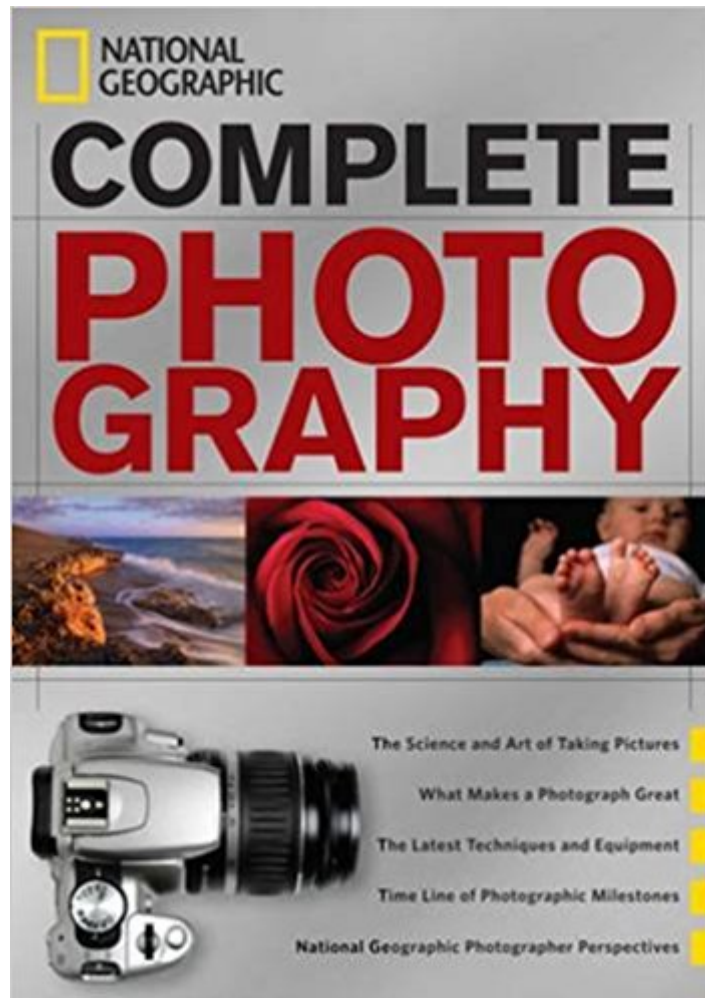




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# National Geographic Complete Photography



## Synopsis

A comprehensive illustrated reference about photography and the camera, this book combines how-to advice, knowledgeable commentary, and useful tips on how to take and look at photographs. Not just a how-to book, it is a how-does-it-work book, focusing on cameras, photographs, and photographers. Throughout, voices and photographs from the greatest of National Geographic photographers add authority to these pages. Chapters build from camera basics—like how a digital camera works, what different lenses do, and the definition of exposure—to advanced and specific techniques—such as taking the best family candids, underwater photography, or techniques for capturing fireworks on film. Every chapter includes a feature called "My Perspective," highlighting a National Geographic photographer and his or her work with a personal note on photography. Every chapter ends with a feature called "What Makes This Photograph Great?"—twelve different iconic National Geographic photographs are analyzed thoroughly for their subject matter, composition, lighting and exposure—by James P. Blair, longtime National Geographic photographer. A fascinating illustrated timeline of photography places milestone moments in the developing technology and art of photography into historic context. With something for everyone, novice and experienced amateur alike, designed in such a way that a reader can dip in and out of page after page, this complete reference will become a family favorite, to which young and old will refer over and over for years to come.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“The book is clearly written, full of beautiful photos, and includes a glossary and list of resources for further reading.”  
• Book News

Scott Stuckey is managing editor of National Geographic Traveler magazine, author of a magazine column on panoramic photography, and author of National Geographic Ultimate Field Guide to Travel Photography. Contributors James P. Blair and Pritt Vesilind are longtime National Geographic photographers.

Complete Photography offers lots of information over its 400+ pages, but nearly all of it is presented in a sort of magazine sidebar style, with more of a general overview of topics rather than anything bordering on detailed. Personally, I wasn't looking for a basic "how to" manual as I've dozens of books that cover that side of photography. However, I was hoping for more insight and examples of how Nat Geo photogs go about composing/lighting/processing their shots, but, instead, we're only given a handful of one page examples that breakdown WHY it's a good photo, but say nothing as to HOW it was put together. As with most Nat Geo products, the writing is superb and the images are lovely, but it simply doesn't live up to its title or promise.

For the price of this book it should have been a lot better. It is not a How-to book but What-could-be-done book. The text doesn't describe the photos, only in general terms. Very disappointed coming from Nat Geo. It is not a coffee table book as the photos are not big either. Just an average book, not many nuggets to mine here.

This is an amazing book from start to finish. Everything you need to know about photography. Great for a beginner. Worth buying believe me, my son wanted to start taking better pictures and he learned so much from this book! It's a must have!

It's very hard for me to rate this book. I found it simultaneously helpful and enlightening, while being lacking in many ways. This book talks about many different photographic situations and contains fairly disjointed tips about each situation. For example, fast-moving wildlife, moving water, city scenes, etc. Basically, the book tried to cover everything and didn't cover anything thoroughly. However, I actually got some great tips from the book. I also enjoyed the pieces written by and about the various National Geographic photographers about their well-known photos. The book has a definite lack of the "how-to" approach. It shows me a great photo, and tells me why it's great, but it

doesn't tell me how the photographer achieved that. I did get some great ideas from the book, though. I will say it was a thoroughly enjoyable read, but it left me wondering "Ok, this is what I want. How to do I get this photo?"

An incredibly comprehensive book on the techniques of photography under almost any circumstances. Beautifully illustrated with shots by National Geographic's best contributors. After a short introduction, each topic is explained through the use of pictures with details on how they were taken and what makes them great pictures. The book is inspiring for all levels of photographers and particularly instructive for mid-level amateurs.

I just love National Geographic, most of all for their wondrous photography and the inspiration their images give to my amateur photography passion. This book is a great read, full of practical know-how, new insights, and "continuing education" suited for the emerging photographer as well as those more experienced. Whatever your preference -- landscape, portrait, wedding, pets, sports -- this book is so "complete" that you will find relevance and meaning to make your work even better. This is a great addition for your library, or to give as a gift to someone who appreciates the art and craft of photography.

This book covers it all, from bear bare bone basics to advanced techniques, in an easy to follow, step by step format that is not only informative, but exciting to read. It is not only well written, but full of beautiful pictures that enhance and compliment the instructions. If you can only afford one book to help improve your photography, this is it. I was not only satisfied with the book, I was impressed and inspired.

A very nice book that will cover all the basics of photography for anyone just starting out or for someone like me with some experience that just wanted to know more about the technicalities behind photography, cameras and everything else in between.

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