

Tips For iPhone Night Photography

Tips For Amazing iPhone Night Photography

Do you struggle to **take good iPhone photos when you shoot at night?**

Do your night pictures end up grainy or blurred?

Shooting in low light can be challenging. But with a few simple tricks, you can dramatically improve your night photography.

Use iPhone 11 Night Mode To Capture Colour & Detail

The [iPhone 11 Camera app](#) has an amazing new feature called [Night mode](#).

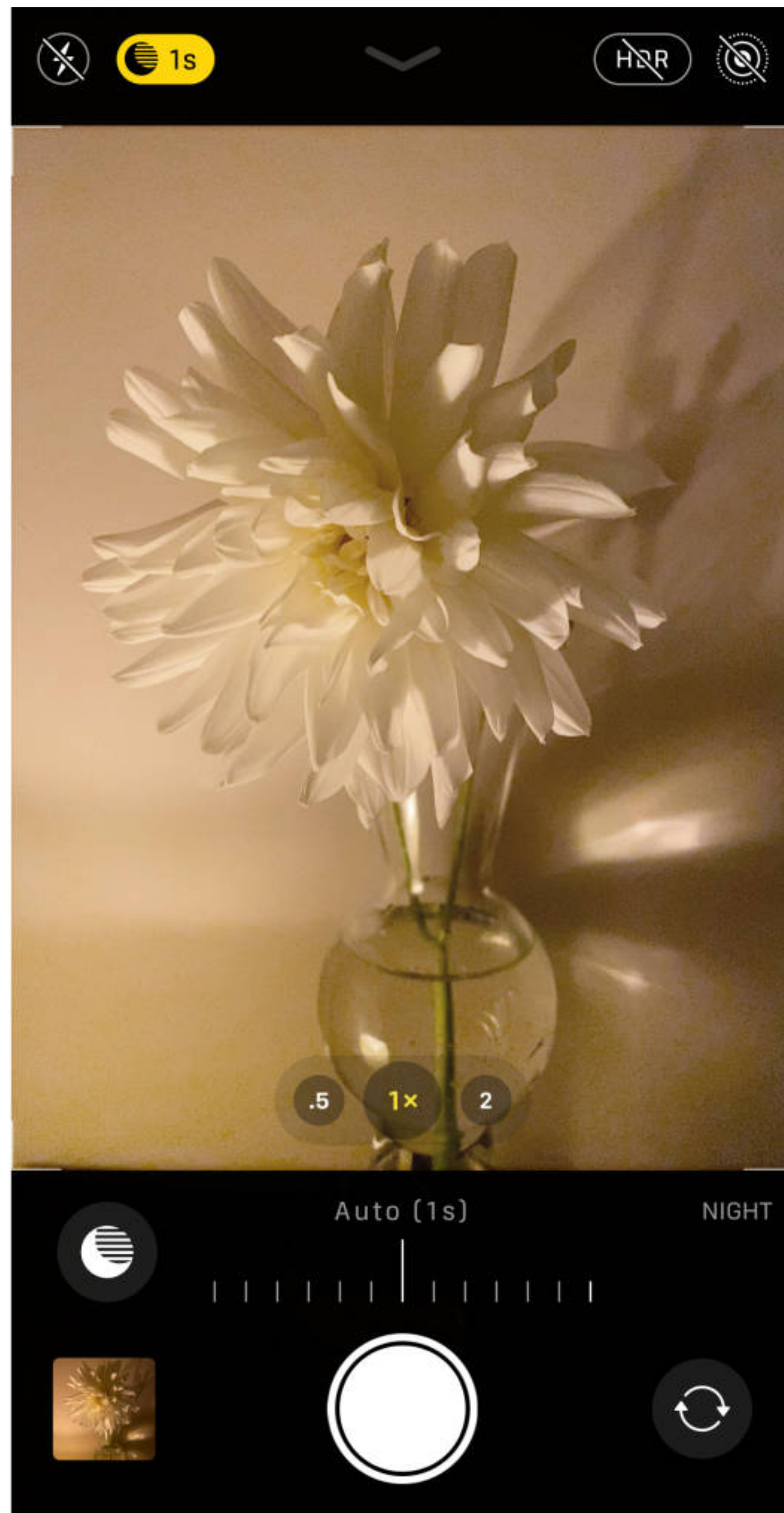
Night mode uses intelligent software to create sharp, grain-free photos with incredible colour and detail.

It works by capturing multiple shots over several seconds.

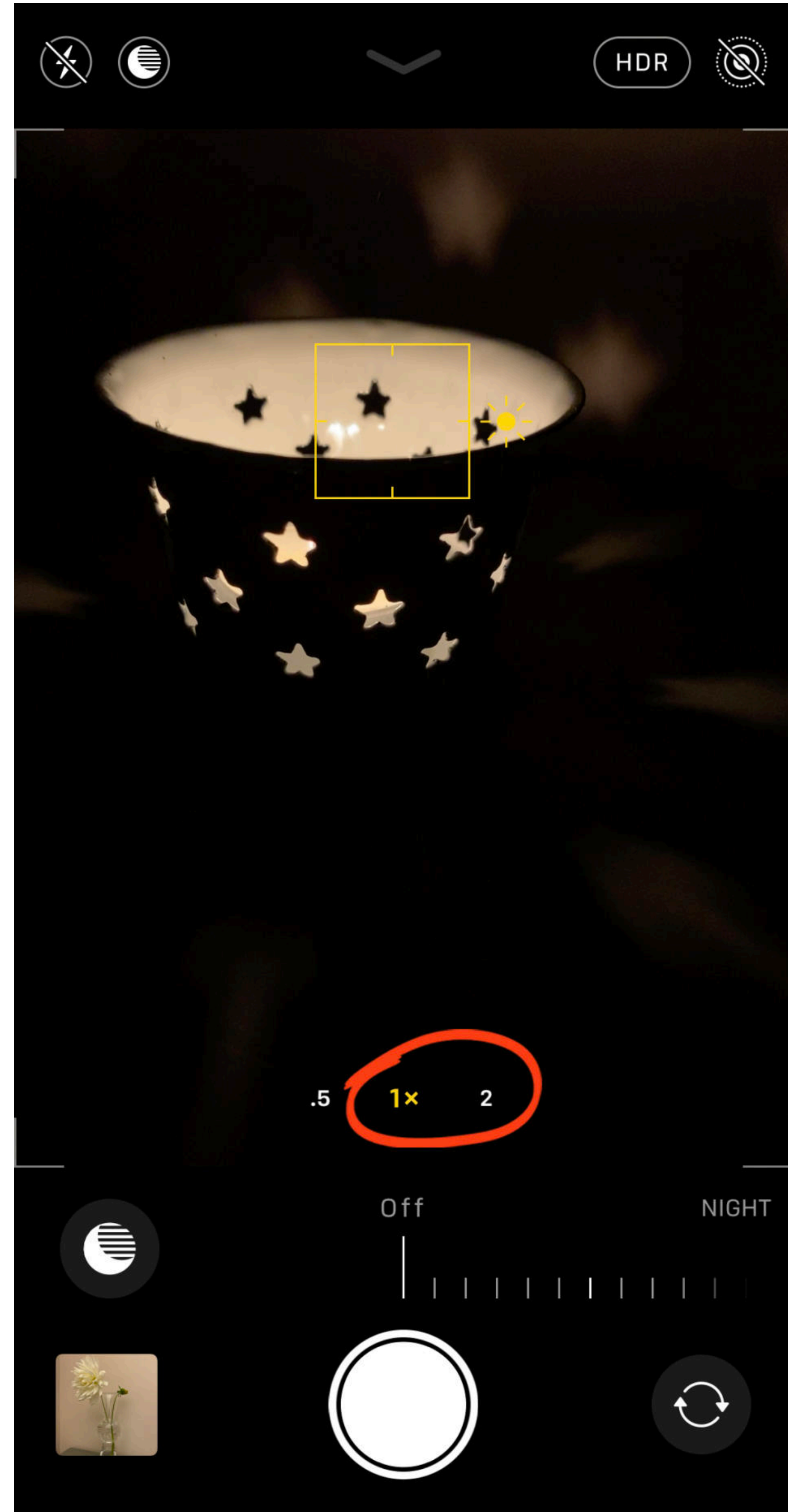
The iPhone then blends the images into a single high-quality photo.

