



THE
WEDDING
EXPERIENCE

A guide for all Cat Granger Brides

WELCOME!



Hello bride to be and welcome! This is such an exciting time for you! I am so happy you have chosen ME to capture your big day! I look forward to meeting you and I believe that getting to know all my couples is the best way to ensure you have a great experience with me. I'd love you give you a little peak into my life, this is my family!



- Kyle and I met online and have been married for over 5 years!
- We don't have any children but we do have a rescue pup called JJ.
- Kyle is in the Air Force and we are currently serving in Valdosta, Georgia.
- I primarily photograph here but also worldwide! I love to travel for photography.
- Food is a huge part of our lives; we love to eat! We cook together almost every day!
- Traveling is a lifestyle to me, I can't stay put very long, I have wanderlust for sure.
- I love creating beautiful images that tell a story, but more importantly, I love being able to serve my couples on one of the greatest days of their lives! Celebrating love is just a wonderful thing!

Keep Reading...

Table of

CONTENTS



Your engagement session [pg 4](#)

Preparing your groom [pg 6](#)

Your wedding day [pg 10](#)

The timeline [pg 12](#)

Pre-ceremony [pg 18](#)

Getting Ready [pg 20](#)

The window effect [pg 22](#)

The details [pg 24](#)

Timing tips [pg 28](#)

The first look [pg 30](#)

The ceremony [pg 38](#)

Romantic portraits [pg 42](#)

The bridal party [pg 48](#)

Reception planning [pg 50](#)



Your ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Now that you have picked a date, a photographer and probably a venue as well we can celebrate! Those are some of the toughest decisions in wedding planning and you can cross them off your list, yay! Now on to the FUN stuff, like your engagement session!

The engagement sessions are always included in The Wedding Experience because it is such a vital part of the entire process. During your engagement, you'll have the chance to get to know me, experience how I photograph and how I choose lighting and posing as well as figuring out what you like the best so we can do more of that on your wedding day.

This session will have a huge impact on how the wedding day flows. I'll arrive on your wedding day already knowing how you two interact, what your best poses are and how to photograph you in a genuine way. You will feel like pros and so much more comfortable on your wedding day because of the great practice you had during the engagement session.

Your engagement session can be scheduled any time before your wedding day. I suggest booking it at least 3 to 6 months in advance to avoid stress. While some weekend may still be available, most engagement sessions take place during weekday evenings.

These sessions normally happen around 5 to 7 pm, depending on the weather and the time of the year, in the winter months, 3-4 pm tends to be an ideal time. You can start brainstorming for location ideas, it's especially sweet when couples choose a location that has a meaning to them, a place that is special in some way. If you don't have any locations in mind, no worries, I have suggestions and can help you decide!

As long as there is good light, we can make any location work, and look great! Some ideas are farms, downtown alleys, gardens, plantations, you name it! Keep reading for some great tips and how yo make the most of it!

PREPARING YOUR GROOM



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

You know your groom better than anyone else and only you can help prepare him for the engagement session. If your fiancé is completely unaware of this style of photography, he is going to think it's really strange when I tell you two to "nuzzle" or get "nose to nose". He's expecting a few pictures smiling at the camera, showing off the ring and that's it! So, it's your job to explain to him why you love this style of photography and help him know what to expect! I suggest sitting down with him and showing him 3 of your favorite engagement session to give him an idea of what he's about to experience! Here are some steps to take to make sure that you're 100% prepared for your engagement session!

OUTFITS

Most couples have two outfits, one casual and one that is dressier, I always suggest that you show up with your dressier outfit first, so as you get more comfortable throughout the session, we can do more advanced or complicated poses in the second outfit. The BEST advice I can give about outfit selection would be to try to COORDINATE instead of matching. Try to stay away from really tiny patterns, they photograph funny. Be comfortable and pick an outfit that says YOU.

RELAX AND TRUST YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER

As you're preparing for your engagement session, remember that I don't expect you to be a pro at this. I work with normal, everyday couples ALL the time. I hardly ever work with models! I can't speak for all photographers but I tell my couples that it takes a good 20 minutes to warm up at the beginning of their shoot. So, relax and don't be nervous! You're going to be great at this!

PREPARING YOUR GROOM *Continued*

BE ON TIME:

This is really important. What most couples don't realize is that natural light photographers are 100% dependent on the sun and if their couples show up late, they will lose that amount of time during their session due to the lack of light. I know that things happen beyond our control like massive amounts of traffic and accidents. If at all possible, try to be on time so that you don't lose any of your shooting time and pretty sunlight!



LOCATION AND TIME

The best time to shoot any portraits is normally 1 hour after sunrise or 2 hours before sunset. This rule of thumb can be applied to any time of the year. Keep in mind that on overcast days, going earlier than that may be the best choice.

When it comes to picking the location for your portraits, I love shooting engagements in locations that mean something to my couples!



ENGAGEMENT SESSION TIPS

DON'T BE AFRAID TO PAMPER YOURSELF

You want to look your best on your engagement pictures, as these may end up on your save the dates, your wedding website or even in your invitations and Christmas cards. You can go as fancy as you'd like with outfits on your engagement session! Take the time to splurge a little and get your hair and nails done. The engagement session is also a great time to get a trial of your bridal makeup!

PROPS

If you are bringing any props to the session, make sure that they are timeless or they are something you will want in your pictures 10 or 20 years down the road, that doesn't mean all of the pictures will have them in it, but keep that in mind when choosing if you want to bring any.

ACCESSORIES

They are a great way to fancy up an outfit. Bracelets, statement necklaces or scarves! Guys can wear nice watches. Hats tend to make your eye area very dark so I'd try to steer clear from them on your engagement.

LAYERING

This is one of the easiest ways to change an outfit. Jackets, scarves and cardigans make great layers. Of course not all seasons will allow for layering, but keep in mind how easy your outfits will be to get in and out of, if the location you have chosen has a designated place to change and the distance between those places won't eat away our portrait time. The sun sets quickly and we don't want to miss the good light.



TIP: Remember to clean your engagement ring before the engagement session. I will be getting close ups and every little thing will show.



Thank you!

Last but not least, THANK YOU for trusting me to capture such a special day! I am so honored to be the one that gets to tell the story of your wedding day and I cannot wait to celebrate alongside with you. Enjoy this season of planning but also remember that your marriage is the most important thing. The wedding will come and go in a few hours, but your marriage will make your family! Keep making time to one another, even when life gets busy and remember to always love each other well. As you continue to plan your wedding day, don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. I hope this guide has been helpful and will serve as a starting point for you.

www.catgrangerphotography.com