

Weddings

THE KAMA PHOTOGRAPHY



About The Kama Photography

JUST YOU BEING HERE MAKES ME HAPPY! Thank you so much for taking the time to check out my photography! I know when it comes to photographers there are thousands of choices, so I am truly honored your are considering me!

I am husband to a talented artist/photographer from Poland- Karolina- and father to two amazing children- Nina, - 5 and Maks, 3. Nina is an artist, and Maks is a monster ;) They are the best. When I am not shooting I am usually spending time with my family. Whether that is traveling to explore new exotic places, taking in the views at a local winery, or cuddling up to watch *Moana* for the thirtieth time. Family is where it's at!



I fell in love with photography long before I decided to commit my career to it. While taking pictures of our first travels and fun times as a couple, I discovered that you can tell a story with light, colors, composition, and emotions. With time I found myself doing more and more sessions, and I loved capturing true emotions and connections for couples to cherish forever. Eventually, I transformed my passion into a career that I love!

Benjamin McLean



Questions to ask

How do you describe your photography style?

I love, love. I love documenting love, and enjoy the challenges it brings along with it.

To capture love in its truest form you cannot direct it, force it, or expect anything. My goal is always to capture true emotions and connections in a light, fun, and artistic way. No couple is the same, and in turn no wedding day is the same; and that is what makes them so special. Everything from the unique details, formal photos with family, candid of everyone celebrating, and, of course, portraits of a newlywed couple make up a wedding day. All of these elements deserve to be captured and preserved for the couple to look back and relive over and over again.

What is included in your photography packages?

I have multiple packages but I am able to customize a package to fit my clients' wants and needs. All of my packages include at least six hours of coverage, online password protected gallery for friends and family, an engagement session, and personal consultation. For more details about my wedding packages please refer to the packages page on this e-magazine.



Where are you located and do you travel?

I live in Charlottesville, Virginia, but I love to travel!! Whether you are getting married in your hometown or planning a tropical destination wedding, I would love to hear about your wedding plans! Some of my favorite shooting locations so far include; The Blue Ridge Mountains, Costa Rica, Colorado, Alaska, Emerald Isle, Dominican Republic, and Cuba.

What is your typical editing style?

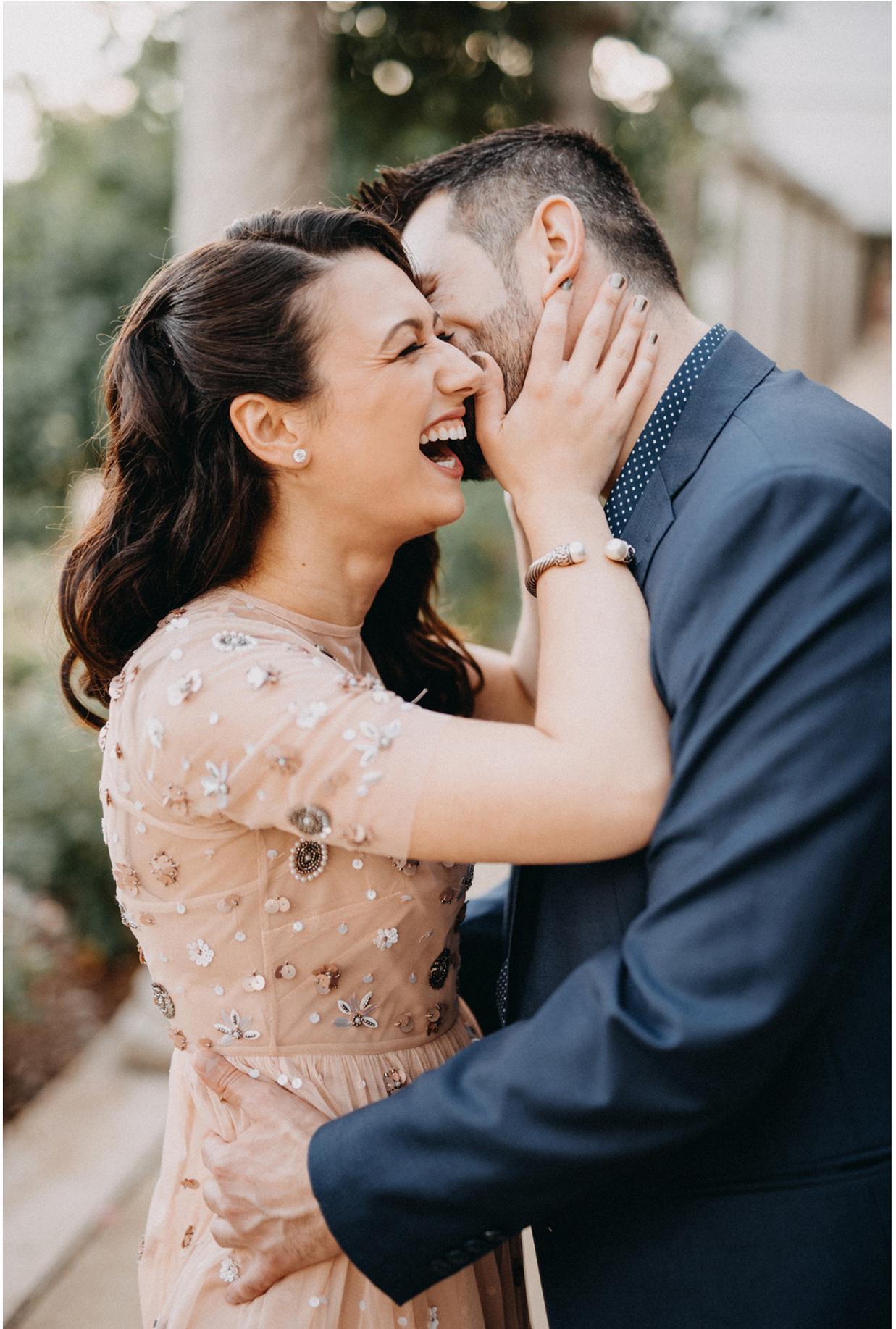
I want my clients to see their natural beauty through the images I create. I do my best to capture my subjects in the best light to draw the viewer's eye to what matters in the frame and evoke real emotion. To ensure this, I do minimal editing to my images, while making sure the image looks its best.

