Back up photos to Google Photos

By the AndroidAnswers Editorial Team · Free to print for classes and libraries

SHORT ANSWER

Open the Google Photos app, tap your profile picture, then Photos settings → Backup, and turn Backup on. Stay on Wi-Fi until the top says Backup complete. Your photos are then saved to your Google Account.

1. Open Google Photos and sign in

Open the Google Photos app (colorful pinwheel). Sign in with the Google Account you use every day. Photos back up to only one account at a time.

2. Turn Backup on

Tap your profile picture at the top right → Photos settings → Backup → turn Backup on. The first backup can take a while.

Samsung: open Google Photos → Turn on backup (Gallery can also sync on newer phones)

Motorola: Photos → profile icon → Turn on backup; also check Settings → System → Backup

3. Include other folders if you want

Camera photos are included by default. To also save Screenshots, Downloads, or WhatsApp images: Photos settings → Backup → Back up device folders.

4. Wait for Backup complete, then check

Keep the phone on Wi-Fi. When it says Backup complete, open photos.google.com on a computer with the same account. If you see your recent photos there, they are safe.

5. Optional: free up phone space

After Backup complete, tap your profile → Free up space on this device. Do not use Trash to free space. Deleting in Google Photos removes the photo from your account too.

IF IT DOES NOT WORK

- Status says Backup paused: tap it. Usually the phone is waiting for Wi-Fi or is low on battery.
- Out of storage: Photos settings → Backup → Manage storage. Free 15 GB is shared with Gmail and Drive.
- Photos missing elsewhere: confirm you signed in with the same Google Account on both devices.

Full guide with more detail:

https://androidanswers.com/how-to-back-up-photos-to-google-photos

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