

GETTING STARTED ON FLICKR

Flickr is an internet photo sharing website owned by Yahoo. They say you can “upload, access, edit, and share your photos from any device, from anywhere in the world”. They also provide 1 terabyte of free photo storage per member, which is probably more than you will ever need. In this lesson we will concentrate on uploading and sharing photos.

Why would you want to share your photos with the world? For me, Flickr started as a way to show photos of my annual camping trips to the other photographers on those trips. Soon I discovered people who shared the same photography interests as me, and later started a small group of “invitation only” photographers to critique each other’s work. In a way, it has become “social media for photography” for me, and I have photography contacts all over the world. Now I have met several of these people in person so I have certainly made new friends through Flickr.

To get started, go to www.flickr.com. Sign up for a free Yahoo account, or if you already have one just sign in. A good resource is the HELP tab on the bottom of the page which will take you to several useful subtopics.

To start, set up your profile and privacy settings. An easy way to access them is to click on the personal icon in the upper right then choose SETTINGS. If you upload a photo of yourself as a “buddy icon” it will show up here. In your privacy settings, you can update information about yourself if you want to, set permissions for who can view or download your photos, and much more.

You are ready to upload a photo. Optional things you can do to prepare your photo include adding a copyright notice to the front of the photo, and updating file information (metadata) with a title, description, tags, and a copyright notice. I recommend downsizing your photo so that it is 1024 pixels on the longest size and medium quality. *

1. Click the upload arrow  .
2. Click Choose photos and videos.
3. Select photo(s) from your computer and click OPEN.
4. Make any changes you like on the left panel.
 - a. Add or edit, title, description, tags, or people (If you updated metadata, title, description, and tags will be shown here).
 - b. Add to an album and/or a group. You can set up albums to organize your photos if you want to, and I will explain groups later.
 - c. If you want to, you can modify who you will allow to see your photos.
 - d. Click UPLOAD.

Options for viewing and using your photo are found on the YOU tab. A good place to start is the PHOTOSTREAM which will show all the photos you have uploaded. Click on a photo in the photostream to see it as a single image. Here you can look at it full screen, look at title, description, tags, and camera

data. You can add it to a map. If anyone comments on it, you will see it here and you can reply. You can see if it is in an album or a group, and add it to more albums and groups.

What next? You can use the search box to locate individual photos or groups, based on tags. For example, if you want to find ghost town photos or groups that specialize in ghost towns, type “ghost town” in the search box.

Groups are organizations within Flickr where people share photos of topics that interest them. You can JOIN a group, then add your photos to it. That way, people can find your photos and comment on them or give them a FAVE by clicking on a STAR symbol. You can browse photos in groups that interest you, make comments and give them FAVES. Different groups have different rules, so read them carefully before joining.

Note that there is a Sharp Shooters group started by Dave Bower here:
www.flickr.com/groups/1557987@N21/ We could use more members.

You can FOLLOW a photographer you like, and they can follow you. You can set up your account to notify you by email if someone comments or Faves one of your photos, or you can block them if you don't want them to see your photos. You can also get email when someone you follow posts a new photo or if someone starts to follow you.

There are lots of other options, such as editing a group of photos, looking at photos other people have selected as faves, organizing your albums as collections, and much more. Look around.

Flickr is a great chance to see photos that interest you, share your work with others, and make photography friends.

* File size comments –

1. You can use Flickr to back up your photos using a special uploader. If you do this, you should use full size files, but be aware that uploads will be very slow.
2. To share photos, you can set a maximum file size for *display* in SETTINGS. The choices are Best Display Size, 2048, 1600, or 1024 pixels. In theory, uploading a photo that matches one of these sizes reduces the amount of compression done by Flickr, resulting in a sharper display, and uploading a smaller size photo makes it less useful for anyone using it without permission. Smaller photos upload more quickly, so I recommend resizing to 1024 pixels on the longest side.