thermals and jackets). Even in place where day temperature very pleasant can be cold or windy in early morning. So be prepare with extra layer, you can find something cute that you'd be happy photographed in.
- ACCESSOIRES & JEWELRY

### VENDORS

- PHOTOGRAPHER
- VIDEOGRAPHER
- OFFICIANT
- FLORIST
- MUSIC
- HAIR & MAKEUP
- WEDDING PLANNER/LOCAL GUIDE
- PRIVET CHEF/CATERING



## CEREMONY PLANNING

- DECIDE ABOUT CEREMONY STRUCTURE
- WRITE YOUR VOWS
- GIFTS OR RINGS TO EXCHANGE
- CULTURAL OR RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS
- SURPRISE FOR YOUR PARTNER (playing special song, reading letters from family members etc.)

## TIMELINE PLANNING

- PLAN AN OVERALL SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY
- MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME FOR A RELAXED DAY WITH NO RUSHING OR STRESSING.
- DON'T FORGET TO LEAVE TIME FOR DRIVING TO LOCATION, EAT, DRINK AND CELEBRATE.





## ACTIVITIES, FUN & CELEBRATING

### - PLAN AN ACTIVITIES YOU WANT TO HAVE ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY.

Your elopement day can be however you'd like. You can do skiing, dogs sliding, horseback riding, kayaking or paddle boarding, hot balloon ride or white rafting.

Planning your activities in advance and prepare any special gear or arrange additional booking if needed for example a helicopter or snowmobile renting.

### - PLANNING HOW TO CELEBRATE. After ceremony picnic on a mountain top, privet chef in AirBnB or dining in local restaurant?





## STEP 5

# YOUR WEDDING DAY IS FINALLY HERE!



## BE IN THE MOMENT

No matter what is happening around you, try to keep focused on each other and what has brought you to this day!

Soak in every moment and enjoy this day, don't worry about how you look, because if you are happy and have great experience it's only matter.

If anything happen not according to your plan, don't stress - go with the flow. Embrace the day for whatever it is, and take in every moment.





# AFTER THE WEDDING: WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU RETURN

## TELL EVERYONE THE NEWS!

Now it's time finally tell everyone the amazing news and share sneak peak photos of this day.

## CELEBRATE!

Just because you eloped, it doesn't mean you can't hold a big celebration if you want to. Have a party!

## RELIVE YOUR ADVENTURES

Once you get your photos back, considering order an album and framed favorites on a walls.





# ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR ADVENTURE?



I HOPE THIS GUIDE HAS GIVEN YOU SOME IDEAS HOW TO TURN YOUR DREAM INTO REALITY AND MAKE YOUR ELOPEMENT UNFORGETTABLE AND STRESS FREE.

IF YOU NEED ANY HELP ALONG THE WAY I WOULD LOVE TO HELP.

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