

# ELOPENENT PLANNING GUIDE

What if I told you that planning an elopement was achievable almost anywhere in the World! You can stay home or you can go far. The choice is up to you.



### WHY ELOPE?



It's about stripping back your wedding to just the most important things, the things that matter. To sum it up you get to gather with just your closest loved ones, marry your soul mate in an intimate and personalized ceremony, and then adventure through your beautiful surroundings for amazing photos that celebrate your love.

You can be wild, you can be free, you can be you!

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### What is an Elopement?

Nowadays an elopement is an intimate wedding where couples get to literally do whatever they want to do to make it their best day. There's no rule book. Elopements have evolved past Vegas into a more personalized, intimate and even adventurous setting.

#### Can other people come?

Absolutely! An "elopement" is difined by intenionally focuing your wedding day on YOU TWO (the couple). If you have close family & friends that are on board with your vision and want to support & celebrate with you - go for it.

#### How long do I need to plan?

The Average length of planning time depends on the couple and what they want the day to look like. Typically most couples begin planning about 4 - 10 months befor the big day. This gives you time to book flights at better prices and find the best lodging if you are eloping away from home.

#### How much does eloping cost?

Expect to spend 50-80% of your budget on photography and the rest on travel, attire, rings, flowers, hair & makeup, an officient, food, activities, and your marriage license.

# THE THREE STAGES OF ELOPEMENT PLANNING



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# BRAINSTORM & RESEARCH

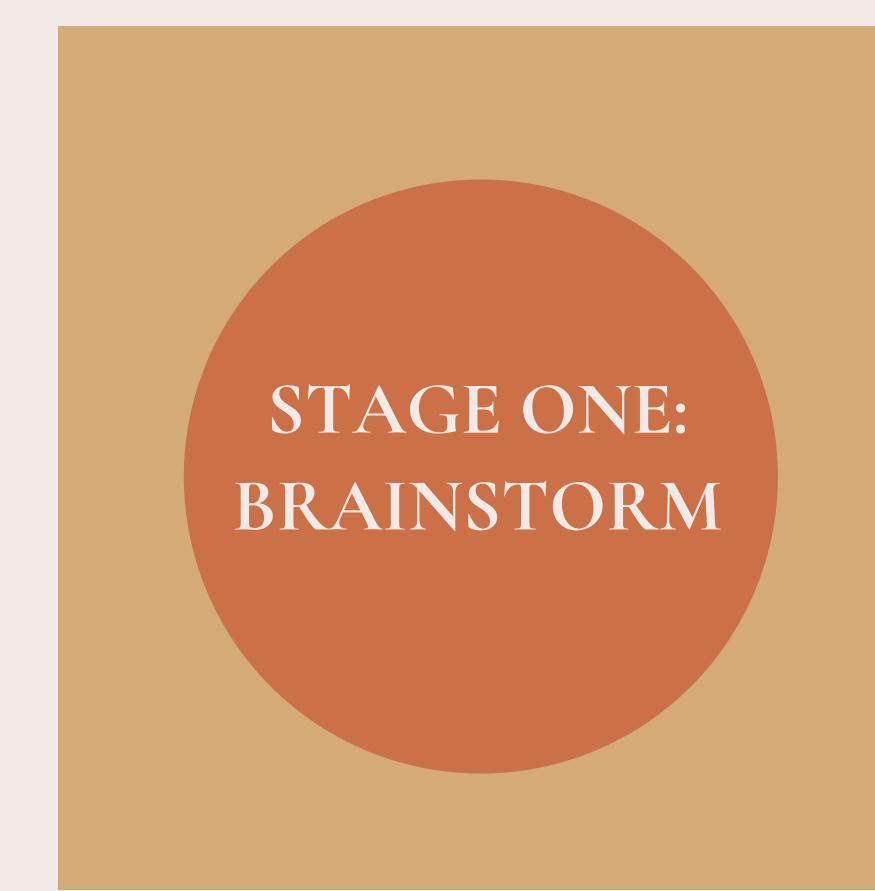
Come up with an overall vision for your day - including what general part of the location & time of year you'd like to elope. Start to make that vision come to life by reasearching logisitics to find out what's possible.

## MAKE CHOICES & START BOOKING

Set some things in stone by picking your ideal location to elope. Hire your photographer and book nearby lodging if it is not near home and arrange your transportation (i.e. flights if necessary.)

# FINALIZE DETAILS & GET READY

Finalize the rest of your vendors, purchase your attire, plan activities & develop a timeline (your photographer can assist you with this timeline). That's it! once those steps are completed it's time to experience your vision come to life.



