

20 Best Royalty Free Stock Sites

curated by

CafeLifestyle

CafeLifestyle.rocks



You don't have to be a '*creative*'
to be creative.

-Drory Ben-Menachem

Searching for beautiful free photos? Looking for the quirky, vintage or one colour palette images? We've got you covered. Do you need images with textures, stunning wallpapers or perhaps a background of chocolate bunnies, check out Unsplash.

Whether your brand is about curious cats, wedding events or travelling the world, high resolution images are available for download, gifted by the generous community of photographers on the sites listed below (read licence agreements and exceptions on the sites).

We are providing a curated a list of the best 20 royalty free stock sites. We've even added a couple of bonuses – MessageHop which provides free digital postcards, IconsDB and a couple of optimization tools to compress images for your website.

A couple of these resources are affiliate links, which means I may get a small commission for referring you.

*Note: It's important to read and understand the royalty rights embedded in any licensing agreement before you edit or use a photo from a stock site. Royalty usage rule explanations are noted below. Please keep these rules in mind as you use these images to avoid any legal hassles.

Enjoy this curated list of 20 Free* Stock, Postcard, Icons and Tools sites

Not listed in any particular order.

Creative Market
A marketplace for all things creative from stock images to fonts, brushes, templates for everything social media and more. Free weekly products with free subscription

Pexels
Pexels is probably my favourite site for stock photos. ♥
Bonus: Downloads are available in multiple sizes as well as custom sizing
Usage rules: Creative Commons

Foter
335 Million Stock Photos. They have a nice variety of images I didn't see on other sites. Also has the ability to narrow your search by colour.
Usage rules: Creative Commons

Burst
Wide variety of categories, including Makeup, Jewellery, Fashion, Nature, Around the World
Additional feature to download as either High Res or Low Res
Usage rules: None of our free photos require attribution, but our photographers always appreciate a shout out.

- Kaboompics
Specializes in lifestyle and scenery shots with a wide variety of women-centre images
Flexible download options original, medium as well as custom sizing
Usage rules: Creative Commons – see site for exceptions
- StockSnap
If you're looking for Instagram-worthy snaps
Focus is on office environments with a great curation of desk flat lays.
Usage rules: Creative Commons
- Life of Pix
Scrolling through their images instantly has you longing for a road trip
They also offer a digital mood board - create your own portfolio
Usage rules: Creative Commons – see site for exceptions
- Free Range Stock
Great selection of business and office images
Subscription is required to download images. Worth.
Usage rules: Equalicense
- FreeImages
More than 383,000 images and illustrations available
Beautiful and colourful images – wow!
- Gratisography
Another site with a multitude of images, including some wonderfully quirky images
Usage rules: Creative Commons

- StockVault**
Another site with a multitude of free images
Usage rules: Creative Commons
- Pixabay**
Over 1.6 million royalty free stock photos and videos
Usage rules: Creative Commons
- Negative Space**
Looking for images of people in their natural surroundings? They have an impressive collection of people performing everyday tasks.
Usage rules: Creative Commons
- PicJumbo**
Free stock photos with the option to subscribe for the Premium version
Usage rules: free high-resolution images for personal and commercial use
- Unsplash**
A wide range of travel, nature and architecture images from around the world.
My kind of site. ✓✓✓
Usage rules: Creative Commons
- FancyCrave**
Fancy a travel photo?
Pick your country and search
Usage rules: Creative Commons

Specialty Stocks:

- Vintage Stock Photos**
Vintage travel and people images.
Usage rules: See the site for rules
- Life of Vids**
Footage, short clips, and video loops. Easily downloaded with a Vimeo account.
Usage rules: See site for rules

Free Images & Editing:

- Canva & Crello
Both offer free high-quality, premium images with a wide assortment of background images, elements and frames that can easily hold text and other design elements on top of them.
License agreements on free elements.

<https://www.canva.com/>

<https://crello.com/>

Free Tools:

- Tiny png & Tiny jpg
Compress your images for the web with the free optimization tool

<https://tinyjpg.com/>

<https://tinypng.com/>

Postcards & Icons:

- MessageHop
Simple, fast, free digital postcards.
No login required, just create and send!
Add your image to the front and then add your message to the back. Fun and free!
- IconsDB
This site has over 4k icons – select from any size. Ability to preset colours or customize using hex #
Usage rules: See site for rules

Although the Usage Rule may include 'Attribution is not required, but appreciated', if you want to give credit to the photographer, here's a recommendation on how to do it: 'Photo courtesy of (name of photographer) via (name of stock photo house)'

Usage Rules:

Royalty Free: You can use these images without needing to pay any royalty or licensing fees.

Creative Commons: Creative Commons is where the artist has waived their rights to the work. While many stock photo sites have Creative Commons licenses, it's helpful to double-check the terms of use, as some sites have added specific terms alongside their Creative Commons licensing.

Attribution: You must credit the work in order to use the image.

Membership options: You are required to sign-up to the site in order to use the royalty-free images. Some sites are free and others require a membership fee.

Commercial Use: You are allowed to use royalty-free images for business ventures of any kind.

Equalicense: You can use images for nearly any purpose, commercial or non-commercial, without attribution. You cannot sell, redistribute, or relicense the images, and you cannot sell products which derive their primary value from the image.

These rules are generally accepted usage - please confirm all use of stock images with the stock site for exceptions.

What else can we do for you?

Cafe Solutions

**Social Media
Mentoring**

Social Media Training