

eloping

and what you need to know



Is an elopement for me?

This is a question that a lot of brides think about, but never really learn about. Elopement is way different than having a wedding at home.

How? You and your hunny get to go somewhere intimate and special alone or with a small group to promise forever together. You get to take in your entire day from start to finish and make it completely about you two. No one else. You have no family to please, no friends to worry about. It is just you two. Your close family and friends may tag along to witness it and enjoy the memory with you, or maybe you decide to have it just be you two, but the day and trip is just that, about YOU and the focus is only on YOU. Not the decorations, the meal, the ceremony, the dances. YOU and your commitment. How cool?! Nothing else matters but you saying I do to your forever together. No stress, No drama. No show. Just your day.



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So, if that sounded like your cup of tea. Then you may just be ready to elope but you're not quite ready to take the step. Okay, well, let me dive into a wedding vs. an elopement. So, the wedding day starts off with you/your mom/your aunt running around trying to decorate and do last minute errands. You are getting asked a million and one questions while trying to do your hair and make up because first look is in an hour and messing up the timeline could mix everything up and make everyone be on edge. You do not enjoy the time with your girls getting ready and are a little on edge. First look comes and goes in a blink of an eye, group pictures go even faster and you haven't even talked to your soon to be hubby or wife. Now you are freshening up to walk down the aisle. Woah, you blinked, the ceremony is over and the reception is about to start, you have a few drinks and what do you know.. the day is over and you are taking your dress off that you only get to wear one day. FAST. Maybe you might be able to do most of the errands and set up the day before, but let me tell you. It REALLY does go that fast. I didn't think it would either.. until I did it. Way. Too. Fast.

Now, let's talk about an elopement. You wake up, take your time getting ready, not worrying about anything because your ceremony spot is all lined up and ready to go. Your photographer has scoped out all the best spots around the elopement spot to go for pictures. You get into your dress and get AS MUCH TIME AS YOU WANT to look at yourself and do a first look. WOW, so relaxing...

Sydney Leigh

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After first look, there is NO pressure to move on to the next thing because you have ALL day for pictures and doing whatever else you want to do because no one is expecting anything from you! You can go wherever you want to go, take breaks whenever you want to, eat whenever you want to, HECK! Plan a picnic! You can do whatever you want during your day and you can even change your plan 5 minutes before! No pressure, no panic. Just a stress free wedding day. HOW PERFECT! Also, did I mention.. there isn't a billion eyes on you watching your every move throughout the day. Wow.. talk about a weight lifted from your shoulders!

Okay, so now you are a little bit more on board of doing an elopement. But, you or your lover really wants to have the party portion that weddings come with. NO PROBLEM. Have a celebration or reception at home a few weeks later! Invite all the friends and family you want! Have that intimate ceremony and elopement you are wanting but throw the party when you come back! It is a win, win!

Now, the big question. But, I want to save money. Wouldn't having both cost the same or even more? Well, depends how you do it! To save money, rent out a cheaper venue for the reception, invite only those who you really want there, do not decorate that much.. it is not needed, serve apps/snacks/desserts, SAVE WHERE YOU CAN! You do not need to serve a meal or have an open bar. No one ever complains that they need to buy their own drinks at a wedding.. ever.

Where should I elope?

When you think of your favorite place in the world, whether you have been there or not. Where is that? The ocean? The mountains? The desert? Red Rock? A waterfall? A grassy field? Where does that thought bring you?

Maybe you love the mountains. Well, some amazing places are Yosemite National Park, the mountains in Provo, Utah, the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, the Grand Tetons in Wyoming, or Banff National Park in Canada.

Maybe you are craving the ocean. Some amazing beaches are Cannon Beach in Oregon, Hawaii.. anywhere, Malibu California, St. Lucia, Bahamas, or Jamaica.

Maybe you are obsessed with the desert. Some amazing desert views are the Little Sahara in Utah, Joshua Tree in California, or the Dunes in California.

Maybe you are in love with the Red and Orange Rocks. Some stunning places are Moab, Utah, Sedona, Arizona, or the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

There are so many amazing options in this world! Maybe it isn't in the U.S. Maybe it is Rome, Greece, Paris, Iceland, ANYWHERE . The world is your option!

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When should I do my elopement?

DO IT ANYTIME! Weekdays are the best days to do it! Less visitors, less tourists! The time of day matters too! Sunrise and Sunset elopements are the best times! Tourists are either not there or are leaving. These both make it even more personal and private! You will also not have chatter in the background or tourists photobombing your photos.

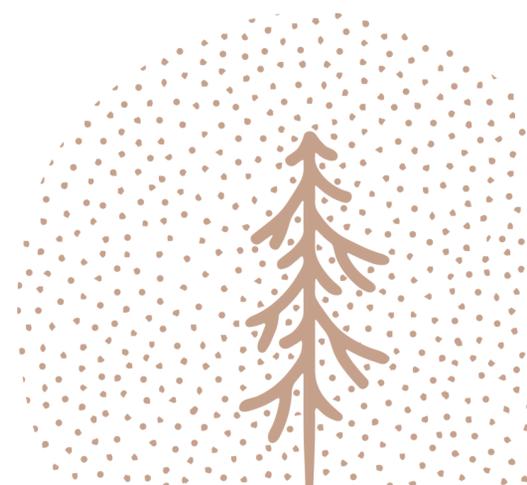
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What vendors should I hire for an elopement?

The best vendors to hire for an elopement are

1. An elopement photographer and videographer. Having a photographer is a HUGE must. I am not just saying this because I am a photographer. I am saying this because they are literally the ones capturing your memories. Make sure you find photographers and videographers who specialize in elopements and travel. They will help you a ton with permits, knowing where to go, knowing when to do the ceremony, etc. I know a really good photographer that specializes in elopements.. me ;)
2. An officiant. HECK YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED! Really get married on top of that mountain, not in the courthouse! Have your best friend, dad, uncle, cousin, grandparent become ordained and make it even more sentimental!
3. A florist! I promise you, florals are everything! So worth it! Find a local florist on Instagram by searching the location and florist together! You're bound to find an amazing one! Pick up the bouquet the day before! Keep it in water and it will look amazing!
4. Hair and make up artists. Now, these are definitely optional, yes.. but I highly recommend finding someone or even bringing a friend who is very good at it to help you out! IT IS YOUR WEDDING DAY! Pamper yourself! :)



How do I find the spot for the ceremony?

The day or two before your wedding day, take your photographer out to scout places together. Make sure you do this at the time you are wanting your ceremony! I suggest sunrise or sunset! Less people around if it is a touristy area and amazing lighting for your photos!

While scoping out locations, take pictures of the locations so you can decide which is best for you and which one you like the most!

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What if I want a sunrise ceremony and sunset pictures?

EVEN BETTER! Really, if you want to do a sunrise ceremony at your epic location with a bridal session afterwards as well as a bridal session at sunset, I love the Idea! We can Include that In your package! I can either be with you from sun up until sun down following you around! Or we can split the package to give you two a break and touch up during the mid day! Its a totally customized package! You get to pick! There are so many different options to choose from! Reach out to find out more about eloping! :)

