

— ROCKY MOUNTAIN BRIDE —

MICRO WEDDINGS

A GUIDE TO ELOPEMENTS, MICRO WEDDINGS AND MINIMONYS





Micro Wedding Guide

Wedding styles and trends have changed in many ways over the decades. Ceremonies have evolved into elopements, minimonys and micro weddings making intimate affairs very *a la mode*. Follow along as we break down the differences to help you discover which type of ceremony is right for you!





Elopement

| ih-lohp-muhnt |

noun

a non-traditional and intimate ceremony solely focused on the couple.

For the bride who desires both romance and simplicity for your big day!

Historically, elopements are defined as small weddings that take place with just two people, an officiant and perhaps a witness. Images of spontaneous couples who romantically run away together and get hitched are the traditional notions that surround an elopement. However, elopements these days come in way more flavors.

The modern-day elopement is an intentional way of getting married where the focus is on the couple as opposed to guest experiences. Couples can choose to have friends and family present, or solely you and your partner. Elopements are for the brides who desire both romance and simplicity for their big day. This type of ceremony does not follow any traditional wedding structure and has no restrictions. The focus of the day is your marriage to your partner. Elopements can be either adventurous or laid-back. The heart of an elopement is that it is a personal and meaningful way to get married.



Micro Wedding

| mahy-kroh-wed-ing |

noun

a small gathering that features time-honored traditions of a wedding.

To the bride who prioritizes intentionality, intimacy and intricate details!

A micro wedding is an intimate affair consisting of no more than 50 of your nearest and dearest guests. This type of ceremony is considered to be a bite-sized version of a traditional wedding. The beauty of the micro wedding is that it allows couples to allocate their budget on close and authentic guest experiences. This fresh wedding alternative gives couples more ease in planning. Create a micro wedding, just as you would a traditional wedding, but with fewer guests.





Minimony

| min-ee-mon-ee |

noun

a mini ceremony held with your loved ones, or simply a moment of commitment shared between yourselves.

To the bride who desires to honor your original wedding date!

Minimony is a newly-coined term in the wedding industry. This new type of nuptial is a celebration for those couples who've been forced to rearrange their weddings due unforeseen circumstances.

A minimony is essentially a snapshot of what your larger wedding will be. It is a smaller-scale ceremony that involves only 10 to 15 people, or only you and your partner. A minimony typically consists of two parts: a commitment ceremony and then a sequel wedding that is a bigger event on a later date.

You can legally get married at your minimony even if you still plan to host a larger celebration at a later time. Typically, couples select a certain wedding tradition or experience that is special to them to build into their minimony.





Timelines

Creating a timeline is an excellent way to provide structure to your elopement, minimony or micro wedding. A timeline will help you avoid added stress, and free you to be fully present in the moment. Timelines are about crafting the day around the two of you. Put your love story into an epic adventure or laid-back affair that encompasses who the two of you are!

AS A COUPLE CONSIDER THESE QUESTIONS:

What would be the best day that the two of you could create from start to finish?

How much time do you need to get ready?

What would be the backdrop of your dreams for your vows-sunrise or sunset?

Are you having a first look or not?

After you've answered the above questions, decide what is valuable to the both of you and plan your detailed timeline accordingly.



ELOPEMENT

CONSIDER ELOPING ON A WEEKDAY - this will help you avoid crowds, particularly at popular locations.

CREATE AN ADVENTURE PROOF LOOK - If you are doing an adventurous elopement, allot an 1.5 hours for hair and makeup to allow your stylist enough time to create a look that is adventure approved.

WORK IN EXTRA TRAVEL TIME - If you are driving, hiking, etc. between locations make sure to account for road conditions, spontaneous photo opportunities, and “warm up” breaks during the winter, etc.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET - Avoid holding your ceremony midday, when the light is the harshest. Aim for 1.5-2 hours before sunset or opt for a sunrise ceremony. Make sure you know sunrise and sunset times according to season.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE - Allow about 15 minutes to exchange vows, 1 hour for the bride and groom photos, and 10-20 minutes for photos with any present friends or family.

ELOPEMENT DAY EXAMPLE TIMELINE FOR THE ADVENTUROUS COUPLE - Fall Season / October

12:00pm:	hair, make up and get ready
2:00pm:	send groom off to first look location while bride finishes getting
3:00pm:	have a romantic first look
3:30pm:	head to ceremony location
4:30pm:	arrive at ceremony location
5:00pm:	ceremony and vows
6:00pm:	final sunset portraits
6:30pm:	head back to Airbnb or Hotel
7:30pm:	arrive back at Airbnb or Hotel and enjoy a private dinner with a chef or a bonfire with s'mores



MICRO WEDDING

Micro weddings are a bit more casual and relaxed. However, just because your wedding is smaller does not mean a timeline isn't needed! Make sure you get all of your dream photos and have time for everything on the itinerary.

MICRO WEDDING TIMELINE - a bite sized version of a typical wedding ceremony

10:00am:	each party enjoys breakfast
11:30am:	arrive at getting ready location
12:00pm:	hair, make up and getting ready
2:00pm:	send groom off to first look location
2:30pm:	have a romantic first look
4:30pm:	arrive at ceremony location
5:00pm:	ceremony and vows
6:00pm:	final sunset portraits
6:30pm:	dinner and dessert
7:30pm:	first dance, time w/ guests
9:00pm:	champagne/sparkler send off photos

MINIMONY

Minimonys are like a preview to your sequel wedding event. Remember to allot time for the selected traditions that are valuable to you. When crafting your timeline think "marry now, celebrate later!"

