

Wedding Photography Price Guide 2023—2024

And photography faq



Rev 2021 36a

gws PHOTOGRAPHY



I am more than a Photographer... I am a Master Photographer



Imagine having all the worry about wedding photos, posing and time away from guests taken away from you... leaving you with all the amazing parts of the day.

That's what we do for you.

Grahame Smith, photographer for GWS Photography has been around weddings since the late 1980's. But choosing a photographer is more than just choosing someone with a camera. On your wedding day, most vendors turn up, do their job over an hour or so and leave you to get on with your day.

A good professional photographer will be at your beck and call from the first enquiry through to way after the wedding. At GWS we invite all our wedding couples (and families) back to the studio a week or so after the wedding for a big screen unveiling of the photos. It's always a great occasion.

Grahame has build a solid reputation on being a friend on the day, as much as being a great photographer. The duties performed by GWS over the years at weddings go way beyond what is in the remit of the average photographer... ...GWS Photography aren't your average Wedding Photographers.

On the official side of life, Grahame is qualified as Fellow of the **Master Photographers Association**, a qualification we are very proud of. In 2016, we won **Reportage Wedding Photographer of the Year** with the Scottish Region Master Photographers Association, and **Classic Wedding Photograph of the Year** 2020.

Grahame now also trains and mentors other photographers to help them get to the level of quality they desire, and is an international judge for the Master Photographers Association.

So what's the ONE big bit of advice I could give any couple planning a wedding and looking for a photographer ?

My answer.... Meet the photographer and explain in person about your ideas for the day... your plans and dreams... and what you'd like to have top remember this amazing once in a lifetime event.

Once you've chatted over a relaxed coffee (or on a Zoom call) ... you'll have an idea there and then if this photographer fits into how you imagined your day would go.

Remember... the photographer is the one paid worker at your wedding who will be at your side throughout most of the day. A great photographer will be more or less your assistant for the whole time they are there.



thoughtful ✿ emotional ✿ beautiful

Core Pricing

4 hours, Essential £990 - Usually covers from arrivals at Ceremony to call in to wedding breakfast - for a 2pm ceremony that would be 1pm to 5pm

6 hours, Main Events £1450 - Usually covers from bridal prep in the morning to speeches (if speeches are before meal. For a 2pm Ceremony that would be 11am to 5:30pm. Also includes 20" framed photo and 14" Fine Art book

9 hours, Complete £1750 - Covers bridal prep in the morning to 1st dances at night, usually 11am to 8:30pm. Also includes 24" framed photo and 14" Fine Art Book

What's included in ALL our packages

Zoom or in person meetings (at our studio), nearer the wedding to discuss plans.

All the fully edited photos (around 350-550 depending on hours chosen) in full size digital with no watermark supplied in a deluxe wooden usb/print box with around 40 6x4" prints as an extra gift

Online web gallery for 3 months, for friends & family to view and order prints direct.

Big screen viewing for you (and family if you want) at our studio.

Smartphone app—take some of your wedding photos with you wherever you go

21 day turn around promise, no having to wait months or years like other photographers.

To book : £300 deposit, balance 2 weeks before wedding

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what happens next?

Come in and see us !

You should meet your photographer before you book them, as you have to get on with them.

Meet up with us at our studio, we'll put the kettle on and tell you how we work, how the average wedding goes (we've been at a lot of them mind!), and you can tell us all about your big day.

We'll explain through many years of experience what to expect and how we can help make your day as special as it deserves to be.

Albums, framed photos, prints etc can be discussed and arranged in advance, not it's most common that we chat about these at the big screen viewing with all the family there, as this is where you can see how many favourite shots you and your parents would like to have in a big amazing frame and the likes.

GWS Photography is fully booked for wedding dates every year, as we really get on with our couples and help make sure the day is amazing, and then couples tell their friends. We don't do any wedding fayres or advertise in wedding magazines.

We just like to meet you amazing couples, see if we all get on then if we do... you book us !

You'll not find a more easy going & fun wedding photographer that has the experience and skills that we do...

Pop in for a chat and see what you think.

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thoughtful ✿ emotional ✿ beautiful

Things to ask about when booking a wedding photographer.

I'll try to be as impartial as possible here, just offering free advice to couples that are looking to book a wedding photographer. Things to ask and think about.

**The main one is very easy...
Book me !! Book Me !! Lol**

But seriously, have a look through these, and if you have any further questions, drop me an email or phone and I'll answer any questions I can.

