

Prep

for Portrait Photos



DARRIEN PECK
PHOTOGRAPHY



Your session is booked! Let's start planning!

I know you are busy so I like to keep the planning simple. This guide will walk you through what you can expect, where I need your input and give my best tips for preparing for a great photo session.

1. The Perfect Location
2. Styling Your Session
3. What You Need to Know
4. Tips for Success
5. What's Next

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It's important to pick the perfect location to reflect your style.



Here are some considerations:

Choose a location that fits your personality.

Are you outdoorsy or do you relate to more modern or urban landscapes? Pick a location that will fit with the personality of yourself. The location sets the stage for the vibe of your photos.

Consider how it will fit with the decor of your home.

Your photos are an investment and will likely adorn the walls of your home for years. Choose a location that will compliment and work well when showcased in your home.

Don't forget to check what the space will look like in that specific season.

Seasonal flowers are gorgeous but not realistic for the winter or early spring season. Be sure to consider what the space will look like during the time of year photos will be taken.

Pick a space that is meaningful to you in some way.

Do you have any places that carry a special sentiment in your story? Do you have a special place that tends to bring you peace and joy? Perhaps you want to include a view of the mountains, body of waters, city, or the high desert?

Look for a space with variety and options for landscape and scenery.

Portrait photo sessions are designed to allow you the time to enjoy yourself while capturing some beautiful images. Be sure to pick a space that will give us the variety to explore so that we can maximize the session and create a beautiful spread of images.

See my **Locations Guide** for more ideas including local suggestions.



What should I wear?

This is usually the first question that comes up after booking a session.

Picking your wardrobe can be stressful and it's no wonder! Photos are an investment that will likely adorn the walls of your home and be passed down for generations. You want them to be perfect!

Here is my step-by-step guide for coordinating the perfect outfits.

5 Steps to Choosing the Right Outfits for Yourself

1.
*Decide on
the look you
want.*

Use the season to help narrow the look you are going for.

Are you striving for something flowy and whimsical, comfy and casual or more formal?

Each season is associated with its own colors, weather and landscapes. Spring and summer can be bright and flowy, while fall and winter lend itself to cozy layers and stylish accessories.

2.
*Pick an
inspiration
outfit.*

Start with an old or new favorite piece or outfit.

Pick one outfit that will serve as the inspiration for your photos. The MOST important thing to keep in mind when choosing outfits is choosing something that you love and feel beautiful in. If you feel good, it will translate to your photos and set the tone for the whole session.

3.
*Coordinate
colors, don't
match.*

Limit patterns but keep things interesting.

Matching is outdated. Coordinating is far better! Start with your inspiration outfit or pattern. Determine what accent colors work best with it to formulate your color palette. Each location can have a different focal color. Try to limit patterns to a minimum.

4.
*Layer and
accessorize.*

Mix and match textures.

Finish your look with layers that complement your outfits. Consider adding a statement necklace, scarf, hair piece or headband. Vests, belts, jackets, hats, suspenders, ties and bow ties also work great. Simple, subtle touches and fabric textures add visual interest to your outfits and polish to your photos.

