

KATIE DONNELLY PHOTOGRAPHY

EST. 2013 | PARIS



5 STEPS FOR A FLAWLESS
(AND STRESS-FREE) PHOTO SESSION

www.katiedonnellyphotography.com

W E L C O M E

I am absolutely thrilled to welcome you as a part of our Paris family! First and foremost, I want you to know that your upcoming portrait session is going to be an experience filled with joy, laughter, and beautiful memories.

I understand that having your portraits taken can be a little nerve-wracking, but I promise it will be stress-free, and we are here to guide you every step of the way. Our primary goal is to capture your unique personality and essence, so you can cherish these moments for years to come. Together, we'll create a gallery of stunning portraits for your home that you will adore and speak of Paris and your story here.

The information in this planning guide is meant to help you through all of your pre-session photography-related questions so you can relax and get excited for your big day.

If you still have questions, don't hesitate to give us a ring or send over an email! We are here for you every step of the way.

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MEET KATIE

I'm Katie, the owner & creative director of Katie Donnelly Photography. We are Paris photographers that LOVE people, love love, and love Paris!

I started Katie Donnelly Photography in 2013 when I moved to Paris to be with my (then) boyfriend who is now my husband! **Over a decade and thousands of photo sessions later, I know how important it is to make your photo session as stress-free as possible!** It really does only take a little bit of planning to ensure gorgeous portraits destined for your walls and albums.

I have two kids of my own now and I know the absolute MAYHEM that always seems to happen the morning of every session. If you plan for it, it's way easier to roll with it all (even in the pouring rain which actually did happen at our recent family photo session!)

We are beyond excited to work with you soon. Thank you for trusting us with your story and art!

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WWW.KATIEDONNELLYPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US

- An easy, fun, and unique experience (we guide you all of the way!).
- Joyful portraits that speak of your relationships: Whether it be the closeness and bond of a mother and son, best friends portraits, the deep connection of 25 years of marriage, the togetherness, unity (and often hilarity) of being a family, or the life-changing relationship you might have with Paris.
- Stunning and iconic locations around Paris, France
- The best portraits of your life (no exaggeration)
- Museum quality Artwork for your home (shipped to you worldwide, on us!)

If you have any questions,
feel free to send us a message!

STEP 1: FIND THE RIGHT PHOTOGRAPHER

Find a photographer you can connect with AND whose work you love.

USUALLY IT'S THEIR WORK THAT DRAWS YOU IN.

Maybe you were referred to them by a friend or found them on Google or Instagram. However you found them it's important that their work attracts you.

Each photographer is different in the way they approach photography. Everyone has his or her own style. You should be able to envision their style photos of your family on your walls (after all, that's where they'll end up, right? On your walls and in an album)

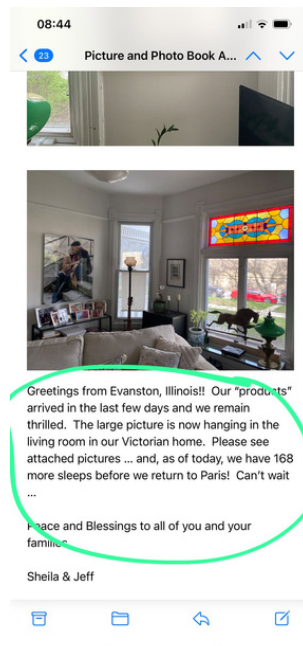
For example, our style is filled with real moments and natural expressions. While we do pose our clients, we also allow for more un-posed and natural moments to happen.

If you're here, you're already in the right place. Feel free to scroll through our site and our blog to see more of the work that we offer.

We are a little bit different than other photographers and maybe from all of the other photography experiences that you've had:

Our specialty is not only joyful natural portraits, but also the wall art and artwork that goes along with it. So that your life history and celebrations are not lost in the "recent" folder of your phone or on a decade old hard drive.

It's a bit of the best of both worlds: great photography and access to share them, and also museum quality artwork that is still going to be hanging in your home for decades to come.



S T E P T W O :

Pick a date and time that gives you enough time to prepare AND is optimum for everyone in the photos

Keep zen by giving yourself ample time to prepare outfits and to have time- options for booking. Often photographers book up pretty far in advance, especially in the busy seasons like Spring/Fall. Often our weekends book up weeks, sometimes months in advance. That said, if this is a last minute-spur-of-the-moment decision, let's lean in!! We do often have last minute availability (or can switch our schedules around to squeeze you in!) so please do get in touch!