Night Mode Icon



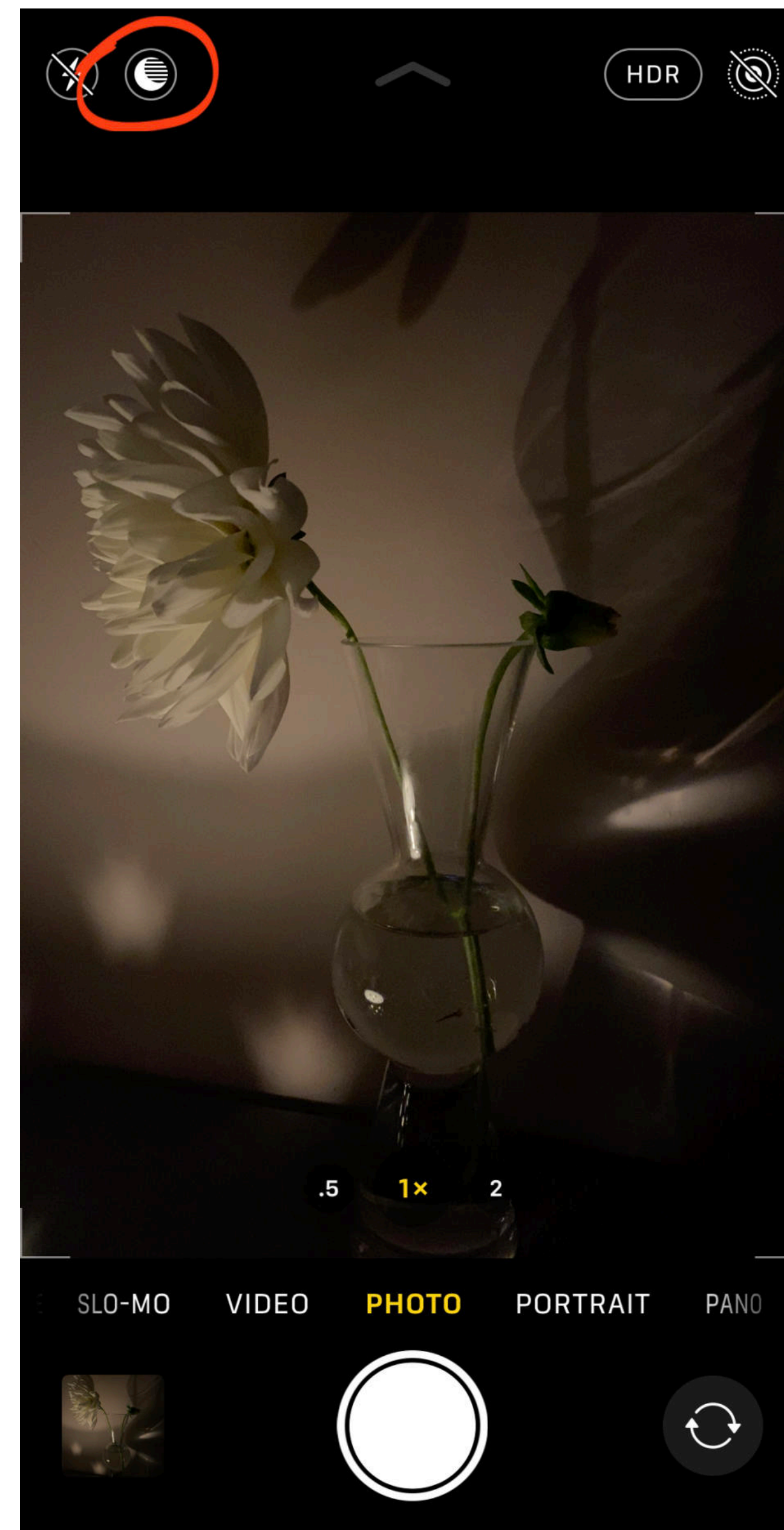


Just make sure you're shooting
with the **1x Wide lens**
or the **2x Telephoto lens**.
Night mode won't work
with the **0.5x Ultra Wide lens**.



You also need to ensure you have some kind of light in the scene. Night mode won't produce good results in complete darkness. Lamps, candles, street lights, illuminated windows, or bright moonlight can be used to illuminate the scene.

When the iPhone detects that you're shooting in low light, the **Night mode** (moon) icon will appear at the top of the Camera app.

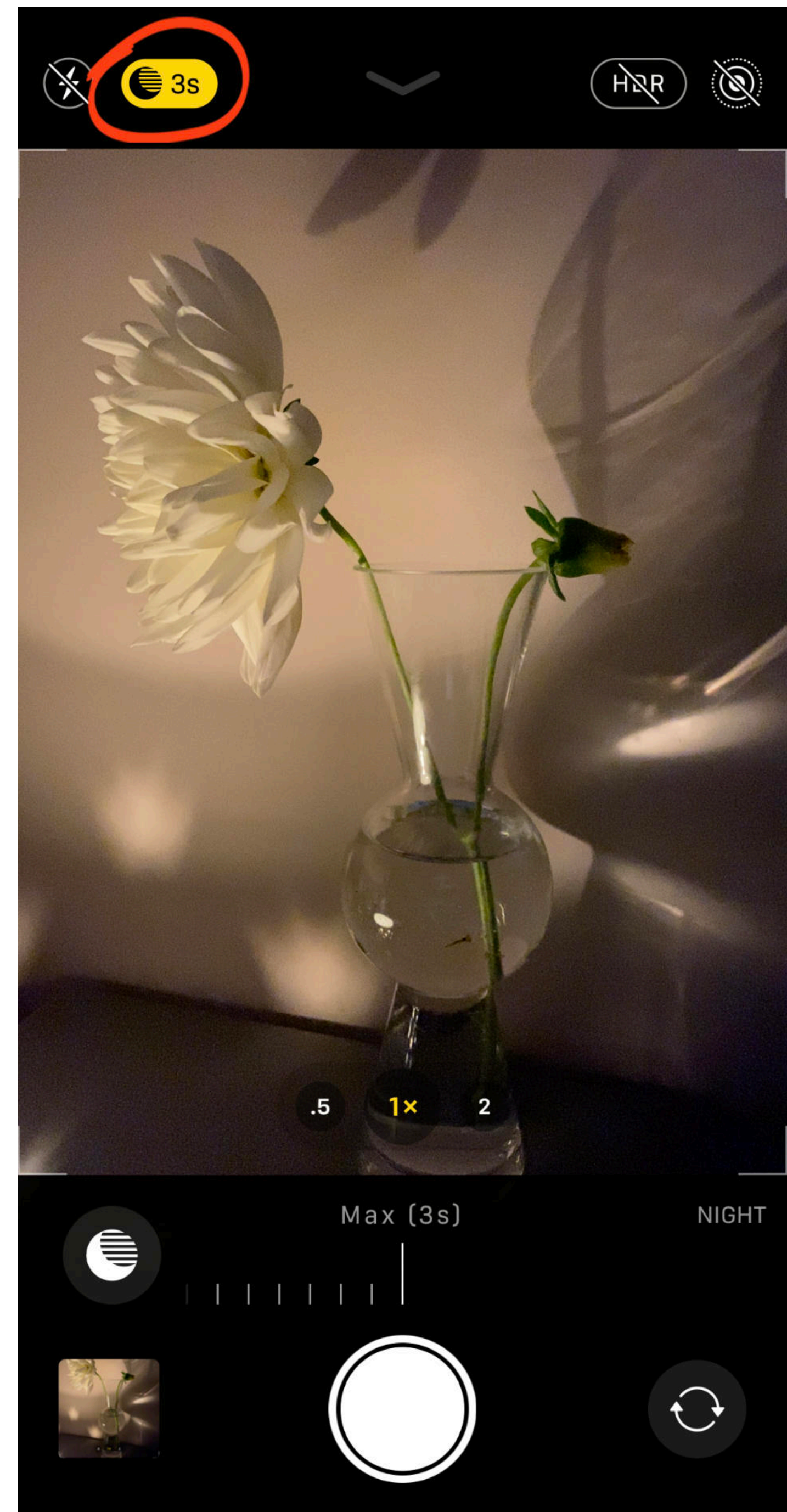


If the light is fairly low but not too dark, the icon will be white.

