

Smart Phone Nature Photography: The Basics

1 Find the Light

Where does your eye naturally go? Most people prefer soft, warm colors. Avoid harsh light and shadows when possible.

2 Think

Why this picture? Focus on the most important part of the image. Minimize distractions that may also be in-frame.

3 Change the Perspective

Where is the most interesting point of view? Try high and low angles and walk around the subject. Avoid digital zoom.

4 Steady the Shot

If a tripod isn't available, place the camera on something solid or hold it against your body.

5 Befriend the Camera

Know your tools! Learn tips, tricks, and shortcuts for your particular camera and be ready when the moment strikes.

First Smart Phone Nature Photography Challenge

1 Get uncomfortably close

Or, get as close as your camera will allow while still being able to focus. Notice what looks different.

2 Add a person for scale

This is most effective for extreme wide shots, but adds perspective in any situation.

3 Follow the light

Think of light as the subject of your image. Follow sunbeams and shadows to their ends and see how light falling on an object changes its appearance.

4 Take a break, then take one more photo

Close your eyes and breathe. Something will look different when you open them again.