The best part about deciding how to elope is that you can keep your elopement day as simple as you want or you can include as many details and activities as you wish!



# KEEP AN OPEN MIND & SEEK INSPIRATION

To help yourself plan, get inspired, and excited about new ideas, use Pinterest, Instagram, travel guides, books, Google Earth or Maps.

# ASK YOUR SELF THESE QUESTIONS WHEN DREAMING UP YOUR ELOPEMENT

- What is the overall meaning & intention of the day?
- Where do you want to elope?
- What type of scenery would you like to have on your elopement day?
- Are you inviting anybody along?
- What will the ceremony look like?
- What time of year do you want to elope?
- What do you want to wear?
- What activities do you see yourselves including?

# Do you have a VISION of what your day looks like now?

At some point during Stage 1 is usually when couples choose to contact their photographer. As an elopement photographer I love helping couples turn their "fuzzy" vision into a concrete plan.



# IMPORTANT LOGISTICS TO CONSIDER

- What are the local marriage laws & requirements?
- How accessible is your site? How will you get there?
- Do you want to do some sort celebratory meal/drink?
- What is the weather like? How do you prepare for this?
- How secluded, busy is your location?
- Do you want to do a first look?
- What vendors do you need? How easy are they to find?
- If you are inviting guests How many?



### MARRIAGE LAWS

Marriage laws vary by province and country. You'll need to make sure you can legally get married, wherever you are planning to do it. You'll need to know what paperwork you need before and after. Depending on the location, you may need an officiant and witnesses.

# ELOPING IN I GOT YOU!

# TO ELOPE IN SASKATCHEWAN YOU NEED:

- 1. A MARRIAGE LICENSE
- 2. A LICENSED MARRIAGE COMMISSIONER
- 3. TWO WITNESSES

- 1. You can pick up a marraige license for \$60 from any marriage license issuer. Jewelrey stores and town administrative office provide them. However if you are getting married in Sask your marriage license needs to also be purchased in Sask and it is only valid for 90 days after that purchase date.
- 2. You need a marriage commissioner who is registered in Sask according to the Marriage Act, 1995.
- 3. At least 2 people (over the age of 18) need to be present during the ceremony to witness and sign your legal documents. FYI your photographer can count as a witness.

# PERMITS & REGULATIONS

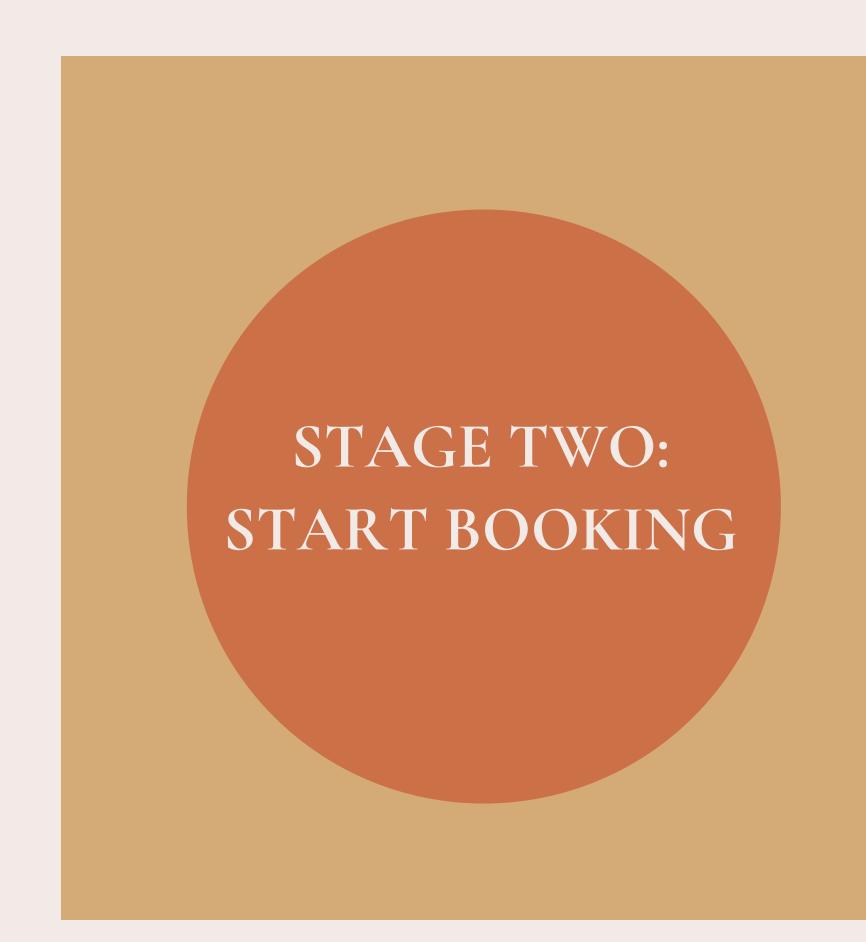
#### LEGALITIES AND ETHICS

When narrowing in on the exact spot that you want to say your vows, make sure to consider if it's legal and ethical to have a wedding there.

