

Barbara Ward's Favorite Smart Phone Photography Tips 2026

Yikes – What I learned the hard way

Give yourself a break – Technology is always changing.

- Water or hot drink weather sensitive
- Dress in layers
- Protect yourself from ticks
- Watch your feet
- Spray bottle of water for subject
- Case and plastic cover for camera
- Carry lens cloths / paper towels w alcohol to clean surface
- **Carry a charger**
- Test out a few things at a time
- Study and repeat what you see
- Experiment you can always delete
- Keep notes at first
- Is AI for you?
- Auto focus is great – try raw

Camera Settings

- Grid - ON
- Live – OFF
- Smart HDR – ON
- Volume Up for burst – ON
- Mirror Front Camera – ON
- Prioritize Faster Shooting – OFF
- Preserve setting – turn on all 3 *when needed*



Active Use

- Volume up – Burst
- Volume down – single one handed
- Square -framing the picture
- Press on screen square focus will come up
- Press Arrow Key at top Hit ratio of 4:3 choose *square+ adjust exposure as need*

Learn Basic Composing Rules Then Vary Them

Search YouTube or Google by make and model

Check out the Amazing,
Fun Ideas on YouTube



Basic Principles

- Shot low
- Use backlight
- Try different angles
- Use sky background
- Experiment with water
- Try different light exposures
- Get up close and fill the frame
- Experiment with photo editing
- Repeat photo - times of day & season
- What am I trying to photograph that will make this photo stand out? Have a clear answer.
- What is the best composition for my subject(s) in relation to the surroundings?
- Blur the background makes photos simpler
- Dynamic – move into the photo – keep blur
- Repeating elements, 3 or 5 or more, images creates drama – zoom – F-stop 8
- Panning background blurry but subject – people

Personal Favorite Tips



- Golden Hour – Early Morning or Dusk
- Embrace the unexpected
- Shoot around your subject
- Use Selfie mode to shoot up
- Control the chaos of background
- Use the sky or background and accent
- Vary the angle – shot low add to drama
- Repeating elements, 3 or 5 creates drama
- Blurred background and adds dept of field
- Dynamic – move into the photo & keep blur
- Shoot thru objects for interest, depth & place
- Use the light shining from behind you or thru object to enhance the picture
- ***Do not run out of power – carry a wireless charger the best pictures are always last!***