

maternity

INFO GUIDE





Melissa is not only the youngest of two sets of twins, but also the mother to two radiant, exceptionally goofy twin girls, Ruby and Vera. A trained bilingual educator, Melissa met her best buddy (and now spouse), Joe, in 2009 while they were English teachers in Barcelona, Spain. Joe is from New Jersey and was dangerously close to persuading his wife to name one of his daughters after a Bruce Springsteen song. In 2020, Melissa's family welcomed their newest member (of the canine persuasion), Rugby.



a bit about icarian



Icarian Photography specializes in documentary-inspired, natural light maternity, birth, newborn, family, headshot (say that 10 times fast!) and editorial photography. Melissa's shooting and editing style is unpretentious, honest, and heavily influenced by the unique narrative found within each individual she has the privilege of serving. With a background in education, Melissa also has the great joy of helping aspiring photographers along their artistic journeys both through group workshops as well as individual mentorships.

Photographer images by Zoe Lopez



you may be wondering



When will the session take place?

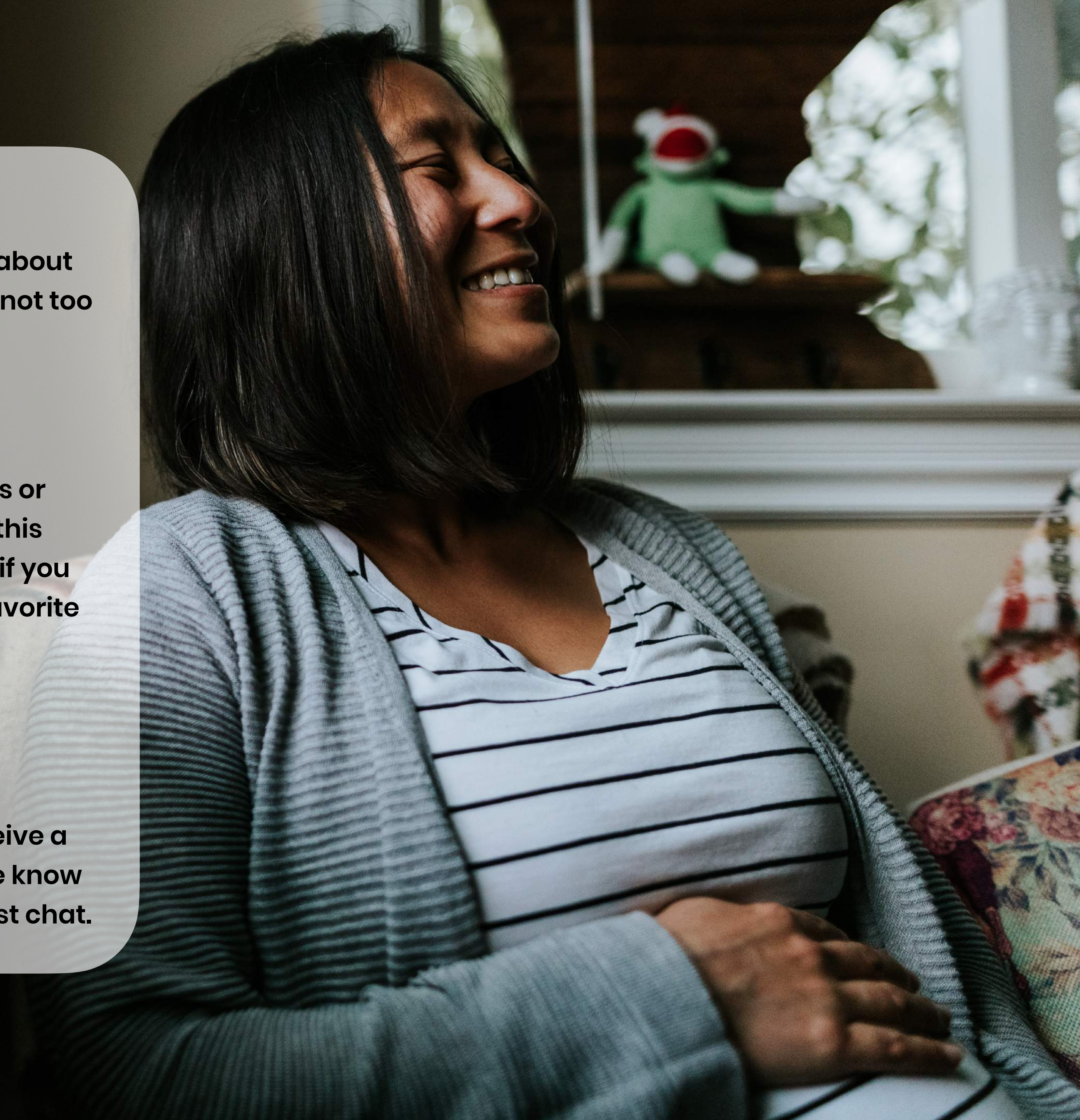
A maternity session typically takes place between about about 30 and 34 weeks. You should be *showing* but not too uncomfortable to move around a bit.