What is your average turnaround time on images?

I know that I wouldn't want to wait months and months to see my wedding photos, so I don't want to make my couples wait either. My average turnaround time for a wedding is 4 to 6 weeks, depending on the time of year. For an engagement session the turnaround is closer to 4 weeks.

When and how do clients normally book you?

Weddings require a lot of planning. On average, clients book my services 6 to 18 months in advance. To make things official my clients sign an online contract and pay a 50% retainer.



Planning process

Initial contact

You found me!

Wedding guide

Use this helpful guide to answer questions you have about your wedding and the planning process.

Meeting

You have now read through the wedding guide and want to chat, yay! This is a time for us to get to know each other, answer any questions the guide didn't review, and talk more about the plans for your wedding day. Skype calls are great; they allow me to share my screen and show you some real wedding galleries. Calls are quick and fun, we have a few laughs and go over questions and photos. It is important to see a full wedding day, not just a photographer's favorite 10 images from the website. So open a bottle of wine and try to figure out your Skype password!

Contract

It's time to lock it down! Let's make this official by signing an online wedding photography contract and paying a retainer of 50% of the complete package price.

Schedule your engagement session

Schedule a time to meet for your engagement session.



Engagement session

Meet for your engagement session, have some fun, and get comfortable being with me and my cameras.

Wedding day timeline

About one month before your wedding, put together a tentative wedding day timeline and send it my way for some advice on photography time management and organization.

Family photo list

Create a family photo list to help keep family photos organized and less chaotic.

Final payment

The final payment is due two weeks before your wedding date. One less thing to think about on your big day.

Your wedding day!

Your wedding day... the day when all this planning comes together into one emotional, crazy, and exciting day! Enjoy it!

The photos!

Four to six weeks after your wedding day you get to relive it over and over again through the images we have created!

Prints, albums, and canvases

This is the time to go a little crazy and order all the decorative keepsake items for you and your loved ones

Engagement session

Engagement sessions are all about getting comfortable and just having fun.

The more relaxed you are, the more fun you will have, and in turn the more natural the photos will be. My couples walk and talk, laugh and love, and I capture the beautiful in-between moments that are so often overlooked. No posing, no staring at my camera all day. I love engagement sessions because they give me a chance to get to know my couples better, and for them to get to know me and my shooting style. It makes the wedding day so much more enjoyable because you know what to expect and are ready to have some fun. Having that relationship and connection with couples before the wedding day makes everyone feel confident and excited for more great photos. Plus, being engaged is such a wonderful time.

