

Our Must-Have, Most-Used Photography Apps



Your photos are important.

And now, you've got a world-class camera that thinks it's a phone. And it's just waiting in your pocket — ready to be used at any time.

Thus, photo management and photo editing are becoming ever more valuable.

Alas, it's getting harder and harder to find the best apps. You can't trust the search results on the App store to show you what is actually great. And Googling for something often leads you to just a list of a bunch of apps that you still have to sort through.

That's why we spend an inordinate amount of time and energy to research, test, and find the very best apps for you. We hope you'll enjoy this list of the best photography apps you can get.



The Best Third-Party Camera App for iPhone

Halide

Why we love it

We think Halide is a terrific third-party camera app. It places the features you'd expect in an app of this type in an elegant and straightforward UI context. Easy to use, yet powerful at the same time. We think Halide is the third-party camera app that most people will find to be a key part of their advanced iPhone photography workflow.

Did you Know?

Halide allows you to switch into a manual focus control with the tap of a button. In this mode, you can take advantage of focus peaking, which highlights areas of the highest contrast, so you can tell what's in focus.

[Read our full review of Halide »](#)

The Best Photo Editing App

Lightroom

Why we love it

Lightroom is a refined, ubiquitous environment for managing your photo library, whether you choose the re-thought cloud-based Lightroom CC, or the more familiar, professional-oriented Lightroom Classic CC. The ability to pass tasks seamlessly between devices, between contexts, and between coworkers is increasingly important. That's why Adobe Lightroom remains our pick for the best photo editing and management application for mainstream users.

Pro Tip for Lightroom Users

With Lightroom CC you can access and edit your RAW files from any device. It also allows you to sync your presets across devices. This feature is not available in Lightroom Classic.

Did you Know?

Unlike iCloud Photo Library, Lightroom CC lets you manage storage very precisely, so you can explicitly choose which albums should be stored locally and which should remain in the cloud until you call them down. This is crucial for phones and tablets, where storage space is often at a premium.

[Read our full review of Lightroom »](#)

Easy and Powerful iPad Editing

VSCO

Why we love it

One of the most popular tools for editing on the go is an app called VSCO. VSCO is well-known for having some of the best preset filters on the market. The app itself is also a powerful editing environment and even has its own social network. It is simple enough for anyone to use, yet powerful enough to satisfy even the most advanced photo editors.

Pro Tip

For \$20 a year you can access all the new VSCO X presets. Not only do you get access to the new presets, you also get access to their entire back catalog of other presets which you'd otherwise have to buy in packs individually.

Did you Know?

The social network aspect of VSCO allows you to follow other creators. But it also gives you the ability to see what VSCO filter they used to create their image. This can be a fun way to discover new looks filter that you may not have tried.

[Read more about VSCO in Shawn Blanc's iPad Photography Workflow »](#)

The Best Cloud Photo Management Solution

iCloud Photo Library

Why we love it

By enabling iCloud Photo Library, you can have *all* your photos on *all* of your devices. It makes sharing photos easy with native access to the share sheet. And with the built in Memories feature, it's easy to re-discover treasures from yesteryear.

Pro Tip

We highly recommend upgrading your iCloud storage tier. The default, free tier for iCloud storage is abysmal. And with all the photos — plus device backups and other files — that you can store in iCloud, we believe it's worth the subscription to upgrade your storage. Plus: your additional iCloud storage is also available for those in your Family Sharing group.

Did you Know?

Thanks to the Files app on iOS, you can access files that are on your Mac or on other devices. It's a convenient and reliable way to make sure all your files are available to you no matter what device you're on.

[Read our full review of iCloud Photo Library »](#)



Advanced Mobile Editing

Snapseed

Why we love it

Snapseed is designed around editing one photo at a time and presents some pretty robust tools. The interface is based around different gestures that allows users to easily make fine adjustments with traditional photo editing tools. It also has some unique AI-assisted photo editing algorithms.

Pro Tip

Taking advantage of Google's powerful AI, you can use the "Expand" tool to intelligently expand the photo canvas. Google fills in those new spaces with content that makes sense and looks like it was in the original image.

Did you Know?

Snapseed has a history icon that allows you to revert your image to a previous edit no matter how far down the line you get. If you end up changing your mind about the direction you've taken a photo, you can always go back to a previous version that's more in line with your style.

We have a full in-depth tutorial of Snapseed in our [Mobile Photography course](#).

Life is too short for crappy apps.

At The Sweet Setup our aim is to help you make the most of your time and attention — both on and *off* your devices...

Every day we publish articles, reviews, tutorials, and guides to help you be more productive and focused.

We've been doing this since 2013. That's why we're trusted by half-a-million website readers every month, tens of thousands of readers on our newsletter, and our work has been referenced by *The New York Times, Inc., Forbes, Entrepreneur, MacStories*, and others.

We also have several products that have helped thousands of iPad, iPhone, and Mac users just like you to become overnight experts in the apps they rely on most.

You can get access to all of our in-depth training courses right here:

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