With the experience that comes with a decade of doing this every day, we absolutely have recommended times: The best time to schedule your outdoor portrait session is the morning when everyone is fresh and at their best.

Ideally it's anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours after sunrise. Yes, I know, you might not be a morning person but I promise it's worth it. You won't have the wear and tear of the day on you and if you were rushing and had to skip your morning job, we can even stop into a café and get one (along with gorgeous café portraits!).

Another great thing about the morning is that the world (and more importantly the city) is asleep. You want the city to be calm, if there are kids involved it's much less distracting for them, and if you're a bit nervous to be in front of the camera, it also helps to not feel like everyone is watching you.

S T E P T H R E E :

Plan your outfits wisely

It's pretty impossible to write a whole what to wear guide and keep it short BUT here are a few pointers and links to our [extensive guide and blog post](#) (with recommendations for every season and type of weather)

1. **Keep it simple.** Remember you don't want everyone to match/Wear the same EXACT thing, but you do want to try and coordinate. Starts with 1 outfit and build everyone's outfit around that.
2. **Layer!!** Paris weather can be WILD. Like 4 seasons in a day wild. Thin layers are great to have if needed.
3. **Don't forget about the shoes!** Make sure they go with your outfits and are clean!

Here is our blog post: <https://www.katiedonnellyphotography.com/blog/what-to-wear-for-a-paris-photo-shoot-the-ultimate-guide>

A person is standing on a stone ledge in Paris, with a white text box overlaid on the image. The person is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, white pants, and white sneakers. The background shows a blurred view of a Parisian street with green trees and a white building.

“My husband and I took our first trip to Paris to celebrate our 20th Anniversary. Contacting and booking from the United States was very simple. Working with KDP truly was the best! They stay in communication with you from the start. Give great suggestions on where to shoot, and how to get there. They were wonderful! It was like meeting up with a close friend! She has great attention to detail and directs you in such a relaxing way. Meeting up later at their charming studio was wonderful! Being able to look through your photos the day of instead of having to wait a while to see how they turned out was amazing. We truly recommend them to take timeless photos in such a beautiful city. We are excited to visit Paris again. I feel like we will make KDP a family tradition of taking our pictures whenever we are in this picturesque city!”

STEP FOUR : Practice Posing

While we are going to guide you in this and mostly your session will be a lot of movement and we will pose you (when needed), It's important to think about your body language too - Your body language can convey a lot of information, so try to use it to your advantage:

- Stand up straight
- make open hand gestures
- Try to avoid crossing your arms or looking down.
- Lean towards the camera (slightly) instead of leaning away from it can make you look more friendly and less scared. It also becomes more flattering too.

Often times the first take we do is always something with movement. We love walking as it helps get those first nervous jitters and emotions out! Often with body language it's the simple things that take the portraits to the next level. Things like putting a hand in your pocket, or around your daughter. Little movements of connection bring a portrait from "stiff" to "relaxed and connected". If you don't feel like you'll know what to do with your hands, sometimes adding something to your portraits can help.

Try different poses and expressions - Experiment with different poses and facial expressions to see what feels most comfortable and natural for you. Don't be afraid to try something new and see how it feels. We want to celebrate all of you. Smiles are amazing but let yourself also have different expressions.

STEP FIVE :

Give yourself enough time the morning of your session!

Rushing will make you stressed to the MAX before your session. Make sure you have enough time to iron your clothes, get your kids ready, make sure YOU can get ready, and of course have enough time for transport to the session location

If you're expecting things out of your control to go perfectly, like for your kids to be on their best behavior, it probably won't be the case (it's just Murphy's Law!).

If you allow yourself to let go of the idea of 'perfection' and just enjoy each other, I PROMISE your photos will be full of beautiful, fun, and authentic REAL moments. We'll take care of harvesting the 'crazy' in your kids into crazy fun, and show you exactly how to pose when we want more posed photos. These memories are the REAL memories, the ones you'll want to keep around for a long time, for your kids to giggle at when they're older and to remind them that love is the glue in your family. These are your heirlooms.



WANT MORE?

check out our blog or book a
session!

www.katiedonnelyphotography.com/blog