Cherish it!!!

Take pictures

Hang them on your wall ;)



WHAT TO KNOW

When do you usually plan an engagement session?

Engagement sessions can be planned for any season you like. The only thing to keep in mind is when you need the finished images. Some couples use the photos for save-the-date cards or invitations, so it is important to schedule the engagement session at least one month before you need to order the cards. This will ensure you have the images and will be able to select your favorites to use in your design. Want to go somewhere epic? Just buy me a ticket and meet me there! I love to travel.

What is your average turnaround time on images?

For an engagement session the average turnaround time is approximately four weeks.

How many images should we expect from our engagement session?

I give my clients all the photos I feel represent them in a flattering/ beautiful way. This is usually sixty or more.

Will we have the rights to print the photos ourselves?

Yes! All of my sessions include high resolution image files and the rights to print for all personal purposes. However, I am more than happy to send your images out to be professionally printed for you.



HOW TO PLAN

How long does an engagement session last?

Plan on your engagement session taking between one and two hours. Each couple is different—some love being in front of the camera, soaking in each minute. Others feel that one hour is plenty of time to get the photos they want. Every experience is unique and I tailor every shoot to the couple and their needs.

When is the best time of day for the session?

It is best to begin a portrait session two hours before sunset, or, if you are an early bird, the first two hours of sunlight are equally beautiful. These times are known as the golden hours and make everything appear more dreamy and magical.



How do we decide the location of our engagement session?

There is no right or wrong answer to this question. Anything can be beautiful, from a grassy, sun-kissed field, to the old, brick exterior of an abandoned building. Think about what type of setting seems to match your personalities. Or, maybe you have a special place that has sentimental value to you. Any of these would be fantastic locations to document your love. Keep in mind, the focus should be on you two as a couple, rather than the location.

What should we wear?

The biggest piece of advice I can give you is to wear something you feel great in, and that also feels like you. Feel free to bring multiple outfit changes, we find that two outfits usually work out best.

Need more tips?

Check out my Pinterest board to get inspired and see what other people have done for their engagement sessions! Bring props, such as a blanket to wrap yourselves in as the sun sets, or a chalkboard to write or draw on. Or maybe even an old car!

Get your hair and makeup done professionally... maybe even your nails! This will help you feel beautiful and more picture perfect.

Plus, everyone enjoys getting pampered and this is the perfect excuse!



Wedding day

The best thing you can do for yourself on your wedding day is relax. Know that you have done all the prep work and put in the time and effort to make this day incredible. Now it is time to enjoy every second of this wonderful day!

WHAT TO KNOW

How should we plan for photography?

Here is a very general wedding day timeline for reference.

- 1 PM start photography/finish getting ready
- 2 PM first look/wedding party photos
- 3:30 PM time to relax before ceremony/photograph details
- 4 PM ceremony
- 4:30 PM cocktail hour/formal portraits
- 5:30 PM grand entrance

Finish photography depending on reception type/grand exit

I am always more than happy to talk to you about your wedding day and figure out the perfect timeline to accommodate your photography needs.



What is your average turnaround time on images?

For a wedding day the turnaround time is approximately four to six weeks depending on the time of year.

Do you travel?

I love to travel!! From Costa Rica to Colorado,
I am always ready for a destination wedding!

How many images should we expect from our wedding?

I give my clients all the photos we feel represent their wedding day in a flattering/beautiful way.

This usually ends up being around 50 to 100 images for every hour I document.

Getting ready

Taking photos of you and your girls getting ready doesn't need to mean from the moment you wake up. Everyone wants to look their best, so plan on having photography start when you are getting the finishing touches done to your hair/ makeup. Allow about 30 minutes before you plan to step into your dress. This will leave time to capture those candid getting-ready moments as well as the detail shots of your dress, shoes, etc. Also, keep in mind that clutter can be a distraction in photos, so try to keep the room clean when getting ready.



