

Photo Booths Defined

Adding a photo booth to your next event is a great idea. They provide hours of fun for all ages and create lasting memories for you and your guests.

The challenge is with the term "Photo Booth" since there is no standard offering. Consider this; if you rent chairs and tables for your event you get chairs and tables. Yes there are different styles (round table or rectangle) but they all offer the same utility, a place to sit and eat or drink. Unfortunately this is not the same for photo booths.

First let's start with a simple definition. The Dictionary defines the word booth "as a small temporary tent or structure at a market, fair, or exhibition, used for selling goods, providing information, or staging shows" or "an enclosed compartment that allows privacy, for example when voting or sitting in a restaurant." The latter being a suitable definition for photo booths - **an enclosed compartment that allows privacy**. This is important because it will define how your guests will react. They are less likely to relax and let go while a crowd of people stand around watching them.

However when one mentions the words photo booth, the first image that comes to mind when is probably something like this.



This "retro-style" photo booth is most commonly associated with those seen at shopping malls and amusement parks. While it does fit the dictionary's definition, the issue with this design is that it's typically designed for one person. I am sure many remember cramming in two or three people but remember you were younger and a lot smaller at the time so this was much easier. However, if you are looking for the retro design then this will fit the bill nicely.

Some DJ's will offer a "photo booth" and frequently will offer it as a package deal with a steep discount. Many times you'll find out what they really have is a compact unit with a camera and printer. Typically there is a pipe and drape system allowing for some degree of privacy for up to four people. Many times these units are homemade or purchased as a complete system at very low cost. They commonly look something like this.



While it does fit the dictionary's definition, the issue with this design is that like the retro booth it is small and therefore significantly limits how many people it can hold. If budget is a major issue this may be an option to consider.

Photographers will also advertise a “photo booth” and like DJ’s will offer it as part of a package at a discount. Many will use something similar to this.



Essentially consisting of a camera, a printer and a backdrop many refer to this design as an “open air photo booth.” This hardly fits the definition of a Photo Booth as mentioned above, with the most obvious difference being the lack of any privacy. If you are looking for a more formal option then this is an option you will want to consider.

One other scenario is to consider is to find a company who specializes in Photo Booth rentals; many provide booths that are designed specifically for the entertainment and rental markets. These booths feature heavy duty construction designed to withstand the rigors of hundreds of events each year along with professional quality dye-sublimation printers resulting in crisp images. Here is the Photo Booth Fun photo booth.



In addition they are designed to hold more people, typically 6 or more. This is important as many times guests want to use the booth in groups. This is especially true for significant events such as weddings. If you're in doubt as to what version of a photo booth the vendor is offering, ask to see photos of the booth and make sure you find out how many people can use it at once.

In the end when you are considering adding a photo booth to your next event think about the experience you want your guests to have. Are you looking for retro, formal, or something else? This is important as your answer will determine the type of photo booth you use which will in turn dictate how your guests will react.

Need more information on photo booth rentals for your big event? Give us a call we'd love to answer any questions you may have and provide you with a night of entertainment you won't soon forget.

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