

Photoshop World 2019

Sharing Synced Photo Galleries from Lightroom Classic & Lightroom

with Rob Sylvan

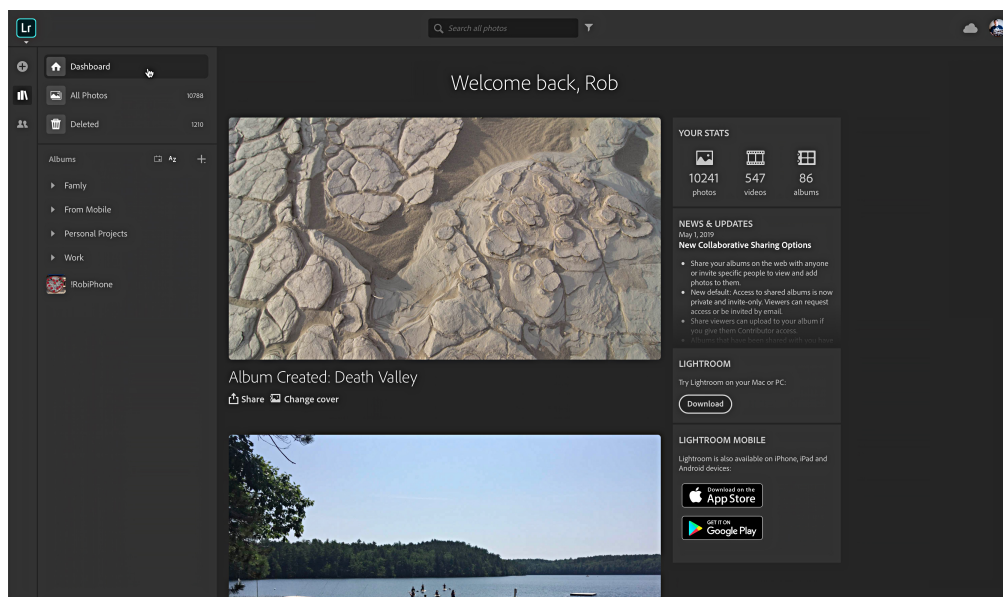
Learn how to leverage the cloud-based nature of Lightroom to share your photos in a way that will give anyone with the link the ability to view, comment, and like them from their web browser! It is called Lightroom on the Web, and it integrates with both Lightroom and synced Lightroom Classic catalogs, so it doesn't matter which version of Lightroom you are using. Every comment and "like" entered by clients, family, or friends is automatically synced with Lightroom and your Classic catalog for you to act on and respond. But that's not all, Lightroom on the Web is packed with a growing list of features that give you the ability to view, upload, download, share, search, organize, and (non-destructively) edit your photos from any web browser, all while keeping it synced across all of your devices. Join Rob in this session where you will learn how to easily incorporate all of this into your Lightroom workflow.

What is it?

Lightroom on the web, or sometimes simply referred to as Lightroom Web, is basically Lightroom in a web browser. That might sound limiting, but there's an amazing amount of functionality built into Lightroom Web, and it can be utilized by people who use either Lightroom Classic or the cloud-based Lightroom.

Access Synced Collections

To get there, point your web browser to lightroom.adobe.com and login with the same Adobe ID and password you use for your Creative Cloud subscription. Once logged in you'll be greeted by the Dashboard screen, where you can quickly access your synced collections/albums, as well as the latest news/updates, your stats, and your photos. It's worth taking a moment to look around and see all of what is offered here. You can jump to seeing your synced photos by clicking any of the links to your photos or collections/albums displayed on the page.



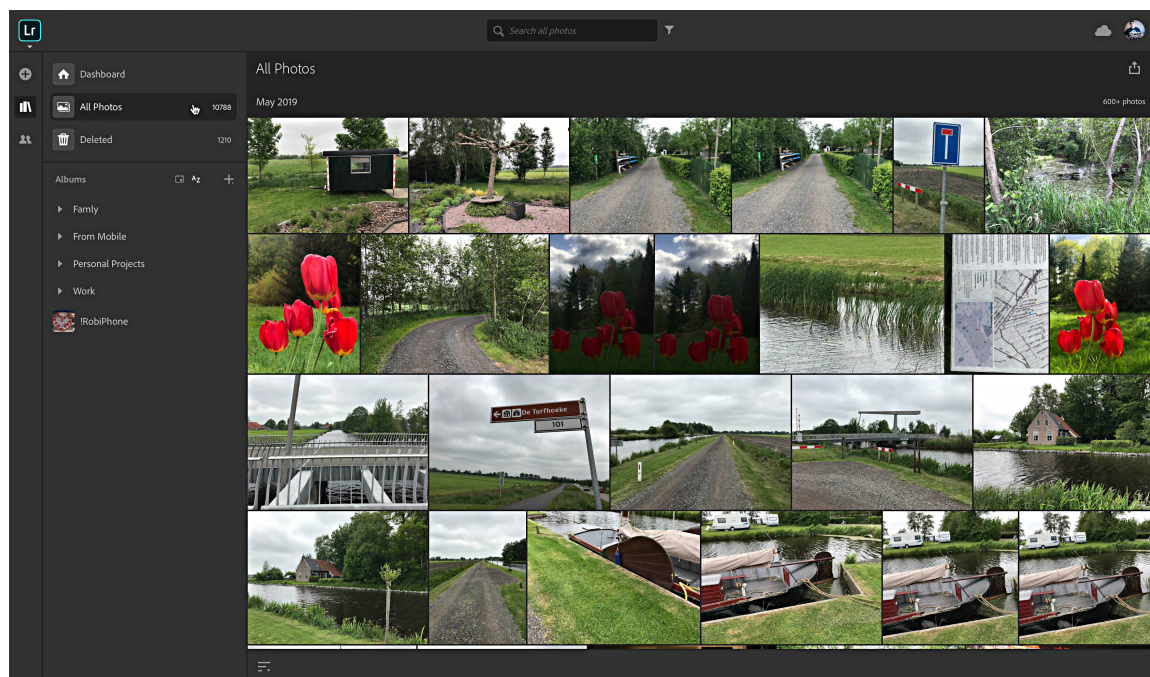
Lightroom Classic vs Lightroom Lingo

If you are coming from a Lightroom Classic world, then you are familiar with collections and collection sets. Collections contain your photos, and collection sets can contain other collection sets or collections. Here in the cloud-based Lightroom-land collections are called albums, and collection sets are called folders. In other words, in Lightroom you organize your albums by putting them into folders. I'll refer to them by their Lightroom ecosystem names from here on out when referring to what is in Lightroom on the web.

Side note, while Lightroom Classic collections can be synced to Lightroom (where they are called albums), Lightroom Classic's collection sets do not sync, nor do Lightroom's folders. You have to manually create them in each respective application.

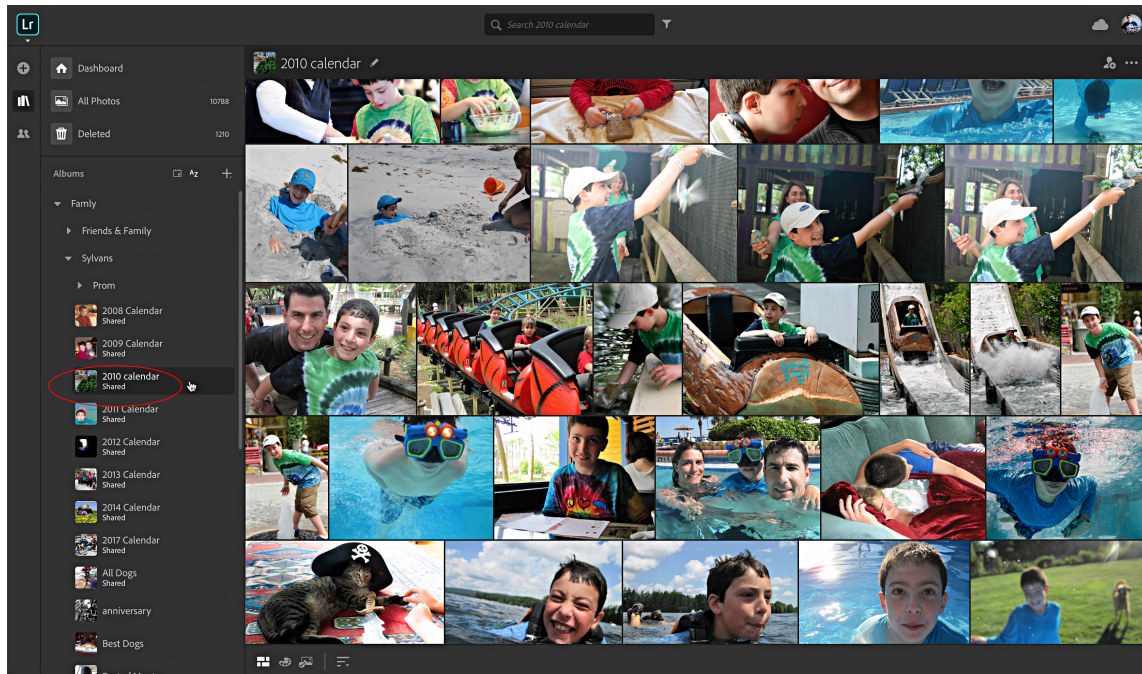
Manage Albums

All the photos you've added to synced collections through your Lightroom Classic catalog are here, as well as any you've imported directly into the Lightroom ecosystem (iOS/Android/Win/Mac) or even Lightroom Web, and are visible on the All Photos screen.