#### DO YOU NEED A PERMIT

Most public lands and private properties require a permit to have a wedding ceremony. Some also require one for your photographer to photograph there.





Is there a meaningful date for the two of you?

Does your date work with your dream lodging or location and your favourite photographer's schedule?

Does your date work for anyone joining you?

Don't forget to check for holidays and special events that may also affect your chosen elopement location.



#### PICK YOUR SPOT

Next you you should pick the general spot that you wish to have your ceremony. This spot can still be spontaneous on the day as well but you should know at least the general area beforehand.

# WHERE SHOULD YOU ELOPE?

Honestly...Anywhere you want.

Seriously though Elopements are full of opportunity and when it comes to picking the location those opportunities are endless.

#### YOU CAN ELOPE:

- In your backyard
- In your favourite brewery
- In your favourite hangout spot
- On a rooftop
- Where you first met
- Where he/she proposed
- In your favourite park
- In a field
- By a lake
- On a mountain
- In a forest
- On your favourite hiking trail
- And of course there is also the option of travel elopements.

### WHAT TO BOOK FIRST

#### NEARBY LODGING

Check Google Maps to find out how long the drive time will be between your lodging and chosen ceremony location. The closer your lodging can be to your ceremony site, the more streamlined your day will be — FYI for some remote locations, it's not uncommon for the closest room to be 1-2 hours away.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

Once you have booked your lodging and decided on your ceremony location, find out the best way to travel between them. If you have other people coming, do you need multiple rental cars or would a shuttle make more sense?

# SHOULD YOUTELL YOUR FAMILY?



# Remember this is YOUR day and all of these decisions are entirely up to you and your partner.

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If they are not going to be physically present on your elopement day, you can choose to tell your family before-hand or to keep it a surprise.

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If you are eloping alone & if friends & family still want to feel involved they can throw an engagement party or a reception for you and your partner before or after the elopement. They can also write letters of love & support for you and your partner to read on your elopement day.

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Or if you wish to bring some family and friends along they can join you on your special day and celebrate with you.

