

# How to Search by Image with Google Image Search

## Introduction

In this tutorial, you will learn how to use Google's reverse image search, an invaluable tool that allows you to begin a Google search with an image rather than with a word or a phrase. Understanding how to use this often overlooked feature can be useful in a number of situations:

- When you want to find a higher resolution version of your image
- When you want to trace the source(s) of your image
- When you want to discover other visually similar images or related content
- When you don't know what the subject of your image is and want to identify it

These instructions will assume that you are familiar with basic web and computer terms, and that you are comfortable with browsing the web and navigating the local directories on your computer. The tutorial has 4 main steps, and the task itself will take you no longer than 5 minutes.

Before getting started, you should make sure that you have the following things:

- A computer or laptop with an Internet connection
- One of the following web browsers:
  - Chrome
  - Firefox 3.0+
  - Internet Explorer 8+
  - Safari 5.0+
- An image that you can either view on a webpage or navigate to on your computer

After following these instructions, you will be able to perform a Google search with an image. Your search will yield web results that include related images, information, and webpages that can otherwise be a hassle to find with only the traditional search by word or phrase.

**Note:** Exercise care in browsing your image results, as they may not be work-friendly if you have Google SafeSearch turned off.

## Step 1: Preparing your image for search

In this step, you will prepare the access to your image so that you may use it to do your search. The preparation process will be different depending on your situation.

- **Case 1:** If you want to use an existing image file that you have already saved in a directory on your computer, make sure you know where it is and how to navigate to its location. At this point, you are ready to move on to **Step 2**, where you will go to the site that you will be uploading your image to.
- **Case 2:** If instead you want to use an image that is displayed on a webpage, do the following:
  - i. Go to that webpage and find where your chosen image is located on the page.
  - ii. Right-click anywhere inside your chosen image.
  - iii. In the menu that pops up, click on "Copy Image URL" (please refer to **Figure 1.1**). This action will place the URL of your image on your clipboard, ready for pasting at a future time.

You are now ready to move on to **Step 2**, where you will go to the site that you will be pasting your image URL to.

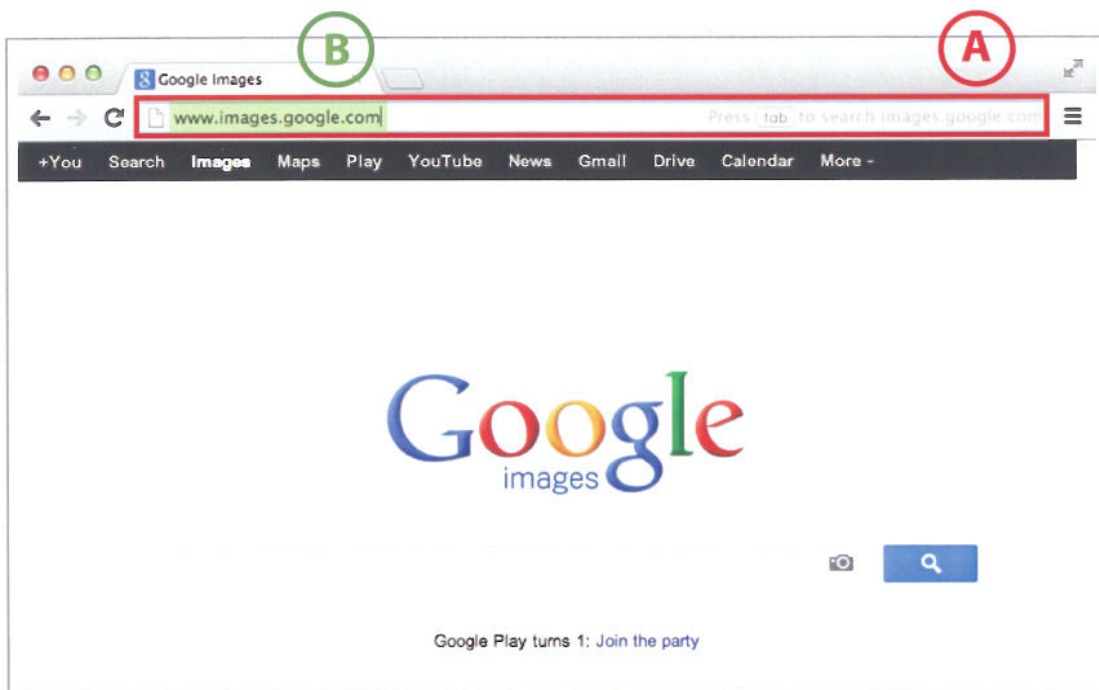


**Figure 1.1:** Copying image URL after right-click

## Step 2: Navigating to [www.images.google.com](http://www.images.google.com)

In this step, you will go to the Google Images webpage where you will perform the actual search.