MINIMONY TIMELINE - a snapshot version of what the sequel wedding will be when hosted on a later date.

12:30pm:	arrive at getting ready location
1:00pm:	hair, make up and get ready
3:30pm:	ceremony and vows
4:00pm:	pictures
4:30pm:	appetizers and dessert
6:00pm:	send off photos



Tips

The world is awakening to new wedding traditions, and it's a beautiful thing! Consider the following tips for creating the wedding ceremony of your dreams.

1. You can still include those who are not able to attend your ceremony on Zoom or any other streaming platform. Opt for setting up tripods throughout the wedding to capture different viewpoints, and to give the wedding a more professional look. Consider wearing microphones or AirPods to capture vows and the officiant's words, which will improve the viewer's experience. Complete test runs the day before and morning of to make sure streaming services are working properly.

Here are streaming service options:

- LoveStream
- Wedfully
- Zoom

2. Make sure you follow the marriage license laws in your state (or in the state you will be marrying). If you choose to elope, keep in mind that sometimes witnesses are required in some states.



3. Determine where you would like to say your vows beforehand. Pick what is the most meaningful to you and your partner. We encourage you to select a spot that is a reflection of your relationship. Below are great locations for a minimony or micro wedding in the Rockies:

[ALBERTA](#) | [BRITISH COLUMBIA](#) | [COLORADO](#)
[IDAHO](#) | [MONTANA](#) | [NEW MEXICO](#) | [UTAH](#) | [WYOMING](#)

Be sure to check out the permit requirements for the state or national park for which you wish to elope in. Most require a special use permit and/or permit for the photographer.

4. There is plenty of room to get creative. Elopements, micro weddings and minimonys are a fun way for couples to use their imagination and express themselves. Use this season to grow with your future spouse. Write down the things you learned about one another during the planning process and save them for your future together.

Navigating this ever-evolving situation is challenging for many. We're here for you through the ups and downs, and sometimes the unexpected is what makes the day incredible. In wedding planning, focus on what you can control. The most important thing to remember, no matter what happens that day, is that you are now officially spending the rest of your life with the one you love. You are married.

Keep love alive, renew your vows!





Adam + Yvette

"the featured couple"

"We both feel incredibly lucky to have such a companionship and mutual love to share. We met at camp in middle school, kept in touch from hours away through high school and when we were finally able to be together in college, we instantly knew it was forever and not a day less. Now, 14 years and three babies later, we love and appreciate each other more than the day we were married. It's such a beautiful thing to love someone and be loved in return. It's something to work and fight for over and over. Of course we grow and change and go through the highest highs and lowest lows, but it's always a give and take; Having grace for one another when times are hard, knowing we have needed and will need that same grace. Communication, putting each other first and truly caring for the other's happiness is key. We've each had seasons of giving to the other more than we take, and times when we have to let go and just let the other take care of you for a time when needed. Our favorite moments together are the ones full of laughter, dreaming huge for our future and of course great food and drinks!" - Yvette

We initially contacted Adam and Yvette to model for an elopement styled shoot. The week of the shoot, Yvette shared how excited they both were because the shoot was taking place on their 14 year anniversary. Embracing this sweet constellation of coincidence, we commissioned handmade vow books and ensured that we incorporated time for Adam and Yvette to renew their vows during the shoot.

- Mallory with Wildly Yours Weddings + Elopements



Vow Renewal

| vow | | re-new-al |
noun

A wedding vow renewal ceremony is when a married couple renews or reaffirms their marriage vows.

HOW TO PLAN

Decide when and where you'd like to renew your vows. Consider destinations you know and love, or places you've always dreamed of traveling to together.

Select the vendors that you'd like to have along for this special day. A photographer, videographer, florist, planner, and location/accommodations are a great place to start.

Begin considering how you'd like to renew your vows. This could look like wedding vows repeated with new additions, writing letters to one another, playing a song to express your love to one another. The possibilities are endless, so feel empowered to choose a way to speak your renewed vows that feels authentic to you.



HOW TO HAVE AN INTIMATE, MEANINGFUL VOW RENEWAL

Embrace the beauty of simplicity. This is about celebrating the two of you, don't take on the worries or stress of pleasing anyone else!

Do something you both love. Whether this be an activity you want to do while renewing your vows, or a destination where you'd like it to take place, feel empowered to choose an experience that fills your hearts with joy.

Take the entire day to be present and soak in the little moments. Traditional weddings are often busier and filled with many more people, so renewing your vows is a sweet way to be able to relive those memories while also creating new ones together.

- VENDORS -

Photography

Molly Hoffman Photography | @mxllyhxff

Design + Planning

Wildly Yours Weddings + Elopements | @wildlyyoursweddings

Florals

Urban Canyon Floristry | @urbancanyonfloristry

Paper Goods

East + West Designs | @eastandwestdesigns

Gown

Rue De Seine by a&bé bridal shop | @aandbe_denver

Bride's Accessories

The Milky Mudra | @themilkyudra

Groom's Accessories

Goorin Bros | @goorinbros

Models

Yvette & Adam Blick | @yvette.blick

