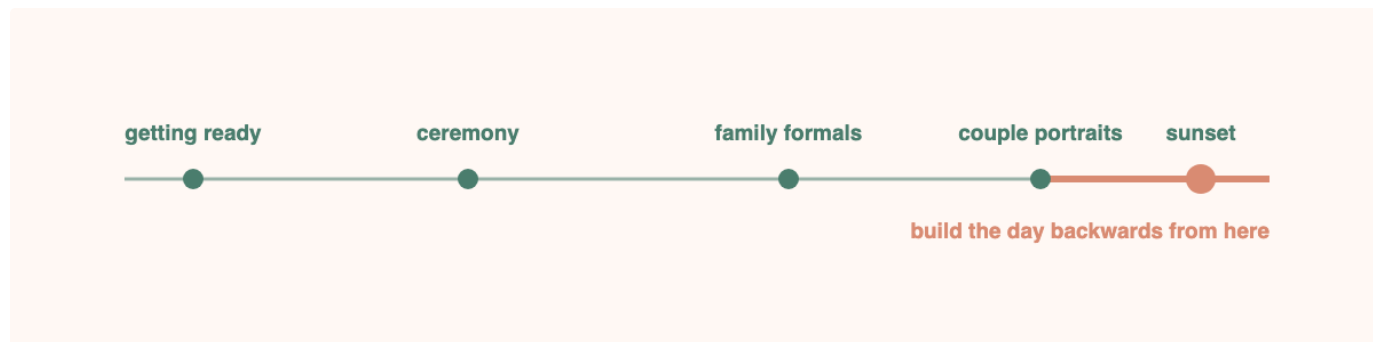


# The O'ahu wedding day timeline that actually survives the day.

Most wedding timelines are written forwards from the ceremony and fall apart by the reception. On O'ahu you build it backwards from sunset, because sunset is the one thing on your schedule that will not move.



## 1. Start at sunset and work backwards

Look up the sunset time for your exact date before you fix anything else. It shifts by more than an hour across the year here, roughly 5:50pm in December and 7:15pm in June. Then place your day against it.

|             |                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| T - 30 min  | <b>Couple portraits.</b> The half hour before sunset is the best light you will get all day. Protect it. Nothing else goes here. |
| T - 90 min  | <b>Family formals.</b> Still good light, and people have not yet scattered to the bar.                                           |
| T - 2.5 hrs | <b>Ceremony ends.</b> If your ceremony ends later than this, your portraits happen in the dark or not at all.                    |
| T - 3 hrs   | <b>Ceremony begins.</b> A beach ceremony runs 20 to 30 minutes. A church ceremony runs 45 to 75.                                 |
| T - 4 hrs   | <b>Guests arrive, first look if you want one.</b>                                                                                |
| T - 6 hrs   | <b>Getting ready.</b> Two hours is realistic for hair and makeup for a bride plus three. One hour is not.                        |

**The mistake almost everyone makes.** Booking a 4pm ceremony in December. Sunset is 5:50pm, the ceremony runs to 5, family formals eat forty minutes, and the couple portraits land after the light has gone. The same 4pm ceremony in June is perfect. The date decides, not the hour.

## 2. Build in the buffer O'ahu specifically requires

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- **H1 traffic is not optional.** Town to the North Shore is 60 minutes on a good day and 100 on a Friday afternoon. Do not schedule a Ko Olina ceremony and a Kailua reception on the same evening.
- **Parking at beach parks fills by mid afternoon** in summer. Send guests a parking note, not just an address.
- **Add 15 minutes of slack after getting ready** and another 15 after the ceremony. Those two half-hours are what stop a late start from eating your portraits.
- **Trade winds pick up in the afternoon.** If the veil matters to you, earlier is calmer.

## 3. If your day includes lễ gia tiên

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A Vietnamese wedding often runs the ancestor ceremony at home in the morning and the Western ceremony later, sometimes at a church, sometimes on a beach. That is two full events in one day, and the timeline has to admit it.

- **Treat the morning as its own coverage block.** Tea ceremony, the elders, the gifts, the family greeting. It is usually the most emotional hour of the day and it is over quickly.
- **Leave a real gap for travel and a change of clothes.** An áo dài to gown change with hair adjustments is 45 minutes, not 15.
- **Decide in advance whether you want portraits in the áo dài.** If you do, they need their own ten minutes in decent light, not a snatched frame in a hallway.

## 4. The family formal list

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This is the single biggest time sink at every wedding, and the only fix is a written list. Twenty combinations at two minutes each is forty minutes. Ten combinations is twenty.

- **Write the list before the day** and give a copy to one loud relative on each side. Their job is to find people. That one decision saves more time than anything else on this page.
- **Do grandparents first**, then release them. Standing in sun or in a church aisle is harder on them than anyone will admit.

- **Group by who stays**, not by side. Keep the largest group first and peel people away, rather than rebuilding from scratch each time.
- **Name the one photograph you would be upset to not have.** Say it out loud on the day. Every couple has one and photographers cannot guess it.

## 5. First look, honestly

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- **Do a first look if** your ceremony is late in the day, you have a long family list, you want a cocktail hour you actually attend, or you are nervous and want a private minute first.
- **Skip it if** the aisle moment matters more to you than the schedule. That is a legitimate choice. It just costs you time later, and you should spend it knowingly.

## 6. Rain

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- **Pick the backup location when you book**, not on the morning. A decision made in panic is always worse.
- **Showers here pass.** Fifteen minutes of waiting usually buys the best light of the day. Build a fifteen minute hole you can move into.
- **Clear umbrellas photograph well.** Dark ones do not, and they shadow every face beneath them.

**Tiếng Việt:** Hướng dẫn này giúp bạn sắp lịch cưới tại O'ahu. Ý chính: tính ngược từ giờ hoàng hôn, vì ánh sáng đẹp nhất là 30 phút trước khi mặt trời lặn. Chừa thời gian cho kẹt xe trên H1 và cho việc thay đồ sau lễ gia tiên. Viết sẵn danh sách chụp ảnh gia đình và nhờ một người thân mỗi bên gọi người, chụp ông bà trước tiên. Nếu trời mưa, chọn sẵn địa điểm dự phòng từ lúc đặt lịch. Cứ nhắn tin cho tôi bằng tiếng Việt nếu cần.