Smartphone macro photography

TOP 8 TIPS for taking great images with your smartphone camera

1 Keep your lens clean! Grime and fingerprints on your lens will result in hazy, dark images. You want to clearly see whatever it is you are photographing!

2 Focus! When in camera mode, tab your phone screen to select the part of the image you would like to be in focus before hitting the shutter release button.

3 Avoid using digital zoom, get closer instead! Digital zoom will noticeably degrade your image quality! By getting physically closer to your object you will have more control over the lighting of your subject.

4 Aim high! Set the image resolution to as high as possible, as it will allow cropping your image after taking it. This is another way to enlarge the subject without losing too much image quality.

5 Ditch the flash! Smartphone flashes are glorified LED flashlights which are not up to the task of freezing the action in the frame. The "flash" duration is way too long leading to blurry and incorrectly exposed images with inaccurate colour temperature.

6 Watch the direction of light! The light source should never point straight into your camera lens! This causes lens flare and will cost you detail, contrast, and colour accuracy. Rather get the light from behind or either side of your phone camera.

7 Use the rear, not the front camera! Generally the rear camera provides better image quality.

8 Consider third-party camera apps! Most phone cameras have limited functions which restrict your photo-taking capabilities. There are free apps available for both Android and iOS that can overcome those limitations. E.g. *ProCapture Free* (Android), *Camera+ Free* (iOS).

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