

# Google Photo - Tips and Tricks

Monday February 23, 2026

## 1. Advanced Search & AI

- **Natural Language Queries:** Instead of simple keywords, search for specific phrases like "me in a sparkly blue dress" or "Alice at the beach".
- **Ask Photos:** Use the "Ask Photos" feature to find images by feeling or context, such as "find my photos that feel like spring".
- **Face & Pet Labeling:** Go to **Search > People & Pets** to name individuals. Once named, you can search for them by name or even combine searches (e.g., "John and Fido at the park").
- **Search for Text:** [Google Photos](#) can identify and search for text within your images, making it easy to find screenshots of documents or receipts.
- **Map View:** Revisit your travels by tapping the "Places" shortcut under the Collections tab. This pins your photos onto an interactive map so you can see exactly where they were taken.

## 2. Organization Gestures, Shortcuts & Sharing

- **Pinch to Zoom:** In the main gallery view, pinch in or out to switch between daily, monthly, and yearly views.
- **Quick Select:** Long-press a photo and then drag your finger to select dozens of images instantly for batch actions.
- **Photo Stacks:** Enable "Stack similar photos" in settings to automatically group near-identical shots, decluttering your main grid.
- **Archive vs. Delete:** Use the **Archive** feature for utilitarian photos (like receipts or Wi-Fi passwords). They won't clutter your main feed but remain searchable.
- **Partner Sharing:** Automatically share photos of specific people (like your kids or all even all photos) with a partner so they never have to ask you to "send that photo" again.
- **Sharing Albums:** Create and share albums of pictures with others and even allow them to add their photos.
- **Locked Folder:** Hide sensitive photos behind your phone's passcode or fingerprint. These images won't show up in your main grid, memories, or search.

### 3. Powerful Editing Tools

- **Magic Editor & Eraser:** Use [Magic Editor](#) to move or resize objects, or [Magic Eraser](#) to remove unwanted background distractions.
- **Save a Copy:** When editing, tap the three-dot menu and select "Save a copy" to keep your original photo intact alongside the edited version.
- **Unblur & Portrait Light:** Fix slightly blurry photos or adjust the lighting on faces even after the photo has been taken.
- **Transform Photos into Art:** Use the "Remix" feature to turn your photos into different styles, such as "Anime". Find this under the "Create" button or "Remix" option at the bottom of your screen.
- **Add "Subtle Movements":** You can add photorealistic motion to subjects, making them wave or smile, or even add fun effects like confetti and balloons using text prompts.
- **Cinematic Photos & Animations:** The app can automatically create **Cinematic photos** that add a 3D-like zoom effect to still images. You can also manually create **Animations** (GIFs) by selecting a series of photos and tapping the "+" icon.

### Nostalgia & Memories

- **Best of Month/Year:** Google automatically generates "Best of Month" and "Year End Recap" memories that are curated specifically for sharing.
- **Photo Books:** You can turn your favorite digital memories into physical softcover or hardcover photo books directly through the app.

### 4. Storage & Privacy Management

- **Free Up Space:** Use the official [Free Up Space tool](#) to delete local copies (on your phone) of photos that have already been safely backed up to the cloud.
- **Locked Folder:** Move sensitive photos to the [Locked Folder](#). These are protected by your device's passcode and won't appear in the grid or memories.
- **Storage Saver Mode:** To maximize your 15GB free limit, set backup quality to "Storage saver." This compresses images to 16MP with negligible quality loss.
- **Remove Location for Sharing:** Protect your privacy by enabling "Remove geo-location in items shared by link" in your sharing settings