

✓	Month	Milestone	
12 – 9 Months Out: Lock the Big Three (Venue, Date, Photographer)			
	Month	Milestone	Gulf-Coast cue
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Finalise venue & date.	Avoid booking a Gulf-front venue during peak hurricane week (Sept 10 ± 7 days).
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Secure photographer contract + pay retainer.	Popular Saturdays (Mar–May, Oct) vanish 11–12 mo out.
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Draft budget worksheet · open joint savings account.	Use our pricing calculator to set a realistic photo line-item.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Engage planner or DOC · sign videography add-on.	Combo-booking often waives 50 % of second-shooter fee.
8 – 6 Months Out: Engagement Session & Save-the-Dates			
	Month	Milestone	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Schedule engagement session (weekday golden hour).	Weekdays avoid crowds at 30A dunes + snag off-season drone clearance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Choose outfits & location; send inspiration board to photographer.	Coastal wind? Bring linen + hair pins.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Approve edited engagement gallery; order Save-the-Dates.	USPS holiday surge starts mid-Nov: mail earlier if winter wedding.
5 – 3 Months Out: Timeline Draft, Shot List & Vendor Walk-Through			
	Month	Milestone	Decision checkpoint
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Meet planner & photographer for timeline draft.	Build 90-min buffer for beach traffic on US-98.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Create family shot list; share with officiant & MC.	Flag any divorced-parent sensitivities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Venue walk-through with photographer + videographer; map flat-lay table.	Ask florist for extra stems → detail photos.
2 – 1 Month Out: Final Payments, Backup Weather Plan			
	Month	Milestone	Gulf-Coast safeguard
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Pay balance invoices (photo/video).	Early pay often earns free sneak-peek reel (ask!).
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 weeks	Draft rain plan + tent on hold.	Gulf showers roll in 20-min bursts: clear-span tent + raised floor avoids puddles.

✓	Month	Milestone	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Email week-of contact sheet to all vendors; pin sunset-time screenshot.	Update golden-hour portraits slot if DST change.

Wedding-Week Checklist (24-Hr & 2-Hr Mini Lists)

	24 Hours Before
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pack flat-lay box: rings · vow books · perfume · invites · heirloom.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steam outfits; hang on matching wood hangers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Send planner final weather screenshot move first-look indoors if >50 % thunder.
<input type="checkbox"/>	
	2 Hours Before Ceremony
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photographer arrives → detail macro sequence, venue establishing drone pass.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand shot list to second shooter; pin boutonnieres with florist.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maid of honour opens curtains for natural-light prep photos turn off tungsten lamps.