

# How to download Google Photos to your computer, export Google Photos library

Whether you're moving away from Google Photos or want to back up your photos to an external hard drive, the easiest way to download all your Google Photos data is to use Google Takeout.

Here's how to easily download all your photos and videos from Google Photos.

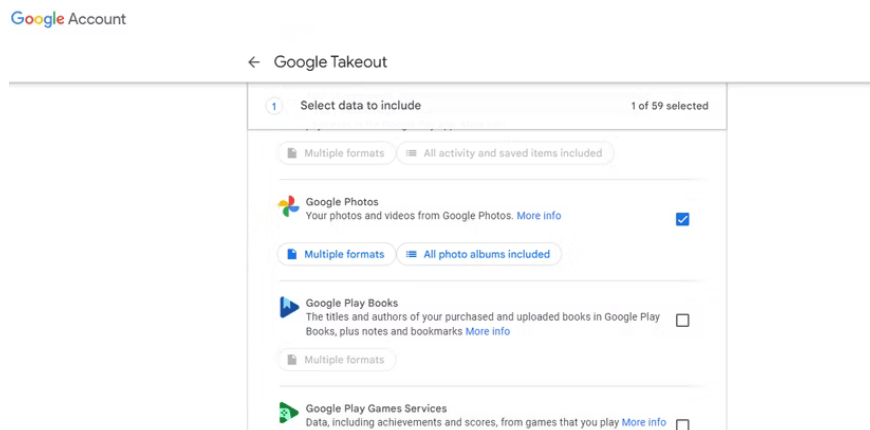
## How to request an export using Google Takeout

Google Takeout is a tool that gives you an easy way to export your data from various Google products and services. It essentially gives you easy access to your data for migration and backup.

You can use this tool to download all of your Google Photos media. Using Takeout requires you to request an export, select your preferred options, and download your data once it's exported.

To export all your Google Photos data at once, follow these steps:

1. Go to [takeout.google.com](https://takeout.google.com) and click the **Deselect all** button at the top.
2. Scroll down to **Google Photos** and check the box next to it.
3. If you want to exclude certain albums, click **All photo albums included** and uncheck the albums you don't want to download.
4. Scroll down to the bottom and select **Next step**.



Note that any videos stored in your Google Photos will also be exported. There's no way to exclude videos, other than adding all of your videos to a separate album and excluding that folder from the export.

Now that you've selected what you want to export, it's time to adjust your export settings. For the destination, you can have Takeout email you a download link or upload the file to Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive, or Box.

By default, the frequency is set to export once, but you can choose to export your data every 2 months for the next year (in case you want to backup your data continuously). You can also choose to export your photos as a ZIP or TGZ file.

Google Takeout offers five file size options ranging from 1GB to 50GB. If your data exceeds the selected file size, it will be exported as multiple files.

count

← Google Takeout

2 Choose file type, frequency and destination

When your files are ready, you'll get an email with a download link. You'll have one week to download your files. [Learn more](#) about how to locate, access and share your data.

Frequency:

Export once  
1 export

Export every 2 months for 1 year  
6 exports

File type & size

File type:  
.zip

Zip files can be opened on almost any computer.

File size:  
2 GB

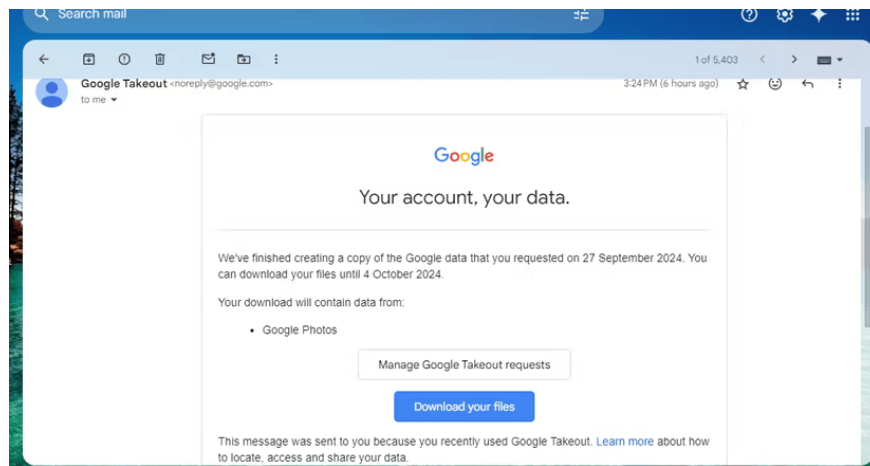
Once you've selected your export settings, click **Create export** or **Link accounts and create export** (depending on the destination you choose).

**Note :** If you select Dropbox, OneDrive, or Box as your destination, Google Takeout will ask you to connect your Google account to these services.

## Download export file

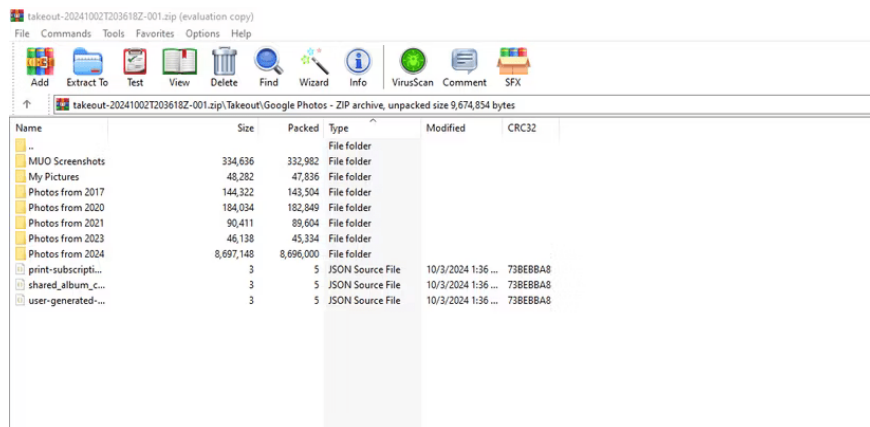
After you start the export process, you'll have to wait a few hours or days (depending on the size of your data). When the file is ready, Google Takeout will notify you via email.

**If you select the Send download link via email** , the email will contain a link to access and download your photo. However, the file will only be accessible for one week.



Additionally, Takeout will upload the file to your chosen cloud storage account and email you a link to the file location. There is no time limit on downloading here.

The exported ZIP or TGZ file contains separate folders for each album as well as for each image from each year (i.e. images from 2024, images from 2023, etc.). In each folder, you can find your images and metadata (as a JSON file). If you don't want to extract the metadata, you can sort the files by **Type**, select all images, and extract them to your desired destination.



Now that you have a backup of your photos, you can delete them permanently from Google Photos or try other ways to free up storage space on Google Photos.

You finished reading the article "**How to download Google Photos to your computer, export Google Photos library**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.