

Questions to ask your wedding photographer

You cannot restage a nikkah, a milni or the pheras. Ask these questions before you sign, and look at full galleries, not just highlights.

Vendor		Contact	
Date we spoke		Event date	
		Quote £	
Deposit £		Due	
		Balance £	
		Due	

Experience and style [START HERE](#)

- ☐ **Can we see two or three full galleries from weddings like ours?**
Highlights show the best twenty shots. A full gallery shows how they handle the whole day, including the quiet family moments.
- _____
- _____
- ☐ **Have you photographed our ceremonies before?**
A nikkah, an anand karaj, the pheras under a mandap and a baraat each have their own key moments. Ask which ones they know well and what they watch for.
- _____
- _____
- ☐ **How would you describe your editing style?**
Warm and filmic, or clean and true to colour: neither is wrong. Editing refines a style; it does not change it.
- _____
- _____
- ☐ **Who will actually shoot our wedding?**
Some studios send an associate. Ask for the name and to see that person's work.
- _____
- _____

Coverage and logistics [THE PACKAGE](#)

- ☐ **Which events and how many hours are included?**
A mehndi, a wedding day and a walima or reception can mean several days of work. Get the events, start times and hours in writing, plus the rate for extra time.
- _____
- _____

☐ **Is there a second shooter, and when?**

When the bride and groom get ready in different places, or the hall holds hundreds of guests, one person cannot catch everything.

☐ **How do you work in low light?**

The most important moments often happen in dim halls, mosques, gurdwaras or under warm stage lighting. Ask to see examples and whether they use flash.

☐ **Do you need a meal and a break, and who arranges it?**

Long days need planning. It is a small thing that is easy to forget.

☐ **Will you use a drone?**

Drones need to be flown within Civil Aviation Authority rules, and many venues restrict them. Ask whether they are CAA registered and insured, and check with the venue.

☐ **How do you work alongside the videographer and the family's own phones?**

A good photographer plans with the other crews rather than competing for the same spot.

Photos, delivery and rights AFTER THE DAY

☐ **When will we receive the photos, and is the date in the contract?**

Ask for a specific delivery date, and whether you get a preview set sooner.

☐ **In what format and resolution?**

You want full-resolution files you can print, delivered by a download link that does not expire, or a copy you keep.

☐ **Who owns the copyright, and what can we do with the photos?**

Under UK law the author of a work is the first owner of its copyright, so the photographer usually keeps it. Check that your licence covers printing, sharing online and sending to family abroad.

☐ **Will you use our photos in your marketing?**

Some families are happy with this; others, especially for the bride's getting-ready photos, are not. Agree it in writing.

☐ **Is an album included, and when is it designed?**

Albums often come months later. Ask what size, how many pages and how many rounds of changes.

Paperwork and payment BEFORE YOU PAY

☐ **How much is the deposit, and when is the balance due?**

Get both in writing. Be cautious if a large share of the total is asked for many months ahead.

☐ **What happens if we cancel or move the date?**

Under UK consumer law, what a business keeps when you cancel should reflect its actual loss. Our deposit and booking checklist (thenodus.uk/resources/deposit-and-booking-checklist) explains this as general information.

☐ **What happens if you are ill or cannot attend?**

Ask who the named substitute would be, whether you can approve them, and what you are owed if no suitable substitute is found.

☐ **Do you back up the photos during and after the day?**

Professional photographers usually record to two cards and keep more than one copy until delivery.

☐ **Do you hold public liability insurance?**

Many venues ask for it.

Notes

Tick each question once you have the answer in writing. Before you pay, go through the deposit and booking checklist (thenodus.uk/resources/deposit-and-booking-checklist).