This means Night mode isn't actually switched on yet, but you can activate it if you wish.

To switch on Night mode, tap the white **Night mode** icon so it turns yellow.

Note that if the light is very low, Night mode will automatically switch on and the icon will appear yellow.

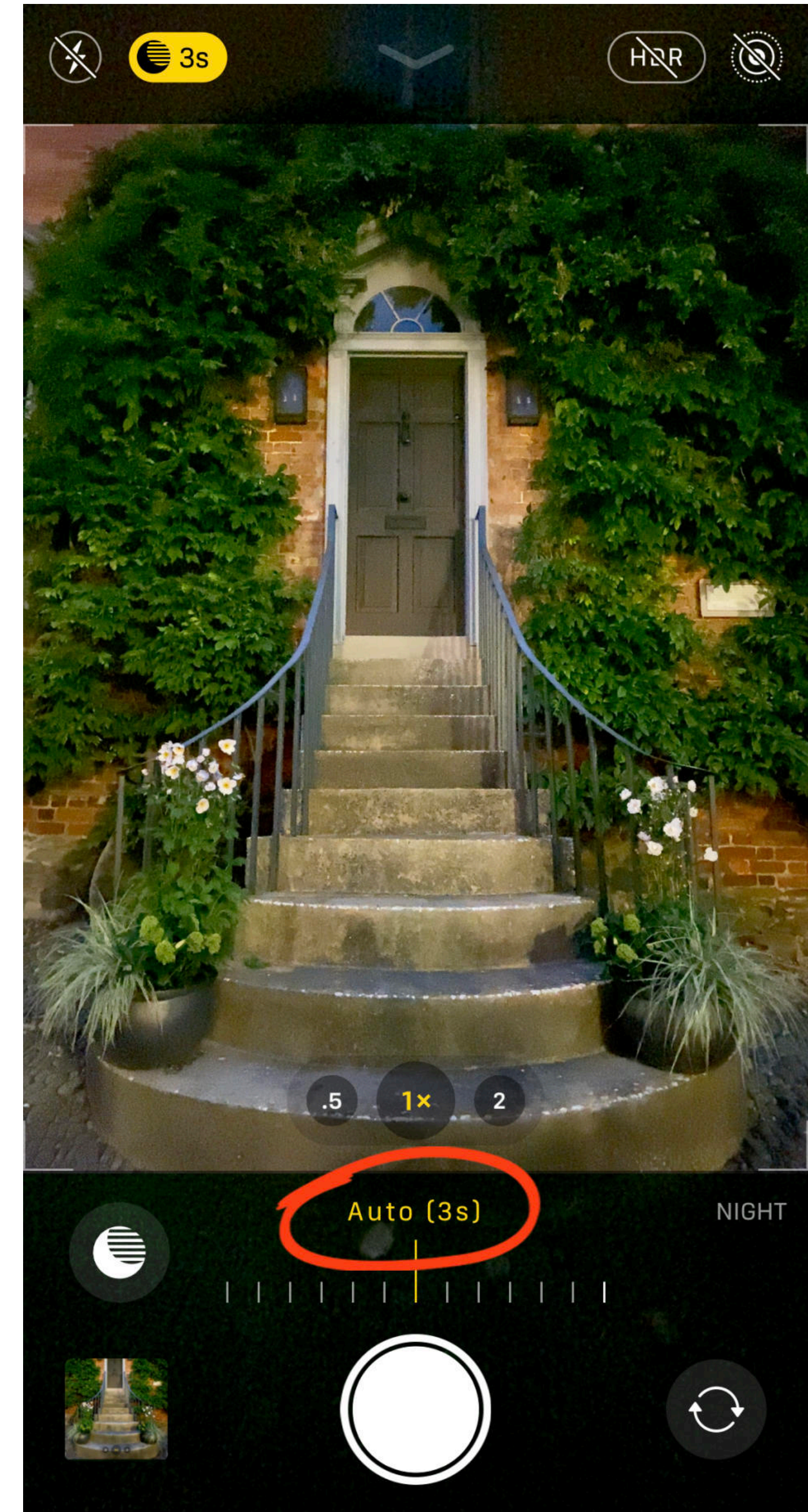


The number on the **Night mode** icon indicates the exposure time.

This is the number of seconds it will take to capture the photo, e.g., 3 seconds, 5 seconds, etc.

Beneath the viewfinder is the **Exposure Time** slider.

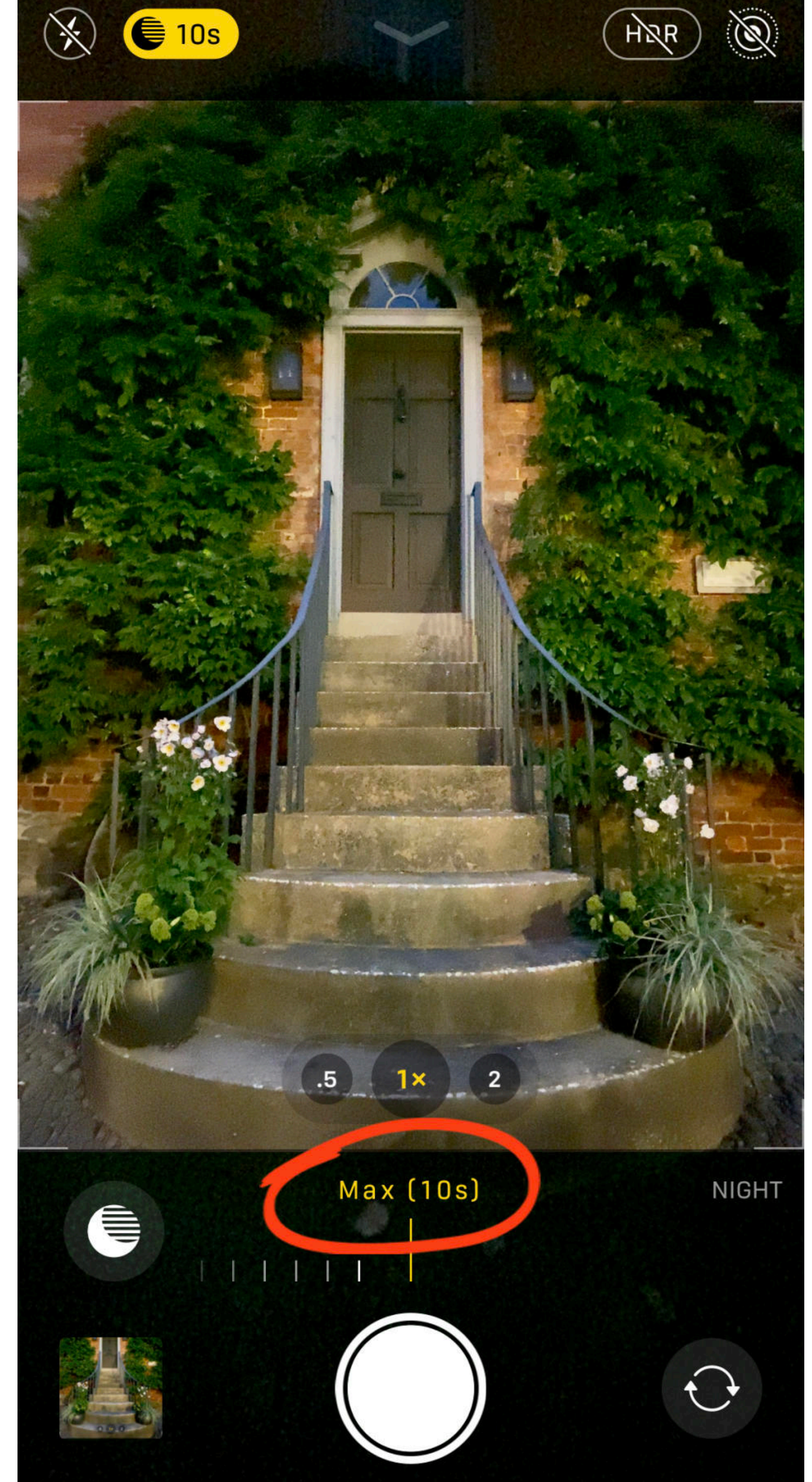
(If you can't see the slider, tap the yellow **Night mode** icon at the top of the screen.)