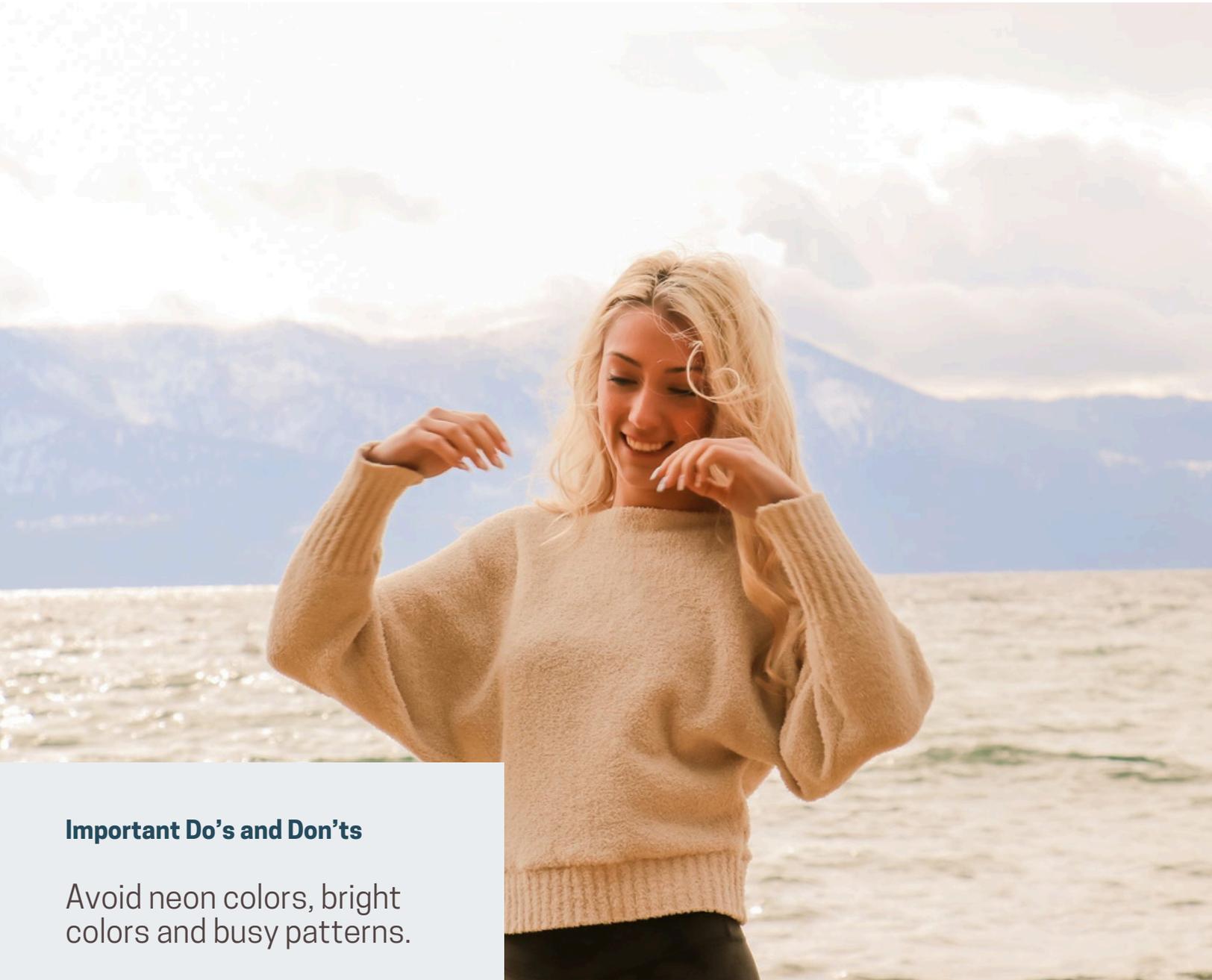
5.
*Use
my styling
service.*

Make it easier on yourself.

This complimentary styling guide is a valuable tool. Use it to build, coordinate, and personalize the perfect outfits for yourself, keeping these tips in mind.



The Palette for Your PORTRAIT Session



Important Do's and Don'ts

Avoid neon colors, bright colors and busy patterns.

Don't forget diaper covers for little ones in dresses.

Don't wear clothes with big logos or text.

Choose clothing that hides tan lines.

Limit patterns to one person.

Success!

Here's an example of a client who really got it right. In the brisk winter afternoon, the client, with a keen sense of style, opted for a casually chic ensemble that effortlessly embraced the season's palette. Layers became their canvas as they skillfully combined cozy textures, draping themselves in a soft, beige sweater that both warmed and accentuated the subtle black camouflage pants. The artful mix of fabrics elevated the outfit, blending the sweater's comforting softness with the smooth, silky allure of the pants. This thoughtful combination not only exuded a comfortable charm but also showcased the client's prowess in seamlessly blending colors and textures for a winter look that was both stylish and snug.

