



*Tyler Ryan*  
photography

PORTRAIT  
SESSION  
STYLE  
GUIDE



### **Choosing Time & Date**

Portrait session lighting is important as I use both natural and artificial lighting depending on the location. The best time for a portrait session is 1 to 1.5 hours before sunset on that day depending on the length of your session choice. This will give us plenty of time to capture you in great lighting and golden hour. You can search online for the estimated sunset window based on the location of your shoot for any day of the year. Remember that sunset is later in the warmer months and earlier in the colder months. I'll gladly work with you on a date & time that works best for you.

### **Select the Right Location**

The location of your photo session is up to you. Outdoor open areas, forest pathways, town buildings, colorful flower settings, think about what you'd like to be surrounded with. Large items such as full buildings or full vehicles would make you as the subject small, so think of more intimate ideas such as a rock wall with colorful vines and flowers or maybe just the nose end or tailgate of a vehicle. Also, if you have private access to a location that may otherwise not be permitted such as a friend's private estate or a garden on private property it would be a great idea. Feel free to get creative with your location because even a grungy vintage motorcycle shop or an old train station could make an amazing backdrop. Also, keep in mind as travel time does accrue cost to the photo session. I'm always open to traveling anywhere for a unique shoot that could yield amazing photos. Let's discuss your options and make a plan!

### **Styling for Her**

Be extra and don't be ashamed! A long flowing dress, heels, or even a crown of flowers. Spice up your shoot with elegance and that extra splash of what is uniquely you. You might even want to go shopping for the perfect outfit for your shoot to just bring that wow factor. Dresses and skirts always look great as they flatter the female body and add an extra flow to your portraits. Just remember your dress or outfit can affect your poses. A short cocktail dress might not allow for sitting shots when a longer more flowing dress will. Same thing goes for heels. If you plan on walking up a short hiking trail to the location you chose, it might be wise to bring a second set of shoes for the walk. Colder seasons should always warrant wearing or bringing clothing to keep you warm. If you want to do shots in a dress without a jacket we would shoot in intervals to help keep you warm in between. A cozy scarf and pea coat can also look cute for colder sessions. Also always make sure your outfit is animal fur and wrinkle free before you leave the house. At the end of the day, it's your shoot, dress it your way.

Having your hair and makeup professionally done can also add that extra wow factor to your session. Make sure to avoid heavy amounts of makeup or a spray tan as it can become obvious in the photos if over done. Treat yourself to a pro and reduce the stress on your shoot day!

### **Styling for Him**

Clean and class does the trick. Well fitted dress pants or fitted colored pants work best. Solid color pants that compliment the rest of the outfit and clean closed toe shoes. Stripes or pattern materials can be distracting. Dressing in layers like you see in clothing ads is also a great look to add. A vest, jacket, blazer, or even tie can help add dimension and sophistication to your outfit. It's not recommended to wear things like graphic t-shirts or items with logos on them. Also, when dressing with layers, items can be removed or added to change up your look between poses and shots. Leather dress shoes, tie clips, suspenders, watches, colored socks, pocket squares are all items that can help add some style and class to your portraits. Lastly, always make sure your clothing items are lint / animal fur and wrinkle free. A great outfit can become not so great when it's covered in your dog's fur and full of wrinkles. Remember, we are trying to make you look great in your photos!

### Choosing Colors

What color should you wear? Well, ultimately that is up to you. For general portrait sessions, I recommend softer lighter colors and neutral shades. Soft pinks and muted blues, mix well with light neutral colors, i.e. leather brown, heather gray, and lighter earth tones. Darker tones, i.e. burgundy, deep purple and navy blue can work great depending on the setting. In outdoor settings, soft palettes or bold solid colors look fantastic. Avoid bright vibrant colors that will distract from the surroundings in the portrait and reflect on your face. One last thing, if you're doing a couples session, ensure that your outfit colors work well together. Teamwork makes great photos!

### Portrait Session Checklist

1. Set date, time and location with Tyler Ryan
2. Review guide for style tips
3. Schedule hair, makeup and nail appointments
4. Choose your outfits
5. Pack a bag with:
  - Flats or flip-flops for walking between photo spots
  - Second outfit (if you're doing two)
  - Touch-up makeup
  - Water bottle (for warmer sessions)
  - Coat or cover-up (for colder sessions)

### Just Have Fun!

This guide is just a bunch of suggestions to help you think of how you want to look for your session. I provided you with these suggestions to help you look your best in my professional opinion based on my experience. If you have any questions I'm always willing to give you my best answers. I want this experience to be as stress free for you as possible. Let's have fun and make some awesome portraits together!

