

Astrophotography Guide for Snapdragon Insiders

Hi, I'm Snapdragon Insider Bhaumik! I put together this guide to help take incredible photos of the stars during this year's Snapdragon Summit.

What you'll need: A phone powered by Snapdragon (ideally a Samsung Galaxy S26 Ultra), tripod, intervalometer app (optional)

Best time: Milky Way core visibility peaks between 7:37 PM – 11:18 PM

Best locations:



Beach area
between Umalu and
Waikomo Shave Ice
(Kā'anapali Beach)



Beach area near
Pau Huaka'i



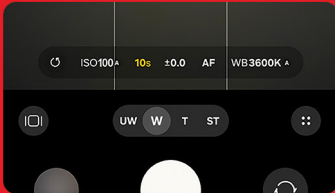
Haleakala
Summit/Haleakala
Observatory Area,
Haleakala National

by Bhaumik Bheda

📷: @bhaumik_bheda 📧: @BhaumikBheda1

How to shoot:

1. Set up your phone on the tripod facing southwest.
2. Open your camera and set it to "Pro" mode. Use the main (wide) lens for best results [f/1.4].
3. Adjust your settings. Here's what I use:



Shutter Speed = 10 seconds
Focus = AF
White Balance = Auto
Exposure = ± 0.0

4. Snap a photo!
5. See what you captured. If it's not quite right, adjust your settings and try again. (Check out the tips below!)
6. Share your photos and tag **#ShotOnSnapdragon!**

**Note: This guide is for taking photos during Snapdragon Summit 2026. If you want to take photos in other locations at other times, you may need to make adjustments.*

Hacks for improving results

1. Use Manual Focus (with Focus Peaking actively) to force the camera to focus on the stars/Milky Way core. For best results, increase ISO to the highest value, set the focus, and roll back the ISO.
2. If the image is underexposed, increase the ISO to 1250/1600 and/or adjust the Shutter Speed to 15/20 seconds. If the image is overexposed, decrease the Shutter Speed to 8 seconds and/or ISO to 800.
3. Use an intervalometer app to capture images over time. This will prevent camera shakes from manual tapping and create a smooth timelapse video.
4. Since the moon phase is in its waxing gibbous phase, it might be challenging to capture the full Milky Way core. Make sure to review the images at a particular ISO/SS combination before initiating the intervalometer app.