Along the left you'll find your Folders and Albums arranged in alphanumeric order. The main content area will be populated with the source you've selected on the left side. I am starting out in All Photos view but will switch to different albums as we go.

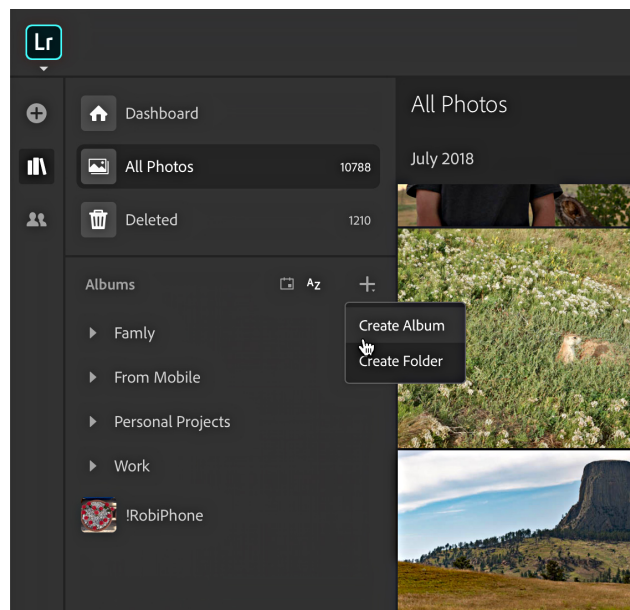
Any albums that are shared publicly will display the word, "Shared" below the album name on the left side. You can quickly view only publicly shared albums by clicking the Shares icon to the left of the list. We'll come back to sharing later on.



Create a New Album

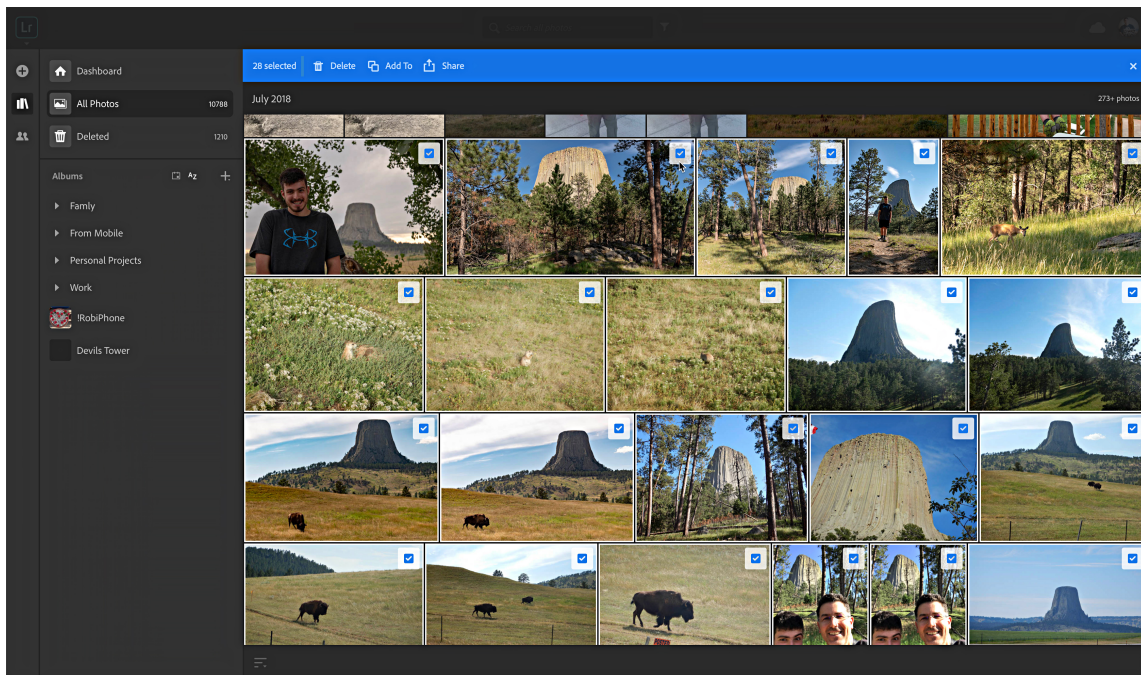
Let's go through the steps of creating a new Album through Lightroom Web, adding currently synced photos to that album, editing the album settings, and uploading a new photo to explore these options.

STEP ONE: Click the plus sign at the top of the Albums list to see the Create a New Album dialog box, where you can enter a name and click Create. I created a new album I named "Devils Tower."



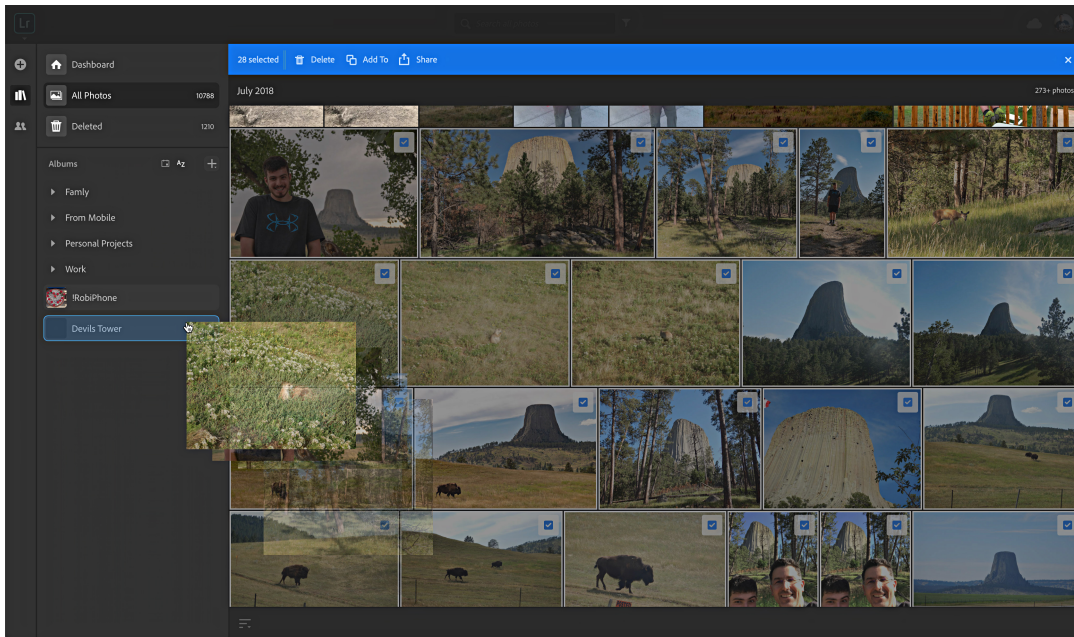
STEP TWO: When you create a new album, it will appear in the list on the left. You can add photos by dragging and dropping them from the main area to the album, so I'll start there.

STEP THREE: Select the photos you want to add to the new album and drag them over. While viewing the contents of an album (or All Photos) you'll see all the synced photos within, and as you move your cursor over each photo a checkmark appears in the upper right corner. Click that checkmark to select the first photo (don't click the photo or it switches to the editor).



This also activates the management options for the selected photos along the top (which vary based on the source you are viewing at the time). Go on to select as many photos as you wish to add to the new album. Tip, once the first photo is selected (checked), you can just click on the photos to make additional selections, or hold Shift and click the last photo in a sequence to select all photos between the first photo and the last one you clicked.

STEP FOUR: Drag the selected photos to the desired album on the left. As you click and drag the selected photos any visible albums on the left will display a faint highlight indicating it as a potential target, but when your desired target album highlights in blue you can release the mouse to add the photos to it.

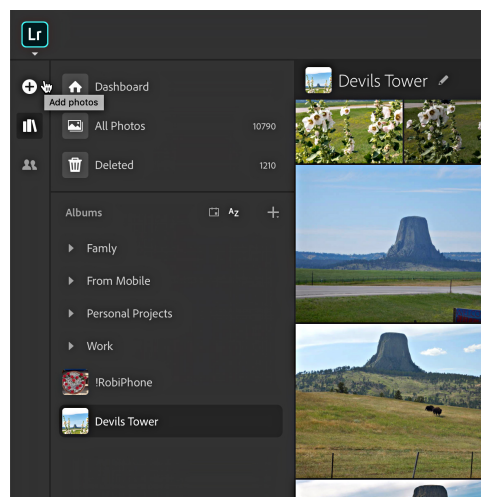


Upload New Photos

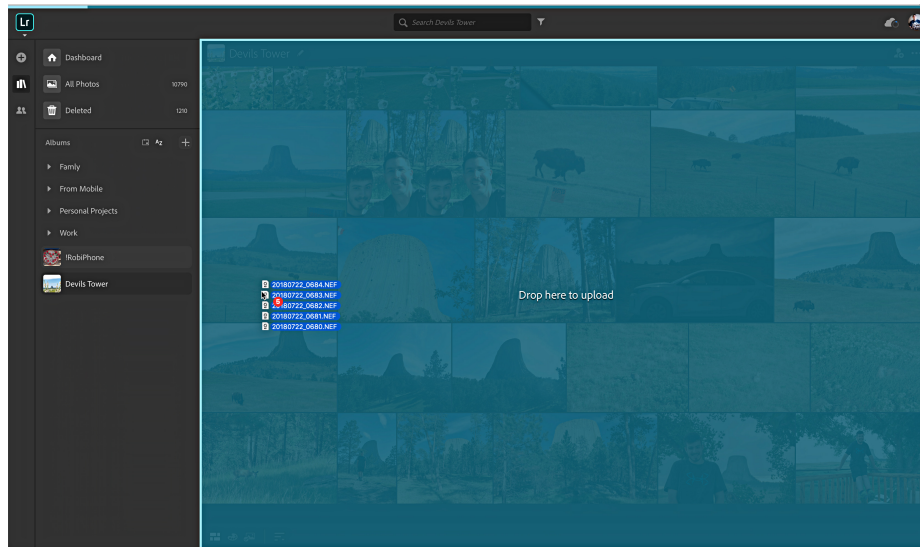
I've added some previously synced photos to my new album, but I also have some photos in a folder on my son's laptop that I'd like to upload directly to this album, which in turn will cause the full resolution photos to be synced to Lightroom and make it available across all Lightroom apps. This functionality gives us all the potential to leave our computers at home, and if you are going somewhere with a computer that has web access we can upload photos while on the go. In this case, I'll log into lightroom.adobe.com on my son's computer and upload the photos.

