

# Best cameras for street and travel photography under \$2000

For street and travel photography under \$2000, the **Sony a6700 with Sigma 30mm f/1.4** (\$1,750 total) offers the best overall package, combining exceptional autofocus, weather sealing, and lens flexibility. However, the **Fujifilm X-S20 with XF 23mm f/2 WR** (\$1,748) provides superior battery life and film simulations that many street photographers prefer. For ultimate portability, the **Ricoh GR III** (\$997) remains unmatched, while the used market offers exceptional value with cameras like the **Sony A7 II** (full-frame for under \$800).

The current camera market in 2025 presents unique challenges and opportunities. Fujifilm faces supply constraints with some models temporarily unavailable due to tariff uncertainties, [PetaPixel +3](#) while Sony and other brands have seen price depreciation creating excellent buying opportunities. Memorial Day sales are currently active through May 31, offering \$200-400 savings on many models.

[Canon +4](#)

## Top recommendations by priority

### Best overall value: Sony a6700 + Sigma 30mm f/1.4

**Total cost: \$1,750**

The Sony a6700 represents the pinnacle of APS-C technology with its **AI-powered autofocus system** that tracks subjects with uncanny accuracy even in challenging street photography scenarios.

[Camera Jabber](#) [Rtings](#) The camera's 759 phase-detection points with subject recognition for humans, animals, and vehicles ensure you'll rarely miss a shot. [Photography Talk +2](#) At 493g body weight, it maintains excellent portability while offering **5-axis in-body stabilization** with 7 stops of compensation. [Amateur Photographer](#)

#### Pros:

- Best-in-class autofocus performance with AI subject detection [Fstoppers +2](#)
- Weather-sealed construction ideal for travel [Fstoppers](#) [Space](#)
- Excellent low-light performance (usable up to ISO 6400) [Photography Talk +2](#)
- Strong third-party lens ecosystem keeping costs down
- USB-C charging for convenient travel power management

#### Cons:

- Corner-mounted EVF less comfortable than centered designs [Rtings](#)
- Menu system still complex despite improvements

- Less distinctive aesthetic appeal compared to retro-styled cameras

## Fujifilm sweet spot: X-S20 + XF 23mm f/2 WR

**Total cost: \$1,748**

The X-S20 emerges as Fujifilm's hidden gem, offering the **longest battery life** (750-800 shots) in the X-series lineup thanks to its larger NP-W235 battery. This addresses the primary weakness of compact mirrorless cameras for all-day street shooting. [The Slanted Lens](#) Combined with Fujifilm's renowned **film simulations** and the sharp, weather-sealed 23mm f/2 lens (35mm equivalent), this setup delivers the classic Fujifilm experience without the availability issues plaguing the X100VI.

[KeithWee](#)

### Pros:

- Outstanding battery life crucial for travel photography [Amateur Photographer](#)
- Modern AI-based autofocus matching X-T5 performance [Amateur Photographer](#) [KeithWee](#)
- 7-stop IBIS compensates for lack of lens stabilization [DPReview](#) [Amateur Photographer](#)
- Film simulations provide excellent JPEG output [Amateur Photographer](#) [KeithWee](#)
- More available than X100VI with similar image quality

### Cons:

- No weather sealing limits use in harsh conditions [Amateur Photographer](#)
- Fully articulating screen less preferred by some street photographers
- Slightly larger than X-T30 II or X-E4

## Budget champion: Used Sony A7 II + 35mm f/2.8

**Total cost: \$1,000-1,200**

The used market reveals exceptional value in the **full-frame Sony A7 II**, available for \$600-800 in excellent condition. [The Imaging Resource](#) [fotovolo](#) This 10-year-old camera still delivers professional image quality with its 24MP full-frame sensor and 5-axis IBIS. [Digital Camera World](#) [fotovolo](#) The remaining budget allows for quality glass like the Zeiss 35mm f/2.8 or even multiple lenses.

### Pros:

- Full-frame sensor advantage for low light and shallow depth of field
- Mature lens ecosystem with affordable options
- Compact size for a full-frame camera

- Professional-grade image quality at entry-level pricing
- Still sold new, indicating proven reliability (fotovolo)

#### Cons:

- Older autofocus system less sophisticated than current models
- Shorter battery life compared to modern cameras
- No weather sealing on this model
- Menu system from Sony's less intuitive era

### Ultimate portability: Ricoh GR III

**Total cost: \$997**

The Ricoh GR III remains the **only truly pocketable** camera that fits comfortably in front pants pockets while delivering APS-C image quality. (Rtings) Its 28mm equivalent f/2.8 lens and intuitive "Snap Focus" mode make it ideal for discrete street photography (Dpreview) where drawing attention would ruin the shot. (Rtings +2)

