

Smartphone Photography

Smartphones have revolutionised photography in recent years, simply by capturing photographs using a camera integrated into a phone. Almost everyone has one and the way we use our pocket-sized devices has changed the world. You can now contact anyone, anywhere, anytime; surf the net or track the stars and Smartphones have made it more accessible and convenient to take high-quality pictures anytime, anywhere, documenting our lives and sharing moments instantly.

But just because phones are easy to use and have given us the benefit of taking pictures on the go, it does not mean every shot you take will automatically be amazing!

The rules for traditional



photography also apply to Smartphone photography.

Tips: *Do's and Don'ts*

- Apply the 'Rule of Thirds' or gridlines every time to balance your shots and create a less boring look – move the main subject away from the centre of the image unless it's a flower (use the grid to divide your screen into thirds – 9 squares) and make sure there is something visually appealing on each intersecting point.
- Steady the camera first to avoid blurry or warped photos. The camera on a phone is still sensitive to movement.
- Tap the screen of your Smartphone to focus the camera on your subject.
- Good lighting is key in photography – try to photograph in natural and good lighting. Outdoors is best for Smartphone photography.
- Check the background – many excellent pictures are ruined because of cluttered and unsightly backgrounds or 'things' that detract from the main subject – e.g. bins, signs, etc. Move around the subject to find different perspectives.
- Avoid using digital zoom – it reduces image quality, instead move closer to your subject.
- Keep your phone camera lens clean – your Smartphone spends most of its time in your pocket, handbag or hands resulting in dust, grease and fingerprints all over the lens and screen. Clean with a microfiber cloth so as not to scratch the lens.
- Take time to get familiar with your camera phone modes, settings and editing features.

Inspiration is all around us – take your phone for a walk and look for the beauty where you are. Think of what you are drawn to and what makes your favourite photos your most-loved pictures! Portable and easy to operate, thanks to our mobile devices, we can now take high-quality images and edit them from just about anywhere, all from the same device in our pockets we use to make calls.

No matter what camera you shoot with, it's the photographer and not the gear that makes the photo!

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