STEP ONE: Select the album you want to upload the photos into. I selected the new Devils Tower album.

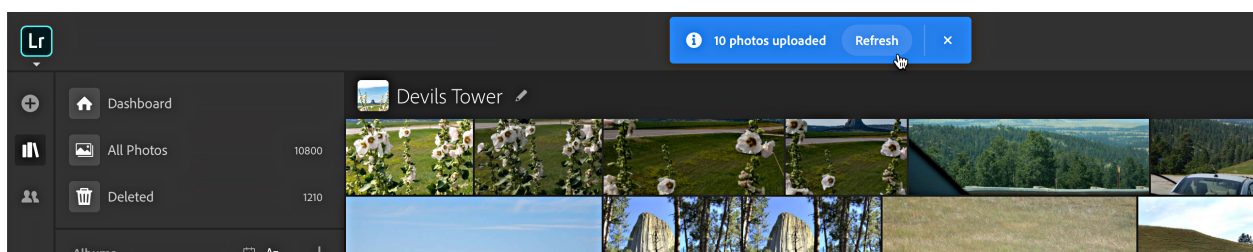
STEP TWO: Click the Add Photos icon (+ sign) along the top of the left side and navigate to the location on the computer where the photos are stored.



STEP THREE: Select all the photos you want to add and click Open. In my example I'm uploading some raw photos, but they can be any supported file type. (Note, you can also drag and drop photos from your file browser onto the thumbnail view in your web browser to start the upload.)



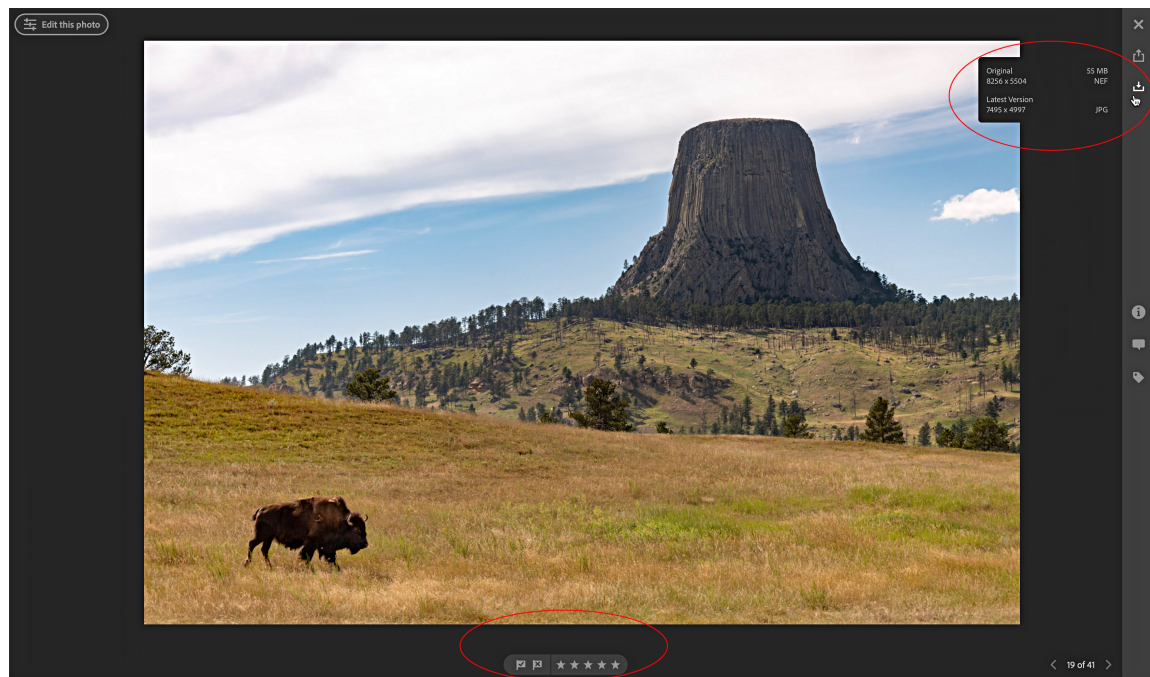
You'll see a blue progress bar appear along the top of the web browser window and the cloud icon will animate to indicate the upload has begun. The speed of your Internet connection is clearly a potentially limiting factor, but I'm excited about the freedom that comes from being able to add new photos to my catalog from any connected computer in the world. You'll be notified when the upload is complete, and you can click the Refresh button to see the uploaded photos appear in the album.



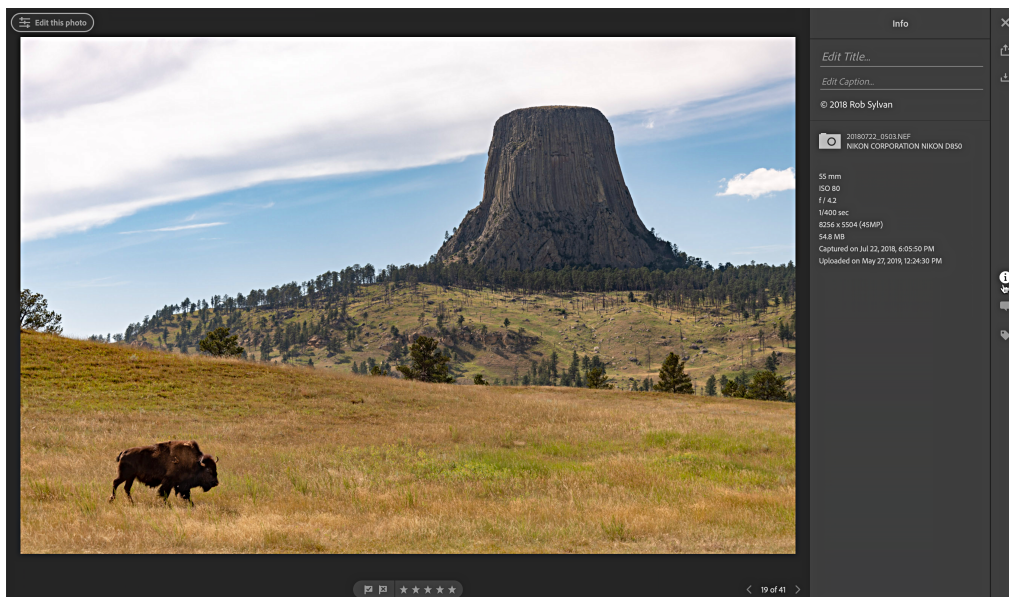
Let's see what else we can do with the photos in this Web interface.

Edit in Your Browser

A limited set of adjustment tools (compared to the actual Lightroom apps) are also available via this web interface. Simply click on a photo to see it in Loupe view. In this view we can apply flags and ratings using the icons along the bottom. On the right side you'll find the option to download or share the photo. In this example, the photo was one of the raw photos I uploaded directly through Lightroom web, so the full resolution image was uploaded to the cloud, which means I can download the full NEF file or the smaller smart preview JPG size copy.