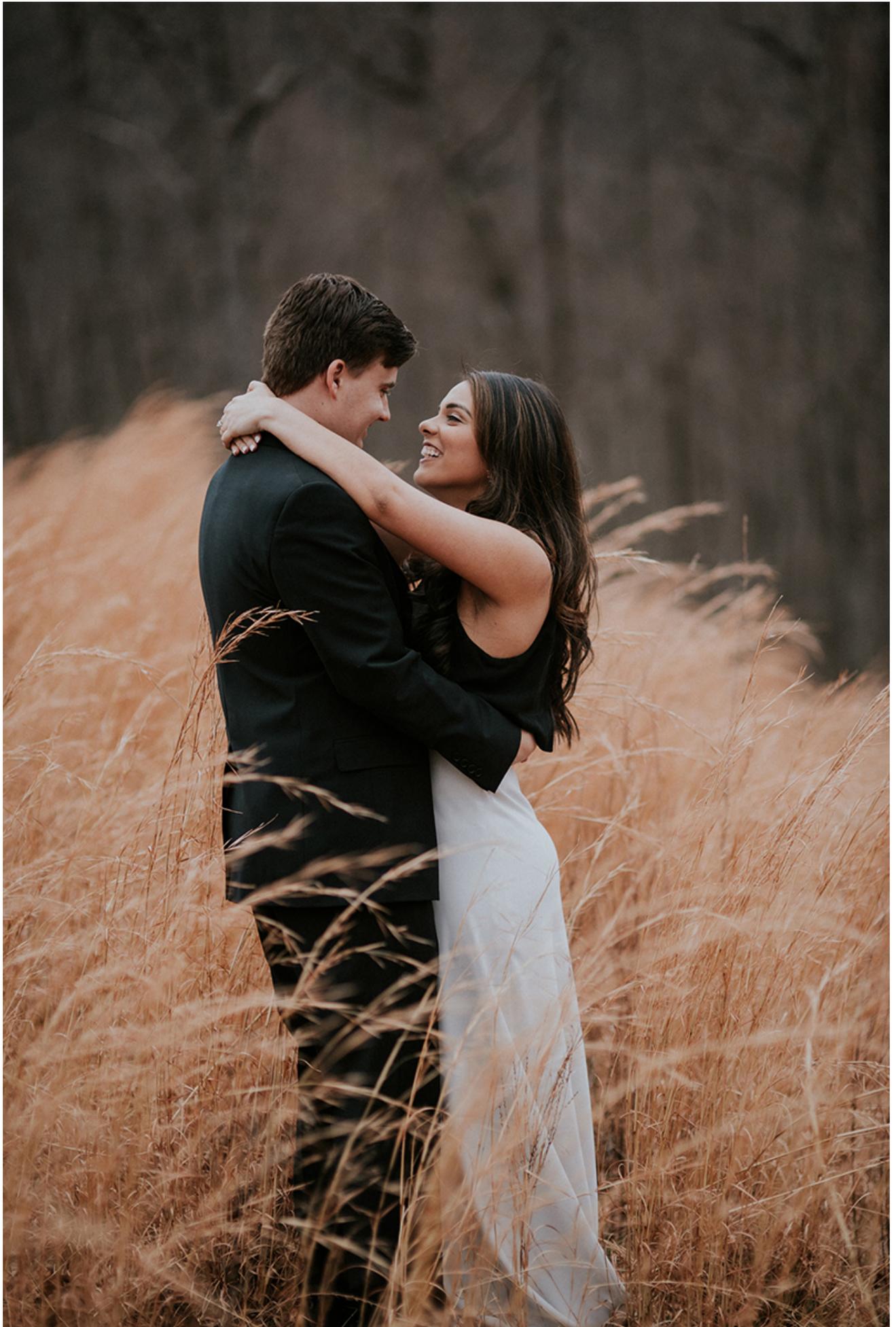
First look

The great debate of the first look: should you or shouldn't you? There is no correct answer to this question. A first look allows you to see your fiancé in an intimate, private setting before the wedding ceremony. It also makes it possible to take a large portion of your portraits before the ceremony. Most of my clients who have chosen to do first looks have said that it helped them relax and stay stress-free during the ceremony. It also allows your timeline to be a bit relaxed and you to have more time to join your guests at the party!

Portraits

Portraits take time. It is best to set aside at least an hour throughout your wedding day for portraits (wedding party and couple photos).

The best time for couple portraits is in the last hour of daylight.



