

Bride Timeline Checklist

Checklist · 27 items · 8 sections

Your wedding day will fly by: having a detailed bride timeline checklist keeps everything on track from the moment you wake up to the last dance. This hour-by-hour guide covers hair, makeup, photos, ceremony, and reception timing.

Open the editable, AI-powered version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/bride-timeline-checklist>

WEEK BEFORE

- Assign a point-of-contact (MOH or planner) to manage vendors on the day
HIGH
- Confirm hair and makeup schedule with artist: share vendor timeline
HIGH
- Pack wedding day emergency kit: safety pins, stain remover pen, pain reliever, blotting papers, fashion tape
HIGH
- Confirm ceremony and reception timelines with planner/coordinator
HIGH

MORNING OF

- Eat a real breakfast: you'll have no time to eat until dinner
HIGH
- Hydrate: drink plenty of water in the morning
HIGH

GETTING READY

- Begin hair and makeup on schedule: bridesmaids before bride typically
HIGH
- Bride hair and makeup: allow 60–90 minutes for bride alone
HIGH
- Get dressed: allow 30–45 minutes for dress, veil, shoes, and jewelry
HIGH

PHOTOS BEFORE CEREMONY

- First look with groom (if doing a first look): before ceremony
- Bridal party portraits
HIGH
- Family formal portraits before ceremony (saves time after)

CEREMONY

- Arrive at ceremony location at least 20–30 minutes before start time
HIGH
- Confirm bridal party processional order
HIGH
- Walk down the aisle: have someone bustle your train if needed
HIGH
- Exchange vows and rings
HIGH

AFTER CEREMONY

- Post-ceremony photos: bride and groom portraits in natural light
HIGH
- Attend cocktail hour if time permits

RECEPTION

- Grand entrance into reception
HIGH
- First dance with spouse
HIGH
- Father-daughter dance (if applicable)
- Dinner: actually eat and enjoy it!
HIGH
- Cake cutting
HIGH
- Visit each table to greet guests: plan 2–3 min per table
- Bouquet and garter toss (if doing)

END OF NIGHT

- Final send-off: sparkler exit, confetti, or getaway car
HIGH
- Designate someone to collect gifts, cards, and personal items at end of night
HIGH