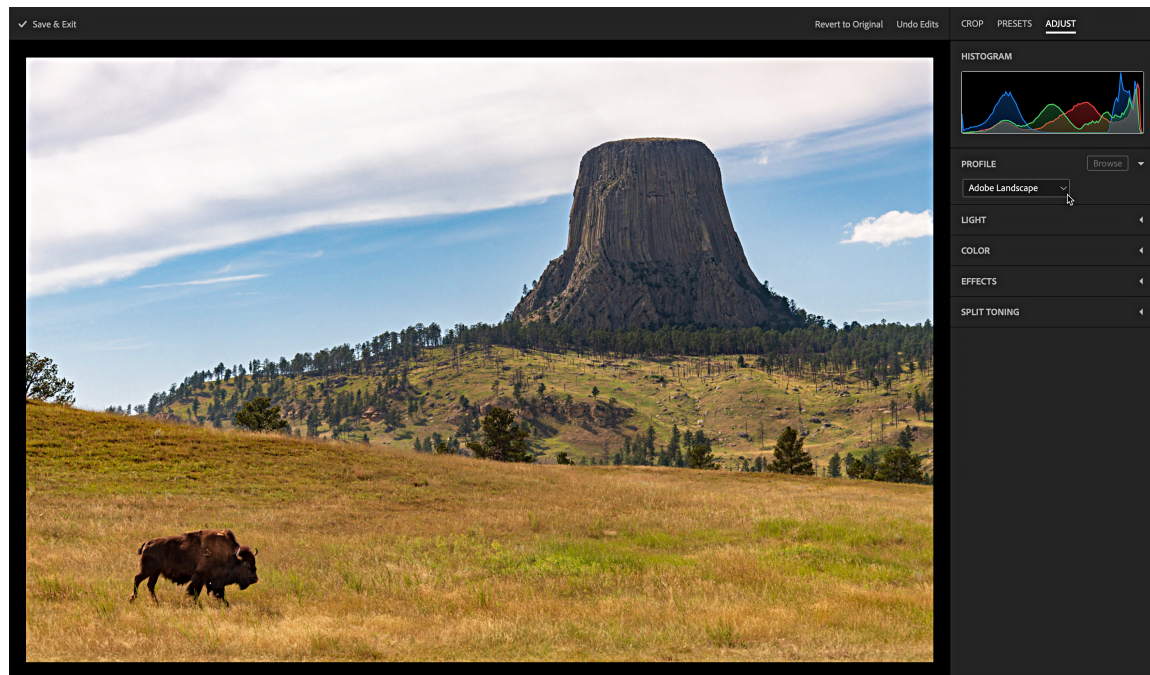


Below that we can enable the Photo Info view or the Activity view (we'll come back to the Activity view). In the upper-left corner is the Edit this photo button, which will take you to the editing options. Opening Photo Info allows you to view existing metadata and edit the title and caption (if the photo contains GPS info you'll see its location pinned on a map below the photo info).

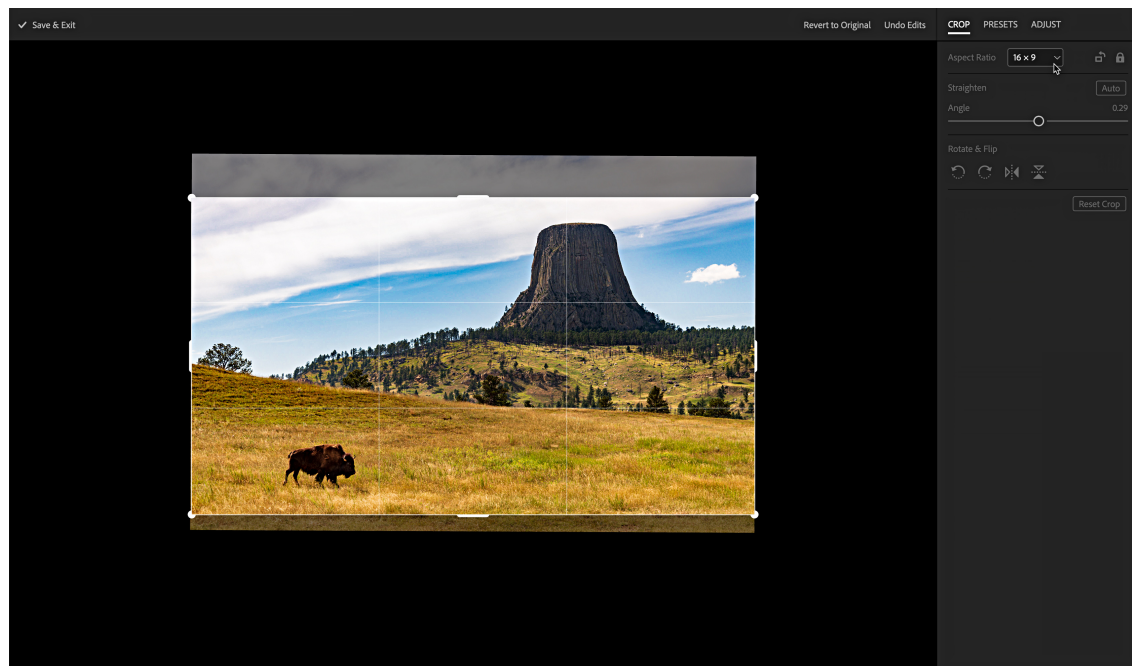


In edit mode we have a similar set of adjustments as can be found in the Lightroom family of apps, such as cropping, applying presets, making basic tonal adjustments, white balance, B&W

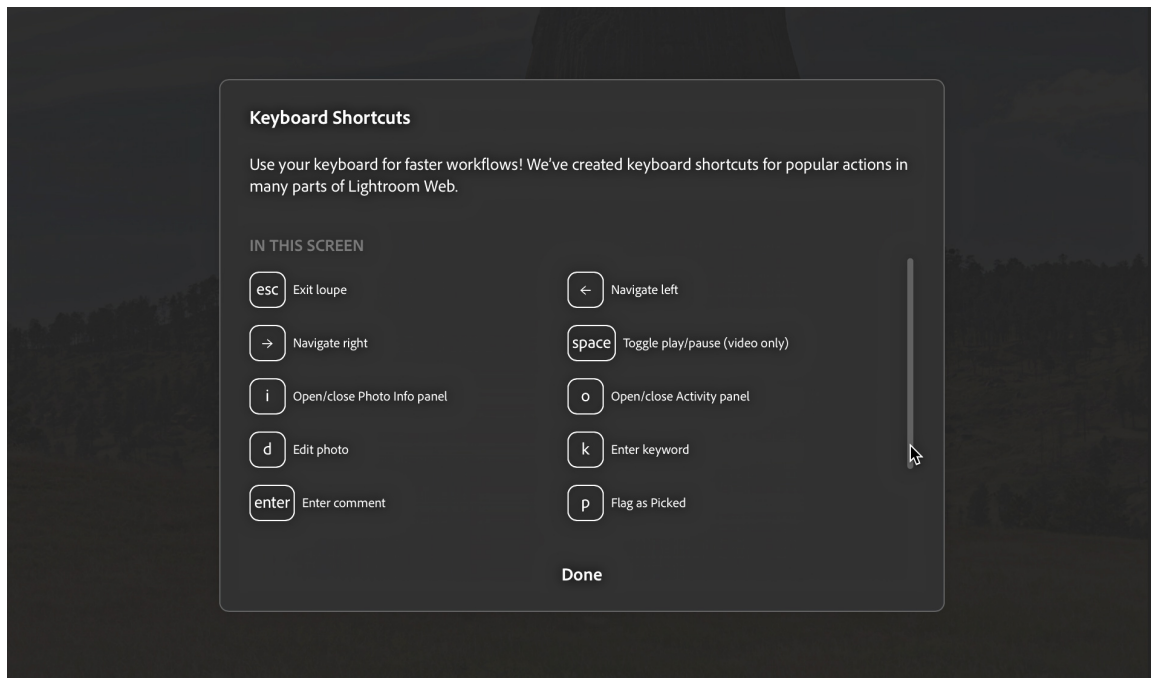
conversions, the new profiles, and more. Remember, this was an NEF file I captured on my DSLR, and now I am adjusting tonal values and tweaking white balance in my web browser. Amazing.



Switching to the Crop tool, I can choose from the usual common aspect ratios, I can straighten, rotate and flip as you'd expect.

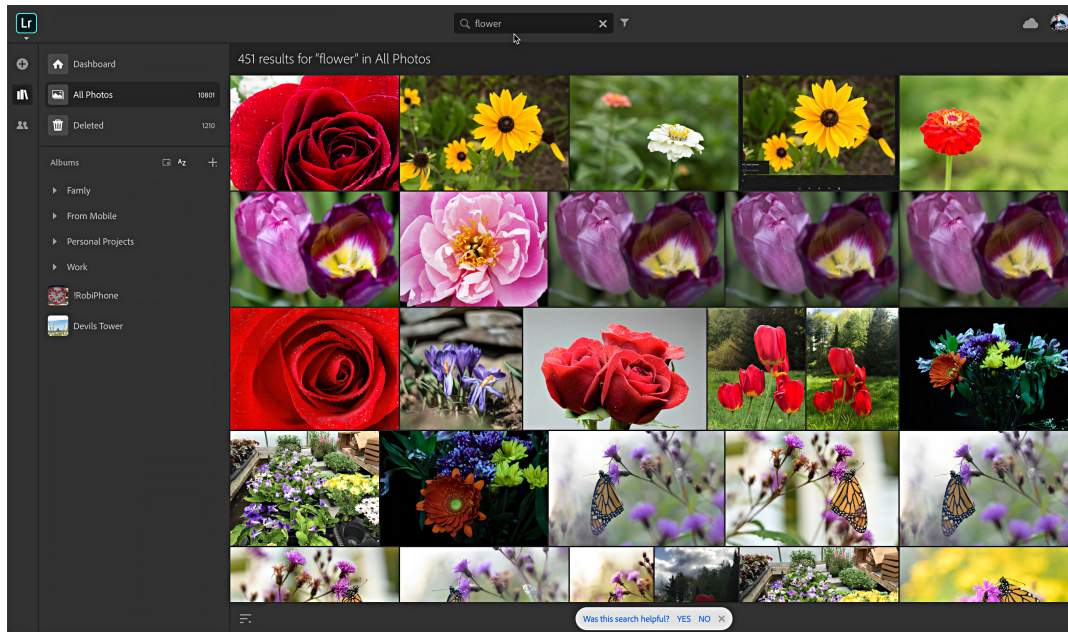


When the editing is done, click the Save & Exit button in the upper-left. You can return to Grid view by clicking the X in the upper-right of Loupe view, or just press the G key. Yes, they've incorporated some of the same keyboard shortcuts we're used to using in Lightroom Desktop into the web interface. While in Loupe view, P, U, and X correspond to Pick, Unflag, and Reject, hitting 1 through 5 applies the corresponding star rating. While in Edit view, W triggers the white balance selector tool and R switches to the Crop function. Whichever view you are in, press the ? key (or click the drop-down menu on the Lr logo to choose Keyboard shortcuts) to see a complete list of shortcuts for that view.