# COMMUNICATING YOUR ELOPEMENT VISION

#### **COMMUNICATE WELL**

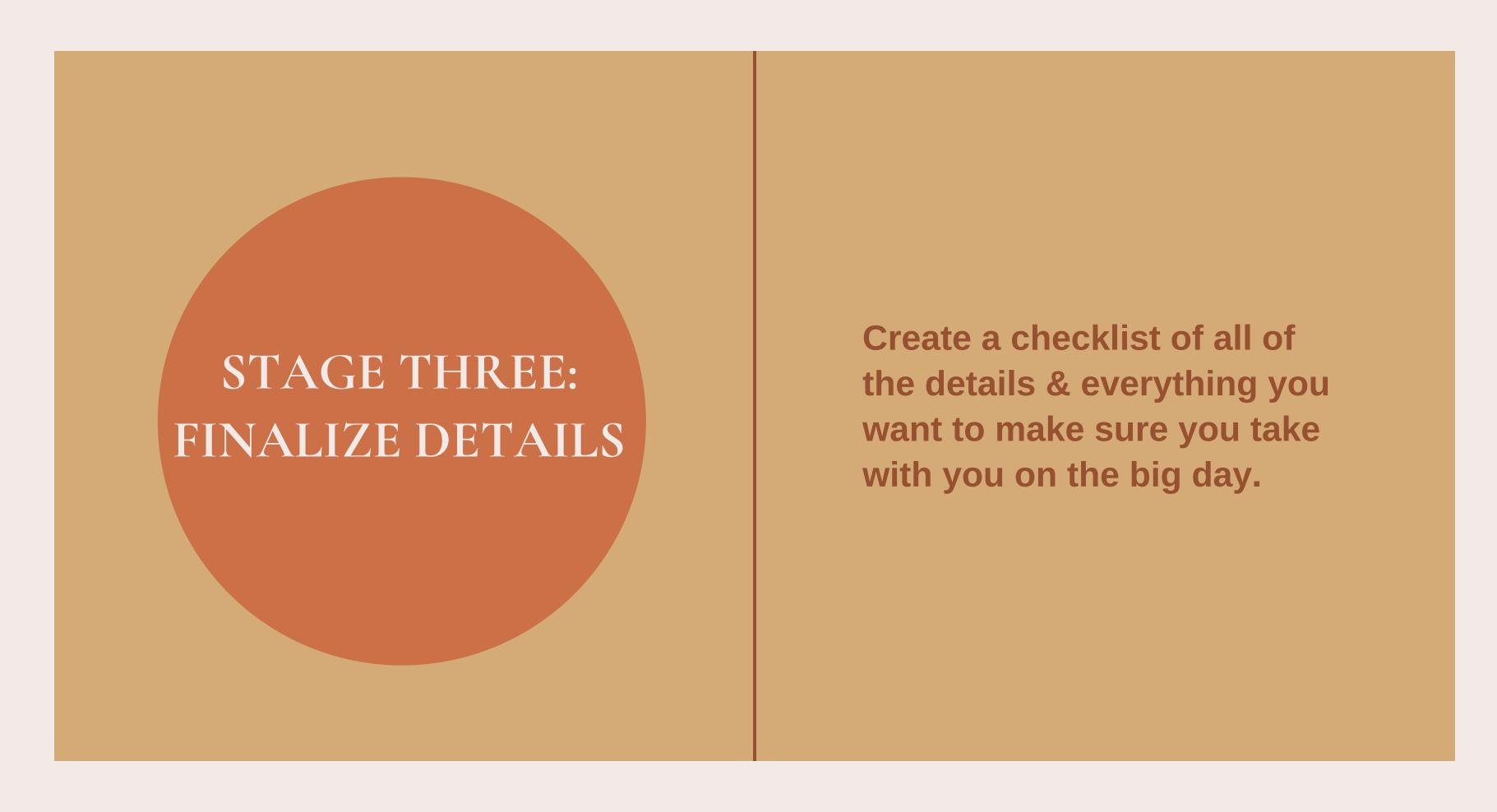
As you break the news that you want to elope, make sure you are sharing from your heart the reasons you want to skip a big wedding.

# EXPLAIN IT IS NOT ABOUT EXCLUSION

Your reasons for eloping are likely less about excluding all or some family & friends and more about just focusing on the two of you. Remind your family/friends how much you love them.

#### STAND YOUR GROUND

Avoid being guilted into a large traditional wedding if it doesnt feel right for the two of you. Some family members might try to talk you out of eloping but your day should be focused on your vision not theirs.





# ATTIRE & ACCESSORIES

#### Dress/Suit

A dress that is easy to move around in freely is recommended for outdoor or adventure elopements.

#### Shoes

Make sure to wear comfortable shoes with good support and good tread on the soles—if you're adventuring outside all day this is crucial!

#### Layers

If your'e eloping somewhere that might be cold or windy, make sure to have fun warm layers that you'd be happy being photographed in.

# VENDORS & DETAILS

- PHOTOGRAPHER
- MAKEUP

Are you doing your hair & makeup yourself or professionally? How will you touch it up?