- i. Click inside the address bar of your web browser (please refer to the red box marked as "A" in **Figure 2.1**).
- ii. Type in [www.images.google.com](http://www.images.google.com) (please refer to the text highlighted in green and marked as "B" in **Figure 2.1**).
- iii. Press the return key on your keyboard.
- iv. Your webpage should switch to display Google Images (please refer to **Figure 2.1**).



**Figure 2.1:** The Google Images webpage

After successfully navigating to the Google Images website, your page will look like the one displayed in **Figure 2.1**. You are now ready move on to **Step 3**, where you will learn how to use the features shown on this webpage.

## Step 3: Searching with your image

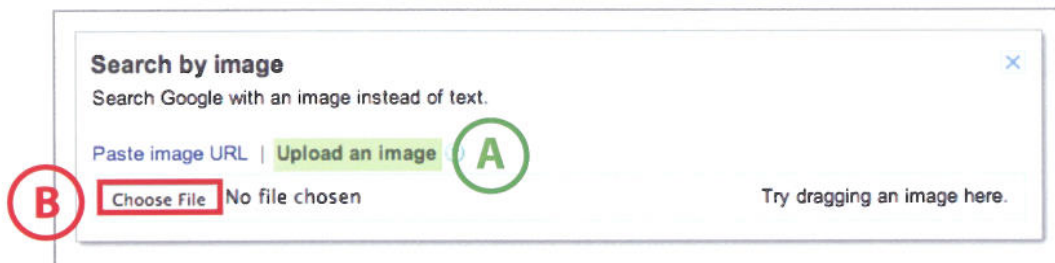
In this step, you will use the images you prepared earlier to perform a search.

- i. Click on the camera icon inside the search bar (please refer to the red box marked as “A” in **Figure 3.1**). A dialog box entitled “Search by image” will pop up as a result.



**Figure 3.1:** The camera icon

- ii. Again, depending on whether you are using an image saved on your computer or an image from a webpage whose URL you have copied, the process of giving your image to the search will be different.
  - **Case 1:** You are using an image file saved on your computer.
    - i. Click on the “Upload an image” label (please refer to the text highlighted in green and marked as “A” in **Figure 3.2**).
    - ii. Click on the “Choose File” button underneath this label (please refer to the red box marked as “B” in **Figure 3.2**).

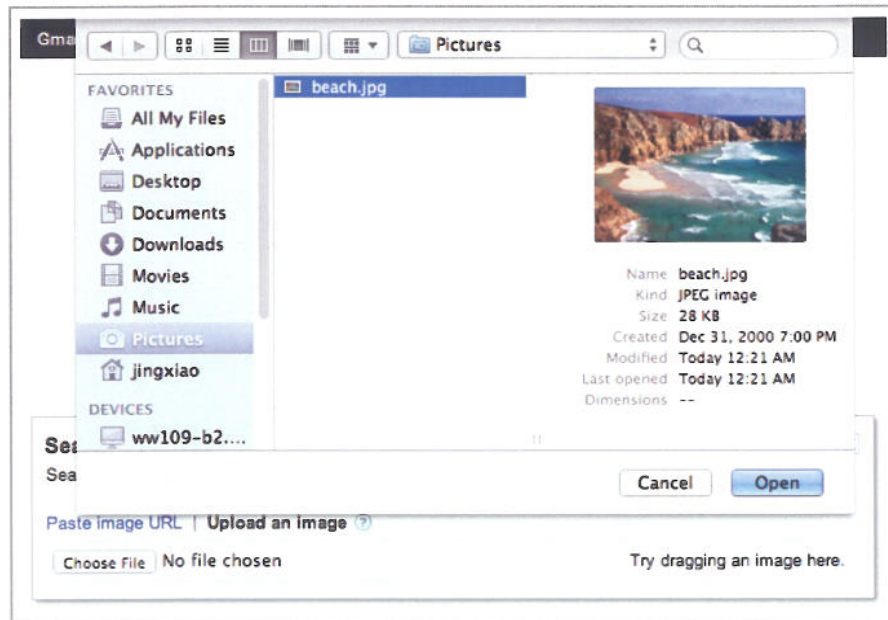


**Figure 3.2:** The “Upload an image” view

- iii. A dialog box showing your files and directories will pop up as a result. Navigate to your image file and click on the “Open” button in the dialog box (please refer to **Figure 3.3**, on the next page).
- iv. Your image will be uploaded and your search will start automatically. You are now ready to move on to **Step 4**, where you will learn how to interpret the results of your search.

