

ENGAGEMENT  
SESSION

# Style Guide



PHOTO HARP WEDDINGS  
WWW.PHOTOHARP.COM



The engagement session is one of our favorite times with our couples because we get to style it together, make some memories at an awesome location, and get to know each other better. You will be married for a long time, but you are only engaged for a short time. Let's capture this joyful time in your life with some amazing photos!



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# Tailor

## KNOW YOUR BODY

Your outfit should fit just right. You don't want it to be too large or too small. Nothing beats an outfit that is literally made for you.

A tailored suit, a belt, or safety pins can give your outfit the final touch!



\*PRO TIP avoid any outfit that will show underwear or bra straps! Wear a strapless bra or dress tape and a belt for the slacks.

*Show what you love*

HIDE WHAT YOU DON'T



Don't feel pressured to wear something you are uncomfortable in. If you are self-conscious about your arms, don't wear a strapless dress. If you are self-conscious about your legs don't wear a mini-skirt.

BE YOU!



*Outfit Inspiration*

DRESS IT UP!

# Flowing dresses



## \*PRO-TIP

Wear shorts or spandex underneath your dress so we can really adventure

## \*PRO-TIP

Heels and Wedges flatter every body type, just bring a comfy pair of shoes for walking or hiking in

## Shop

Here are some of our favorite shops:

Lulu's  
Morning Lavender  
Amazon  
Forever 21  
H&M  
Ross

## Rent

Renting is a great option, you can look for someone local or borrow from a friend!

We personally love these rental companies:

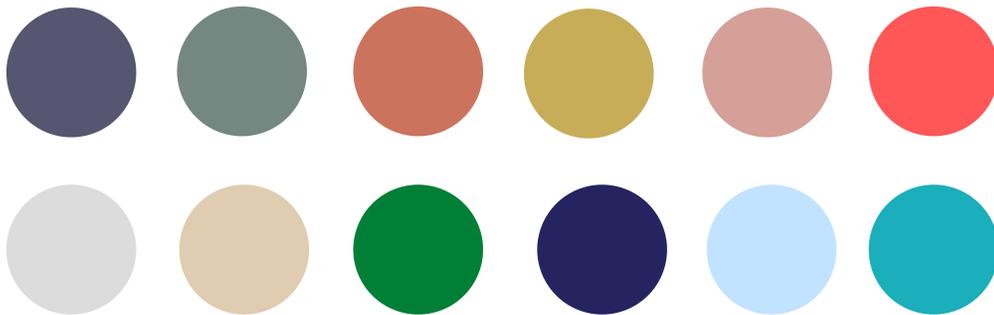
Rent the Runway  
Men's Warehouse

You can also find treasures at local upscale or regular thrift stores! Do a quick Google search for the closest in your area.

# The Colors

## DARK, LIGHT, AND MUTED

Navy blue, army green, burnt orange, mustard yellow, blush, gray, tan, light pink, red, and light blue tend to photograph fantastic!



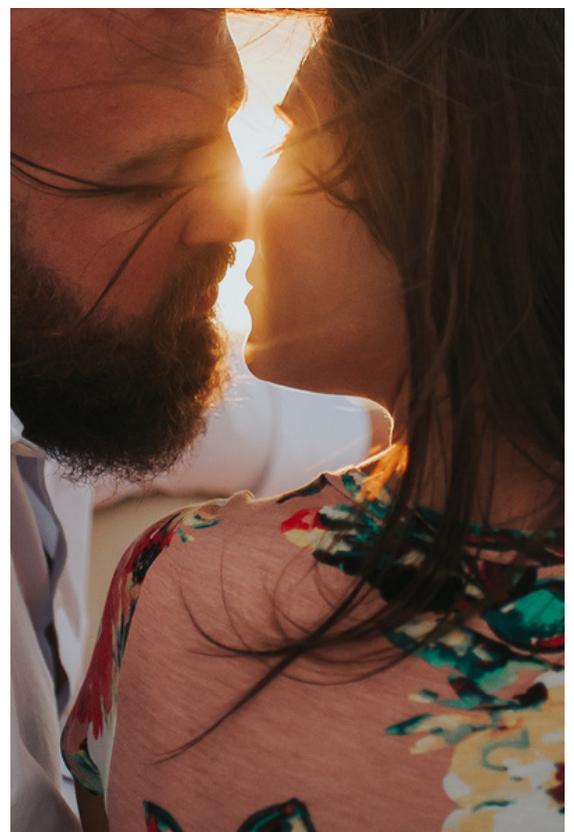
Avoid: bright, vibrant, all white, and neon colors because they will reflect on your skin.

