

MAXIMISE THE MINI

*What we've learnt over
hundreds of weddings*

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A bride in a white dress holding a bouquet of flowers, standing in the doorway of a white boat. The background is a soft, out-of-focus view of the boat's interior and exterior.

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Hello!

My name's Grace from Budget Wedding Stories and I LOVE weddings! my passion is helping you have an even more incredible day for a more affordable price. That's where our flagship package, the Mini comes in. Over hundreds of weddings booking just the Mini Package, the team and I have learnt a thing or two. So here we are to share some important insights to help you gain a little bit more from your special day.

Grace

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THE PACKAGE

Welcome to
your Day

About the Mini

(Elopements, registry weddings, short wedding coverage, and surprise celebrations).

This package is designed for couples who want beautiful, honest photos without turning their wedding into a production or a financial burden.

If your day is simple, fast-moving, and focused on the commitment rather than the spectacle, this is for you.

WHAT THIS PACKAGE DOES WELL

- ✓ Covers the meaningful parts of your day, calmly and efficiently
- ✓ Keeps things relaxed and low-pressure
- ✓ Works beautifully for elopements, registry weddings, and intimate celebrations
- ✓ Removes the need for long planning calls or detailed photo lists
- ✓ Gives you professional images without over-investing in coverage you don't need

This is not a “cut-down” experience.
It's a right-sized one.

What to expect on the day

You'll have a professional photographer who:

- Knows how to work quickly without rushing you
- Guides gently when needed and steps back when not
- Understands small weddings and treats them with the same care as large ones

No lengthy posing marathons.

No wasted time.

No pressure to perform.

WHAT YOU'LL RECEIVE

You'll receive a carefully curated gallery that tells the story of your day clearly and beautifully. It's designed to give you:

- The key moments
- The emotions
- The context of the day

The package:

- 1x photographer
- 50x edited images
- 2x hours max of coverage
- 2-week delivery

This package is ideal if:

- ✓ You're planning a short, low-key wedding
- ✓ You don't want to overspend "just because"
- ✓ You value professionalism without fuss
- ✓ You want the day documented, not directed





What's offered with the Mini?

1

More Hours!

Extra photo hours (up to 15 additional hours) at \$205ea + gst.

2

More Video!

Add video for \$500 + gst which comes with a quick 60 second highlights and a full 5 minute highlights.

3

More Photos!

Includes all of the final edited images from your day, not just the highlights. add on for \$500 + gst

You don't need to decide on upgrades now. Many couples start with the Mini because it feels sensible, and then choose to expand their gallery after seeing their photos or add video right before their day. That possibility is there.



So you're having...

A Registry Wedding

Brisbane or Melbourne or Perth or Sydney, most major cities have a fantastic registry to host your special day. Here's often how the Mini package plays out:

- We'd recommend a start time 20 minutes before your listed ceremony time. This allows us to get a few photos of the pre-wedding excitement, of the family and friends that you'd potentially chosen milling about. Some of the Registry locations also require a little bit of travel on foot.
- 10 minutes for the ceremony itself. People think that I am often joking when I say that a Brisbane Registry wedding is 4 and a half minutes. I'm not joking! This is pretty consistent across the board for registry weddings. Give yourself a total of 10 minutes including signing for the "active" ceremony portion itself.
- 30 minutes total incl. family photos. Most Registry weddings will have your "slot" as 30 minutes. This is the best time to sneak in those family photos that your grandmother would want. For the Melbourne Registry, weather providing, we'd actually recommend family photos to be outside.
- Another hour for your delight or choosing! Most couples either decide here to traverse across the city (which we can do - just account for delays with getting cars etc.) or some couples opt to finish their package early. It's really up to what you'd like!

REMEMBER: If your wedding is in the afternoon, and there are no other bookings afterwards, it's quite common for it to be "pulled forward". Make sure that friends and family are aware! We've seen some miss out.

An Elopement

From the beach to the home, we've witnessed some wonderful elopements! Each one is unique and coverage differs slightly. I've had some elopements where we've managed to capture the bridal party prep because everyone was running so smoothly. I've had some elopements where we've only been able to catch the ceremony portion itself because the schedule was behind and they were happy with that! But, as a rule of thumb...

- Start time as the same as your celebrant recommends. 3pm ceremony? 3pm start time. Some brides opt for a 10-15minute start beforehand to get guest arrivals and location shots
- <30 minutes for the ceremony!
- <30 minutes for family, bridal party, and some limited couples photos
- Up to a spare hour to travel to a new spot or have additional portraits.

This gives you a few options! You can:

- Start early to grab some prep shots, the first look, or the first look with Dad/family
- Have us come with you to the reception - if your bookings are back to back and you'd like a couple of shots there, we'd love to go!
- More portraits! Let's get creative!

A “Normal” Wedding

Sometimes couples don't want extravagant all day coverage. We've heard so many times over that - “well I didn't want to get photography, but decided last minute that-.” it's totally normal and we love it! We would consider a “normal wedding” as with over 20 guests in attendance and recommend...

- Photographer start time at the ceremony (if you have planned a late arrival of 10-30 minutes) or 10 minutes beforehand if you plan to arrive exactly on time
- 30-45 minutes for the ceremony and congratulations afterwards (the congrats take longer than you realise!)
- 15 minutes for family photos - PLEASE make sure that you have a concise list of family photos and 1-2 people organised to herd the family in accordingly. Nothing delays family pics more than your uncle wandering off for a drink
- 30 minutes for group shots and bridal party photos
- 30 minutes for couples portrait photos
- 15 minute buffer - whether that's travel to a new spot (5-10minutes away max before you need to consider dropping another part above), shots of the reception if onsite, or if you want to grab something else - a first look, Dad's reaction, car shots etc.

As said above, every day is very unique. Our team is flexible, if there is something that is important to you, we'd be more than happy to catch it.

A Surprise Wedding

Okay, so you've opted for one of the coolest, but one of the toughest types of wedding days to pull off - the surprise wedding! We have a lot of fun with these. We've pretended to be "old family friends", "the birthday photographer", and the "family photographer". We'd love to work together to make a secret identity! We'd also highly recommend a very clear "trigger", whether that's everyone meeting at the car park and then making their way down the track to where the wedding is set up. Or, we've also seen everyone arrive for a "birthday party" where the very early housekeeping has an epic twist!

It's very important to have a clear trigger and for the team to know when it's about to happen. Ideally, we'd have an MC or someone else who knows what's about to happen that we can liaise with. For the most part, everything else remains the same.

However, we would recommend:

- Having coverage start 15-20 minutes beforehand so that we can get an idea of the space, and some coverage of "the vibes" - the cover story will have to account for this!
- Considering if you need a setup break or not right after the announcement. Sometimes we've had couples "make the announcement" and quickly sprint to get fully dressed while the room gets organised into a more traditional ceremony setup. Are you thinking of this? Let us know! It would be a fabulous opportunity for our video team to grab a few interviews and reactions!



Client Testimonial

“Absolutely incredible! When my wedding had to be completely re-planned within 24 hours due to my husband ending up in the hospital, the Budget Wedding Stories team stepped in and made everything so much smoother. They set up a live stream on short notice and captured our day beautifully despite the chaos. The video they created is stunning and something we will cherish forever. I can’t recommend them highly enough for their professionalism, kindness, and ability to adapt in a crisis!”

Chantel

Final Notes

Every day is as special and unique as you are! We' had some really complex requests, some really low key ones, and some where we've had almost no information to run on!

At the end of the day, we have a fantastic selection of professionals that love weddings and love to be involved in yours! Let us know how we can assist in any way!



Contact:

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