Adobe Sensei powered search

Once a technology preview, this search function does not rely on keywords, but rather artificial intelligence and machine learning technology that analyzes the contents of your photos and allows you to find certain images based on their content. This is the same search functionality found in the Lightroom ecosystem apps. For example, I'll click on All Photos (to search on everything) and enter "flower" in the field, and I get back 451 results. I encourage you to play around with all kinds of words and see the results you get back. I've been consistently impressed. Scrolling through the results I did find misfires near the end, but the beginning of the results were spot on. Because this is an evolving feature you'd encouraged to provide feedback at the bottom about your experience to help improve it over time.



Now that you've got a good foundation on the basics of organizing and editing in Lightroom on the web, let's take a look at how the sharing aspects function.

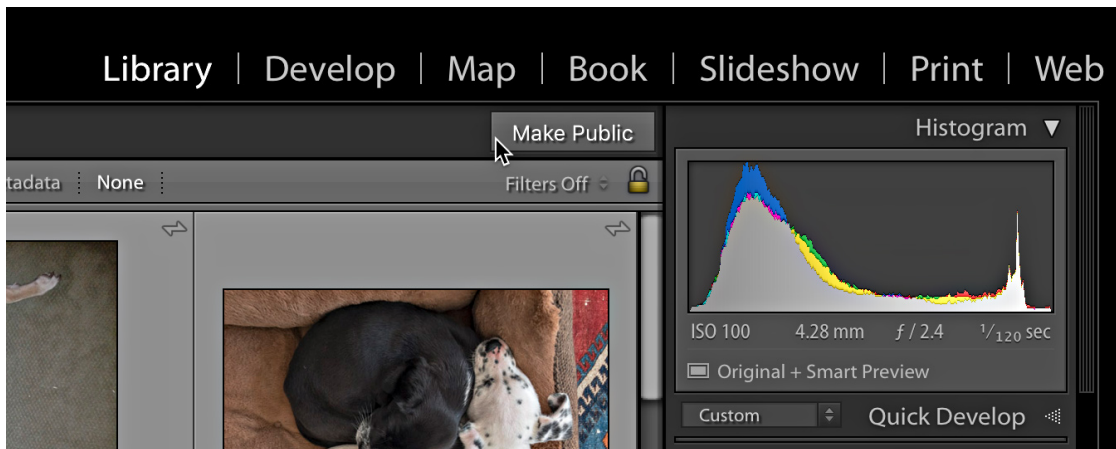
Sharing

Because your photos are stored on an Adobe server (the cloud) it gives you the ability to access them through your web browser and all Lightroom apps. It also means there are some unique opportunities for sharing your photos via the web with others. There are four basic ways sharing can be done from Lightroom Web:

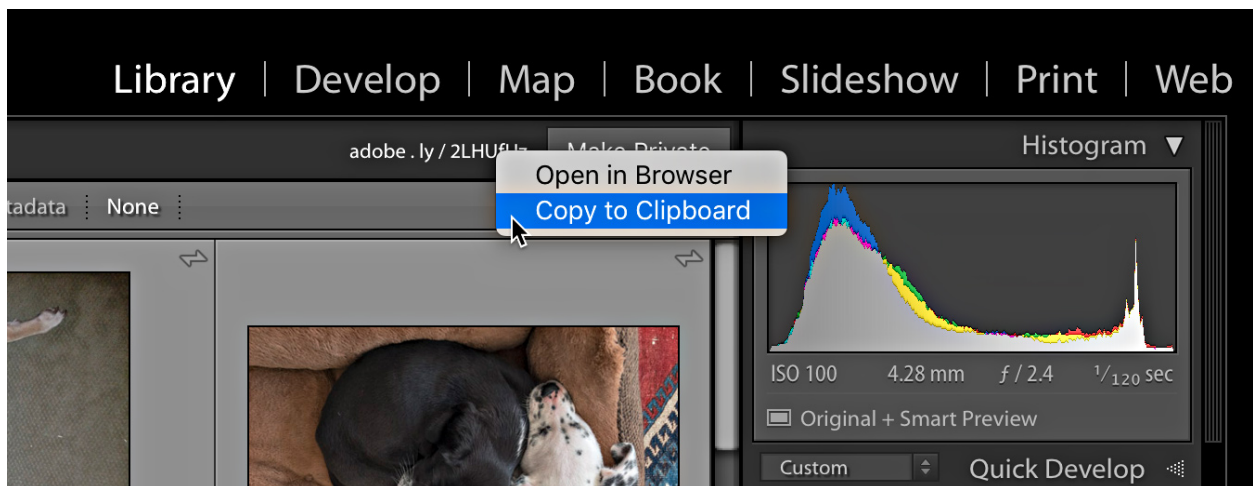
- Making an album public, which generates a link you can share with others.
- Creating a gallery from one or more albums.
- Creating a share from selected photos (and you can even add text).

Making an Album Public

If you've used Lightroom on mobile or desktop or have synced collections/albums from within Lightroom Classic, then you've probably seen and possibly used the Make Public link below the Module Picker in Lightroom Classic.

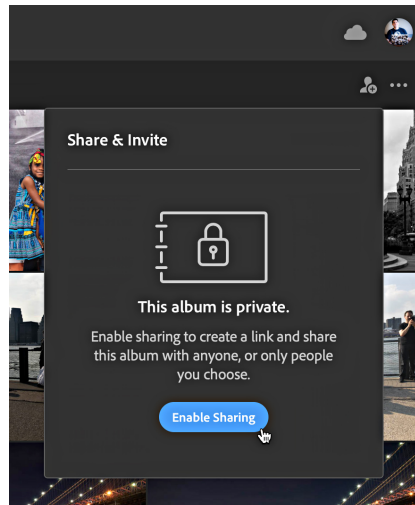


When clicked, Lightroom Classic generates a URL to view that collection/album from any web browser. Clicking that URL will open that collection/album in your default browser. You can also right-click that URL and choose Copy to Clipboard to make it easy to paste that URL into a message to share with someone else. Anyone with that link can view the contents of that gallery. This is a simple way to quickly share your photos with anyone you choose.

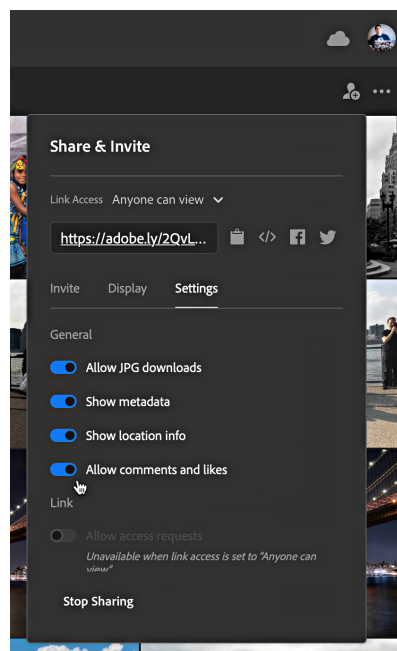


If you share it with someone who has (or who creates) a free Adobe ID, that person will also have the ability to leave comments on the photos in that collection/album or click the heart-shaped “like” button on any photo. These comments and likes are automatically synced back to both Lightroom and Lightroom Classic.

You can also share an album from within Lightroom Web. First, select the album you want to share, then while viewing that album, click the Share Settings icon (upper-right), then click the Enable Sharing button.



Once enabled, you'll see the Share & Invite popup that provides the options for controlling access to the album (set to invite only by default), accessing share links, and customizing the display and album settings (allowing for downloads, showing metadata, displaying location, and allowing comments and likes). You can also stop sharing from this popup.