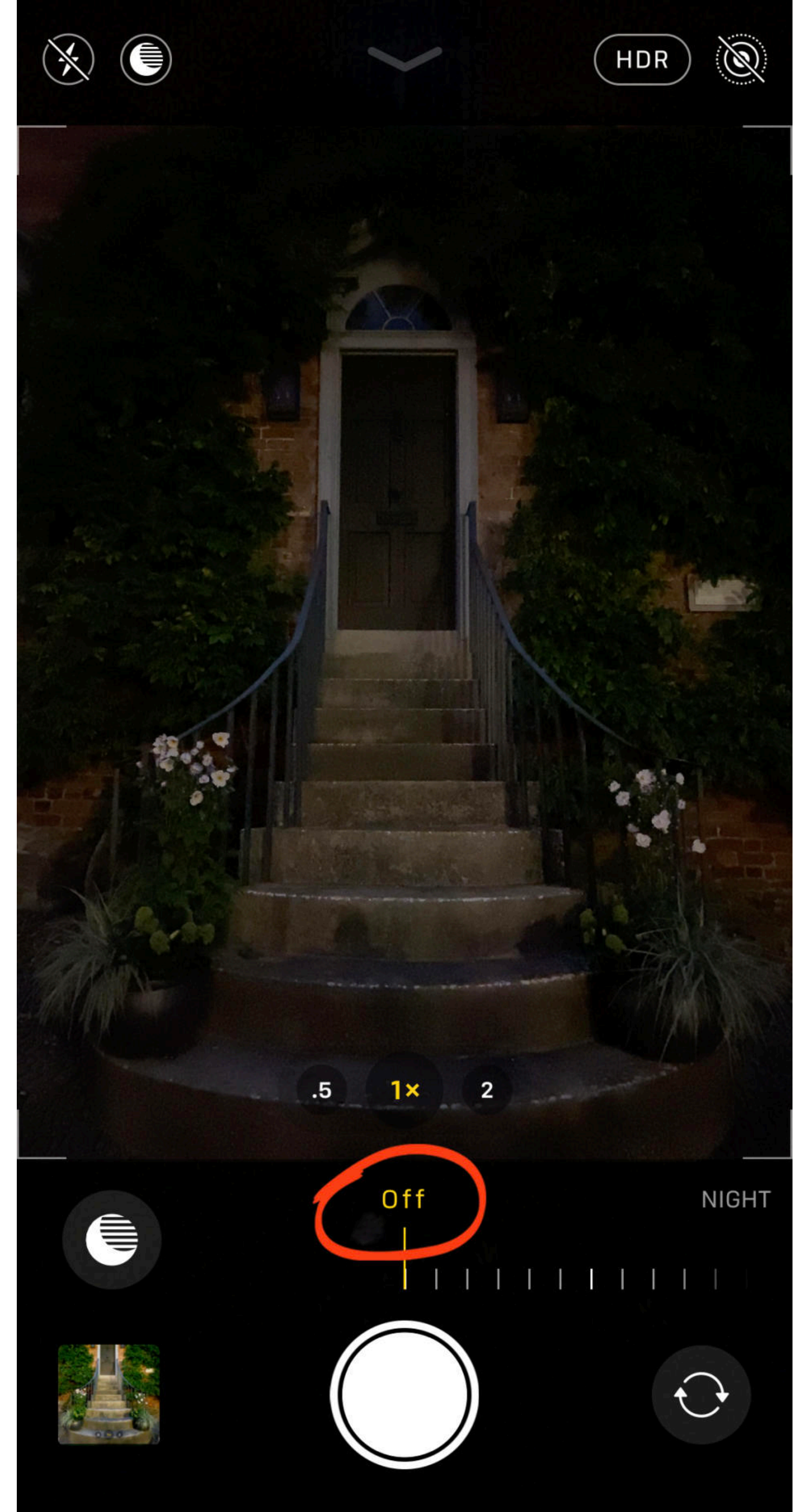
You can use the **Auto** exposure time if you wish.

Or you can drag the slider to the right

to increase it to the **Max** exposure time.



The maximum exposure time varies depending on the amount of light and how still you're holding the camera. If you want to switch off Night mode, drag the slider left to the **Off** setting.

