

YOUR GUIDE TO INCREDIBLE
WEDDING PHOTOS AT
**THE HILTON SANTA
BARBARA**



LIN  HIRSKA



WELCOME

Welcome to your ultimate guide for capturing breathtaking wedding photos at the Hilton Santa Barbara!

Located along the scenic California coastline, this luxurious venue offers an idyllic backdrop for your special day. With its stunning ocean views and elegant architecture, the Hilton Santa Barbara is the perfect canvas for an unforgettable wedding.

In this guide, we'll share expert tips and insider secrets to help you make the most of this beautiful location. Whether you're looking for romantic beachside portraits or lively reception moments, this guide will ensure your wedding photos are nothing short of spectacular.

Let's dive in and explore how to create lasting memories at one of Santa Barbara's most exquisite wedding destinations!



PLAN FOR ENOUGH TIME TO PREP

The suites at the Hilton Santa Barbara are gorgeous rooms for your final finishing touches and a few solo bridal portraits. Take full advantage of the soft window light and tasteful decor for your preparation photos. To help stay on schedule, consider the following tips:

Prioritize Your Turn - If others are sharing the same hair and makeup team, consider going first to avoid delays in the schedule.

Schedule Buffer Time - Allocate an extra 30-60 minutes of buffer time in case unexpected issues arise, such as wardrobe malfunctions.

Schedule a Hair and Makeup Trial - A trial ensures you're satisfied with your chosen style, reducing delays on the wedding day.

Coordinate Photo and Video Start Times - Photo and video teams don't need to be present for the entire duration of the hair and makeup process. Aim to be nearly finished when they arrive for final touches.



HAVE YOUR FIRST LOOK IN THE WALKWAYS

The shaded walkways make the perfect first look location!



The 'first look' tradition is a private, emotional moment where the bride and groom see each other before the official ceremony.

Here's why you should consider one:

Emotional Connection: This private moment lets you express your love and anticipation authentically, free from ceremony distractions.

Calm Amidst Chaos: It offers solace and grounding in the midst of wedding-day commotion.

Extended Photography: It extends your photography opportunities, capturing more diverse shots.

Intimate Memories: You share intimate moments away from guests' eyes, creating cherished memories.





USE THE LARGE WINDOWS

One of the standout features of the Hilton Santa Barbara is its large, beautiful windows that line the walkways. These expansive windows let in an abundance of natural light, creating a dreamy glow that will enhance the ambiance of your wedding photos. The soft, natural lighting is perfect for capturing your most intimate moments and adding a touch of magic to your special day.

The windows also provide a striking, symmetrical background, ideal for both group photos and portraits. Take your time to explore this location, trying out different angles and compositions to make the most of their beauty. Whether you're capturing candid moments or posed portraits, the interplay of light and symmetry will elevate your wedding photos to a whole new level.



GET THE OCEAN VIEWS

Step just outside the walkways, and you'll be greeted by a breathtaking view of the Pacific Ocean. This stunning backdrop offers an incredible opportunity to infuse your wedding photos with the beauty and ambiance of the ocean.

The shimmering water and expansive horizon will add a timeless, romantic element to your photos, making them truly unforgettable. Consider scheduling a session during the golden hour, when the sun casts a warm, golden glow over the water, creating an ethereal atmosphere.



GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR DESIGNS



Adorn the outdoor ceremony space and indoor ballroom with your choice of florals to make the space uniquely yours.

Transform the outdoor area with a floral arch or canopy at the altar, aisle arrangements, and floral accents on seating. Use your favorite blooms and colors for a romantic, personalized setting.



Creative floral designs will make the venue reflect your style, bringing your vision to life and leaving a lasting impression on your guests.



SCHEDULE A COUPLES SESSION DURING GOLDEN HOUR

The golden hour, that magical time when the light is soft, warm, and absolutely perfect, is a photographer's dream. It typically takes place roughly an hour before sunset, though the exact timing for the best light varies depending on the time of year and the weather.

By arranging your couple's session during the golden hour, you ensure that your photos will be bathed in the most flattering and romantic light, resulting in a collection of images that truly showcase the beauty and emotion of your special day."



SCHEDULE TIME IN YOUR BALLROOM

This is the moment you've been eagerly awaiting—the first glimpse of the wedding or reception you've envisioned and meticulously planned.

After all the time and effort invested in the setup, it's only fitting to set aside a precious 15-30 minutes for an intimate couple's session in this beautifully arranged space before your guests make their entrance.





EMBRACE CANDID MOMENTS

Candid photography adds a charming authenticity to your wedding album. Relax and enjoy the moment. Spend time with your loved ones and let your natural interactions add genuine emotions and real moments that beautifully reflect the essence of your special day. These unscripted snapshots often reveal the most heartwarming and memorable aspects of your celebration, providing you with candid keepsakes that will be cherished for a lifetime.

By staying relaxed and immersed in the joy of the day, you not only create a more enjoyable experience for yourself but also enable your photographer to seize candid, heartfelt moments.



SCHEDULE A SNEAK AWAY SESSION

Amidst the hustle and bustle of your wedding day, don't let the night pass without experiencing the enchantment of a twilight escape. The allure of night lights overhead sets the stage for a truly magical night session that should not be missed.

Consider the 'Sneak Away' session—a brief respite from the festivities, lasting no more than 10-20 minutes. This short interlude allows you and your partner to bask in the splendor of the night while your photographer captures the essence of this unique moment.



INCORPORATE A GROUP PHOTO

A large group photo is a perfect way to kick off the dance floor and create an unforgettable moment at your wedding. If you decide to include this photo, inform your photographer, who will coordinate with the DJ to announce for everyone to gather on the dance floor for a grand group shot. The photographer will then capture a series of shots, beginning with everyone smiling into the camera and progressing to more dynamic poses with hands raised in celebration.

For the final photo, the photographer and DJ can synchronize perfectly so that as soon as the picture is taken, the music starts, and the party officially begins!



NEXT STEPS

We hope you enjoyed this guide and thank you for reading. Amidst all the details and decisions, it's essential to cherish each moment and enjoy the process. Embrace the journey with an open heart, for it is the unique moments, both big and small, that will tell the story of your wedding day. Remember, it's perfectly normal to feel a bit overwhelmed at times, but don't let small things overshadow the magic of this special time in your life.

Wishing you a wedding filled with laughter, love, and incredible photos that tell your unique love story. Cheers to your unforgettable journey ahead!

To learn more about Lin & Jirsa, including our pricing and availability, please contact us below!

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