


Introduction to Mobile Phone Photography (iPhone 14 Pro Camera)

The mobile phone camera has become the key way a lot of people take their photographs to share with family and friends. The advances in smartphone technology has meant there are a lot more tools and features available to get the most out of your photography. This handout aims to introduce you to some of these and give some useful tips and techniques.

Camera modes

Photo is the standard mode that you see when you open Camera . Use Photo mode to take still photos and [Live Photos](#). Swipe left or right on the camera screen to choose one of the following camera modes:

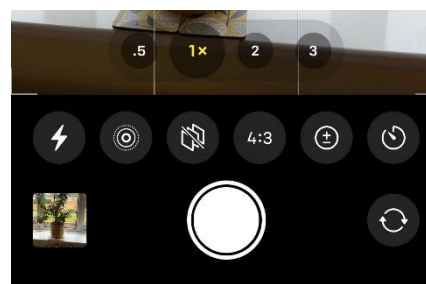
- *Video*: Record a video; see [Record a video](#).
- *Time-lapse*: Create a time-lapse video of motion over a period of time; see [Record a time-lapse video](#).
- *Slo-mo*: Record a video with a slow-motion effect; see [Record a slow-motion video](#).
- *Pano*: Capture a panoramic landscape or other scene; see [Take a panoramic photo](#).
- *Portrait*: Apply a depth-of-field effect to your photos ([on supported models](#)); see [Take a portrait in Portrait mode](#).
- *Cinematic*: Apply a depth-of-field effect to your videos ([on supported models](#)); see [Record Cinematic videos](#).
- *Square*: Take photos with a square ratio.



Top Tips

1. Swipe up for more control of all features and settings

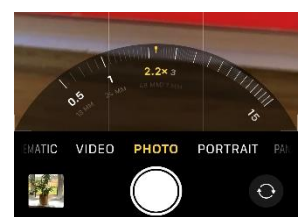
Instead of tapping the downward-facing arrow at the top of the app, you can simply swipe up on the viewfinder. You'll then see a suite of extra controls that will give you more granular control over how your pictures look. There are flash settings, Night mode, Photographic Styles, aspect ratio settings, exposure controls, a timer, colour filters and a RAW toggle.



2. Change your perspective and use of different lenses

This seems pretty obvious, but sometimes shifting where your camera is pointing can help you get a better photo. Moving forward or back and zooming in will give you a different perspective.

Don't just take a photo, make it!



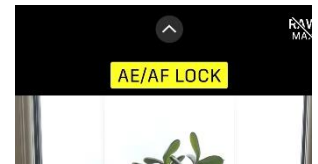
3. Adjust your exposure

The easiest way is to tap to focus on the subject you're capturing, then slide up or down on the sun icon that's presented on the right side of the box. This will bring exposure levels up or down and give you much more control over how the scene in front of you looks.

The second way is to swipe up on the viewfinder and locate the exposure settings, from there, you can swipe left or right to bring exposure levels up or down.



Consider using Focus/Exposure Lock, you can lock the exposure and focus of the camera by tapping and holding where you want to focus, such as a person's eyes or face if you're shooting a portrait.



4. Overlay Rule of Thirds Grid

By going to Settings > Camera and visiting the Composition section, you can enable a 3-inch-by-3-inch grid, which will give you an idea of where to position your subject in the frame.

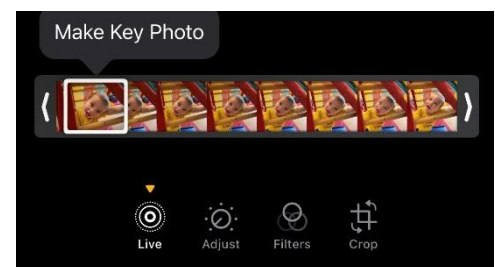
5. Adjust Depth of Field effects via Portrait Mode (add a blurry backgrounds)

When taking a photo of a person, adding a soft and blurry background can add a dramatic and artistic touch to your pictures. This feature can be used on any subject to isolate the subject from the background. You can adjust the effect post shooting.



6. Use Live Photo

The Live Photo feature offers a longer snapshot of the three seconds before, during, and after you snap a photo. It's like a tiny video clip, offering different photo frames so you can select your favourite final image and make it the Key Photo. Great for shots of people to get the right expression. You can also save separate frames and another separate photo using duplicate photo (accessed via the '...' at the top of the Edit page)



Live mode also gives you access to other features and is great to replicate a photographic techniques.

In your photo app Tap  Live in the top-left corner, then choose one of the following:

- *Live*: Applies the Live video playback feature.
- *Loop*: Repeats the action in a continuous looping video.

- *Bounce*: Rewinds the action backward and forward.
- *Long Exposure*: Simulates a DSLR-like long exposure effect by blurring motion. (e.g. such as photographing water falls to blur the water motion)
- *Live Off*: Turns off the Live video playback feature or applied effect.

