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MICHELLE A. PHOTOGRAPHY

Everything you need to know about
planning for your Engagement Session!



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W E L C O M E

Hello there!

Thank you so much for taking the time to download this guide all about engagement sessions! I have been a wedding and engagement photographer for 5 years and over that time I have learned so much about engagement sessions that I want to share my knowledge with you!

In this guide you will read everything from how to dress for your session to some fun tips and tricks to get the most out of your photos! Engagement photos only happen once so you want to make sure you get the most out of your images and love them for the rest of your life!

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If you have any questions, please get in touch!

The Girl Behind the Lens

Meet Michelle

Before we dive into this PDF here is a little bit about me!

Hello nice to meet you, I am Michelle, a featured and award-winning engagement and wedding photographer based out of London Ontario. But you probably already know that, I could go on and on about how I went to school for photography or that I fell in love with photography when I was 16 years old but I am much more than that!

Behind the camera, I am a wifey to my high school sweetheart, a mom to a little corgi named Samson and a lover of tea in my favourite mug! I love to cuddle up on the couch with my dog, put on some Brooklyn 99 or Moana (which I have seen about 100 times) and sip on a delicious chai tea latte while snacking on a birthday cake pop!



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“I knew when I met you an adventure was going to happen”
- Winnie the Pooh -

What to Wear to your Engagement Session

One of the most frequently asked questions I get when it comes to engagement sessions is “What should I wear?” or “How should I dress?”. I don’t think there is a particular right answer but I can offer some good tips to help you choose what to wear!

1) Coordinate

Coordinating your outfit doesn’t mean matchy matchy which you don’t want to do, but it means choosing colours that complement each other and patterns that go together. For example, if you choose to wear a floral patterned summer dress maybe ask your fiance to dress in solid colours that compliment your dress! Say your dress has pink flowers, your fiance could compliment that by wearing a solid dress shirt in a similar pink shade!

2) Dress to match your Engagement Session Location

Are you having your engagement session on the beach, in the woods, downtown or a family farm? Try and put together an outfit that complements not only the location you choose but also the season! For example, if you choose to have your engagement session done on the beach in the middle of summer at sunset, maybe dress in a patterned maxi dress and have your fiance wear a nice button up shirt and shorts.

3) Choose an Outfit that is “you” and makes you feel Comfortable

You always want to choose something that not only shows who you are but something you also feel comfortable in! For example, do you always wear cute summer dresses then maybe choose your favourite for your session. Do you feel the most comfortable and beautiful in a cute flannel shirt and jeans wear that! You want to make sure that along with looking good you also feel good because you will look happier and more comfortable in your images!

What to Wear to your Engagement Session

4) Formality

Do you want to dress to the nines and wear a gorgeous floor length gown? Make sure that your fiance compliments that super dressed up look with a suit and tie! Do you want to wear a cute dress that is a little more casual? Make sure your fiance wears a nice button up shirt and jeans! There are plenty of options but make sure that you both dress to the same level of formality!

5) Make it Fun

Why not add cute accessories such as scarves and jewelry to your outfit to add some more dimension to your outfit and your images! This also could be including some props that match your session as well, for example if you're getting your images done on the beach you could include a cute blanket and maybe a picnic basket that compliments your outfit choice and location choice! Another example would be bringing a blanket or scarf that you can cozy up in for a winter session!





Engagement Session Tips and Tricks

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Scheduling

Choose a time of day that compliments the location! I always try to deter my couples from choosing noon as a time of day to shoot, this is because direct sunlight is not super flattering. I always try and suggest doing a session later in the evening as it is the nicest time for photos!

Location

Choose a location that means something to you as a couple! Did you meet in college and want your images done there, go for it! If you always go for nature walks at a certain park why not consider that for your images together!

Booking

Book your session at least 2 months before your wedding date, this allows your photographer time to edit and return your photos to you in time to use them for your wedding day! Of course turnaround time differs for photographers so always ask their opinion!

Hair and Makeup

I also like to suggest that brides get their hair and makeup professionally done for their engagement session. You could use the opportunity to do your bridal trial to see what type of makeup you prefer!

STYLE TIP:

While it is great to compliment your future spouse in photos, by no means do the two of you need to wear matching outfits.

If your other half is more comfortable in solid colors, try choosing something with a little texture. Patterns are a great way to add contrast to your images. Be creative, and let your unique personality shine through!



Some Extra Engagement Session Tips

Feel free to chose a location that means a lot to you, if you need help choosing a location ask your photographer! Some of my personal favourite places to shoot engagement sessions are Komoka Provincial Park, Springbank Park, Port Stanley or Grand Bend Beach, Brecia or Western University and Downtown London!

Also don't be afraid to bring two outfits to your session! If you can't decide between two looks or two outfits why not bring both and have more variety to your session!

One last little style tip, make sure to have your nails professionally done for your session! That way in any close up shots or ring shots you will have beautifully manicured nails!

LITTLE DETAILS COUNT

A good time to have your photographer capture some images of your engagement ring is when you change outfits. Your engagement ring is just as important to your session as your images together, it is the symbol of your love for one another and should be documented!

Do you and your significant other have a dog together?
Consider including him or her in your engagement session!

REMEMBER TO RELAX AND ENJOY YOUR SESSION!

CONTACT

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I look forward to hearing from you!