

PCQC Video Presentation

Fundamentals of Photography II with Joel Sartore—National Geographic

Lesson 17: Smartphone Photography

Smartphones are common in the United States...just about everybody has one. In addition to the phone, apps, games etc., smartphones are also cameras which can take still photographs and in many cases, video. Smartphone cameras don't have the same versatility as higher end DSLR cameras but they take pretty good pictures nonetheless. In this lesson you will learn just how far you can get using just your smartphone.

Lesson Takeaways

- The best camera you have is the one you have with you, and most of the time that is your smartphone.
- Smartphone cameras work best in good light. Some smartphones allow you to change the ISO and exposure compensation. Most smartphone cameras also have a direct flash but remember that a direct flash has ruined many otherwise good photographs.
- Special lenses such as macros, telephotos, zooms, wide angle, and fisheyes etc. are available for some smartphones. In addition to lenses, other accessories are available such as tripods and cable releases. And we have all seen or own "selfie" sticks. Some smartphones have panoramic settings. When taking panoramic photographs keep the camera steady and level and move it slowly.
- Experiment with panoramas.
- Experiment with various filters.
- Always transfer your photos and videos to a storage device such as a hard drive on your computer, thumb drive, external hard drive or the cloud. Some phones automatically back up your photos to the cloud.
- Delete useless pictures to free up space. Why keep a mistaken shot of the floor?
- It's easy to take smartphone pictures of just about anything, but be respectful of others. No one wants to see an ugly or compromising picture of them on the internet! Nor should they have to worry about what picture you have of them in your phone.

Assignment

Choose a shoot to do entirely with your smartphone. Read about your phone's capabilities beforehand. Experiment with filters, lenses, apps, panorama and video. Make sure you fully charge your phone's battery and that you have enough memory for all of your shots.