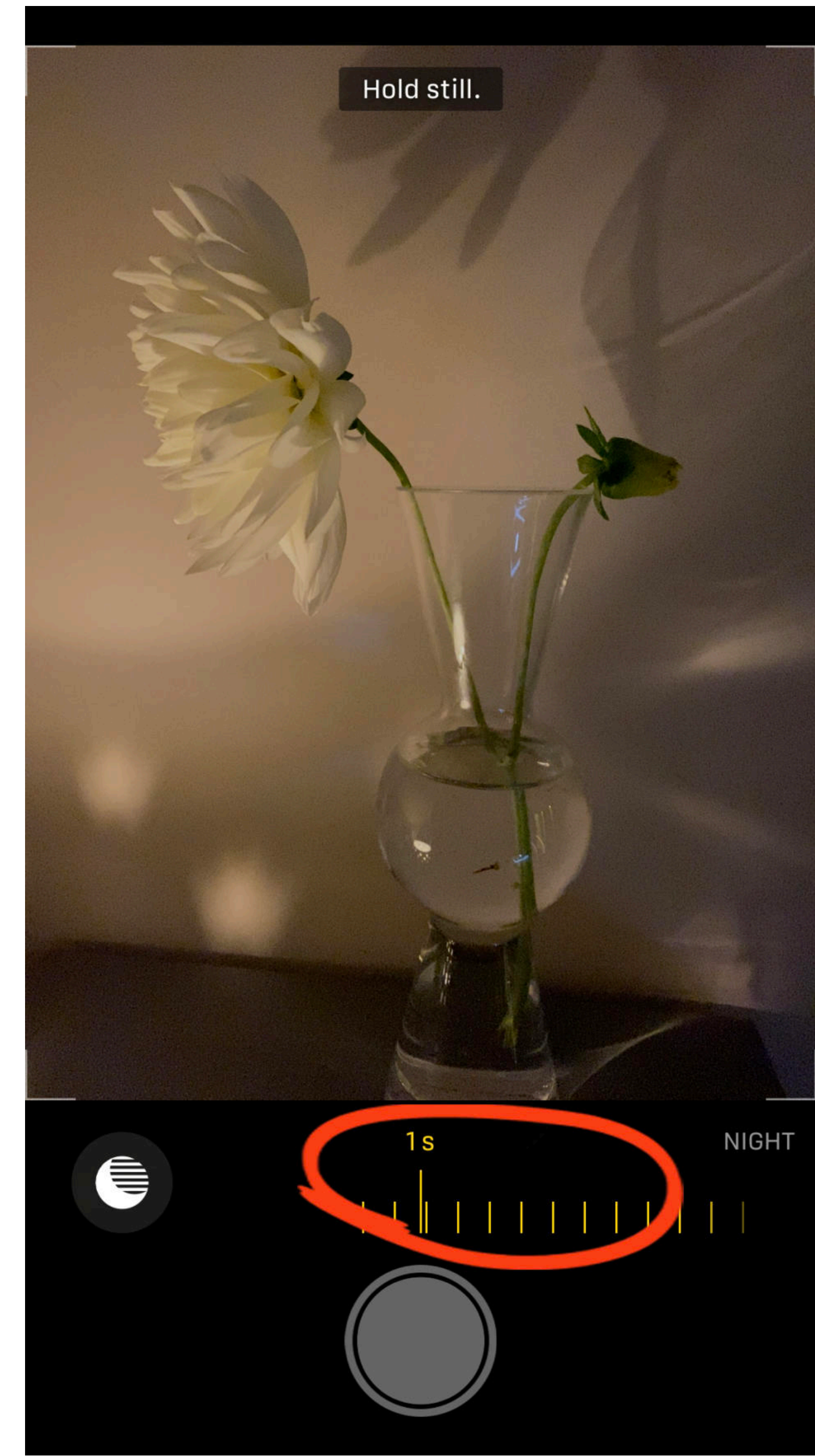


Once you've selected the exposure time you want to use, press the shutter button to take the photo

The yellow slider at the bottom of the screen will count down the exposure time.

Ensure you hold your iPhone still until the shot is complete.

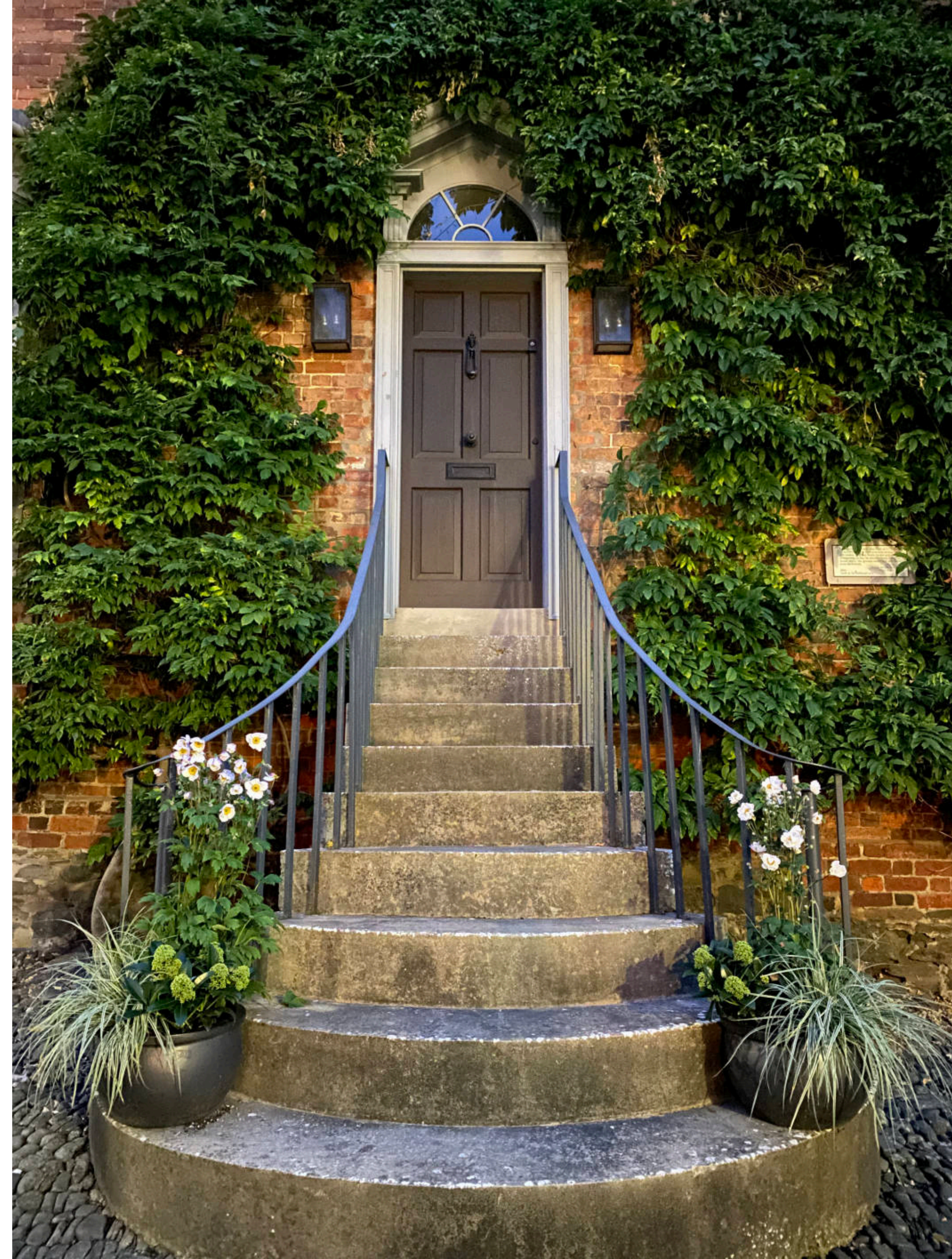
The steadier you hold your camera, the sharper your picture will be.

