

Beginner's Guide to iPhoneography

By Simon Bray 2012

Taking Photos with iPhone

The native camera app built into the iPhone, like the majority of the functions within the iPhone are designed to be used intuitively and with that in mind, it works extremely well as a simple and effective camera without getting into complicated options and functions.

Focus and exposure is controlled by a single tap to the screen on the chosen area and the light changes accordingly on the screen. AE/AF Lock is achieved by tapping and holding on the screen until the verification appears at the bottom of the screen.

The simple pinch gesture works as a zoom and along the top there are options for flash, applying a rule of thirds based grid (very useful for composition) and also an HDR option, which works well in adding definition and contrast to your photos.

My favourite feature however, is the ability to use the "+" volume button as the shutter button, both on the the phone itself and also via the control panel on the headphones supplied. Using the + button on the side of the phone feels far more natural as a photographer and offers a much steadier grip on the device.

Within the iPhone you have the option to rotate, crop, remove red-eye and use the 'auto-enhance' button. Camera+ offers all those features plus the option to flip the shot and add a vast array of filters and borders.

The first menu offers options to crop, rotate, flip and also straighten the image. The second menu allows you to adjust exposure, saturation, tint and contrast, whilst the pick of the other features include soft focus, sharpen, noise adjustment and then the effects filters and borders.

The Social Element

For me, when I was starting out, the ability to share my photos was invaluable to the continuation of my photography. The chance to receive encouragement, support and also criticism online enabled me to grow as a photographer. I would strongly encourage you to share your images, they're no good sitting in photo albums on computers and devices. Show the world your work!

Within the iPhone camera roll, you have the ability to email or iMessage photos to contacts or share through Twitter. With iOS 6 you'll have the option to share straight to Facebook as well.

You then also have the option to share images through other means. For example, directly through the Facebook app, via What'sApp, upload it to your Flickr or Tumblr page through the designated apps or use the sharing options built into specific camera apps such as Camera+ and of course the king of social photo apps, **Instagram**.