



Nature Photography

Focusing on Nature

Today, most people have smartphones and as they improve with each new release, the camera features get better and better. So grab your phone, head outdoors and try to capture nature in all of its photographic glory by following these tips:

1. *Follow the rule of thirds for landscapes.* First divide your photo into thirds horizontally. You want your horizon in the top or bottom third, not in the middle. Next look at the object of your photo and where it is vertically in your frame. Most times we center an image, but a photo is much more pleasant when our eyes can go on a journey of discovery. Try placing the object of your photo in the left or right quadrant to provide flow.

2. *Slow down and look.* Photographers can spend a long time waiting for that perfect shot. So before you start snapping, sit down and observe what is happening for a while.

3. *Use the right lighting.* The best time for photographs is right after dawn and just before sunset.

4. *Steady on!* Moving the phone while snapping a picture will result in a blurry subject, so if you can't hold steady, try a tripod for the phone.

5. *Use texture and patterns to create a beautiful photo.* Sometimes, the most amazing photos aren't of things. Look for textures and patterns outside and focus on them.

6. *Get down on their level.* Changing your viewpoint and getting closer to your subject can have amazing results.

6. *Be patient.* The great thing about smartphones is that you can take lots of pictures before you get the perfect one. So take your time, set up your photo and wait for the perfect opportunity



Ask A Naturalist

What should I photograph?

- Landscapes—keep your horizon straight and if you can't do that while taking your picture, use editing software to straighten the horizon before you post it anywhere.
- Rain drops on flowers—photos after a rain make the colors pop and the rain drops create amazing texture and pattern in a picture.
- Animals—get down on their level to create an interesting photo perspective.