#### Pros:

- Unmatched portability at 257g and true pocket size (Camera Decision +2)
- Discrete appearance doesn't intimidate subjects (Luke Taylor +2)
- Excellent image quality with distinctive color rendering (Ricks Reviews) (Amateur Photographer)
- Intuitive controls designed specifically for photographers (Dpreview) (Ricks Reviews)
- 4-stop image stabilization helps in low light (Camera Decision) (Ricks Reviews)

#### Cons:

- Basic contrast-detection autofocus struggles in low light (Dpreview +2)
- No viewfinder limits use in bright conditions (Luke Taylor) (Amateur Photographer)
- Very short battery life (200-300 shots) (Luke Taylor +2)
- No weather sealing whatsoever (Luke Taylor) (KeithWee)
- Fixed focal length may feel limiting

### Fujifilm ecosystem analysis

Fujifilm's current lineup faces **significant availability challenges** in 2025. The highly desired X100VI shows "temporarily out of stock" across major retailers with months-long waitlists, (Rtings) while Fujifilm has suspended orders for several models due to tariff uncertainties. (Digital Camera World +2)

## Available Fujifilm options ranked

**1. X-S20 (\$1,299):** Best battery life, modern autofocus, excellent value **2. X-T30 II (\$899):** Most affordable, very compact, same sensor as X-T4 **3. X-E4 (\$849):** Rangefinder style, ultra-minimalist design **4. X-T4 (\$1,399-1,549):** Weather sealed, IBIS, but poor value retention **5. X-T5 (\$1,699):** [DPReview](#) Latest technology but stretches budget with lens

The **X-T4 paradox** deserves mention: despite being discontinued, used prices remain at or above original MSRP due to high demand, making it poor value compared to newer alternatives.

## New vs used market dynamics

The used camera market in 2025 reveals striking patterns. **Fujifilm retains value best** (+9% over 36 months), while Sony (-14%), Canon (-16%), and Nikon (-20%) depreciate more typically.

[Digital Camera World](#) This creates opportunities:

### Best used values:

- Sony a6400: \$609-748 (saves 32% vs new) [Stark Insider](#) [Digital Camera World](#)
- Fujifilm X-T3: \$589-864 (90% of X-T4 features at 50% price) [Dpreview](#)
- Sony A7R II: \$800-1,059 (42MP full-frame, originally \$3,200) [The Imaging Resource](#)

### Buying used safely:

- KEH Camera offers the most conservative grading with 180-day warranty [PetaPixel](#)
- Check shutter count (under 10,000/year indicates normal use) [Nature TTL](#) [Photography Talk](#)
- Test autofocus accuracy across the focus range
- Inspect sensor at f/16 for dust or scratches [Photography Talk](#)

## Current deals and market timing

### Active through May 31, 2025:

- B&H Photo: Save \$200-400 on major camera bodies [Nikon Rumors +2](#)
- Nikon trade-in program: Extra \$200-400 credit [Nikon Rumors](#)
- Tamron instant rebates: Up to \$300 CAD off lenses [Tamron USA](#)

**Price trends:** Used camera prices increased 4.5% in the last three months due to tariffs, suggesting **now is better than waiting** for purchases. [Digital Camera World](#)

## Lens strategy for maximum value

Third-party lenses now offer **85-95% of native lens performance at 40-60% of the cost.**

[Amateur Photographer](#) Key recommendations:

### Best value lenses:

- Sigma 30mm f/1.4 DC DN (\$339): Sharp, fast, perfect focal length [Photography Life +2](#)
- Viltrox AF 25mm f/1.7 (\$176): Exceptional quality for the price [Fstoppers](#) [Camera Decision](#)
- Tamron 20-40mm f/2.8 (\$699): Unique zoom range with constant aperture [Amateur Photographer](#)

### Size and weight considerations

For travel photography, total system weight matters:

**Ultra-portable** (under 400g): Ricoh GR III **Highly portable** (400-700g): X-E4, X-T30 II, Sony a6400 with pancake lens **Standard portable** (700-1000g): X-S20, a6700, X-T4 with prime lens **Less portable** (over 1000g): Full-frame systems, cameras with zoom lenses

### Final recommendations by user type

**For Fujifilm enthusiasts wanting value:** X-S20 + 23mm f/2 offers the best modern Fujifilm experience within budget without availability headaches.

**For technical excellence:** Sony a6700 + Sigma 30mm f/1.4 provides unmatched autofocus and low-light performance. [Space](#)

**For maximum value:** Used Sony A7 II with multiple lenses leverages market depreciation for full-frame quality. [Digital Camera World](#)

**For ultimate discretion:** Ricoh GR III remains unmatched for pocketability and street photography ergonomics. [Luke Taylor +2](#)

The sweet spot for most users lies with either the Sony a6700 or Fujifilm X-S20 systems, both offering modern performance, good ergonomics, and room in the budget for quality glass. [Space](#)

[The Slanted Lens](#) The used market provides exceptional opportunities for those willing to sacrifice the latest features for superior value, particularly in the full-frame segment.