

THE ELOPEMENT *experience*



TIMELINE

Plan your ideal day

You've booked your date and your venue is confirmed. Congratulations. You've done the hardest part and the rest of the job is fun. Well, it's all fun, but here is where you start to visualize the day.

The next step is to plan your elopement day timeline. It is a lot easier than a full-fledged wedding, which often can last 12 hours and sometimes even days. UGH! Elopements usually last from about 4-6 hours depending on what you include in your big day.

If good photography is important to you, avoid the mid-day hours, say from 10 am to 2pm, when the light is harsh. The most romantic light is usually from late afternoon until sunset. Early morning is also beautiful but not many people want to get up at sunrise and get ready then get married, although I've done it in places like Rome or Venice where it can get it super crowded.

The first thing to do is to look online to find out what time the sun will rise and set on your wedding day, in the location you've chosen for your ceremony. Type in the location and date: <https://www.timeanddate.com>

Then plan your day around that time. Personally, I think it is nice to tell the whole story of your day. It doesn't have to be super extensive, which is the great thing about elopements.

Short, sweet and fun. You could consider an heirloom album, especially since you are likely to opt for a small to non-existent guest list and you'll want something to show people who weren't at the ceremony.

On the next page, list all the important things you want to include on your wedding day.

rochelle

List what is important to you

Below are some ideas that you might want to include. I started the list with a few ideas. Feel free to select anything that you like.

- Bride getting ready
- Dress
- Bridal Portraits
- Fresh florals
- Bridal make-up
- Invites
- Jewelry
- Rings
- Wedding gifts
- Written vows
- Ceremony
- Ceremony details
- Newlywed portraits
- Ring shots
- Ideal locations
- Reception
- Dinner
- First dance
- Cake
- Groom details
- Cufflinks
- Boutonnière
- Driving to civil hall in Vintage car

List any extra details here

Create Your Ideal Itinerary

With the list above, include everything you want for your ideal photographic itinerary on your wedding day. Then add the allotted time. Add a bit more time to each event to allow for travel between locations. You want to take it easy and enjoy the moment instead of hurrying from place to place.

A SUGGESTED PHOTOGRAPHIC ITINERARY

1-2 hours – Getting ready or moments before

These are the “before” pictures: the bride and groom getting ready, details (jewelry, invites or whatever is important to you), a few portraits. These final moments are filled with emotion, so you’ll want to capture them.

1 hour - Ceremony (A symbolic ceremony is short, about 20 minutes)

Civil or religious ceremonies are a bit longer — 30-40 minutes. If you’re having guests, you’ll want more time to shoot a few group photographs after the ceremony

1-3 hours - Newlywed photographs

With a destination wedding, it’s nice to incorporate the location in the photographs. Perhaps the newlyweds strolling through the village, along the beach or in the gardens, using strategic spots as backdrops. Your photographer should know where these are. If you are not planning on a reception or intimate dinner afterwards, why not continue shooting photos into the sunset hours?

3+ Hours Dinner/Reception

If you are thinking of having an intimate dinner, reception or simply just cake and champagne, then add on at least an hour. You’ll want to arrive at the location about ½ to 1 hour before sunset to get some natural light. You can go into the evening but the most magical light is natural light. I’ve photographed a few elopements with fireworks and if that’s part of your plan add some extra time accordingly. If there’s going to be a first dance, you’ll want shots of that, as well.

Elopement Day Planner - 4 hours

Below are two different different itineraries, depending on hour many hour coverage you want for photography. Fill in the boxes what you want to include.

3:00-4:00 pm | Getting Ready

4:00-5:00 pm - Ceremony

5:00-6:00 pm - Newlywed Portraits

6:00-7:00 pm - Reception / Dinner

Elopement Day Planner - 5-6 hours

5-6 hours elopement day itinerary
You can add additional hours, either before or after

3:00-4:00 pm | Getting Ready

4:00-5:00 pm - Ceremony

5:00-7:00 pm - Newlywed Portraits

7:00-9/10.00 pm - Reception / Dinner



Meet Rochelle Cheever



A fine artist by training, Rochelle studied painting and photography in Washington, D.C. at the Corcoran School of Art. Summers were spent in Italy, poring over, copying, and reinterpreting the works of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarroti. After a post-graduate stint in portraiture at the Florence Academy of Art, she began to work as a painter, to teach applied art, and to lead workshops.

When she exhibited ten large-scale graphite drawings of her sons in international schools throughout Rome and elsewhere, she began to receive commissions for paintings of children. It's impossible for a small child to sit still and hold a pose, so she prepared by photographing her subjects. Parents, struck by the artistry of these working photographs, asked to purchase them. She was often told that her photographs resembled paintings and that her paintings resembled photographs.

Although she continued to work as a portrait painter, she began to make photographic portraits, as well, realizing that the camera allowed her to capture spontaneity and raw emotion — a smile, a laugh, a fleeting expression. When an American diplomat who saw her portraits asked her to photograph his wedding, she was taken aback, but decided to accept the challenge. To her surprise, she loved the experience of capturing an occasion filled with such joyful emotion. And having spent so many hours before a canvas inside a studio, she welcomed the chance to be on location, out of doors.

Since that first wedding, she has specialized in fine art photographic portraiture, shooting not only weddings, but anniversaries, engagements, vow renewals, proposals — even honeymoons. From photographing children, she had learned to work fast, to capture the unguarded moment, and to approach her subjects with purity and authenticity. She brought these skills to her wedding photography, as well as her skills as a painter, which enabled her to compose compelling images, setting the scene.

She loves the intimacy of elopements, getting to know the couple, the emotion of the most important moment in their lives. For more than a decade, she has worked almost exclusively with couples. Some of them have never been photographed professionally before, and she understands that they might feel super strange and vulnerable in front of the camera, especially as a couple.

But that is her speciality. She knows how to use her camera in a non-invasive way to reveal their authentic selves. Over the years she has developed tons of tricks and tools to help them relax and feel natural. At times, they actually forget that they're being photographed.

Rochelle Cheever has been awarded the Patronage of the Minister of Fine Arts and Culture in Italy (Patroncino del Ministro per i Beni e le Attività Culturali), and Artoque (Diploma of Excellence, England). She has been a finalist at the Orvieto International Awards, Lucie International Photography Awards, and Tau Visual (National Association of Professional Photographers of Italy). Her work has been exhibited in Rome at the Vittoriano Museum (with Patronage from the Italian Fine Arts Minister), 100 Artisti a Trastevere, John Cabot University Il Cortile dell'Arte, The American Academy, Explora Museum Italy and at Il Palazzetto Dépendence Hotel Hassler. In Dallas Texas, her work was exhibited at The Fairmont and at the Cattle Baron's Ball.

In the United States of America, her work has been featured in publications such as Style Me Pretty, Strictly Weddings, Destination Inspirations, Junebug Weddings, and the New York Daily News, and in Italy, in publications such as SposaMania, Il Messaggero, Il Giornale, The American and In Rome Now.

Her portraits have been commissioned by the Fendi family, the family of former U.S. Ambassador to Italy Mel Sembler, the Fracassi family, National Geographic CEO David Haslingden and his family; owners of the Energie fashion label the Zansuri Family; Vice-President of Perugia's soccer team Carlo Lancella, former CEO of Colgate-Palmolive in Italy Todd Atwood, and many others.

ROCHELLE

CHEEVER

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