What should I wear?

Many maternity clients choose to wear long dresses or tunic style tops that are fitted just above the belly (this helps to accentuate that bump when desired). But, if you are more casual, feel free to sport jeans and your favorite tee! Whatever makes you feel like YOU.

Do you offer a maternity & newborn session package?

Absolutely! For multiple session packages, you receive a 10% discount when booked at the same time. Let me know if you would like to discuss this option during our first chat.





you may be wondering



What is documentary-inspired photography?

Documentary photography, also known as "photojournalism" or "reportage," is an artful approach to photograph your family with you being (mostly) unaware of the camera. Simply put, it's when a photographer senses, anticipates, and documents moments without changing the scene. In my experience, people look naturally best on their own without being told when and how to look.

What techniques do you use to make your subject comfortable?

I draw on experiential photography techniques. That is, in the pre-session process, I get to know about what makes your growing family so unique; I learn a bit about your passions, your idiosyncrasies, the activities that fill the minutes of your everyday lives. Then, during our session, we magically interweave those unique elements to allow each and every participant shine.



you may be wondering



How should we best prepare for this type of photo session?

Based on your questionnaire, I will create a PDF guide for you to reference prior to our session. In this customized session guide, the plan for your photo session will be outlined for you. This plan really lends itself to a much more relaxed, but organized experience. All I ask of you is to be 100% *yourself* — this will allow me to do all the groundwork in discovering what makes your family exceptional and structure a session that will truly reflect *you* in this space and time.

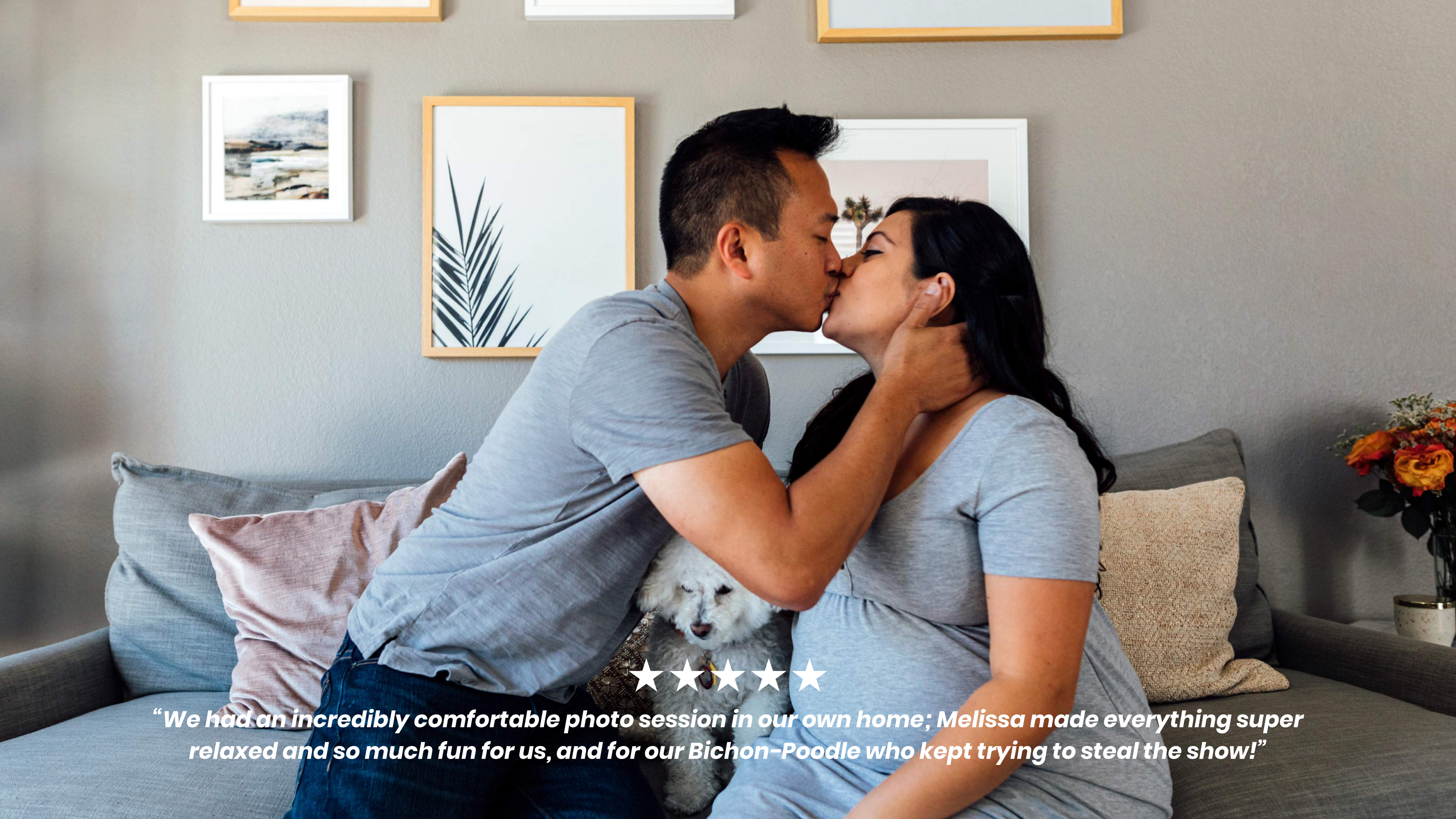
Have a question left unanswered? Check out these [FAQ](#) or [hit me up](#) anytime.





