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Wedding Photography Questions & Answers

Choosing a wedding photographer can be a stressful experience. You undoubtedly have a number of questions before you make this big decision.

We've compiled a list of some of the most common questions we are asked, and those that you should consider asking any potential photographer. We've also given our opinion on why these points matter in making your decision.

Q: How experienced are you?

A: Jamie began as an amateur photographer in 1986, turning professional in 2003. He began photographing weddings in 2004. Jamie's computer-based image processing experience began soon after the release of Adobe Photoshop in the early 1990s.

Jamie's photographs have won and been awarded prizes in two *Nikon Australia* photographic competitions, and in 2008 he was nominated in the Wedding Photography division of Capture magazine's prestigious "Australia's Top Photographer" awards.

Why it matters: Experience brings with it not just technically better photography, but also the ability to identify opportunities and locations.



Q: Do you use film or digital cameras?

A: We use only Digital Single-Lens-Reflex (DSLR) cameras.

Why it matters: The pure image quality between prints from 35mm film and a good DSLR is negligible. But digital offers huge advantages in the usability of the final images. They are easier to transport, duplicate and print. There is no risk of losing the negatives, as you can make as many copies of the 'digital negatives' as you wish.



Q: What kind of camera equipment do you use?

A: Nikon professional-grade cameras and lenses.

Why it matters: Many wedding photographers skimp on cheaper, consumer grade cameras and lenses due to the high cost of buying professional equipment. However, professional-grade cameras and lenses offer superior reliability, durability and real-world image quality. Using cheaper, consumer-grade DSLR cameras heightens the risk of a camera failure or poor performance in tough conditions, such as failing light or wet weather. While a simple internet comparison may appear to show that a cheaper equipment can match pro-grade image quality, in the real world it is rarely the case. We choose Nikon-branded equipment, however Canon (Specifically the 1D and 5D-series) are equally popular with professionals and offer similar performance.

When it comes to photographic equipment, you most certainly get what you pay for.

Q: Do you capture/photograph in RAW format?

A: Yes

Why it matters: Photographing in RAW format provides a higher absolute quality level, and allows far greater scope for working with and improving the images on a computer afterwards. Shooting in JPEG leaves the photographer at a severe disadvantage. However, RAW takes longer to process, uses up considerably more space and requires specialised software, so some photographers choose to capture in standard JPEG format. The big problem with this is that it severely limits the capability to work on the photograph later. Every time you open, change and save a JPEG image you degrade it slightly. Whereas with RAW, the quality doesn't change and you are free to open and manipulate an image without any quality issues. After we have processed images, we then convert them to JPEG for delivery to the customer, due to it's universal popularity. However we always retain the original, untouched RAW image should it be required in the future.

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Q: Do your customers receive high-resolution images as part of their package?

A: Yes

Why it matters: In the days of film, photographers often held on to your negatives in order to add to their income by charging high prices for reprints and enlargements. Many photographers have retained this practise in the digital age, by only giving customers low resolution versions of their photos and charging high prices for enlargements.

We don't believe in this practise. We give you the full size images so you can print enlargements yourself, and also offer printing at realistic prices if you'd rather we take care of that for you. It's your choice.

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Q: Can I give copies of my discs and/or photos to friends and relatives?

A: Yes. We don't have any restriction on the duplication or distribution of your wedding photos for any non-commercial purpose.

Why it matters: Some photographers don't allow you to make copies of your photo discs or photos, forcing you to pay high prices for duplicates. This can add considerable cost to your wedding photography package.

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Q: Do you shoot in Colour and/or Black & White?

A: We capture colour digital images. We then process the images and provide you with both colour *and* B&W versions of every photograph.

Why it matters: Some images look better in colour, and some in B&W. Some people prefer one over the other. Using film, you were stuck with some colour images and some B&W, with no real ability to pick and choose. Digital opens up the ability to easily convert images and so we've decided to provide both versions of every image.

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Q: Is there a limit to the number of photos you will take? / How many photos do you normally take?

A: There is no limit. We usually capture around 700 images and provide you with 400-500 optimal, processed images.

Why it matters: Limiting the number of photographs taken means you may miss important photos, and limit your choices for enlargements. We often take multiple versions of group shots for example, to eliminate the chance of blinking eyes etc. When we process the images we delete any unnecessary duplicates, and provide you with your final images.

Q: Do you process my photos, or just give them to me “straight out of camera”?

A: Jamie personally spends several days personally viewing and processing all of your photos using state-of-the-art professional image processing software, including *Apple Aperture* and *Adobe Photoshop*.

Why it matters: By viewing and processing all your photos, we are able to optimise them by performing colour-correction and other vital improvements. Many photographers don't do this, meaning you are stuck with many sub-optimal images and are often forced to go through hundreds of technically poor images to find the ones you like.

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Q: How many hours of photography are included in your package?

A: We provide full-day coverage, with no strict hourly limit.

Why it matters: Some photographers offer time-limited packages, meaning they don't include preparation or reception photography and charge extra if you want these periods covered. We believe in covering the whole day. Many of the best images are captured at the reception, after the couple and guests have let their hair down. It would be a shame to kiss these images because of an exorbitant hourly extra charge.

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Q: How long should we allow for formal photography?

A: Depending on the location, I recommend you allow for at least 1 complete hour of photography between the ceremony and the reception (not including any travelling time).

Why it matters: The formal photography session will result in some of the most important images from your wedding. It's important that you allow sufficient time to ensure you have a good and varied selection of photos.

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Q: What kind of input can we have on the type/style/content of the shots? Can we give you a shot list to work from?

A: You can have as much or as little input as you desire.

Why it matters: If your photographer is rigid in their approach, then you are stuck with their desired style of photography, and you may miss out on certain group photos that you really want.

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Q: How long before we receive our photographs?

A: Your images will usually be up on the web gallery within 1 week of your wedding, and you will usually receive your discs within 2 weeks. If you order prints, they will be delivered within 1 week of being ordered.

Why it matters: The last thing you want after your wedding is to wait months or more to see your photographs.

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Q: How many other events will you also photograph that day/weekend?

A: We never photograph more than one event/wedding per day. We avoid booking more than one event/wedding per weekend. Our target is to photograph no more than 2 weddings per month.

Why it matters: If your photographer is doing more than one wedding in a day, worry! Their mind will be elsewhere, and your photos will suffer. The more events a photographer covers, the less time is available for photo processing, and the greater the delay will be in delivering your photos.

Q: Do you mind my friends and relatives taking their own pictures or using high-end equipment?

A: I have no problem with guests taking pictures during the ceremony and reception, as long as you make sure they understand that I am the professional that you have hired to record your wedding, and they need to stay out of my way when I am trying to take a photo. However, I do discourage extra photographers during the posed "formal" photos. The problem is that with multiple photographers, the subjects can become confused about where they should be looking. A group picture with everyone looking in different directions just doesn't look good!

Why it matters: Some photographers get quite cranky at shutterbug guests, but we understand that not only do you want as many images of your wedding as possible, but we can't be everywhere at once.

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Q: Will you photograph weddings outside the Blue Mountains?

A: Certainly, although there may be some additional charge to cover the travel and time involved. In addition to Blue Mountains weddings, Jamie has photographed many weddings throughout other parts of Sydney.

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More Information:

- [Australian Images' website](#)
- [Australian Images' sample wedding galleries](#)
- [Australian Images' wedding photography information](#)
- [Australian Images' Photo Book information](#)