Using HDR on your iPhone



HDR stands for high dynamic range. Basically it is the ratio of light to dark in a photo. Without HDR, your camera will struggle to get detail in a high contrast scene. In essence the scene you are photographing has a really bright area and a real dark area.

The human eye can see a much greater dynamic range than any camera. You can easily see the details of a dark subject against a bright sky.

HDR is where the iPhone really shines. When HDR is turned on, the iPhone will take 3 pictures (one really bright, one really dark and the other neutral). Then the phone will combine the three into a great looking photo. With iPhone models 8 and beyond, HDR is automatically turned on. Phones below 8, you have to turn HDR on.

HDR is mainly used in landscape, still-life pictures, and pictures with strong shadows or low light. It is not good for scenes with a lot of movement.