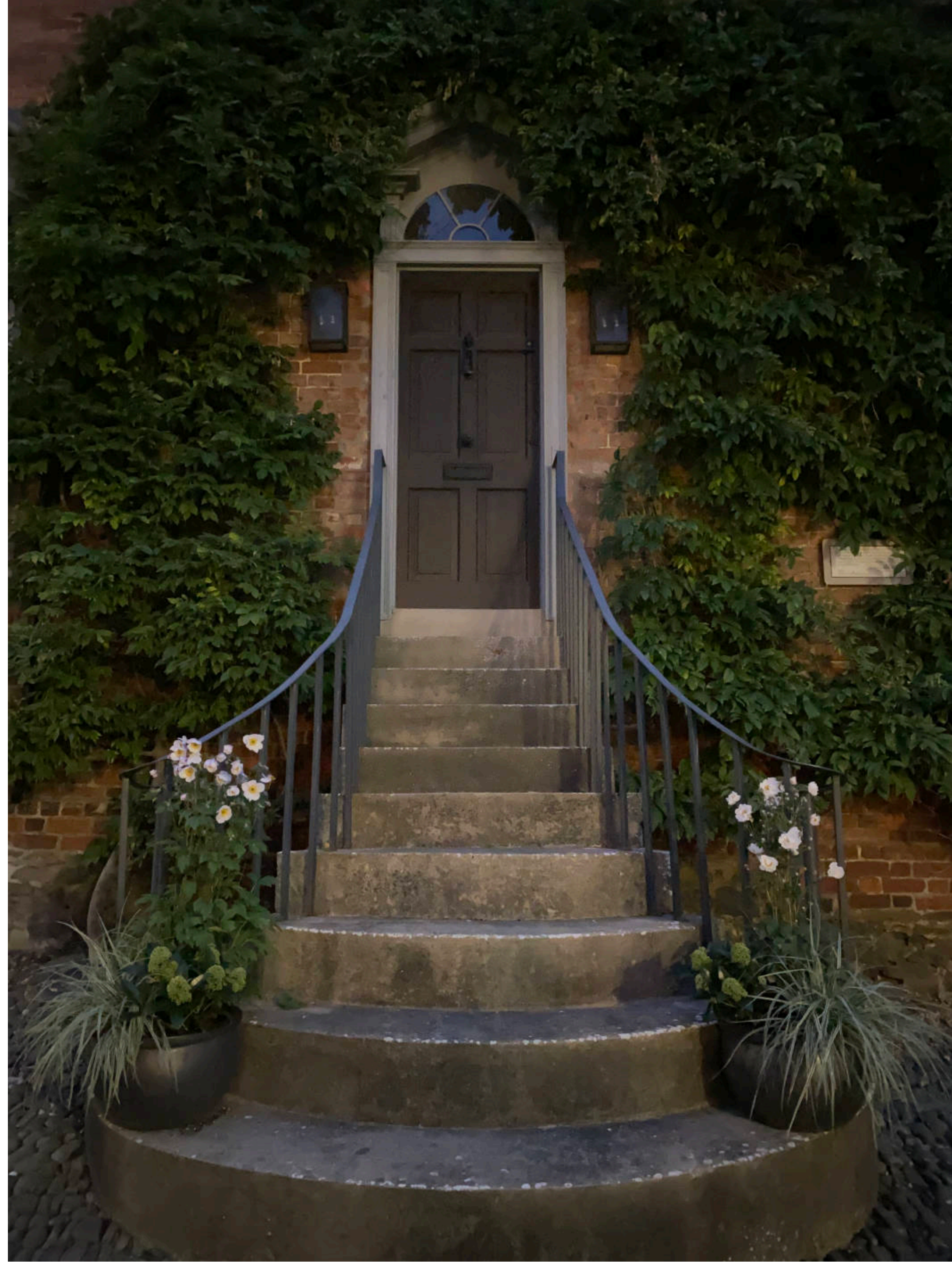


This photo was shot at night with just a couple of streetlamps illuminating the building.

For comparison, below is the same building captured without using Night mode.

The image is much darker and the colours are less vibrant.





But what if you have an older iPhone without Night mode?

Don't worry! You can still take spectacular night photos.

Just use the following tips...

Keep Your iPhone Camera Steady For Sharp, Shake-Free Shots

First, let me explain why low light photos often end up blurred.

When there's not much light in the scene, the camera uses a slower shutter speed.

Shutter speed is the amount of time the camera's shutter remains open when taking a photo. The longer the shutter is open, the more light gets captured in your photo.

So, in low light, the shutter stays open for longer to capture enough light and detail in your image.

Any movement during the long exposure time will appear as motion blur.

So, to prevent camera shake, you need to keep the iPhone really steady as you take your shot.

Reduce Exposure In The Camera App

Exposure refers to the brightness of a photo. Reducing exposure makes the image darker – which is exactly what you need for a great night photo.

To reduce exposure in the Camera app, start by [tapping to set focus](#) on the part of the scene you want sharp.

Then simply swipe down to make the image darker.

You want the dark areas, such as the sky and shadows, to appear black or very dark. And you want the bright areas to have visible color and detail.

When you're happy with the exposure level, press the shutter button to take your picture

Shoot in Well-Lit Areas That Illuminate The Scene

If you shoot in the dark with no light at all, your iPhone night photos won't turn out well.

There has to be some kind of light to illuminate your subject.

Look out for street lights and illuminated buildings, storefronts, or billboards.

You can even use car headlights, candles, or lanterns as your light source.

Anything that creates light in the scene is great for night photography.

For night [portrait photography](#), position your subject so that the light illuminates their face.

You could light up their entire face from the front. Or you could position them side-on to the light. Side-lighting will result in half of their face being lit up, while the other half appears in shadow.



To create a silhouette, position your subject with the light source behind them (as shown below).



Shoot Around Sunrise & Sunset

Shooting around sunrise and [sunset](#) is especially effective when you have clouds in the sky.



You can also use the light of the sun on the horizon to create stunning silhouette photos.



Try boosting the colour saturation or adjusting the warmth to make the most of the amazing colours.



Shoot In The Rain For More Creative Night Photos

Taking night photos in the [rain](#) might not sound that appealing!

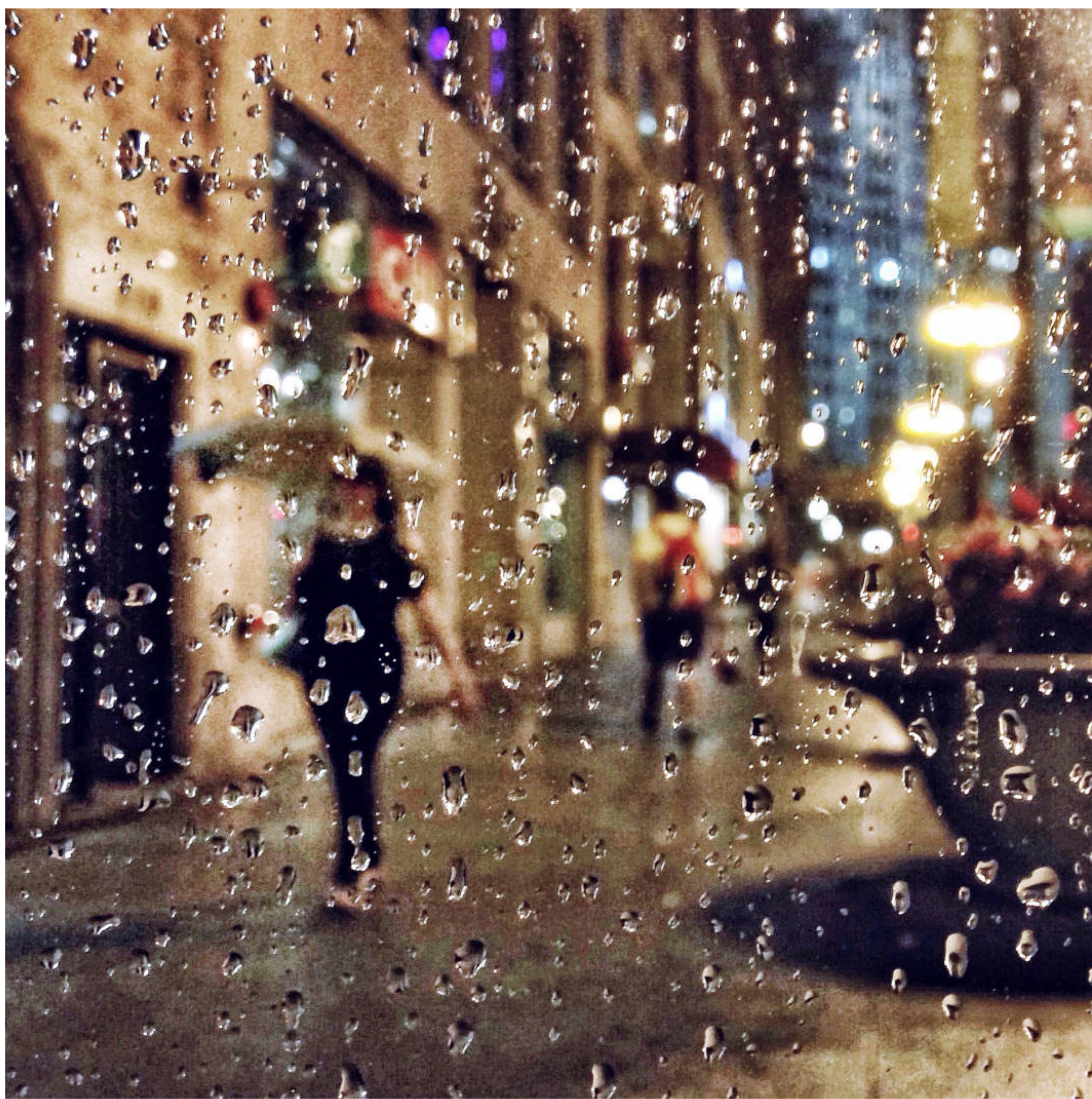
But it can actually be a fun experience. And you can capture some really creative photos on a rainy night.

