48 HOURS BEFORE

Start with the plan.

Use this final-48-hour checklist after the booking and initial preparation are complete. Confirm the essentials before you pack.

COUPLE / EVENT

WEDDING DATE

01 Timeline Stress Test

- [ ] Confirm ceremony, reception and venue access times with the couple or coordinator.
- [ ] Check travel, parking, setup and realistic buffers between locations.
- [ ] Mark the moments that cannot be repeated and their confirmed times.
- [ ] Choose which portrait slot can move if the day runs 30 minutes late.

02 Shot Priority System

- [ ] Confirm essential, important and optional photographs with the couple.
- [ ] Write down key traditions, special details and non-repeatable moments.
- [ ] Finalize family group combinations and identify a helper to gather people.

04 Communication Lock-In

- [ ] Confirm addresses, venue restrictions and the latest timeline with relevant contacts.
- [ ] Confirm client expectations, sensitive family situations and any last-minute changes.
- [ ] Save essential contact numbers and the agreed plan for offline access.

CHECKPOINT

If any essential detail is still unknown, assign an owner and a deadline to resolve it. Do not assume it will work itself out on the day.

24 HOURS BEFORE + WEDDING MORNING

Be ready to leave.

Test your backup arrangements before the event. A packed bag is not the same as a tested kit.

03 Equipment Redundancy

- [ ] Test your primary and backup camera bodies, lenses and flash equipment.
- [ ] Charge batteries; pack chargers, spares and compatible accessories.
- [ ] Check memory cards, available capacity and your backup recording setup.
- [ ] Confirm that previous files are safely backed up before formatting any cards.
- [ ] Pack weather protection, water and other practical essentials for the venue.

05 Plan B Rehearsal

- [ ] Confirm a permitted indoor or sheltered portrait location in case of rain.
- [ ] Decide how to shorten or move portraits if the timeline falls behind.
- [ ] Confirm what you will switch to if the main camera or flash fails.
- [ ] Export or print the final timeline, contacts, shot priorities and backup plan.

AM Wedding morning

- [ ] Check weather, traffic and any new messages from the couple or coordinator.
- [ ] Do a final camera, battery, memory card and bag check before leaving.
- [ ] Review essential shots, confirm departure time and allow for delays.

IMPORTANT

This checklist supports preparation, not technical competence. Practice with your equipment and seek hands-on training or second-shooting experience before taking responsibility for a wedding.

WRITE IT DOWN

Your Plan B worksheet.

Keep these decisions with your offline timeline. Agree significant changes with the couple or coordinator where possible.

30-MINUTE DELAY

What moves, what stays fixed, and who needs to know?

RAIN / UNSUITABLE LIGHT

Where can portraits move? Confirm access and lighting.

EQUIPMENT FAILURE

What backup will you use, and where is it packed?

MISSING FAMILY MEMBERS

Who can gather them, and which group can be photographed next?

KEY CONTACT / PHONE

DEPARTURE TIME

Continue with the free online tools

Wedding timeline calculator

Family photo planner

Interactive preparation checklist

Read the full FirstFrame 48 method

Explore the complete FirstFrame planning app (optional, paid):
https://firstframe-studio.pages.dev/