

# HDR Photography

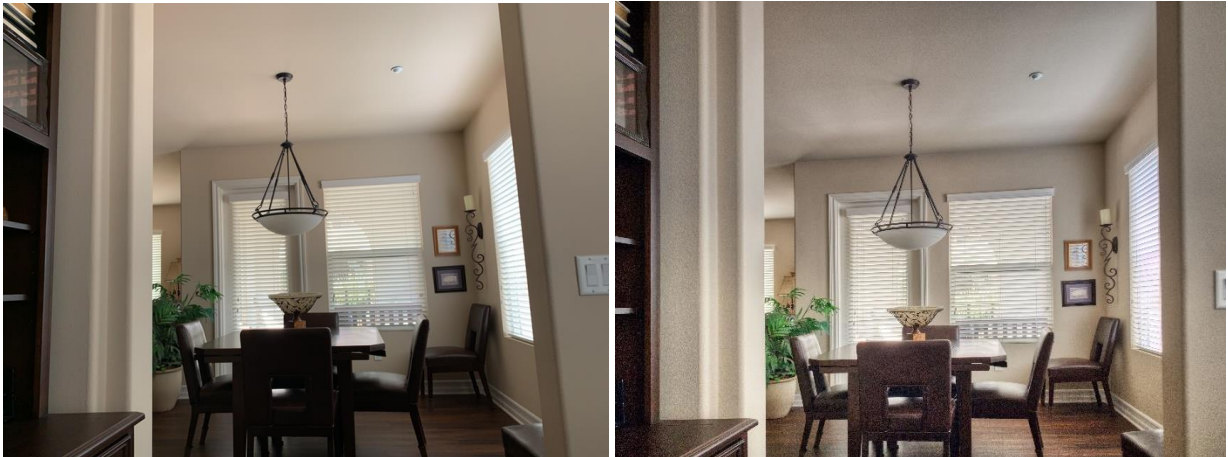
## Introduction

What is HDR or High Dynamic Range photography? It is a technique for increasing the tonal range of a photo or, in everyday English, simply means a high contrast between the lightest and darkest parts of an image.

Why do we need HDR? We need it because our eyes have a wider range for viewing contrast than our cameras. To capture all the highlights and shadows of typical landscape scene, the camera must capture multiple photos with different exposure values and combine them into a single photo, thereby increasing the apparent dynamic range.

## Methods for capturing HDR photos

1. This is the iPhone method
  - a. Several photos are combined into a single photo. You have the option to keep the normal photo in addition to the HDR photo. Go to Settings, Camera and here you can turn Smart HDR on or off. With it on, the camera decides when to use HDR. With it off, you decide from within the Camera App. If you also save the normal photo, this requires twice the storage.
2. Take a sequence of bracketed photos and save them. A 3<sup>rd</sup> party App such as Camera Pixels will do this. The App costs \$5.99 and can be seen [here](#). Once you have the multiple exposures, they must be combined using HDR software on your PC. Below is a non-HDR photo on the left and an HDR photo created with Aurora HDR on the right. This camera App can take DNG (RAW), HEIC or JPG file types. RAW files provide more latitude in the editing process.



3. Take a sequence of bracketed photos and combine them. A 3<sup>rd</sup> party App such as ProCamera will do this. The App costs \$5.99 and can be seen [here](#). Below is a sample HDR photo.



## What settings should you use on your iPhone?

If you use the Smart HDR setting, I've found that the camera doesn't always make the best choice. I turn this off and choose when to use HDR from within the camera app. Remember, this is only necessary when the scene has a lot of dynamic range such as a brightly lit landscape or beach scene.

## How to tell when you're viewing an HDR photo in the Photos App

With a photo opened, you can see the HDR icon at the top as shown below.