Styling by the Season

Fall

The feeling of fall is memorable for each of us. Use this to style the feel of your photos by including earthy colors, playful layers and seasonal accessories like scarves and boots.

Use layers for visual interest as well as quick outfit changes.

Take advantage of colorful fall foliage and let them guide your color palette.

Plaid shirts are popular for the season and can be a great base to inspire accent colors.



Sample
Palette 1



Sample
Palette 2



Sample
Palette 3



Styling by the Season

Winter

Winter is the perfect time to bundle up and embrace the season with cozy textures and seasonal accessories.

Sweaters make for a warm but stylish look. Boys can layer a collared shirt to dress it up while the girls can wear comfy cable knit sweaters with stylish boots and accessories.

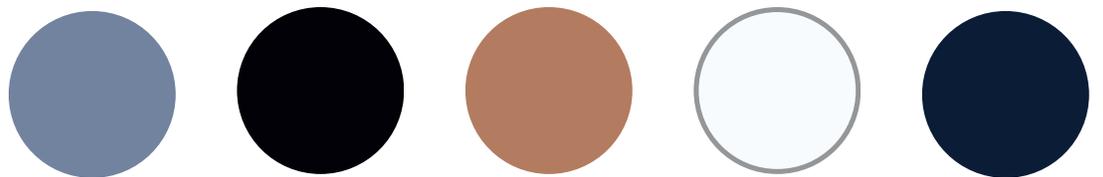
Keep yourself comfortable and embrace the chill with coats, cute hats and fuzzy scarves.



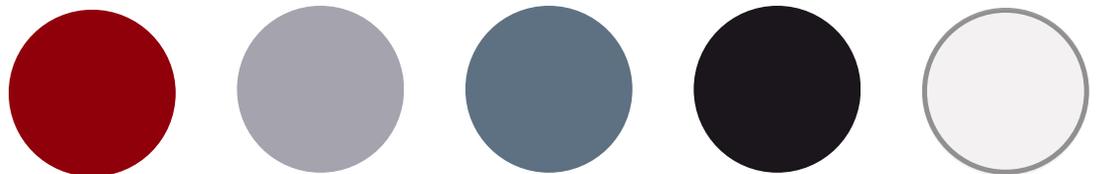
Sample
Palette 1



Sample
Palette 2



Sample
Palette 3



Styling by the Season

Spring

Spring is the perfect time for outdoor photos when everything is coming into bloom. The season combines beautiful light hues that can set the tone for your photos.

Floral is a great pattern to incorporate in the clothing or select statement pieces featuring your florals.

Incorporate large bows in your little one's hair for added style as well as a practical way to keep their hair out of their eyes.



Sample
Palette 1



Sample
Palette 2



Sample
Palette 3



Styling by the Season

Summer

Summer photos are perfect for beautiful landscapes, adventure and care-free vibes that are signature of summer. The season is perfect for comfortable, light, airy photos.

Take advantage of light cotton and pretty sheers. Pick outfits that will keep you cool.

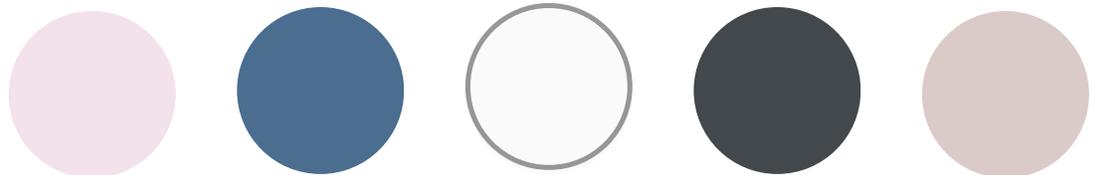
Don't stress about being too formal. Be yourself for more candid and genuine shots.