# Patterns

## THE SIMPLER THE BETTER

We love floral and bohemian patterns! Just remember if one of you is in something busy, the other should be in something plain or it will be overwhelming.

Avoid: Tiny patterns, crazy patterns, horizontal stripes, or too many stripes.



HILLSBORO  
STATE BANK







# Accessories

ADD SOME INTEREST

Sunglasses  
Hats  
Flower crown  
Beanie  
Jacket  
Simple necklace  
Earrings  
Rings

Avoid- smartwatches and any jewelry that will distract from your lovely faces.

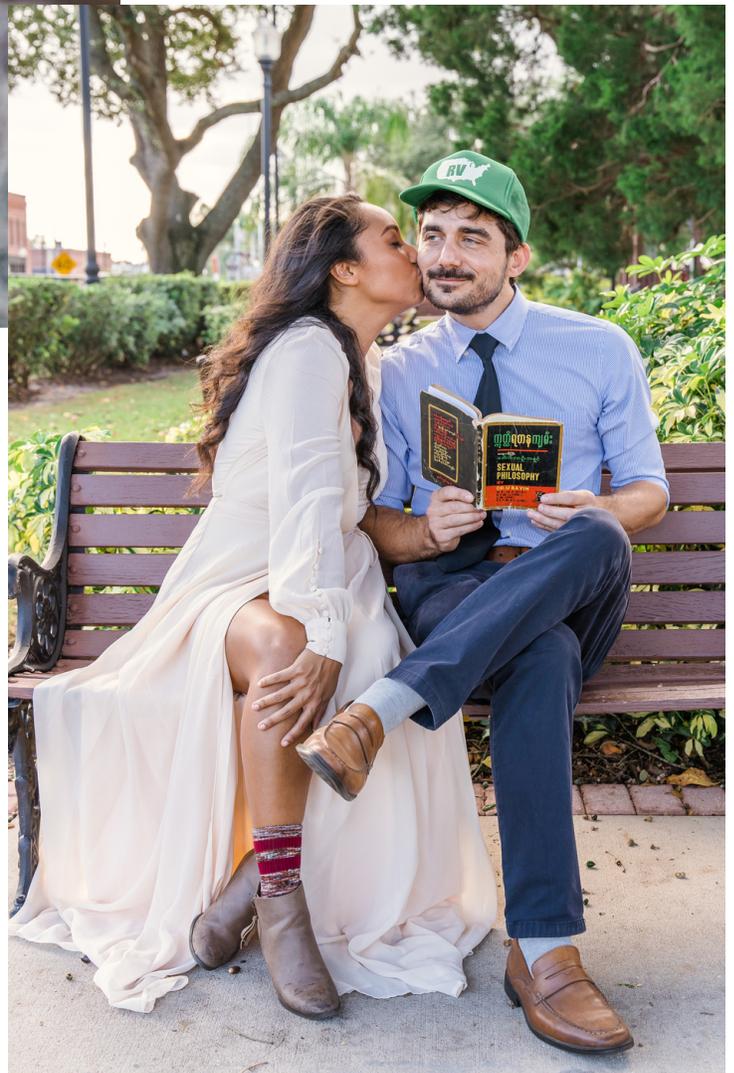
# Props

MORE INTEREST

Only bring props that are special to you and a part of your normal life.

