

## How to transfer photos from Google Photos to Apple iCloud Photos



(1 hour)

In this set of instructions, you will learn how to switch existing photos from Google Photos to Apple iCloud Photos. With cloud technology making it easier to share and store your pictures it can become confusing to figure out how to transfer between these services, but luckily Google makes it easy to download your photos in one simple batch download for easy drag and drop transfer.

The time needed to complete this process however relies on how many photos you are transferring over and internet speeds. A typical transfer should take about 30 minutes to 1 hour.

It is important to know that this process is recommended to be done on a desktop or laptop of some kind. It may be possible to do on a tablet or maybe a phone but this is dependent on how much storage you have available. The more pictures you are transferring over the more storage you will need on your device and iCloud. So, it is important to check how many megabytes or gigabytes of storage your pictures take up and how many gigabytes of storage your device and iCloud has available.

1. Head to [takeout.google.com](https://takeout.google.com) on your web browser of choice.
2. After signing in with your Google account click on the "Deselect all" button near the top of the page.


CREATE A NEW ARCHIVE


☒ Select data to include

Choose the Google products to include in your archive and configure the settings for each product. This archive will only be accessible to you. [Learn more](#)


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Products Deselect all

 **Android Device Configuration Service**  
Android device attributes, performance data, software versions, and account identifiers. [More info](#) ☒

 **HTML format**

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 **Arts & Culture**  
Favorites and galleries you've created on Google Arts & Culture. ☒

3. Scroll down until you find the Google Photos section.
4. Either click on the checkbox to select all your photos saved in your Google Photos or click "All photo albums included" and go through the list and select specific albums or months you want to copy over.

Google Photos content options

Choose specific Photos data for your archive

[Deselect all](#)

- ☒ 1998-08-13
- ☒ 2009-05-28
- ☒ 2014-07-22
- ☒ 2015-01-04
- ☒ 2015-04-07
- ☒ 2015-04-22
- ☒ 2016-02-26
- ☒ 2016-03-03

5. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Next Step".
6. Customize your archive formats however you would like but I recommend the settings below:

2 Customize archive format

Choose your archive's file type and whether you want to download it or save it in the cloud.

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**Delivery method**

Send download link via email ▾

After we finish creating your archive, we'll email a link so you can download it to your personal device. You will have one week to retrieve your archive.

**Export type**

☒ One-time archive

☐ Scheduled exports every 2 months for a year  
6 archives

**File type**

.zip ▾

Zip files can be opened on almost any computer.

**Archive size**

2GB ▾

Archives larger than this size will be split into multiple files.

Create archive

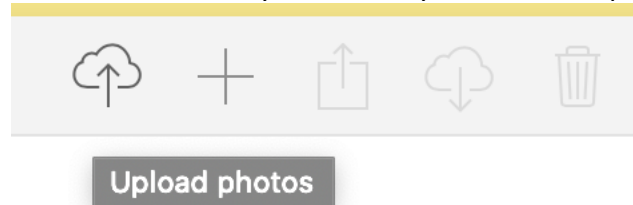
**Note that these settings are yours to change but these are the reasons to consider choosing this preset:**

- **Sending your download via a link through email ensures no other service runs out of storage space and it goes straight into your computer after clicking the download link.**
- **A .zip file type is easy to extract from any computer without usually downloading another program.**
- **An archive size of 2GB may result in multiple .zip files but they are delivered to you in standard .zip files instead of archive sizes larger than 2GB which come in harder to open .zip64 files.**

7. Click on "Create Archive".
8. Google will now create your archive of all the photos you selected and it will send you an email with your download link(s).
9. Once you receive your email, click on the links within to download your photos.
10. After your download(s) has completed unzip the file(s) by either using a program of your choice or right clicking on the file and clicking on "Unzip".
11. If you have a computer that runs macOS, you will now simply open up the Apple Photos app. If you do not have macOS you can download the iCloud for windows app at

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204283> or head over to the iCloud Photos website at <https://www.icloud.com/photos/>

12. Either drag-and-drop your photos into the Apple Photos app or click on the “Upload photos” button to choose and transfer your recently downloaded photos.



After some time, your photos should finish uploading to the iCloud service which means they are now backed up in the cloud! You should be able to see all your uploaded photos within the Photo Stream on the app or website. You may feel free to delete the zip files and unzipped files which you downloaded that contain your pictures on your computer since they are only taking up space now.

**Problems you may encounter:**

Apple Photos will not allow transfer of certain photos or videos. This usually happens because Apple Photos does not support the filetype it is in. If all your photos in Google Photos come from a singular source such as a phone then you may not encounter a problem but if you have been uploading to it from multiple sources such as a DSLR camera or an internet downloaded file then the different filetypes may not be able to be transferred over to Apple's service. You may need to convert the file into a more standardized file type such as .jpeg for pictures or .mp4 for videos. For a full list of supported filetypes visit <https://www.icloud.com/photos/>

If you have multiple gigabytes of photos to transfer to Apple Photos that this whole process will take longer. If it takes too long, split up the batches of photos you upload to smaller chunks (Step 4 above) to speed up the transfer process.