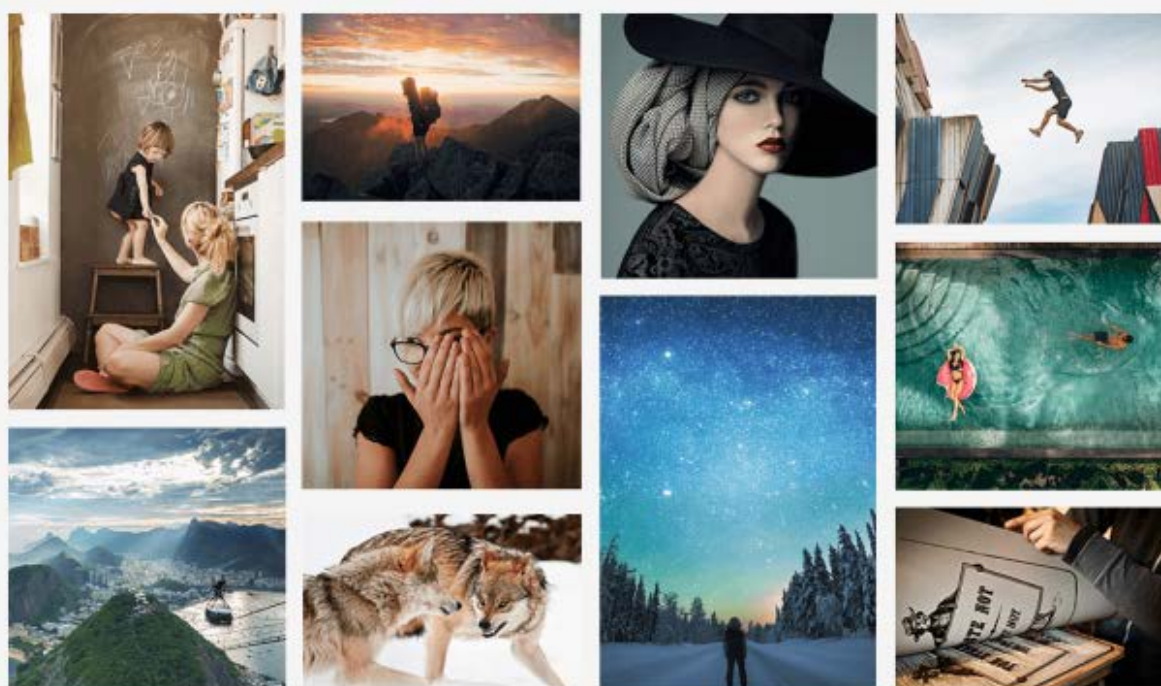# 22 of the best sites for free stock photos

Every image site in the list below falls under Creative Commons—so you don't need to worry about getting sued. If you'd like to learn more about how image copyright works on social media, check out our post Can I Use This Photo on Social Media? Understanding Image Copyright.

1. Adobe Stock

Not only does Adobe Stock have over 90 million high-quality creative assets you can use in your social campaigns, you can license them directly within the Hootsuite dashboard. That means once you've found the perfect image, you can download it, attach it to your posts, and share it across your social channels—all from one place.

2. Gratisography

Gratisography is one of the most interesting of the free stock photo sites due to the quirky style of photographer Ryan McGuire. All of the photos are high-resolution and royalty-free—ready for your use wherever you please. The photos are organized in a number of categories—animals, nature, objects, people, urban, and whimsical—and new ones are added every week, which McGuire shares on Twitter and Facebook.

3. IM Free

IM Free is a "curated collection of free web design resources, all for commercial use." The royalty-free stock photos are organized by themes

such as technology, education, and nature. On the site you'll also find free templates, icons, button makers, and more.

4. Pixabay

Pixabay offers over 490,000 free images and videos for both personal and commercial use. All images on the site are royalty-free and covered under Creative Commons CC0, which means they can be modified and used commercially online and in print.

5. Burst

In an effort to combat the issue of diversity and inclusion within media and marketing, Shopify held internal photo shoots to create high quality images of a diverse group of ethnicities and genders in the workplace. That collection is now open and free for personal and commercial use on a new stock photo site called Burst.

6. Picjumbo

With over 5,427,891 downloads since it launched in 2013, Picjumbo is a popular free resource for social media images. Users can click through the different categories of over 600 free high resolution photos, or download a pack that includes all images as well as three Photoshop mockups (in exchange for a donation of $10 or more.)

7. Unsplash

Unsplash offers 10 new photos every 10 days via an email subscription and on their website. All photos are licensed under Creative Commons Zero, "which means you can copy, modify, distribute and use the photos for free, including commercial purposes, without asking permission from or providing attribution to the photographer or Unsplash." You can navigate the site by viewing the photos in their larger versions, but when browsing I usually find it easier to switch to the grid format.

8. Morguefile

Morguefile was created in 1996 and offers photographs available free for the use in creative projects. The website does ask that photographers or artists are credited when using their free stock images as they aren't in the public domain. This is a great resource for free social media images that can be used as backgrounds for text-based graphics.

9. Stockvault

Stockvault hosts over 35,000 royalty-free images, graphics, and designs from photographers, designers, and students around the world. As long

as you stay on the "Free Stock Photos" rather than the "Premium Stock Photos" tab, you have access to a huge library of photos to use on social media.

10. Negative Space

This site adds new free CC0 stock photos every week. These images are searchable by category, position, and color. Follow Negative Space on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for updates on when new images are added.