Blankets  
Instruments  
Books  
Picnic Basket  
Favorite Food  
Bouquet  
Smoke Bombs  
Pets

(We suggest to bring a friend to help handle them)



# Dress down

LET'S HAVE FUN

Not into dressing up? We are down with dressing down! Get on your most comfortable casual outfit and let's explore and have fun. You can always do an outfit change as well.



# Beauty

## INSIDE & OUT



It's okay to practice in the mirror :) try to smile with your eyes! See what your good side is. Practice pushing your chin forward. Also look at yourself and tell yourself your beautiful everyday!

Drink lots of water!  
No greasy foods before your session  
(but it can be a treat for after)

Snuggle with each other!  
Practice kissing—no duck faces, soft lips. Fun kisses, romantic kisses, passionate whatever you want

Get your nails done! Most commonly forgotten—they will show when I get close ups of your ring! Getting your ring cleaned helps too!

*"Happy couples are the cutest"*

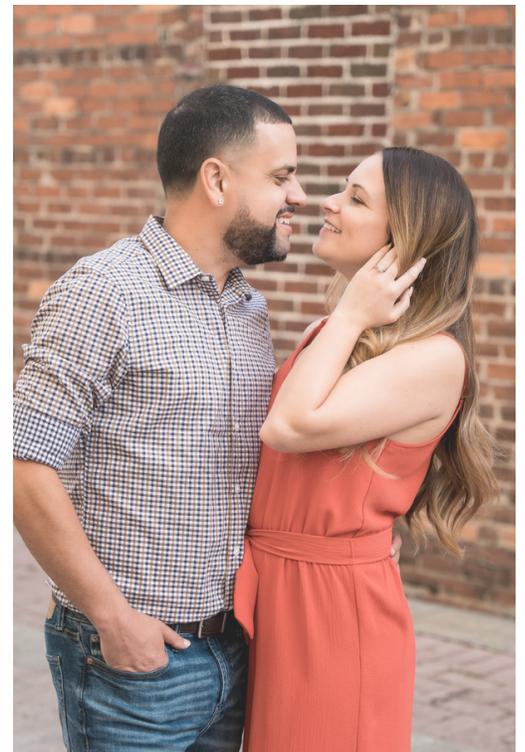
## PROFESSIONAL HAIR & MAKEUP

Although professional make up and hair is not necessary, most makeup and hair stylists will give you a trial before the wedding day. With that said, your engagement session is the perfect time to use it!

Contouring does wonders! There's tons of tips on YouTube.

We love natural makeup, you don't have to go overboard.

It's ok to let your hair down, it photographs well when it moves in the wind!







"Jose did my friend's wedding and her photos turned out amazing so I hired him for mine. My wedding isn't until December but my engagement pictures came out amazing!!! They were absolutely gorgeous! Jose is so great to work with and he has a great eye for those special moments. I highly recommend him!" Erin & Kris

## *His style*

You can't go wrong with a nice button up shirt.

Tan, brown, or navy khakis are great for pants.

Neck ties, bow ties, and jackets add sophistication to the look.

Brown or black dress shoes look great with a dressed up look.

For the dressed down look, go for a Henley, sweater, solid polo shirt, plain t-shirt, or short sleeve button up and jeans.

Wear dark colored socks (anything but white!)

# Preps



Being in front of a camera for an hour or two doesn't sound like a date...but I promise it will be. Your cheeks will hurt from laughing. We will have an fun adventure and we'll make some awesome memories. Half the time it will feel like we are not even there.



Make sure to look at our blog posts at [photoharp.com/blog](http://photoharp.com/blog) so you both can see how amazing yours will turn out. You will know what to expect after seeing our blog.

The engagement session is a great excuse to get all dressed up then go out to dinner and/or dessert after. Make plans for it, you both deserve it!

# Locations

We live in Florida, so we have a lot of beautiful options to photograph outdoors!

Take into consideration what the weather might be like as well as if a permit is required.

We are totally open to new locations and traveling if you have somewhere epic in mind!

Do you know anyone's property we can use for the shoot?

