

# Pixabay API Information

Extracted from Screenshot: December 13, 2025

## API Credentials

API Key: 40138022-57af4b7daf7ed0a81d2f7bded  
Base URL: <https://pixabay.com/api/>

## Rate Limits & Usage Rules

### Rate Limiting

- **Limit:** 100 requests per 60 seconds
- **Headers Returned:**
  - X-RateLimit-Limit : Maximum requests allowed (100)
  - X-RateLimit-Remaining : Requests remaining in window
  - X-RateLimit-Reset : Seconds until rate limit resets

### Caching Requirements

- **Must cache results for 24 hours**
- API is designed for real human requests
- No systematic mass downloads allowed
- Can request limit increase if properly implemented

### Hotlinking Policy

- **Temporary display:** OK for search results
- **Permanent hotlinking:** NOT ALLOWED
- **Recommendation:** Download images to your server first
- **Videos:** Can embed directly, but server storage recommended

### Error Handling

- HTTP error codes with plain text descriptions
- Example: HTTP 429 “Too Many Requests” = Rate limit exceeded

## API Parameters

### Image Search Endpoint

GET <https://pixabay.com/api/>

## Required Parameters

Parameter	Type	Description
key	string	API key (required for all requests)

## Optional Parameters

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Values</b>	<b>Default</b>
<code>q</code>	string	URL-encoded search term (max 100 chars)	all images
<code>lang</code>	string	cs, da, de, en, es, fr, id, it, hu, nl, no, pl, pt, ro, sk, fi, sv, tr, vi, th, bg, ru, el, ja, ko, zh	"en"
<code>id</code>	string	Retrieve individual images by ID	-
<code>image_type</code>	string	"all", "photo", "illustration", "vector"	"all"
<code>orientation</code>	string	"all", "horizontal", "vertical"	"all"
<code>category</code>	string	backgrounds, fashion, nature, science, education, feelings, health, people, religion, places, animals, industry, computer, food, sports, transportation, travel, buildings, business, music	-
<code>min_width</code>	int	Minimum image width	0
<code>min_height</code>	int	Minimum image height	0
<code>colors</code>	string	grayscale, transparent, red, orange, yellow, green, turquoise, blue, lilac, pink, white, gray, black, brown	-
<code>editors_choice</code>	bool	"true", "false"	"false"
<code>safesearch</code>	bool	"true", "false"	"false"
<code>order</code>	string	"popular", "latest"	"popular"

Parameter	Type	Values	Default
page	int	Page number for paginated results	1
per_page	int	Results per page (3-200)	20
callback	string	JSONP callback function name	-
pretty	bool	Indent JSON output (not for production)	"false"

## Video Search Endpoint

GET <https://pixabay.com/api/videos/>

Similar parameters to image search, with video-specific options:

- `video_type` : "all", "film", "animation"
- Video quality levels: large (3840x2160), medium (1920x1080), small (1280x720), tiny (960x540)

## Response Format

### Image Response Structure

```
{
  "total": 4692,
  "totalHits": 500,
  "hits": [
    {
      "id": 195893,
      "pageURL": "https://images.pexels.com/photos/30731364/pexels-photo-30731364.jpeg?cs=srgb&dl=pexels-mavicair2tw-30731364.jpg&fm=jpg",
      "type": "photo",
      "tags": "blossom, bloom, flower",
      "previewURL": "https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/81/Badamwari_Flower_Series_2.png",
      "previewWidth": 150,
      "previewHeight": 84,
      "webformatURL": "https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1436891436013-5965265af5fc?fm=jpg&q=60&w=3000&ixlib=rb-4.1.0&ixid=M3wxMjA3fDB8MHxzZWFnY2h8M3x8Zmxvd2VyJTIwYmxvb218ZW58MHx8MHx8fDA%3D",
      "webformatWidth": 640,
      "webformatHeight": 360,
      "largeImageURL": "https://...1280.jpg",
      "fullHDURL": "https://...1920.jpg",
      "imageURL": "https://...",
      "imageWidth": 4000,
      "imageHeight": 2250,
      "imageSize": 4731420,
      "views": 7671,
      "downloads": 6439,
      "likes": 5,
      "comments": 2,
      "user_id": 48777,
      "user": "Josch13",
      "userImageURL": "https://..."
    }
  ]
}
```

### Image URL Sizes

Replace `_640` in `webformatURL` to access other sizes:

- `_180` : 180px tall version
- `_340` : 340px tall version
- `_640` : 640px max dimension (default)
- `_960` : 960x720px max dimension

### High-Resolution Access

- `largeImageURL` : Max 1280px
- `fullHDURL` : Max 1920px (Full HD)
- `imageURL` : Original full resolution

## Example Request

```
https://pixabay.com/api/?  
key=40138022-57af4b7daf7ed0a81d2f7bded&q=basketball+shooting&image_type=photo&min_width=1920&per_page=200
```

## Attribution Requirements

Show users where images are from whenever displaying search results.

Example:

Images from [Pixabay](https://pixabay.com) (<https://pixabay.com>)

## Best Practices for Basketball Training Dataset

### Optimized Search Terms

- “basketball shooting back view”
- “basketball from behind”
- “amateur basketball”
- “youth basketball shooting”
- “street basketball”
- “recreational basketball”

### Quality Filters

```
params = {  
    'image_type': 'photo',  
    'min_width': 1920,  
    'min_height': 1080,  
    'per_page': 200, # Maximum  
    'order': 'popular',  
    'safesearch': 'false'  
}
```

## Rate Limit Implementation

```
import time  
  
RATE_LIMIT_DELAY = 0.6 # 100 req/60s = 0.6s between requests  
last_request_time = 0  
  
def rate_limit_wait():  
    global last_request_time  
    current_time = time.time()  
    time_since_last = current_time - last_request_time  
    if time_since_last < RATE_LIMIT_DELAY:  
        time.sleep(RATE_LIMIT_DELAY - time_since_last)  
    last_request_time = time.time()
```

## Notes

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- API limits to 500 images per query (totalHits cap)
- Use multiple search terms to get more variety
- Download highest quality available (fullHDURL or largeImageURL)
- Cache results for 24 hours as required
- Monitor rate limit headers in responses

## Collection Status

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- API Key Extracted: 2025-12-13
- Integration Complete: 2025-12-13
- Collection In Progress: Targeting 400+ images from Pixabay API