Like most professions, sports, hobbies, jobs : You don't get judged on how you perform on a good day, when everything is going your way, that would be too easy. You are judged on how you perform on a bad day, or a difficult day, when something could trip you up do you have the ability to still perform at your best ? An experienced wedding photographer will have come across most situations, and will know how to deal with them – or even help prevent them from happening.

Insured : Make sure the photographer is insured. They will need their own gear insured obviously, but also public liability. If someone was to trip over a camera bag or the likes, it could get nasty if the photographer has no cover.

Back Up Equipment : You never know what could go wrong with camera gear, even pro level , so spare cameras, lenses, flash etc are essential. Makes & models of camera aren't that important, but check the person you hire has a contingency plan for when things WILL happen. It's all fine having a £5k camera but that can still get knocked out your hand or a strap breaks during the wedding ceremony. They can't just turn round and apologise for having no photos. Eeeek.

Meet up with the photographer. : It's always best to meet up in person whenever possible with the photographer. Make sure you get on with them.

Smart : If having everyone look their best on the wedding day is important to you, make sure the photographer you hire isn't going to turn up in jeans & T, looking like they've just fell out of a tree :)

Part Time or Full Time : Is the photographer committed to the task at hand. Anyone can take great pictures, and people doing it as a hobby, or a weekend job can often take as good a picture as any top pro, but will they have the time to get your photos back to you quick enough ? Ask how long it will be before you see your finished portfolio. I personally know many photographers that take amazing photos, but they admit to having no time to do their hobby properly.

Memory card loss or damage : What happens when the cameras memory card is lost, damaged or goes faulty during or even after the wedding ? Until you get your finished photos what happens if disaster strikes those digital files before the job is 100% finished ? Ask the photographer if they have a workflow in place that protects their clients photos from the time they take them to having them stored for the long term. **Believe me... many photographers have NO back up or disaster policy—and I know of people who have had their photos all lost before they got to see any of them.**

Experience : Ask potential photographers how many weddings they have covered, how many do they do each year, how many different venues they have shot at. A lot of new photographers have web sites with only a few photos that are taken at training courses with models for brides. This is fine for someone starting out in the business , but they should make you aware that this is the case. Ask to see finished albums. Have they got lots of different weddings on their web site gallery ?

But relax ! : Most good photographers – if not all pros have answers to many of these and more “tasks” , it might well be that uncle Bob that has offered to take your photos for free might well be experienced at this kind of task handling , but please just make sure, that whoever takes your big one-off special wedding day photos is up to the task, whether it's me or not – ask the questions when you meet photographers “What if...”

Hints & Tips for your wedding day (photography based)

Photography options

Do you want photo coverage of just “The Essentials”... the arrivals at the ceremony, the family group shots and some great bride & groom portraits? Or do you want to extend coverage to the 1st dances? The most exciting shots are always covered in The Core packages, but a lot of couples like extra coverage to include the start of the evening reception., but sometimes that can be a waste of your money.

We get asked all the time “what’s best”, but it really is down to the couple. Budget comes into it as well. But some couples have to think about what their evening guests are like at dances. If, after the 1st dance the couple and the guests just sit and have a drink for a while, there will be no photo opportunities and no point in paying for extra coverage. On the other hand, a big bunch of guys & gals enjoying the band/disco can make for some great pictures. Adding coverage to the 1st dances does add to the cost, as it can double the time that a photographer is available for you.

Have a look at what wedding pictures you have liked in the past, and see how many include dancing shots. Most of the wow photos are probably taken during the day, but some couples like to see the first dance photos as a reminder of that part of the day too.

Celebrant & photos

Always ask whoever is conducting your ceremony about their thoughts and rules on photography. Some church ministers don’t allow any photos during the whole ceremony, others have slightly easier rules. But ask anyway. As a professional, I will always work within the rules given, but I always try to stay as discrete as possible. Some celebrants are put off from previous bad experiences where photographers have spoiled the day (their words not mine). Ask anyway, as if you want lots of loving photos during the vows, gazing into each other eyes as you say “I do” ... check we’re allowed to.