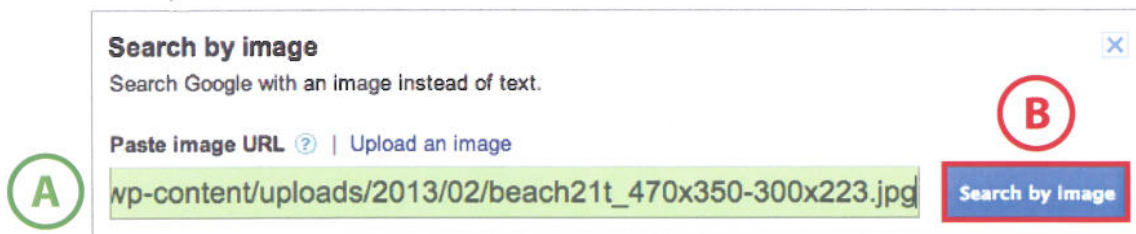


## Step 3: Searching with your image (cont.)



**Figure 3.3:** Navigating to your image file

- **Case 2:** Otherwise, you are using the URL of an image from a webpage.
  - i. The “Paste image URL” label is selected by default, so there should be a text field for your URL right underneath this label. Right-click anywhere inside of it.
  - ii. In the menu that pops up, click on “Paste.” The URL you copied earlier will populate the text field (please refer to the **text highlighted in green** and marked as “A” in **Figure 3.4**).
  - iii. Click on the blue “Search by image” button on the right of the text field to start your search (please refer to the **red box** marked as “B” in **Figure 3.4**). You are now ready to move on to **Step 4**, where you will learn how to interpret the results of your search.



**Figure 3.4:** The “Paste image URL” view

## Step 4: Interpreting your search results

The page of results generated by your search from the previous step will contain related images, text, webpages, and more. In this step, you will decide which results are relevant to you and how to interpret them based on your situational needs. The following cases are color coded and labeled to match their corresponding colored boxes and labels in **Figure 4.1**, which is on the next page.

- **Case A:** You want to find a higher resolution version of your image.
  - i. Click on the “All sizes” link to find better quality versions of your same image if they exist (please refer to the **text highlighted in red** and marked as “A1” in **Figure 4.1**).
    - You will be brought to a page full of images that are exactly the same as yours, albeit in varying sizes. By default, the images are ordered by their size from largest to smallest.
- **Case B:** You want to trace the source(s) of your image
  - i. Look under the “Pages that include matching images” header to see which websites, if any, used a version of your image (please refer to the **text highlighted in green** and marked as “B1” in **Figure 4.1**).
- **Case C:** You want to discover other visually similar images or related content
  - i. Click on the “Visually similar images” link to find, as the title of the link suggests, visually similar images (please refer to the **text highlighted in blue** and marked as “C1” in **Figure 4.1**).
    - You will be brought to a page full of visually similar images that you can browse through.
  - ii. Click on the links above the “Visually similar images” link to explore content related to your image (please refer to the **text highlighted in blue** and marked as “C2” in **Figure 4.1**).
- **Case D:** You don’t know what the subject of your image is and want to identify it
  - i. Look at the “Best guess for this image:” header to see what Google thinks is the subject of your image (please refer to the **text highlighted in purple** and marked as “D1” in **Figure 4.1**).


### Congratulations!

You now know how to take an image (either from a webpage or from a directory on your computer), perform a Google search with it, and interpret the resulting media to suit your needs.

## Step 4: Interpreting your search results (cont.)

Web **Images** Maps Shopping More Search tools

About 781 results (0.56 seconds)


 Image size: 300 × 225  
**A1** Find other sizes of this image:  
All sizes - Small - Medium

**D1** Best guess for this image: [cornwall england](#)


**C2** [Cornwall - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)  
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornwall  
**Cornwall** (pron.: /ˈkɔrnwɔːl/ or /ˈkɔrnwəl/; **Cornish**: Kernow [ˈkɛrnɔw]) is a unitary authority and ceremonial county of **England**, within the United Kingdom. 32 images

[Cornwall: the official guide for visitors](#)  
www.visitcornwall.com/  
Sep 3, 2004  
The Official Tourist Board online visitor guide to **Cornwall, UK**. Everything you need to know; What's on ...

**C1** [Visually similar images](#) - Report images



**B1** [Pages that include matching images](#)

 [Cornwall, England](#)  
pinterest.com/teafreak10/cornwall-england/  
192 × 142 My gratitude to our beautiful daughter, Aprille, for introducing me to Pinterest. When I take the time to gaze at other people's photos, my spirit is refreshed.


 [Pewter Jewellery, Bronze Jewellery, Silver Jewellery, made in ...](#)  
www.stjustin.co.uk/  
170 × 121 St Justin pewter jewellery, silver jewellery, bronze jewellery and **Cornish** tin made ... with and later married Joan, the daughter of King John of **England**, in 1206.

Figure 4.1: Reverse image search results