Things I wish all couples knew

Wedding day timeline

Talking to your photographer about your wedding day schedule can relieve much of the stress about the flow of your day. Planning the timeline with photography in mind will ensure things stay on schedule while capturing everything important.

Communicate

Do not expect your photographer to know your guests, who is most important to you, or details that are significant. Tell your photographer about little DIY projects, sentimental items, and special people so nothing and no one is left out of the photographs.

Shot lists

Shot lists may be in magazines to help you get an idea of what not to miss, but hiring a photographer you trust and whose work you love can make all the difference. Instead of trying to dictate photos that you have seen before, give your photographer the creative license to capture your day as it deserves to be documented.

Formal family portraits

These can be stressful, so to make the process as easy as possible, it is best to make a detailed list of the people in each photo. This will keep things moving, as well as making sure that no one is forgotten in the moment. It is also good to estimate five minutes per grouping to allow for gathering, posing, and the actual photo being taken.



Light matters!

The most important component of photography is light. It can make the difference between a fresh, gorgeous image and a dull, dark image. When planning your wedding, consider the light.

The more natural light the better!

Details matter

The details of your wedding (invitations, dress, shoes, jewelry, florals, etc.) are what make your wedding unique and different. They are also the things you spend hours and hours working on, deciding on, and paying for! So make sure they are easily accessible and ready to be photographed on your wedding day.

Have your photographer eat when you do

No one enjoys having their photo taken when they are eating, so by having your photographers eat at the same time you do, nothing will be missed or rushed.

Pinterest is great, but...

Everyone loves Pinterest, including me, but keep in mind that Pinterest is a collection of the best images out there. It is not a whole wedding day collection. Go ahead, get inspiration, find ideas, but I urge people to break away from copying ideas and instead make your own come to life.

Styles are ever evolving, so don't get sucked into trying to follow the trends.



What takes so long?

I completely understand that everyone wants to see their wedding images as soon as possible, but please understand that a lot of work goes into your images after your wedding day. Every photo that is taken at your wedding is looked through, removing all duplicates, pictures which are out of focus, or unflattering shots. The remaining images are then individually edited to make sure the exposure and coloring of the images is correct. Once that is finished, some light retouching is done. The images are then uploaded to an online proofing gallery for viewing, sharing, and printing purposes. This process can take four to six weeks to complete. I do my best to complete the editing process as quickly as possible while not losing any quality in the process. But since waiting is no fun....I always do a sneak peek within a week!!

Get in touch

If you think I would be a good fit for your wedding and artistic vision, please let me know so that I can mark it down on my calendar!



As seen on:



Collections

10 Hour Package \$5,400

Up to 10 hours of Coverage | 1 Photographer |
Complementary Engagement Session
Digital Files | Professional Editing | Online gallery |
Printing rights
Wooden Display Box with USB and 20 prints

8 Hour Package \$4,600

Up to 8 hours of Coverage | 1 Photographer |
Complementary Engagement Session Digital Files |
Professional Editing | Online gallery | Printing rights
Wooden Display Box with USB and 20 prints

6 Hour Package \$3,800

Up to 6 hours of Coverage | 1 Photographer |
Complementary Engagement Session Digital Files |
Professional Editing | Online gallery | Printing rights
Wooden Display Box with USB and 20 prints

Elopements Starting at \$2,000

1 Photographer | 2 Hours Coverage | Complementary
Engagement Session
Digital Files | Professional Editing | Online gallery |
Printing rights
Wooden Display Box with USB and 20 prints

A LA CARTE EXTRAS

Engagement/Love Session..... \$700

Destination Session...\$500+Airfare+Hotel

Honeymoon Session..Package+Airfare+Hotel

Anniversary Session.....\$500

Split day fee.... \$500

Custom USB of Image... \$100

Additional Hours .. \$500/ hr

Second Shooter .. \$50/ hr

Photo Booth!!...\$1,000/3hours

Destination Wedding travel fee:

In addition to the Collection, clients are responsible for paying roundtrip airfare, rental car, and hotel accommodations, 2-3 nights, depending on travel.

Taxes not included.

The Kama Photography

I am a traveling love and lifestyle photographer based in Charlottesville VA.

Photos with feelings ❤️

Want to learn more?

Visit my website or email me directly at benjamin@thekamaphotography.com to schedule a personal consultation.

I would love to talk to you!