Find a scene where there are streetlights and people walking by, then hold your iPhone fairly close to the glass.

Tap to set focus on the water droplets. The droplets will appear sharp and the background will become blurred.

Reduce the exposure if necessary so that the highlights aren't over-exposed.

Then wait for the perfect moment when someone walks past with an umbrella.



Use Lights To Frame Your Subject

Another way to create powerful compositions is to use something in the scene to **frame your subject**.

In daylight, you could use an archway, a door frame, or even the branches of an overhanging tree.

But at night, you can use lights as framing elements in your photo.



Experiment With Long Exposure Photography At Night

Night time is one of the best opportunities for creating amazing [long exposure photos](#).

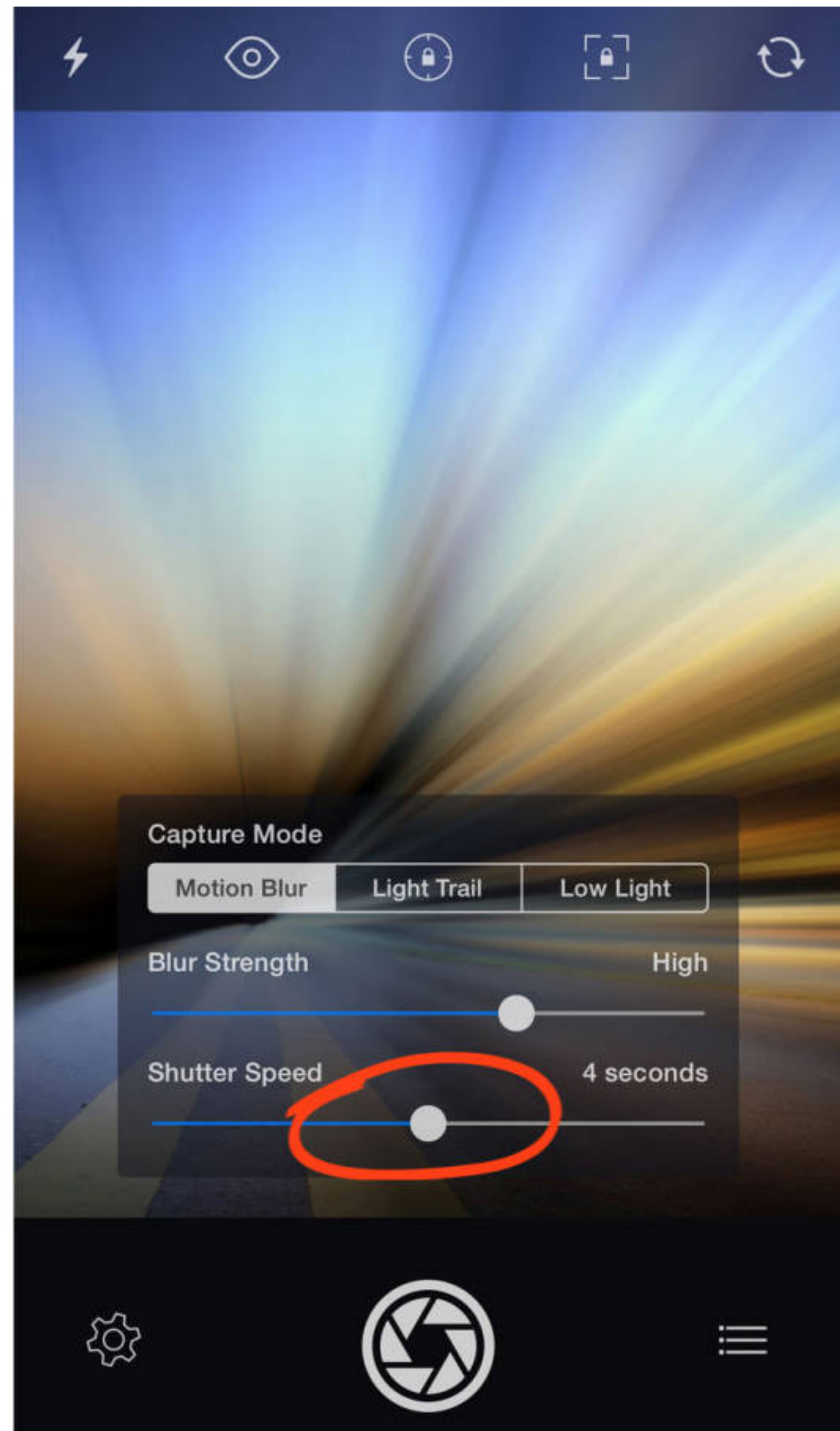
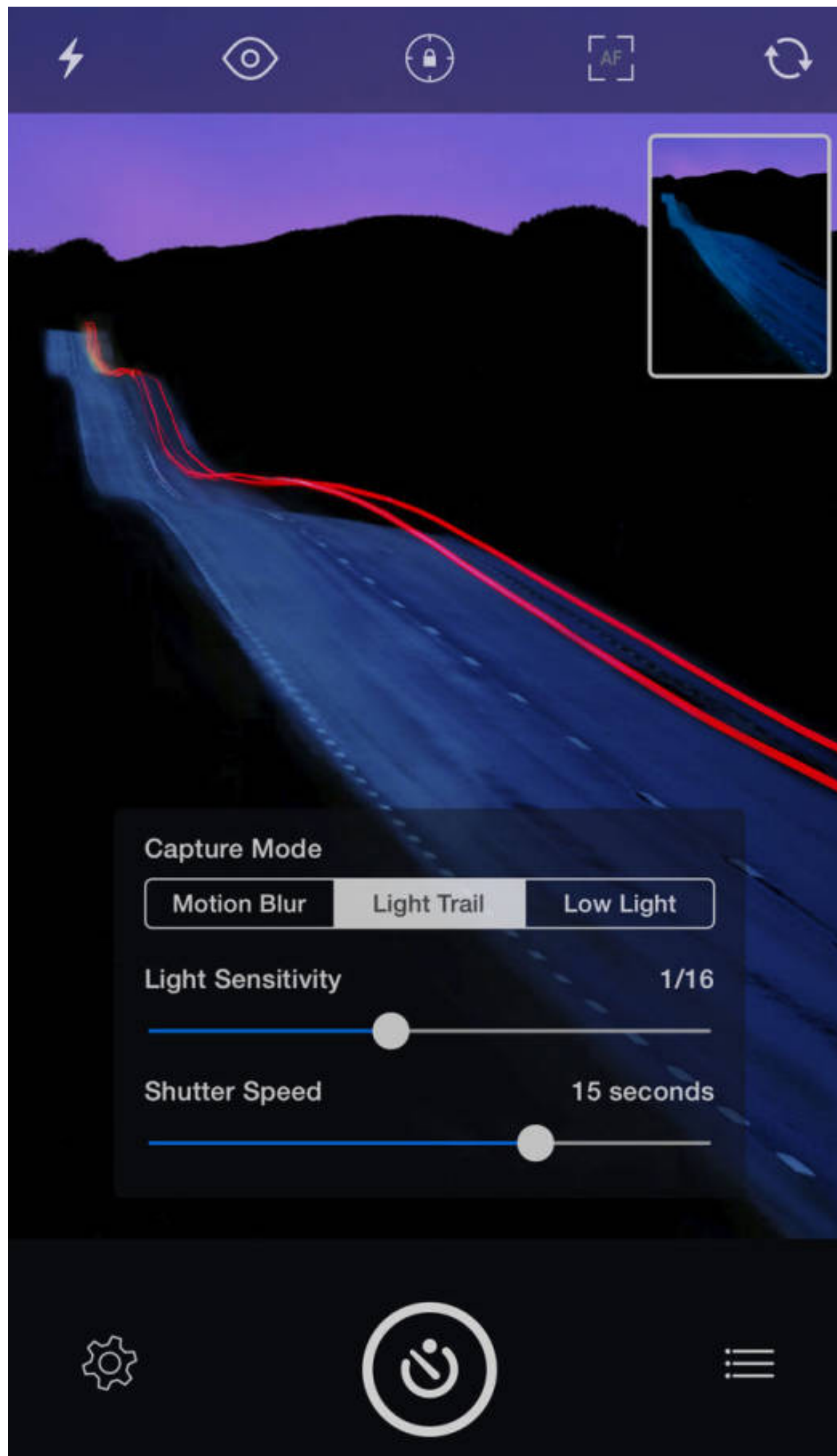
A long exposure photo captures any movement in the scene as a blur.