11. Kaboompics

KaboomPics offers free, high-quality images that are available for personal and commercial use. The images you'll find here are bright, modern, and aesthetically pleasing. And each comes with a helpful color palette so you can plan your visuals accordingly.

12. FancyCrave

Instead of tired old stock photos, FancyCrave aims to provide "emotionally driven images that tell a story." The easy-to-navigate website releases two new images from professional photographers everyday. When looking for free social media images, the colorful and vibrant nature of FancyCrave's photos are especially eye-catching, which might make your social posts more engaging and shareable.

13. RawPixel

RawPixel prides itself on having the most diverse collection of stock photos around. The online resource is trying to change the face of stock photography and has started the (one) world face project with the ultimate goal of photographing people from every nation in the world. In addition to this excellent initiative, RawPixel provides a dynamic collection of free stock imagery that's sure to fit your next campaign.

Bonus: Download a free cheat sheet to quickly find the best image sizes for every social network and learn how you can use Hootsuite to easily add them to any post. **Get the free guide right now!**

14. StockSnap

When researching resources for free social media images, I was told by more than one socially-savvy person that StockSnap was their favorite site. The free images here can be filtered by date, what's trending, number of views or downloads, as well as the amount of keyword searches.

15. Startup Stock Photos

Startup Stock Photos is all about free stock images for "startups, bloggers, publishers, websites, designers, developers, creators, and everyone else." The photos are especially great when you are sharing links to content such as a professional blog post—where the most fitting visual is of someone on a computer or in a casual business setting.

16. Splitshire

Web designer Daniel Nanescu created Splitshire as a collection of stunning, easy-to-browse images and video. The photos are sorted into helpful categories such as "abstract," "still life," and "technology." Nanescu's photos which previously lived "on a hard drive gathering dust" are now—for good reason—used books, magazines, and websites like The Huffington Post and CNN.

17. Life of Pix

Life of Pix is a collection of free high resolution stock images donated to the public domain by the Leeroy Advertising Agency in Montreal. With no copyright restrictions, the beautiful photos are free for personal and commercial use. If you need social media images of the moving variety, their sister site Life of Vids offers royalty-free videos, clips, and loops for you to use to your heart's content.

18. Pexels

The free stock images on Pexels are curated from sites such as Gratisography, Unsplash, and Little Visuals. All of the photos on the site are licensed under the Creative Commons Zero, so you can use any of the photos for personal or commercial purposes. The collection currently includes over 3,800 high resolution photos, with at least 70 new ones added every week.

19. Jay Mantri

Jay Mantri's photographs are nothing short of breathtaking. While beautiful to scroll through in their large form, if you are needing to quickly find an image for your content or social media posting, I suggest changing to the archive view for an easier browsing experience.

20. ISO Republic

ISO Republic's main mission is "to provide high-quality images to be used by designers, developers, bloggers, marketers and social media teams." The categories these free social media images are sorted into, include

architecture, nature, people, textures, urban, and everyone's favorite, "various".

21. New Old Stock

New Old Stock provide the ultimate "Throwback Thursday" content with hundreds of vintage photos from public archives. The photos are fascinating and would be a compelling addition to any social media campaign. Offering hundreds of royalty-free stock photos, New Old Stock's collection showcases a wide variety of situations and subjects.

22. Free Refe

Free Refe has a collection of images known for their clarity, quality, and diverse subject matter. Although there is an emphasis on photos showing "real life," the images are anything but mundane. As their website states, "using great imagery helps portray emotions, increase sales, and conversions," the free photos here are a must-bookmark resource.

Bonus: Download a free cheat sheet to quickly find the best image sizes for every social network and learn how you can use Hootsuite to easily add them to any post.

Easily find and edit free stock photos with Hootsuite

Hootsuite makes sourcing, adding, and editing photos for social media even easier. Here's how.

Hootsuite Enhance

A free mobile app for social media images that will help you:

- **Boost productivity**. Instantly crop images based on recommended sizes for Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and other social networks
- **Find more content**. Source relevant photos directly in the app from a large database of stock images, or the users' library
- **Maximize engagement**. Make your photos stand out with special effects, stickers, borders, and filters
- **Build brand awareness**. Easily add logos and text to photos. Choose from 30 different fonts to fit your brand's unique style.
- **Be more responsive**. Share edited images directly from the Hootsuite Enhance app for effortless posting

Download it for free.

Content Library

You can now add the content storage solutions you already use — including Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive, and Dropbox—directly to your Hootsuite dashboard. And you can access these content sources directly from the 'Compose' box. This means you can attach photos to your posts and publish or schedule them in fewer clicks, and it will also gives you easier access to the central space your team uses to store the most recent versions of content for social.

Adobe integration

Our integration with Adobe helps marketers easily discover, create, and distribute visual content across your social media channels.

The integration allows Hootsuite users to edit and optimize their images for each social media platform using Adobe Creative SDK. The full Adobe Stock library containing over 90 million high-quality creative assets is also available to users.

Learn more about the Hootsuite and Adobe integration here.

The quest for perfect social media images can seem daunting at first, but with these resources hopefully the task has been made as painless as possible.

Hootsuite Enhance makes it easy to find stock images that are free for commercial use. You can also crop, edit, and share them to your social networks—all from one app!

Sport & Physical Activity Specific Image Banks

1. Sport England
2. This Girl Can
3. Promoting Activity

GIFS

1. Giphy