

**Todd Gipstein
National Geographic Photography Expert
Around-the-World by Jet Expedition January 2026**

**iPhone Tips
Other phones like Android have similar features
that might be named or organized a little differently.**

NOTE: Phones are constantly being updated. Features and settings change. If you cannot find some of these settings, they may still be there but named slightly differently or moved. Explore and you may find them. Don't be afraid to try things and see what they do. You can also find current information online, on YouTube, in forums, etc.

CAMERA SETTINGS

On the Home Screen, Tap Settings then scroll down to Camera. Tap on Camera to bring up list of various settings. Here are the ones I consider most useful / important.

Grid: Turn it on if you want a tic-tac-toe style grid on your screen to help with composition, the rule of thirds, etc.

Level: Turn on to give you a dynamic horizon line so you can see if things are level. The horizon should be!

Format: Most compatible will work most anywhere. High efficiency will save some space onto phone or cloud but may on occasion cause problems when sharing.

Aspect Ratio: 4x3 or 9x16. 4x3 is more square. 9x16 is wider and matches most current TV sets. There also may be 2x3 which is like 35mm slide film.

Turn LIVE off - if it is always on your camera screen, it is too easy to touch it while taking out or using the camera, and it's not all that useful. It is really making a 1-2 second video. It is good if you want to create a silky water look for a waterfall, but beyond that kind of a gimmick.

Burst with Volume Up button: Useful if you want to shoot a bunch of shots of action. Just hold down the top volume button and it will shoot until you let it go. You may end up with dozens of shots. You can pick the best and delete the rest later. A short burst may help with portraits so you get a frame where the person is not blinking.

WHILE SHOOTING

Swipe Left on the HOME screen to bring up camera quickly, or set the action button to do so. (Settings > Action Button > Camera
Some newer phones have the “Camera Control” as a function in the Camera settings. That will let you use the button on the lower RIGHT side of the phone to get to the camera quickly. IF your phone has this button.

Exposure & Focus Lock: Touch & Hold a finger on screen a few seconds. A box will come up with a little sun next to it. When you touch the box, it will lock focus. Slide finger on sun to change exposure. It will also lock. Recompose the shot if you want. The exposure and focus will not change.

IMPORTANT: Remember to touch again to unlock. Otherwise the focus and exposure of subsequent photos may be off because the camera is “remembering” the locked values not reacting to new scenes.

Video - While making a video, you can simultaneously take still photo by touching the white dot.

Better to select a lens than pinch. The camera has optical lenses that are marked on the screen (i.e. .5, 1, 2, 3). These give the best quality. When you pinch and zoom, the phone is creating a cropped, digitally interpolated lens which is not as sharp as the prime optical lenses.

SHARING PHOTOS BETWEEN IPHONES DURING TRIP

You can easily share photos from iPhone to iPhone using “AIRDROP.” Tap on a photo in your library. Then tap on the little box with the arrow coming out the top. This will bring up a number of options. Tap the AIRDROP button. The phone will go to a screen that will show nearby people’s names/phone. Tap on who you want to share the photo with and it will transfer to their phone. You will see “SENT” when it is completed. If you want to send more than one photo, go to your library and tap the “SELECT” button. Then select the photos you want to send by tapping on them. A check mark will show on them. Then do the above procedure. This works for videos as well. You can send up to 2 gigs of photos/videos.

If you are receiving photos, you may have to tap the “ACCEPT” button when it comes up to let your phone know you want to get the photos. You may also have

to turn on **“EVERYONE for 10 MINUTES”** in your Airdrop setting. To find the Airdrop setting, swipe down from the upper right corner towards the center of the screen to bring up your **CONTROL** screen. The Airdrop is the blue concentric circles icon. Press down on it and a dialogue box will come up with choices of **“Receiving Off,” “Contacts Only”** and **“Everyone for 10 minutes.”** Your choice.

If you are in **AIRPLANE MODE** on your phone you may also be asked to **“Turn on WIFI”** to get Airdrop active. Just tap on the button that comes up.

ORGANIZING PHOTOS

FAVORITES:

Go to Photos. Then **LIBRARY**. Touch any photo in your Photos Album and a little box will come up that has a few functions. Touch the heart and it will put a little white heart on the photo and save a copy to your Favorites album / collection.

If you have your photos displayed as a grid, you can touch **“SELECT”**. Then touch any number of individual photos. They will get dimmer and a little checkmark will be added. When you have selected some, touch the **3 DOTS** and a function box will come up. If you touch **FAVORITES**, **ALL** the photos you selected and got a checkmark will be copied to your **FAVORITES**. This **DOES NOT** move any photos. It just copies them to another album.

If you go back to **LIBRARY** you will see an icon at the bottom **“COLLECTIONS.”** Tap on that and scroll down to **UTILITIES** to find your **FAVORITES**. If you decide you don't want a shot to be a favorite any more, tap it and it will enlarge and at the bottom show a dark heart. Tap that heart and it won't be a favorite anymore. The shot will still be in your photos main library.

Why do this? Later, when you get home and have 10,000 photos you shot on the trip, you will be happy if, along the way, at an airport or bus or hotel, you made some choices of your favorites. It will cut down the number of images you have to go through. You can then work with a smaller group of photos to make a slide show or post on the internet or whatever. You can always trim out some favorites or add more in as you review your photos.

Create a **FOLDER** for the trip or an **ALBUM** for each destination.

Go to **COLLECTIONS > ALBUMS** Tap **PLUS +** at top. **ADD** a **NEW FOLDER** for the **ATW**. Then once the folder is created, tap on it and use the **+** sign to **CREATE**

NEW ALBUM. Create an **ALBUM** for each day of the trip or destination. When you tap on it, it will offer various ways to add photos to the album. You can do so from **FAVORITES**.

Also, if you follow the procedure for **SELECTING** photos to add to the **FAVORITES** album described above, you can instead add them to any **ATW** album / **FOLDERS** album. So shoot for a day. Look at your photos. Select the best. Add them to **ALBUM**. When the trip is done, your shooting will be nicely organized by place.

EDITING:

You can **EDIT** photos on the phone, adjusting brightness, color, cropping them to help make a better composition, add effects, and much, much more. Too much to try to explain here. Better one-on-one or by watching a YouTube video at leisure. Also, don't be afraid to try things. Tap the 3 little lines below a photo and it will bring up the **EDITING** features. Explore and try things. **YOU CAN ALWAYS REVERT TO THE ORIGINAL PHOTO**. Nothing gets changed permanently. Think of the edits you do as a blanket you are laying over the photo — it can always be removed.

* * *