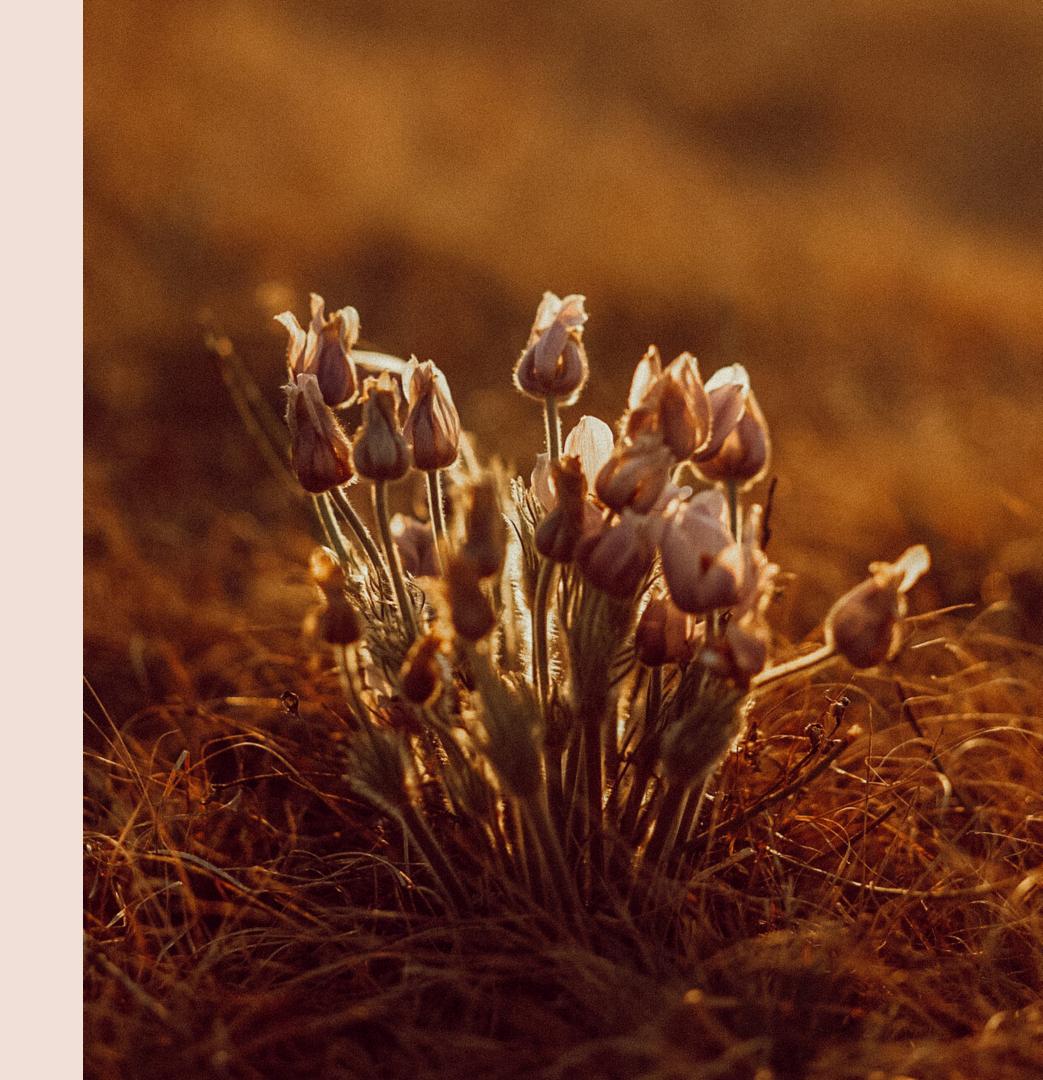
OFFICIENT

Do you legally need a marriage commissioner where you are getting married?

FLOWERS

Is a bouquet important to you? Can you get one close to your location or do you need to pick one up in a bigger city before you go?

- MUSIC
- CATERING



### ACTIVITIES & FUN

#### HIKING

If you're planning to hike to your location, you'll need to bring some extra items. Find a quality hiking backpack with good weight distribution and comfortable hip belts that will fit everything you plan to bring. If your hike is at sunrise, consider packing your attire in your bag, and changing when you get to your location.

#### OTHER THINGS TO DO

Your elopement day can look however you'd like. If you are getting married in your backyard GREAT! If want to go skiing, kayaking or horseback riding AWESOME! This is the greatest plus about eloping as you can literally do just about anything you want.

### CEREMONY & TIMELINE

#### FINALIZE YOUR CEREMONY

Write your vows, gather any objects that are important to you, and purchase your wedding bands. Plan your ceremony structure, including any readings, and/or cultural or religious elements.

#### SKETCH OUT YOUR TIMELINE

Make sure you give yourself plenty of time for a relaxed day with no rushing or stressing. Leave room to be spontaneous - some of the best elopement experiences are unplanned.

Work with your photographer to decide what time of day will be best for your photos.

# THE ITINERARY

An elopement is not just a ceremony and a few photos. There is a much fuller story to tell. Coverage can begin in the early morning and continue until the evening. This is your story! How would you like it to be captured? That is up to you and the possibilities are endless.

Some great Itinerary options include:

- Casual afternoon shoot (ex kayaking, horseback riding)
- Getting Ready preparations
- First look
- Elopement ceremony
- Pop some champaigne
- Sunset photos around the area
- Romantic dinner under the stars
- Possible day after shoot

My advice is to elope at a spot that has some meaning to the two of you.

Somewhere that you can visit on an anniversary or go back

to reminisce on.



### THAT'S IT!

How do you have the best elopement day?

Be present with your partner!

After all, the reason behind the elopement is celebrating your love and commitment, and nothing else truly matters. Soak up every smile, laugh, and touch. HAPPY ELOPING!

THERE IS NOTHING BETTER THAN THE FEELING OF MAKING THE CHOICE TO HAVE A WEDDING THAT TRULY HONOURS & REFLECTS YOUR RELATIONSHIP

I WOULD LOVE TO CAPTURE THIS SPECIAL DAY FOR THE TWO OF YOU. I CAN'T WAIT!!!!

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