new gear & tech



ELEVATE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Drones allow you to capture photos and videos from perspectives that you simply can't get any other way. Drone use is regulated pretty much everywhere, so you need to know the rules that apply to your location, but once you've handled that, they can open up exciting ways to catch the action.

There are many drones to choose from these days, ranging from very basic toys to sophisticated aircraft designed for experienced, trained users. The **DJI Mavic Air 2** hits a sweet spot for photographers, with strong imaging capabilities, helpful automations and a reasonably affordable price.

The camera in the Mavic Air 2 is a 1/2-inch, 12-megapixel sensor that can produce 12-megapixel stills and also 48-megapixel stills in some modes (by combining multiple exposures into a single frame), as well as 4K video. The SmartPhoto mode uses scene recognition, HDR and HyperLight (low-light compensation) technologies to optimize your exposure results in tricky lighting conditions.

Usability is another reason we like this drone for photographers. It has a 34-minute flight time per charge and includes several features to help novice flyers avoid problems. For example, the Advanced Pilot Assistance Systems (APAS) 3.0 maps out the drone's surroundings to avoid obstacles automatically. The Mavic Air 2 also includes technologies to help you get the shot, especially when recording video, with the ability to track and maintain focus on a specific moving subject. List price: \$799. **Contact:** DJI, dji.com.