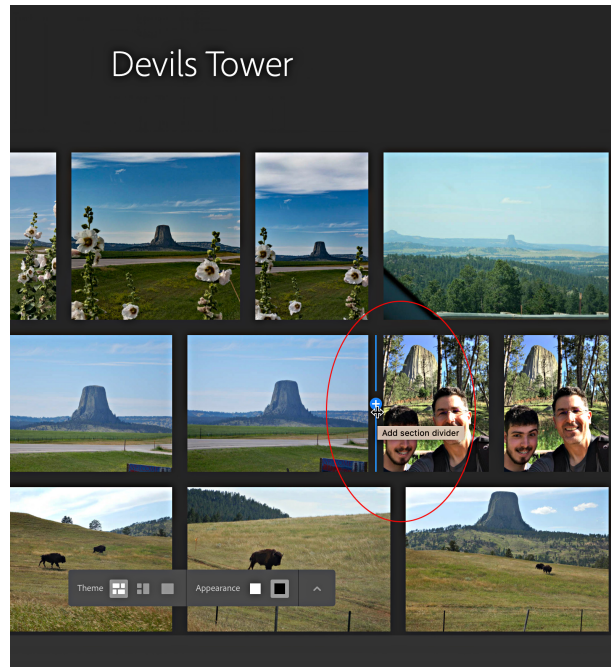


Customizing Album Display

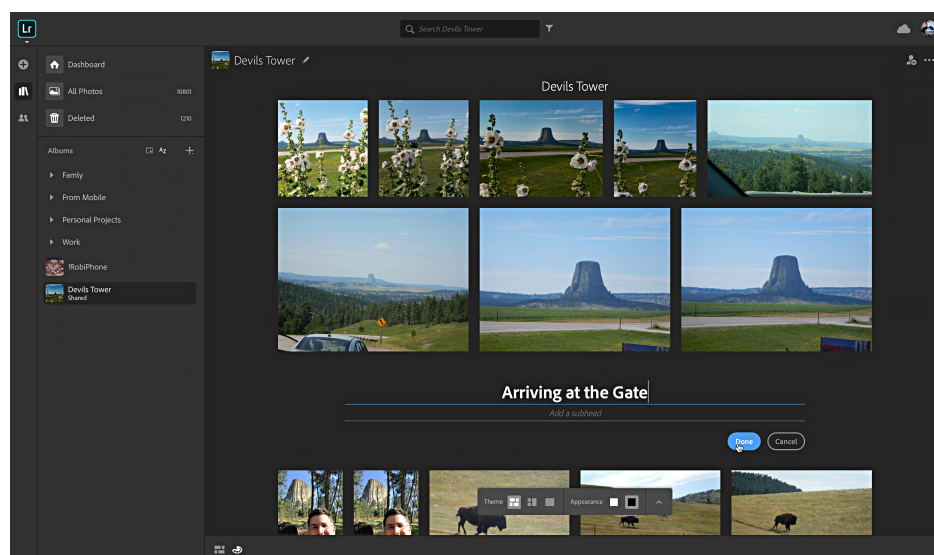
To customize how your photos will display to visitors, click the Display icon under the thumbnails while viewing an album to:

- Customize the sort order via drag and drop
- Divide the content into sections
- Change the appearance via the Settings Pod

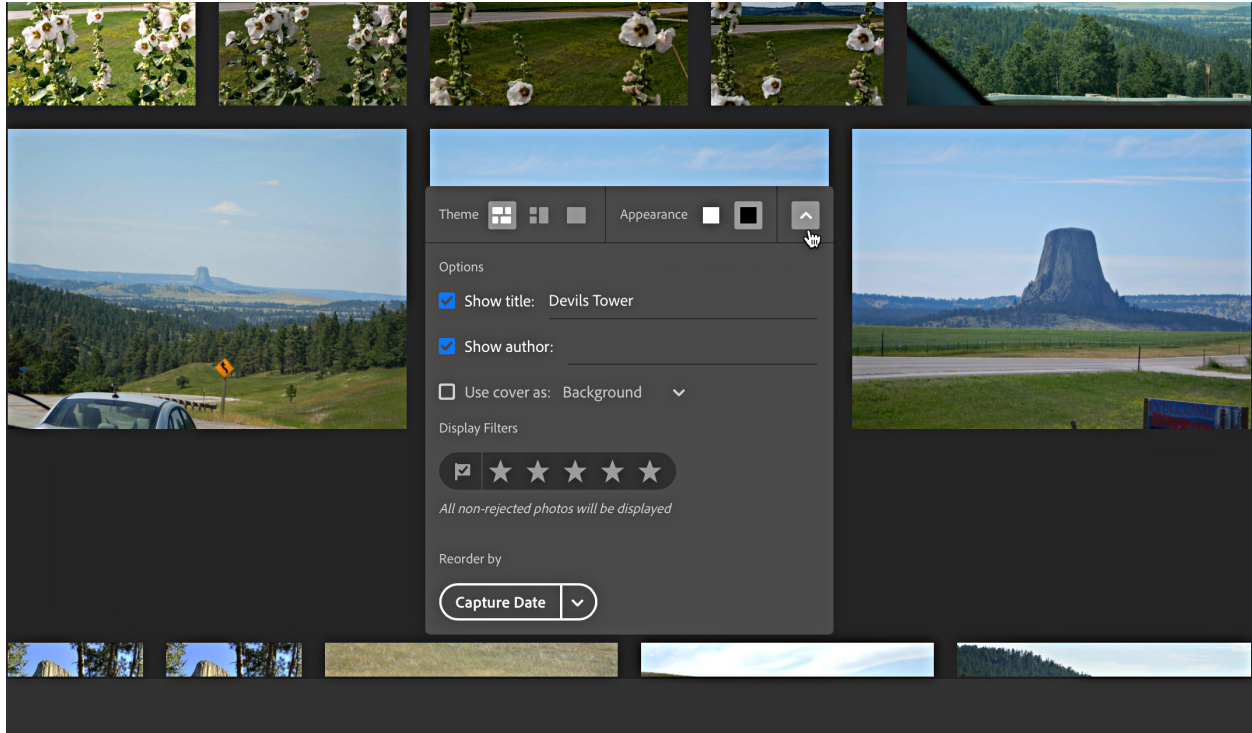
Dragging and dropping photos into a custom order is pretty self-explanatory, but you can also place section dividers between sub-groups of photos by placing your cursor between two photos and clicking the blue line that appears.



Once a divider is inserted you can add an optional heading and sub heading for the group of photos below the divider you created.



Click the Settings Pod at the bottom to expand its options and further customize your gallery.



Once the gallery looks the way you want, you can share out that link from the Invite & Share popup to friends, family, and clients.

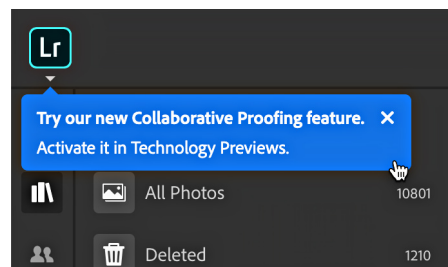
Technology Previews

Occasionally, Adobe will test new features as what they call “technology previews” which can be activated by clicking the Lr icon and choosing Technology Previews from the menu. Some technology previews become full-fledged features (like the Sensei search) and others may go back to the drawing board. There is currently a tech preview called Collaborative Proofing that you might want to try. Scott Kelby has a good write up (and follow up) post over at Lightroom Killer Tips that you should check out to learn more:

New Lightroom “Collaborative Proofing” Feature

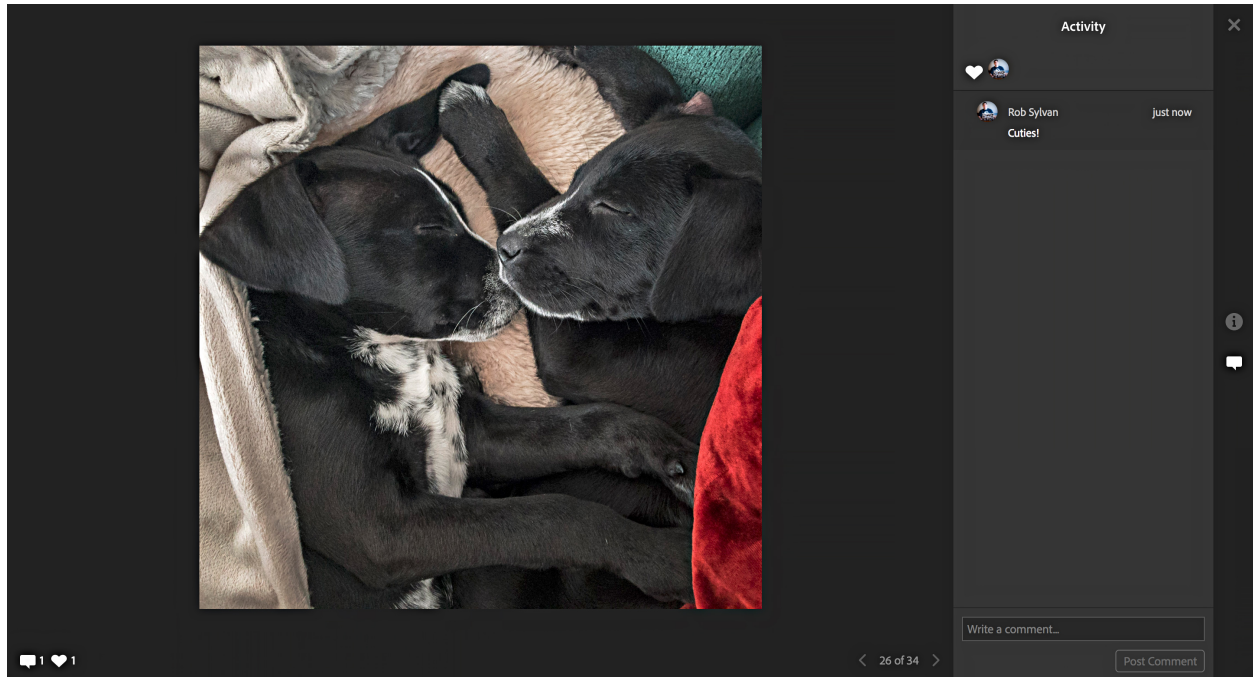
<https://lightroomkillertips.com/new-lightroom-collaborative-proofing-feature/>

<https://lightroomkillertips.com/what-makes-this-new-lightroom-collaborative-proofing-feature-any-better-than-what-we-already-had/>



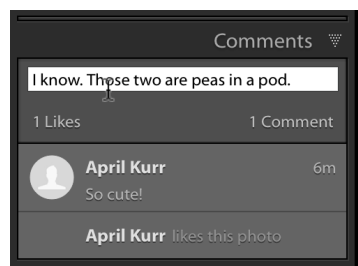
Getting Feedback

Once you've shared the link with other people they can view the album from any web browser. If they log in with an Adobe ID they can also leave comments and "likes" (clicking the heart icon). For example, if I share my album with someone, and they click on a thumbnail they'll see the larger version of the photo and, after opening the Activity tab, can access the like and comment features.



