

Elopement Guide

Adeline Rock Photo



Ok, look, I don't just say this because I'm an elopement photographer, but eloping is pretty much the COOLEST thing you can do to exchange your VOWS.

The definition of elopement has changed so drastically over the past 5 or so years, and in the best way.

In our grandparents day, eloping was a word that meant sneaking off the get married because you wanted it done and over with. Bleh.

Now, though, it means something WAY cooler! When the term "elope" comes to mind, now, we think of adventure, and hiking in your wedding dress to the top of a mountain in Iceland to get married to your loved one, just because you CAN. The intimacy of this moment is one of the greatest ways, in my opinion, to officially become wed.



Where to Elope

This is the absolute beauty of eloping. You can basically create your own wedding venue... ANYWHERE. If you are more fond of getting hitched barefoot and sandy on the beach in Big Sur, GO FOR IT. If the mountains are calling your name, get your hiking shoes on. Anyway you choose, the location is a huge part of your elopement day, and it can be such a special place to re-visit every few years, too!

What to Wear

Another amazing part of eloping? There's no color palette to worry about. If it's just you and your fiancé, wear whatever your hearts desire! A gorgeous floral gown with a never-ending train? YES PLEASE. A forest green tux? YUP. 2 banana suits from the Halloween Store? WHY NOT?

Yes, You Can Have a Reception Too

One of the best things about this whole eloping thing? You can boogie your way back down the aisle by having a party when you get back home to celebrate with your friends and family! Wear your elopement outfit again, cut a gorgeous wedding cake and make a registry. Have an intimate backyard party with your close friends and family, or invite the whole dang block, because YOU'RE MARRIED!

Ideal locations for eloping:

Easily accessed, cheap or free permits, and gorgeous location

1. Horseshoe Bend + Antelope Canyon.



2. Isle of Skye, Scotland



3. Lake Louise, Canada



4. Joshua Tree



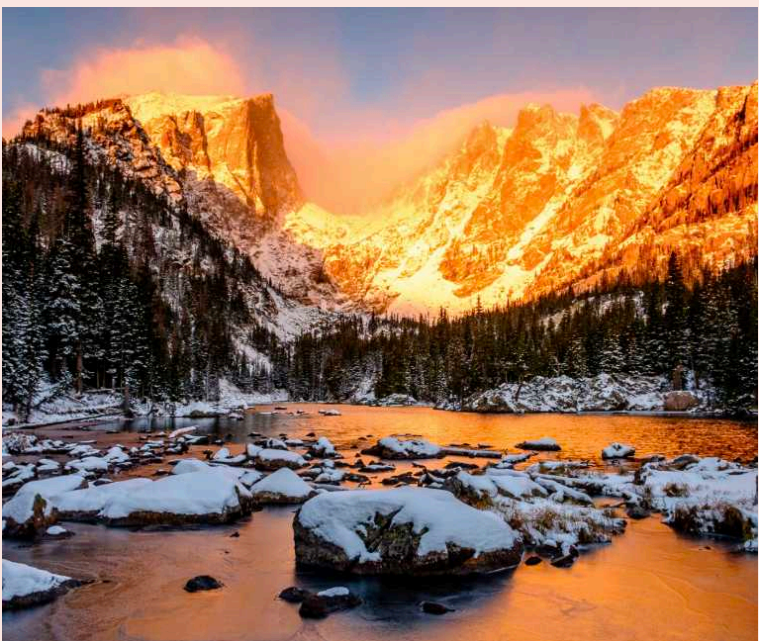
5. Crater Lake in Oregon



6. Yosemite



6. Rocky Mountain National Park



7. Capitol Reef National Park



Elopement tips + tricks:

1. If you want to wear a GORGEOUS wedding gown, A. That's completely encouraged, and the more unique, the better - make this day all about your own personal style! And B. Try bustling the bottom if you have to trek up a mountain to your elopement spot. Otherwise, I would recommend wearing your hiking clothing on the way up, bringing a pop up changing tent, and changing on the top of the mountain (which, I have to say, is a pretty cool story in itself.)
2. When it comes to documenting this hugely important day, it is SO vital that you have a team that you fully trust with this responsibility. Go with your gut. Have you read reviews of your photographer + videographer? Have you seen full galleries? What about travel fees? Make sure to ask every little thing you can think of, to make sure they are the right fit.
3. Something cool about something like a mountainside elopement, is you have the ability to make the space your own by bringing things like, a rug to stand on during your vows, for example! Maybe a rug that's from your home and means a lot? Or, try bringing a physical invitation for your photographer to snap a photo of, to document the day in a different way!
A personal favorite? Bring champagne + super adorable vintage champagne flutes or Moscow mule mugs to cheers your new life after your vows! Honestly, what an epic moment would that be?



Checklist:

Do you have a budget in mind?

ex. Yes, about \$10,000.

What is your biggest priority?

ex. The location! I want it to be the place where we first fell in love. Or, a gorgeous view of somewhere we both love.

What about your top 3 priorities?

1. Location 2. Photographer/Videographer 3. Dress

What date do you want this magical moment to happen?

ex. Our anniversary! Or, in the Fall!

WHERE do you want this incredible experience to take place?

ex. Lake Louise in Alberta, no question. That water? Are you KIDDING me with that gorgeous shade of blue?

Will you be inviting any guests?

ex. Nope! Just us and our documenting team. + our pup!

What about an officiant?

ex. No, we want our photographer to do it for us!

Is your photographer an officiant, so you don't have to worry about another vendor? (I am a registered officiant!)

ex. Yes, Adeline Rock is an officiant!

Speaking of vendors, what vendors will you be needing?

ex. Florists, photographer, videographer, caterer, calligrapher, wedding planner, makeup + hair, etc.



Wedding License:

Make sure that you check if

1. Do you need an appointment to pick up your wedding license?
2. What is the waiting period? Make sure it's not too close to your elopement date so you don't run into scheduling issues!
3. Do you need witnesses? If so, can the photographer/videographer count?
4. Are there any other potential legal issues you may run into? (i.e. past marriages, name changes, DMV changes, etc.)

Rings:

For rings, there are some incredible options that don't cost more than a small car!

1. Etsy - an artisan online shop where you can find genuine gemstones/real metals for a very reasonable price + it's much more meaningful than a standard store band!
2. Silicone bands - if you and your partner are natural-born travelers + adventure buddies, a silicone ring may be for you! You don't have to worry about it being scuffed up, you can easily remove them if the altitude gets to be too much. (God forbid you get a metal ring stuck on your finger in the middle of an adventure!)
3. RING POPS. This is a serious option and I 100% encourage it. Quirky? Check. Totally original? Check. Delicious snack? Check. Funniest photos ever? Check.

Most of all, HAVE THE BEST TIME. This is a HUGE moment in your life, and it deserves to be treated as such, so have fun, don't be afraid of PDA, and scream it from the literal mountaintop you may be getting married on!