If you tell us the vibe you want like nature, lake, beach, urban, etc. We can find the perfect place for you!

It is also fun to shoot at places that would be dates like downtown, coffee shop, or ice cream parlor!



# *Favorite locations*



LOWER GREEN SWAMP PRESERVE



BOK TOWER GARDENS



FORT DE SOTO



ANA MARIA ISLAND



HILLSBOROUGH RIVER STATE PARK



ANY DOWNTOWN

# Seasonal weather

If your engagement session is in the winter- wear something warm!

If it is in the heat- wear something that we can't see your sweat and will keep you cool!

If your engagement session is on a beach- know we will probably take our shoes off and get our feet wet!

Some locations are closed during certain seasons because they are rained out. Take into account the weather of the date you would like to choose. But, shooting in the rain can be magical!!!

Generally couples like to have their engagement photos done 3-6 months prior to the wedding date.

We love epic locations and are totally willing to travel as long as it's within the Tampa Bay area!

Golden, dreamy, glowy light happens during the hour after sunrise or the hour before sunset. Generally we will do a sunset session unless your schedule does not allow, the location is better during sunrise, or the location is crowded during the day. We also have the necessary lighting equipment for additional light or creative and artistic photos!



# Seasonal Lighting

## APPROXIMATE PHOTO SESSION START TIMES

### SPRING

April-May  
Varies

### SUMMER

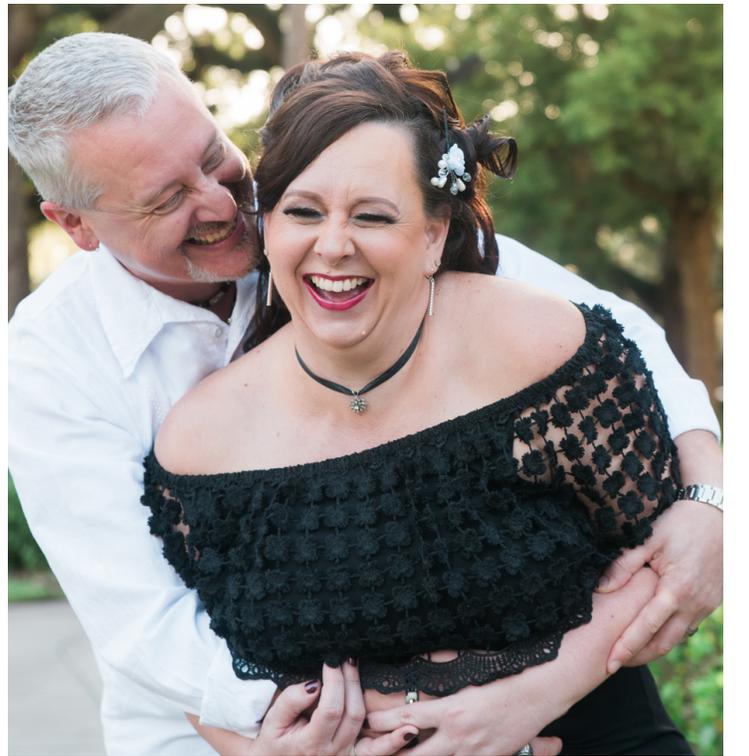
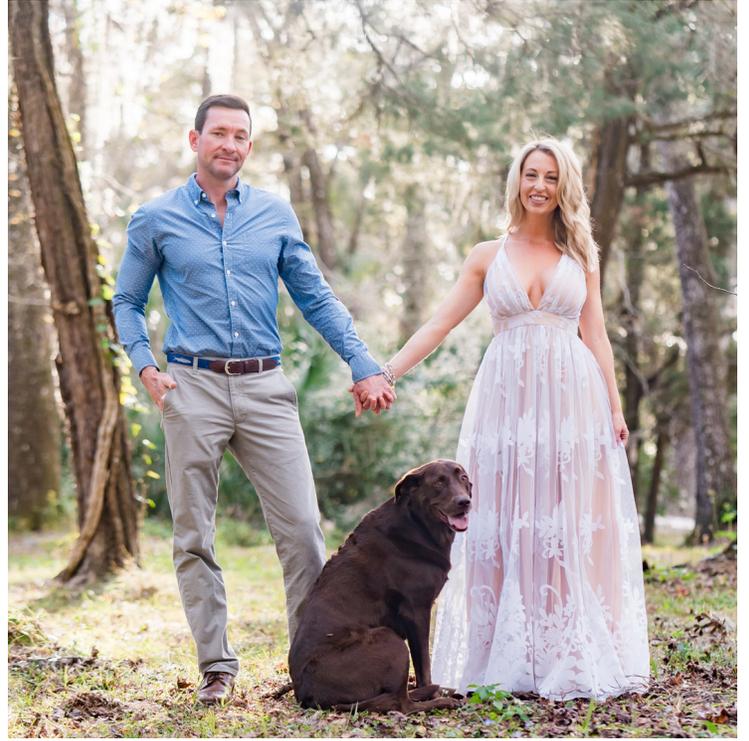
June-August  
6:30PM-8:30PM