“Melissa is a gem and a natural at capturing raw candid moments. I really love her photo journalist style which is why I chose her to photograph my family. I highly recommend her for any family, newborn or maternity sessions.”





★★★★★

“We had an incredibly comfortable photo session in our own home; Melissa made everything super relaxed and so much fun for us, and for our Bichon-Poodle who kept trying to steal the show!”



what to expect



initial contact + booking

Once your session date availability is confirmed, and your booking fee has been settled (please see investment section of this guide for all payment options), you will receive a comprehensive, pre-session questionnaire.

pre-session

We will hop on the phone for an initial consultation — plan about 30 minutes. I will then send along your questionnaire several days before our session. After carefully reading over your questionnaire, I will draft your photo session plan pdf which will provide a structured yet flexible guide — including a customized color palette and tips for a successful session — for documenting your family in a way that is authentic to both your vision as well as my artistic aesthetic.

session day

OMGGGG — The day has arrived! The session date has arrived! If no soon-to-be big siblings will be involved, try to have some activities in mind — especially ones that are particularly meaningful to you and, if applicable, your partner as well. This could be as simple as making pancakes, strolling around the neighborhood, or playing your favorite boardgames. If there *are* older siblings, usually we'll have a good idea of activities that they enjoy and your family can engage in together.

post-session

Within 5-7 business days after our session, you will receive a high-resolution sneak peek (i.e. smallish sampling of your entire collection) via a private online gallery. Your entire high-resolution collection will be carefully processed and available within three weeks from receipt of your sneak peek.



investment



session rate includes

- A 30-minute phone consultation with Melissa to get to know each other a bit, discuss your vision for the session, and address any questions you may have.
- A pre-session questionnaire.
- A comprehensive, personalized pdf that covers everything you need to know about how to prepare for your session.
- A 60-minute session done in the comfort of your home or meaningful location of your choice.
- A high-resolution sneak peek (i.e. smallish sampling of your entire collection) within 5-7 business days of your session.
- 45 high-resolution images available via private online gallery within three weeks of sneak peek receipt, with option to upgrade to full gallery.
- Access to a professional, museum-quality photo lab for premium quality albums, photographic prints, and wall display products.

\$1175

20% deposit due at booking — remainder due upon receipt of your sneak peek.



“With twins and a home renovation on the way, we thought it was the perfect time to document our family and how we've lived for the last few years. We worked with Melissa when our 3yr old was born, and it only made sense to work with her again. Her documentary style captured our lives so well! I know we'll treasure these photos forever.”



“Melissa is amazing, I couldn't recommend her more! First, she is kind, thoughtful, warm, genuine, professional, and extremely organized which all make her wonderful to work with. Second, she captures incredibly beautiful life moments through her photography (not staged) that we will forever cherish.”



next steps



Before going any further, *please* take the time to look over my portfolio. My style is not considered *traditional* — I prefer raw moments and honest emotion over perfectly posed "say cheese" photos any day. Please be 100% sure that this is what you would like.

If all looks good, I would absolutely love to work with your growing family.

you rock.

Seriously, though. I know you have a huge pool of amazing photographers to choose from in our area. Just the fact that you would take the time to read over this info guide means more than you'll know.

I look forward to connecting with you and ensuring your creative vision comes to life.

Please contact me with any questions, to book a session, or share funny stories.

With gratitude,
Meli