Once that is submitted, I'll get notified and I'll see that appear right back in Lightroom or in a synced Lightroom Classic catalog.

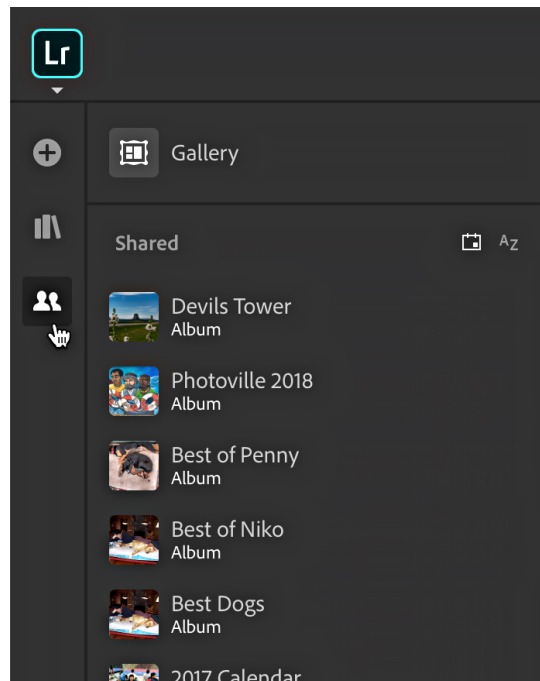
I think this is really cool! We've got a built-in mechanism to share unlimited collections/albums with an unlimited number of people (clients, family, friends, co-workers, etc.), and have all of their interactions synced back to us. We can even reply to comments right from inside Lightroom or Lightroom Classic and have that synced back across the ecosystem.



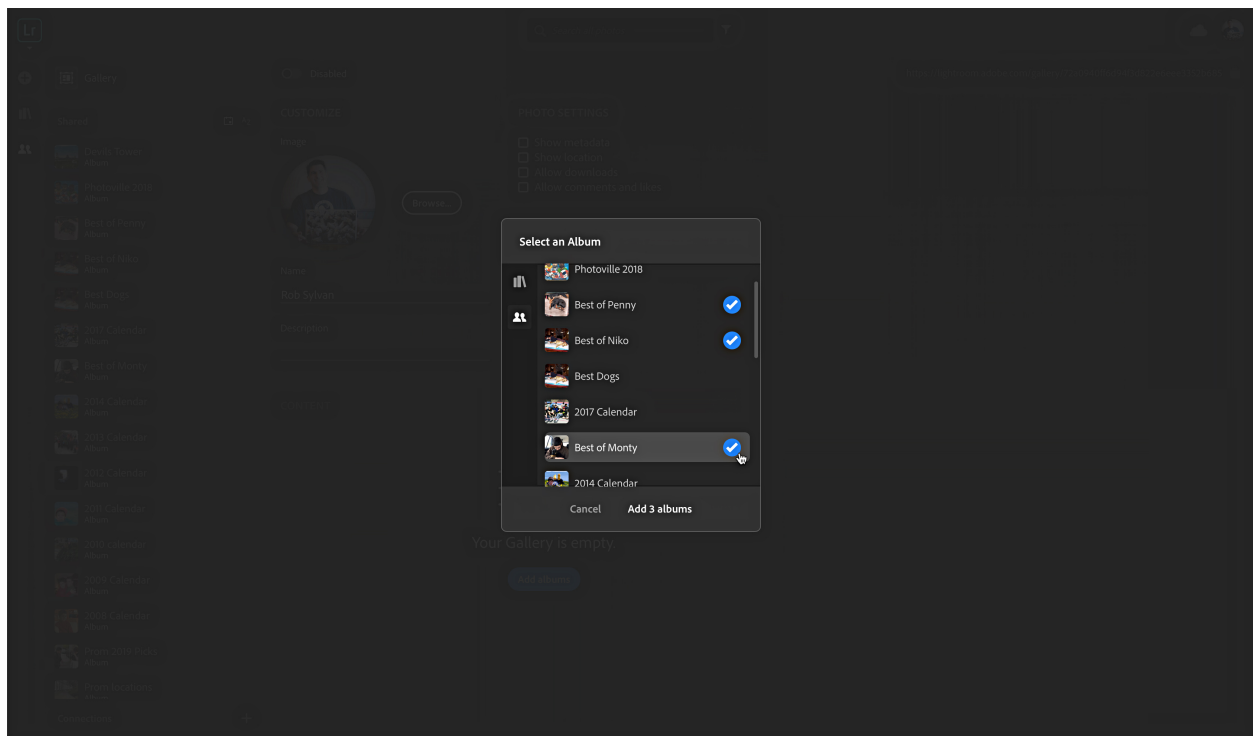
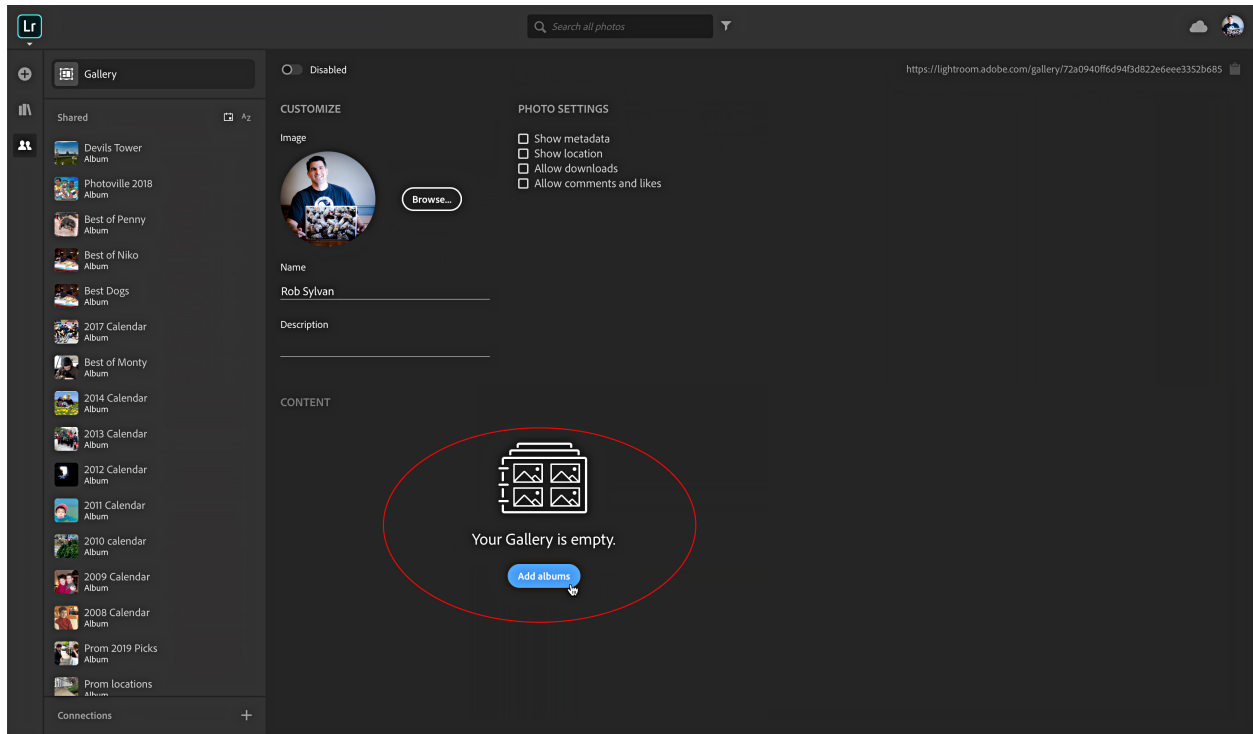
Creating a Gallery from One or More Albums

Here's a newer feature that I believe has a lot of potential but is still a work in progress. The basic premise is that you can create a web gallery comprised of multiple albums. It's a way to create a free-standing web gallery with link you can share, but is also dynamically linked to Lightroom. This way any changes you make to the photos in Lightroom are always reflected in the web gallery (just don't forget to refresh the web browser to see the latest). Note, at the time of this writing you can only create one of these types of galleries.

