



Over the last few years, camera smartphones have been getting bigger and better meaning that you don't need to buy a separate camera to take high quality and professional photographs.

As with any camera, there are some things to bear in mind when taking photos on a smartphone so here are our top 10 tips for ensure you get great photographs. We'd love to see any photos you take, so don't forget to send them across to [photography@boundless.co.uk](mailto:photography@boundless.co.uk) or share them on our [Facebook Group](#).

**Keep your eyes open.** Ever spotted a perfect photo opportunity and realised you don't have your camera on you? The beauty of a smartphone camera is that you will always have it on hand and you can simply delete any photos that don't work. Try looking at the world differently to spot different photo opportunities when you're out and about.

**Lighting.** It's important with any camera that you have enough light but even more so with a smartphone camera, when ideally you want to have the light source behind the camera. If you're shooting inside try add external light by opening curtains or turning on lights.

**Try different angles.** As discussed above, when there isn't anything you can do about the lighting, move around! As you can delete unsuccessful photographs so easily, there is no harm in taking several photos of the same thing and then choosing the best image.

**Get close.** Many smartphone cameras function best when you bring them close to your subject. The small sensor provides a wide depth of field so you can get the entire object in focus when other cameras with bigger lenses may struggle.

**Don't zoom!** When it comes to smartphone camera, you're stuck with a digital zoom. This means that when you zoom in, the optics of the camera don't change and the image doesn't come any closer. Your camera simply takes the image and expands it to fit the screen rather than zooming in. This results in poor, low resolution images. Try to actually get closer to the image instead and you can always crop your photo later on.

**Keep steady.** As with any camera, it's really important to keep the camera steady when taking a photo to produce the best quality image. Try leaning against a sturdy surface when taking a photo to lessen your own

movement. Alternatively, there are lots of mini phone tripods on the market which are really handy.

**Ditch the flash.** The flash on your smartphone is essentially just a LED flashlight and is not really up to the challenge of producing enough light in a low light situation. The flash will ensure that you have enough light for the photo, but the white LED light can be harsh and often compromise your picture and may make your subject look ghostly. There is only so far you can push a smartphone sensor in low light so often your best option is to seek enough light source or give up on the photograph altogether.

**Edit, don't filter!** There are hundreds of apps on the market to help make the most of your photographs, but remember, you want to keep your photographs unique. Use filters wisely and use them only if they actually enhance your photograph. There are plenty of apps on the market such as Snapseed and Photoshop Express that allow you to make adjustments to your photos such as contrast, sharpness and colour temperature.

**Clean your lens.** Smartphone camera lenses are usually pretty tough but being stuffed into pockets and bags all day means that often the lens can pick up grime and the result is dark, hazy images. Giving your lens a quick wipe with a soft cloth can make the world of difference, and even better, break out some lens cleaning solution and give the lens a proper clean!

**Make prints!** The rise of digital photography means that now making prints of your photographs is rare, and often your best photos will sit in a folder on your computer. Printing some of your photos on paper can give your photographs a whole new dimension. Often people will be amazed that you took it on your smartphone.