The nice photos

Lots of couples (probably most actually) book their photographer as they like their portfolio of photos, the style and the lovely bride & groom pictures. This happens a lot with us too, but couples have to bear in mind, while photographs aren’t the be all and end all of a wedding day... **we get one chance to get this day captured for ever.**

There are some weddings where the couple will want to spend every minute with their friends and think, “the photos we have so far will be fine.” . But if between the couple and the photographer, a little time and thought doesn’t get put into small sections of the day, you might miss out on those special shots. I always make sure I’m working with the couple, never demanding too much or taking over the day, but I’ll sometimes ask nicely “It’s a lovely sky out there, can we do 10 minutes...?”

At most weddings there is usually around an hour to get the photos taken. This includes any formal & family group shots as well as the nice bride & groom pics. It’s amazing though how fast that time goes so we all have to have a game plan ready, and use the time as best possible.

We always work with you and advise on how best to use the time to suit your day.

Also—does the venue you are planning to book have the ability to get the photos you want ? For example, don’t book a boring city centre hotel if you plan to hire a photographer because of their amazing outside bride & groom photos

“UnPlugged” Ceremony (Guests popping up at awkward places with cameras and iphones)

This can be especially bad if you are planning a nice church wedding, or in any venue really where you’ve dreamed about and planned that lovely walk down the aisle. Your official photographer for the day will have some shots lined up to get a beautiful shot as you slowly make your way down the aisle to stand beside your fiancé.

But lots (lots and lots and lots!) of these and similar shots are spoiled by guests jumping out with iphones and the likes. Instead of being there, at your wedding, feeling the love. They want to watch it through the back of their phone. Fair enough, it’s the modern way, but guests have to realise couples pay a lot of money for photography, and some of the photos they pay for are lost to “Pal Paperazzi”.

Some couples do actually tell guests these days that their wedding is “unplugged”. No iphones or photos other than the official photographers. Guests are requested to just enjoy the day.

(Google Unplugged Wedding – or check our Blog about it on our website)

Candid...reportage...group shots...

One of the most common questions (or requests) is for candid photos. Some couples want the whole day shot in a reportage style.. With photographs telling the story of the day as it happened.

This is great, but you CAN have the best of both worlds.

When we shoot a wedding, on average about 80% of the photos are “natural” in that we were just there and watching the moments happen so we can record them. This still takes a huge amount of skill and experience and knowing exactly how a wedding day will unfold.

We always like to take the bride & groom away for around 15-25 minutes, depending on location, and this is their first alone time as a married couple. It's my favourite part of the day as we get to see the couple together, away from all the stress & excitement of the rest of the guests.

We'll take a few semi posed photos (stand there, hold each other like this...kind of thing), then get the couple back to their guests.

Before that (usually) we'll shoot a small amount of family shots, enough to please the mums and dads, and the list is typically:

- 1) **Bride's family**
- 2) **Groom's family**
- 3) **Bride & bridesmaids**
- 4) **Groom & Groomsman**
- 5) **The complete wedding party**

Easy as that. That's how we approach each wedding. Maybe with a couple extra depending on how your families are made up.

We usually do these formal photos 5-10 minutes straight after the end of the ceremony. This 5-10 minutes gives people a chance to come and say hello, cuddle you etc. Then I'll call everyone across to wherever we are setting up.

It's always a tricky one to advise what is best for each couple. It depends on what you want and what your album to look like. No one ever looks at wedding photos and says “wow, stunning!” at a family group shot – it's the lovely bride & groom photos that give the wow factor. It's nice to have a photo with mum & dad, but very rarely will auntie Jessie or cousin Bob want a copy of the photo with them and another 20 people in it.

Some couples give a list of 20, 30 up to 60 odd photos of family & friends shots they wanted, partly because they felt they should and it was *normal*, but that means no time for any relaxed & loving newly wed photos.

That's certainly not our style. Some photographers will be happy to shoot like this, but that's not why **we** get booked.

Some couples go the other way and have no formal/group shots. These days everyone has a camera or iphone with them, and if they want a photo with the bride, they'll get one for sure throughout the course of the day.

An average 2pm ceremony start wedding runs like this...

2:00-2:30 Ceremony : 2:45-2:55 champagne reception & cuddles from everyone : 3:00-3:20 formal family shots : 3:30-4:00 Bride & Groom portraits.

At the end of the day... it is YOUR day and it should be all about you. Enjoy it, and make sure you let nothing bother you. Every wedding is stressful at points, things happen, mishaps and awkward moments, but just roll with it and at 11pm that night you'll be sitting there wondering where the day went.

You'll soon have some amazing photos to remind you of the day !

 **PHOTOGRAPHY**



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Scottish Reportage Wedding Photographer of the Year 2016

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