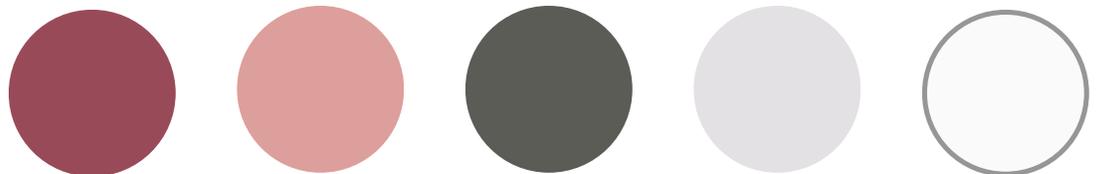
Sample
Palette 1



Sample
Palette 2



Sample
Palette 3





Record Your

Memories

*Great sessions
begin with
great preparation.*



I'm sharing my best tips to get the most out of your photo session and truly enjoy your experience. I want you to feel prepared, enjoy yourself and love the photos. In the days leading up to your session:

Do a trial run in the days before the session.

Make sure you are comfortable and clothes fit properly to save headaches on the big day.

Layout your outfits together while planning.

The easiest and best way to help make decisions on coordinating clothing is laying everything out together. For extra help, snap a pic and send it to your photographer.

Prioritize naps the day of the session.

Having a well-rested little one can make all the difference for a great session. Plan to prioritize naps for the day of the session.

Make sure everyone has full bellies.

We don't want anyone to be hangry – this includes the adults! Also consider planning a fun activity or treat for the family to share after pictures are done.

Get everyone excited in advance.

Prepare little ones by explaining that you will be playing together while having photos done. Get them excited to be a “model” or whatever would keep them interested! If they are shy, it's a good idea to show them my picture so they are familiar on the day of the shoot. For older kids, share the day's full plan with them.

Best Advice for All Attending Session



For many, the stress of portrait pictures and films comes from a combination of high expectations, anticipation of being center stage, and concern that the kids won't cooperate, or even that the adults won't do it "right." The best thing to do is simply enjoy being in the moment.

Relax and let me do the work!

No matter what comes up, give yourselves grace and flexibility. A relaxed individual can help set the tone for a great session. Even when days don't go as planned, I am likely capturing glances and smiles you aren't even seeing.

Review my portfolio together.

Get an idea of what to expect and notice many of my photos are candid. You do not always need to look at the camera. In fact, most of the time I prefer you not to! I will let you know when we are ready for a "smiling at the camera" shot!



Before Your Session



Let's make your photo session fun and easy.

Prior to your session, check off these steps to set yourself up for success.

- 1.** Questionnaire
Please fill out the questionnaire sent when you booked. This tells me a little more what you want from the session and helps me plan for anything special in advance.
- 2.** Coordinate Your Outfits
Using the advice in this guide, begin coordinating your outfits in advance. I am always available to help with any advice needed!
- 3.** Begin Thinking About Prints, Albums and More
Get the most out of your investment. Plan how to use your photos. Once your gallery is delivered, I will share a custom album and all my favorite products to help with this step!
- 4.** Final Checklist and Invoice
One week prior to your session, I will confirm the session date, location and time. You will also get a reminder about a final invoice for the balance due.

After Your Session



*Beautiful
Moments*

Phew! You did it!

You can celebrate a mini victory after your session is done. But there is more fun still to come – seeing your photos for the first time and finding ways to continue enjoying them. Here's what to expect.

2-3 Days After Session

Sneak peek is posted. Share with friends and family.

2-4 Weeks After Session

Full gallery is delivered with access to your digital downloads.

3-5 Days After Gallery

Your custom album is ready for review in addition to a showcase of products to consider adding to your home.

1 Week After Gallery

Check In and request for a review on Facebook. As a small business owner, these are appreciated so much!

That's a Wrap!



Thank You!!!

Thank you again for
the opportunity to work
with you!

I'm so excited to work with
you and can't wait to see what
we create together!

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