

Mini Drones-The Best Things Come in Small Packages [2019]

By DJI - 2017-05-24



With the myriad of features, functions, and accessories out there for drones, a case for keeping things small, portable, and user-friendly. Welcome to the drones.

What is a mini drone exactly?

Mini drones are generally small enough to fit in your hand but are not to be confused with toy drones. Their compact bodies and controllers do not mean that they are compromised as they retain the camera quality and features usually associated with larger drones. Towards the smaller end of the scale, nano drones are amongst the smallest drones out there, but with size reduction comes compromise on features and performance.

Why buy a mini drone?

Small drones are the perfect way for novices to build their piloting skills. The ease of handling and practical flight time provides beginners with great practice sessions. The small size also means that they can be flown indoors and perform those delicate maneuvers that aren't possible with larger aircraft, such as whizzing down narrow corridors.

The breadth of quality in smaller drones on the market are many and varied, ranging from nano [FPV drones](#), mini RC drones, [small selfie drones](#), and compact

[foldable drones](#). Generally, the smaller you go, the more the compromise will be in flight time, camera quality, and stability, while those at the top end of the market offer the features and camera qualities of bigger drones.

Mini drones are mostly used for:

- Fun
- Racing
- FPV
- Selfies
- Practice
- Recording

I think you'll agree with me when I say that it's tough to choose the right mini drone since there are so many options out there and information on them is surprisingly sparse.

So, to make things easier, we've pared down what we think are the top 3 mini drones on the market.

Tello



With its 720p 30fps video recording, multiple flying modes, impressive flight extremely easy to use app, the Tello certainly punches above its weight. This comfortably fits in your palm and only weights 80 g. It has a range of 100 m antennas for the best possible signal, and has a maximum flight time of 13 r

Flying the Tello is child's play thanks to the controller app, making it one of t drones for beginners. Adding the Gamevice controller or the Game Sir T1 co mix makes the Tello even more of a joy to fly, especially for those delicate in maneuvers, lending it a tactile edge.

Fun flying modes include Throw & Go, 8D Flips, and Bounce Mode, which ma perfect drone for both kids and adults alike. VR headset compatibility also m ideal mini FPV drone.

Compared to other nano drones, Tello's 5 MP camera and HD video shooting Electronic Image Stabilization (EIS) provide excellent results for such a smal EZ Shots feature records short videos with Circle, 360, and Up & Away shots unique footage.

Tello has been developed to be programmable with Scratch, the MIT-develop system that allows kids and teens to learn the basics of programming intuiti also super safe, with auto takeoff & landing, low battery protection, failsafe | a vision positioning system, making it perfect for younger novice users.

Spark



Spark

Spark's slightly more substantial footprint and 300 g weight puts it right in the middle, more feature-laden drones and the smaller, more novice-oriented ones. With a top speed of 31 mph (50 kph), flight time of up to 16 minutes, and a maximum range of 1.2 mi (2 km) with a controller means that Spark can open up possibilities that smaller drones cannot.

Mavic Air



Mavic Air Fly More Combo

Having an excellent balance between size, performance, and price, the Mavic Air is foldable and compact enough to be taken anywhere. Weighing a mere 430 g and offering a winning flight time of 21 minutes offers excellent battery efficiency. Sport Mode allows the drone a max speed of over 42 mph (68 kph) and can (when pushed) achieve a 6.2 mi (10km) flight distance.

With regards to footage quality in the small drone class, the Mavic Air steals the show. Its 4K camera can record video at up to 100Mbps and deliver quality footage for much bigger drones while the 3-axis gimbal always maintains stability. It also intrin-

Q&A

Are mini drones for you?

Which mini drone is best for me?

How can I master flying drones?

The world of mini drones can be intimidating, but it needn't be with DJI.



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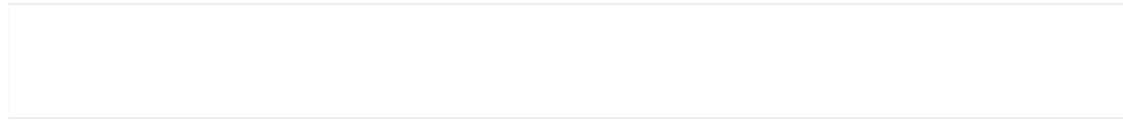
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[DJI Spark Unboxing: Powerfully Compact and Gesture Smart](#)

[DJI Spark: All the Highlights You Should Know](#)

Traveling with Spark: Cinematic Shooting Tips and Tricks

Essential Tips for Flying Spark Indoors



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