Moving trains and cars are perfect for creating long exposure shots.



First of all, you'll need an app that lets you use a slow shutter speed. [Slow Shutter Cam](#) is a dedicated long exposure app. And it's perfect for this kind of photography.

You choose what kind of long exposure photo you want to capture (**Motion Blur**, **Light Trail**, or **Low Light**). And then you adjust **Blur Strength** and **Shutter Speed** to create the desired long exposure effect.



When you press the shutter button, the app shoots a series of images in quick succession. It then blends them together to create a long exposure photo that captures the movement. Because of the long exposure time, it's essential that you keep your iPhone perfectly still.

it's recommended that you use an iPhone tripod when shooting long exposures.



Convert Your Night Photos To Black & White

You can also improve your night photos *after* taking the picture.

many night photos lack impact in colour. And that's when you can try [converting them to black and white in post-processing](#).

Most photo editing apps allow you to turn your iPhone photos black and white.

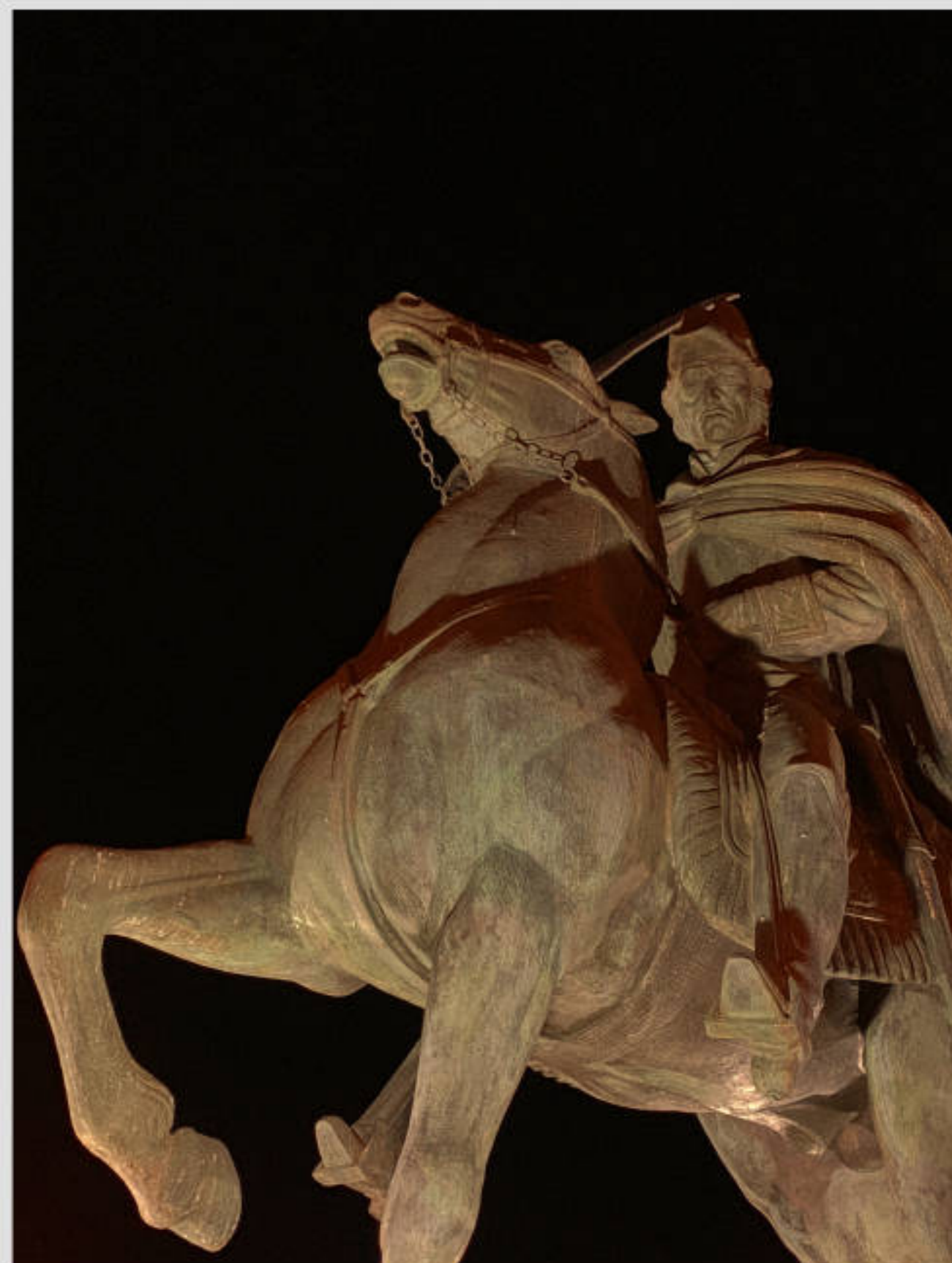
Night photos are particularly well suited to black and white.

Because black and white images work best when the scene has high contrast.

In other words, you need to have bright highlights and dark shadows in the picture.

Converting to black and white also solves problems with warm color casts that you get from street lights.

OPEN

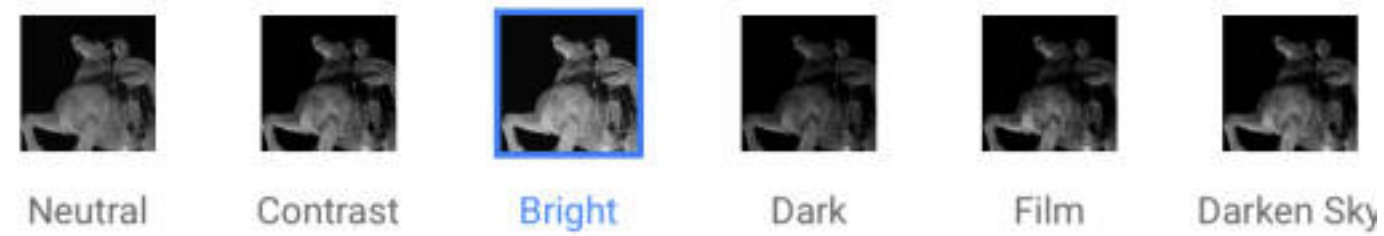


LOOKS

TOOLS

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Brightness +20



Images and Tips from iPhone Photography School .com

<https://iphonephotographyschool.com/shoot-at-night/>