### FALL

September- Nov  
Varies

### WINTER

December - March  
3:00PM-5:00PM



# What to do

## WITH YOUR ENGAGEMENT PHOTOS



### WEDDING INVITATIONS

Add a beautiful photo to your wedding invite for your loved ones to keep!

### SAVE THE DATES

Let your family & friends know of your wedding date by mailing them photo cards or magnets!

### WEDDING DAY SLIDESHOW

A cute way to share your photos with your guests and something to watch while they wait for and eat dinner. Or add them to a slideshow of you two growing up.

### GUEST SIGNING BOOK

Make a wood board or album of your engagement photos with plenty of space so your guests can sign it on your wedding day!



# Print Your Photos!

Your photos will get forgotten if you save them to your hard drive....they deserve to be seen!

We love canvases! They are timeless and look beautiful on any wall. Our favorite set is two 16x24s and a 24x36 between them. Or one big 30x40 statement image to go over your couch, fireplace, or your bed!

Quality prints are important! For that reason, you will be able to order hand crafted prints, albums, and canvases from a professional lab right from your own personal online gallery!



# Timeline

## 2-4 WEEKS BEFORE

Book hair & makeup  
find your outfits/tailor.

## WEEK OF

Outfits cleaned/ironed  
nails done, rings cleaned.

## DAY OF

Show up rested, well-fed, and with  
energy. Leave early and plan the route.

## 1 DAY AFTER

We will send you some sneak peeks!

## 1 WEEK AFTER

You will get an email with a link to your personal  
online gallery, and a time sensitive discount code  
to order prints directly from the gallery.

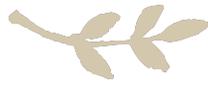
## 2 WEEKS AFTER

We will post a blog of our session on our  
website. (It that's ok with you!)

## 3 WEEKS AFTER

You will get a reminder to order your  
beautiful prints directly from your gallery  
before the discount code expires.

# Checklist



## TO DO

- ( ) Get outfits together
- ( ) Pro Hair and Makeup Booked (if desired)
- ( ) Shave or trim beard
- ( ) Avoid fake tans and sunburns
- ( ) Rings cleaned
- ( ) Outfits tailored/cleaned/ironed
- ( ) Make plans to go out on a date afterwards
- ( ) Plan your route to the location (Waze!)
- ( ) Leave early for your session

## TO BRING

- ( ) Extra shoes to walk in
- ( ) Accessories/Props
- ( ) Touch up stuff for makeup & hair
- ( ) Rings duh!
- ( ) Water
- ( ) Bugs spray (it's Florida!)



*Thank You!*

We are so stoked to work with you! We hope this guide was helpful and got you both super excited for the engagement session.

There are a lot of tips and tricks in this guide, but all that really matters is that we make and capture some awesome memories together. These are photos that you will be able to look back on and instantly remember why you love each other.

*José & Kristen*



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