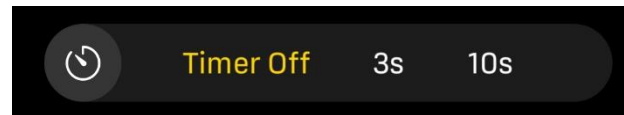
7. Get better night shots

Use the swipe-up controls and tap the Night mode button (which only appears if your iPhone thinks it's dark enough to use Night mode). From there, you can adjust how long the exposure lasts when taking a photo. This allows the camera to keep its aperture open longer, taking multiple different photos at various exposures and combining the data from each of them for a more balanced result. Gives you much better control over your night photography. A god tip it to bracket these shots (i.e. take more than one shot and vary your exposures) so you can choose the best image later.



8. Use the Self-Timer for Sharper Photos

The self-timer function on the iPhone is useful for taking a group photo or selfie – simply prop your iPhone up somewhere stable, tap the self-timer button, then run in front of the camera with your friends to be a part of the photo.



You can also use the self-timer as a kind of remote trigger for an iPhone photo. Note: you can also use the earphones volume buttons as a remote release.

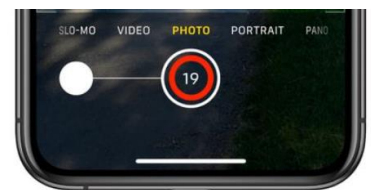
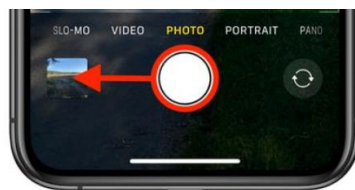
9. Consider a tripod/camera support

No matter how steady your hand is, sometimes it's just good to use a tripod or other camera support. That way, you can ensure your phone is correctly set up to capture a straight, clear photo without any concerns over motion blur.

10. Capture action shots with Burst mode on your iPhone camera

Use Burst mode with Camera to capture a moving subject, or when you want to take multiple high-speed photos so that you have a range of photos to choose from.

1. Open Camera on your iPhone.
2. Swipe the Shutter button to the left.
3. Lift your finger to stop.
4. To select the photos you want to keep, tap the Burst thumbnail, then tap Select.



5. Tap the circle in the lower-right corner of each photo you want to save as an individual photo, then tap Done.

You can take Burst photos with the rear and front-facing cameras. Note: you can set up the 'volume up' button for this function.

11. Record a QuickTake video and continue taking still photos

A QuickTake video is a video you record in Photo mode. While you record a QuickTake video, you can move the Record button into the lock position and keep taking still photos.

1. Open Camera, then touch and hold the Shutter button to start recording a QuickTake video.
2. Slide the Shutter button to the right and let go over the lock for hands-free recording.
 - Both the Record and Shutter buttons appear below the frame—tap the Shutter button to take a still photo while recording.
 - Swipe up to zoom in on your subject, or if you're recording hands-free, you can pinch out on the screen to zoom in.
3. Tap the Record button to stop recording.

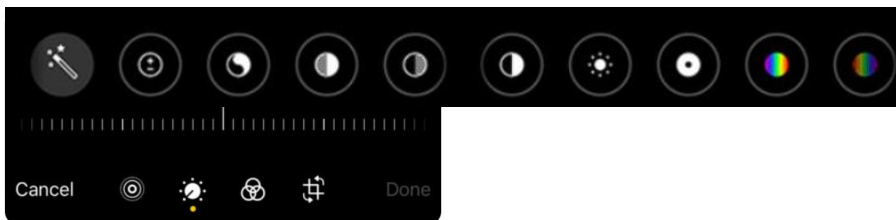


Editing Features

Ensure you get used to checking your photos before sharing or publishing. Some basic editing tools can really improve the original image. The standard editing apps on the phones give good tools to use there and then.

Custom edit options include:

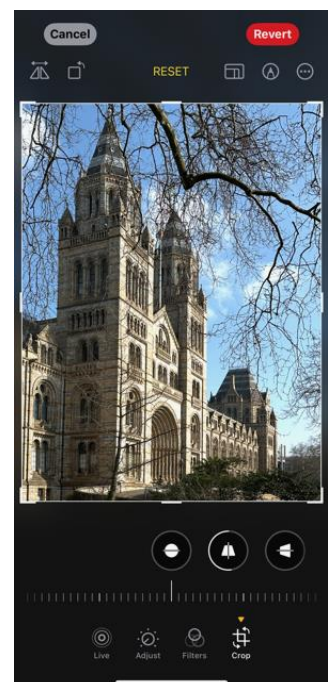
- Exposure - lighten or darken the entire photo
- Highlights - lighten bright areas like clouds
- Shadows - enhance dark shadows on faces and buildings
- Brightness - adjust lightness and darkness with more saturation and contrast
- Vibrance - brighten colours realistically or mute colours for an aged look



Cropping

Fine tune cropping can help to make your photo and you can also look at straightening images and further align shots and adjust horizontal and vertical perspective e.g. in buildings.

This is a great tool to fine tune your **composition** such as ensuring the focal point(s) stand out using techniques such as: rule of thirds; rule of space; leading lines; and framing). Watch out for areas the eye will be attracted to that you don't want e.g. black holes or highlights areas.



Saving camera settings on iPhone

The camera settings option lets you customise certain functions to suite your requirements. You can save the last camera mode, filter, lighting, depth, and Live Photo settings you used so they're not reset when you next open Camera .

Below is an example of these setting options. This will vary depending on camera make and model.

