Snapseed – A Simple Guide to Editing Your Photos

Snapseed is a free photo-editing app from Google. It works on both **iPhone and Android** and is particularly good for making quick, natural-looking improvements to your photographs.

1. Open a photograph

- Open **Snapseed**.
- Tap **+** or **Open**.
- Choose the photograph you want to edit.

2. Start with Tune (Adjust) Image ⭐

Tap **Tools → Tune Image**.

Swipe **up or down** to choose an adjustment, then **left or right** to change it.

The most useful adjustments are:

- **Brightness** – makes the whole photo lighter or darker.
- **Contrast** – increases or reduces the difference between light and dark.
- **Ambiance** – brings out detail and improves overall balance.
- **Highlights** – darkens very bright areas such as clouds.
- **Shadows** – lightens dark areas.
- **Saturation** – increases or reduces colour.

Tip: Small adjustments usually look more natural than big ones.

3. Improve the composition – Crop

Go to **Tools → Crop**.

Try:

- Removing unwanted areas around the edges.
- Straightening a wonky horizon.
- Using **4:3** or **16:9** for different shapes.

Tip: Don't be afraid to crop quite tightly if it makes the main subject stronger.

4. Bring out detail – Details

Go to **Tools → Details**.

Use:

- **Structure** – adds texture and definition.
- **Sharpening** – makes edges appear clearer.

Tip: Use these sparingly. Too much can make a photograph look harsh.

5. Selective adjustments

Go to **Tools → Selective**.

Tap an area of the photograph and you can adjust:

- Brightness
- Contrast
- Saturation
- Structure

This is great for **brightening a foreground**, bringing out a **cloudy sky**, or adding colour to a particular part of a landscape.

6. Remove unwanted objects

Go to **Tools → Healing**.

Simply brush over a small unwanted object, such as:

- A litter bin
- Telephone wire
- Small person in the distance
- Dust spot

Snapseed will try to replace it with surrounding detail.

7. Check your changes

Tap the **before/after icon** to compare your edited photograph with the original.

Ask yourself:

"Does this look better – or have I just made it different?"

If an adjustment doesn't work, tap **Undo**.

8. Save your finished photograph

Tap **Export**.

Choose **Save a copy** if you want to keep your original photograph unchanged.

9. Share your edited photo using Snapseed and WhatsApp.

When you have finished making all your adjustments and you're happy with the image tap on EXPORT and then on the Export page, scroll down until you see a a large green oblong with, SHARE. Tap on SHARE. This will then give you a number of different opportunities to share the image.

Tap on Berwyn u3a Phone Camera Group. This will take you to your picture with a box where you can add some text such as the location, what editing you did, what you like about the picture etc.

Finally tap the green arrow in the bottom right hand corner and your photo will be sent to our Whatssap Group.

Summary: A simple Snapseed workflow

CROP → ADJUST MAGE → DETAILS → SELECTIVE → HEALING → CHECK → EXPORT

🌟 Golden Rule

Edit to improve the photograph, not to show off the editing!

Natural-looking photographs usually have the greatest impact.