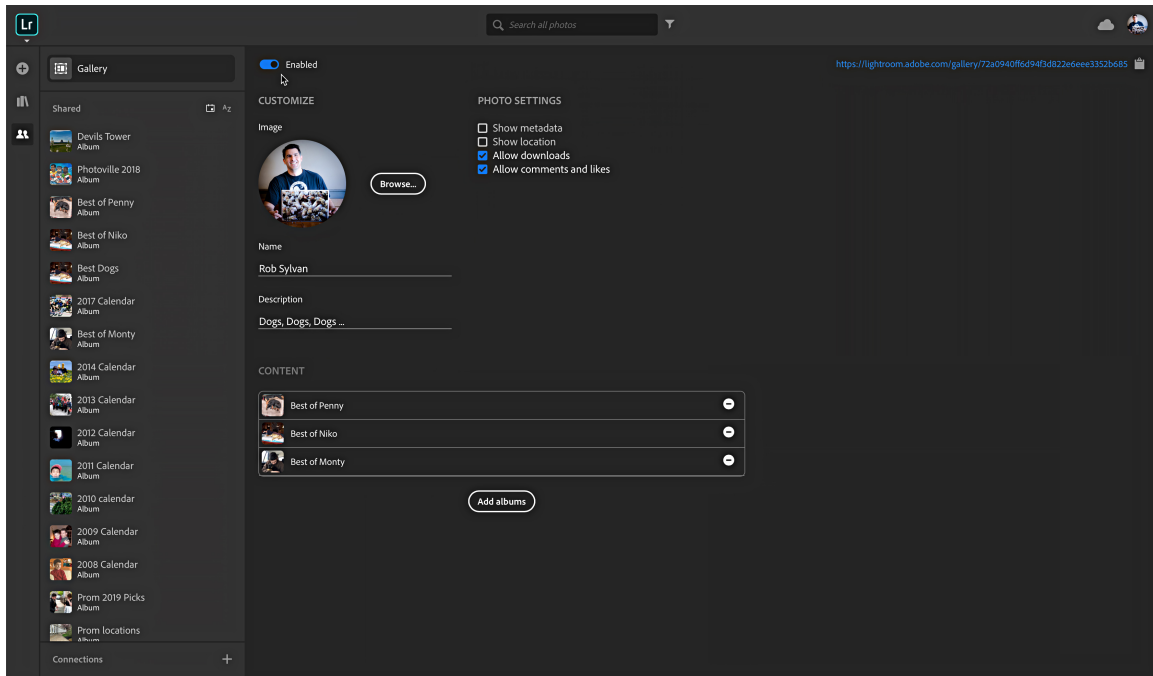
Click the Shares icon on the left panel and note the Gallery icon that appears above the shared albums. Click the Gallery icon to begin creating your gallery.



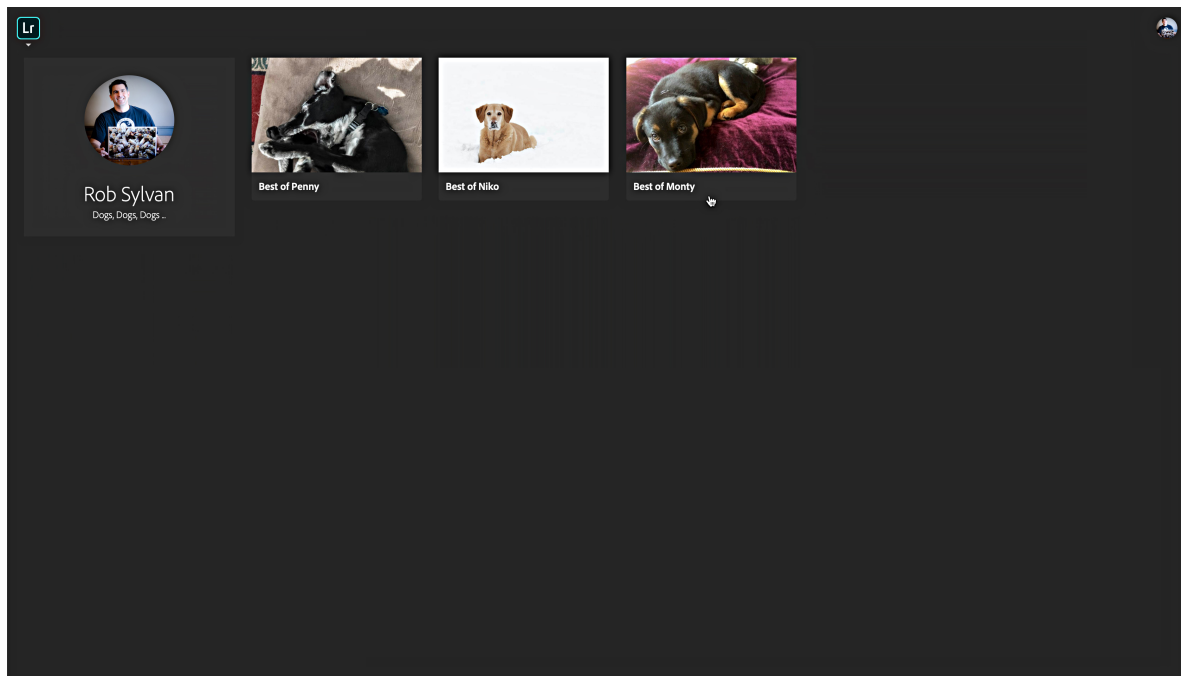
Clicking Add Albums takes you to the Select an Album screen, where you can choose what albums you want to include.



With the albums selected you can then configure the options for this gallery, find the sharable link, add a name and description, and add or remove albums over time.

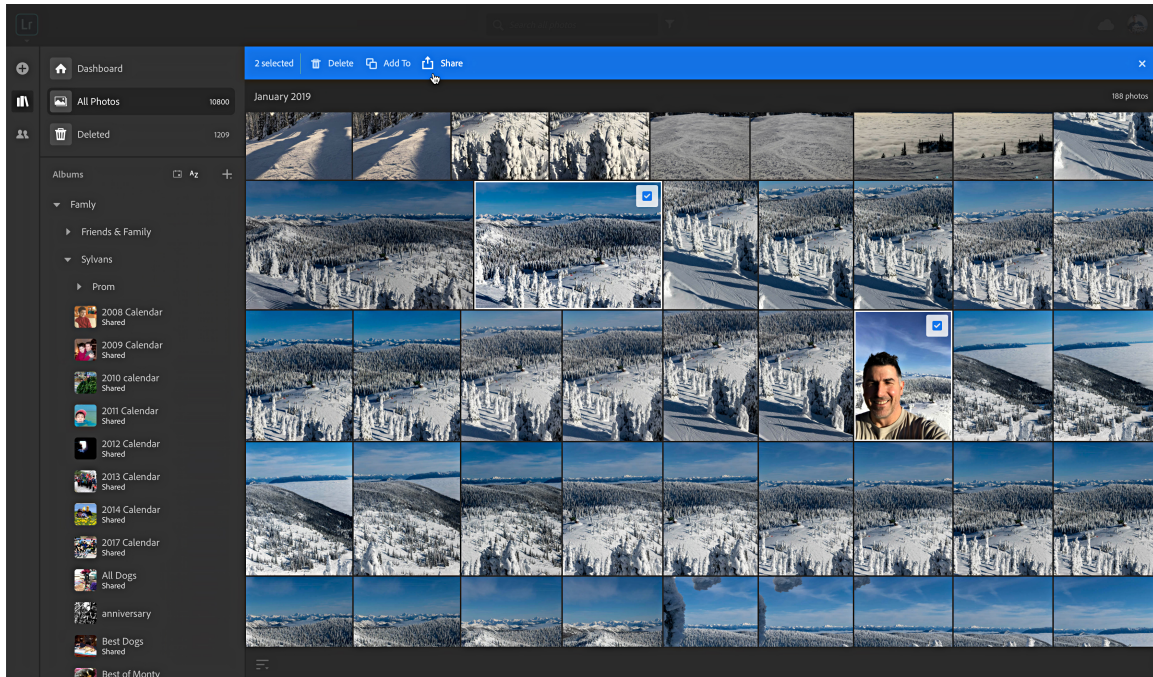


You can return to this gallery screen by clicking the Shares icon to access all your shared albums, and you will find the Gallery button at the top of the list. I look forward to seeing how this feature evolves and gets used. This final gallery I created looks like this:

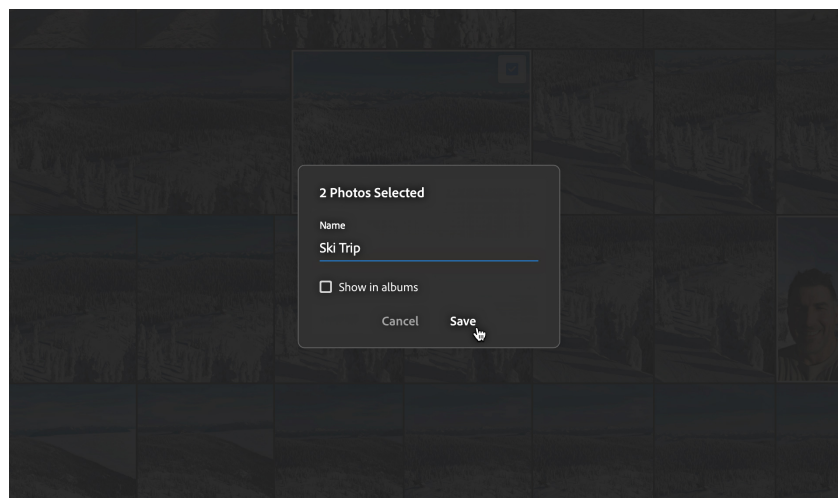


Create a New Share

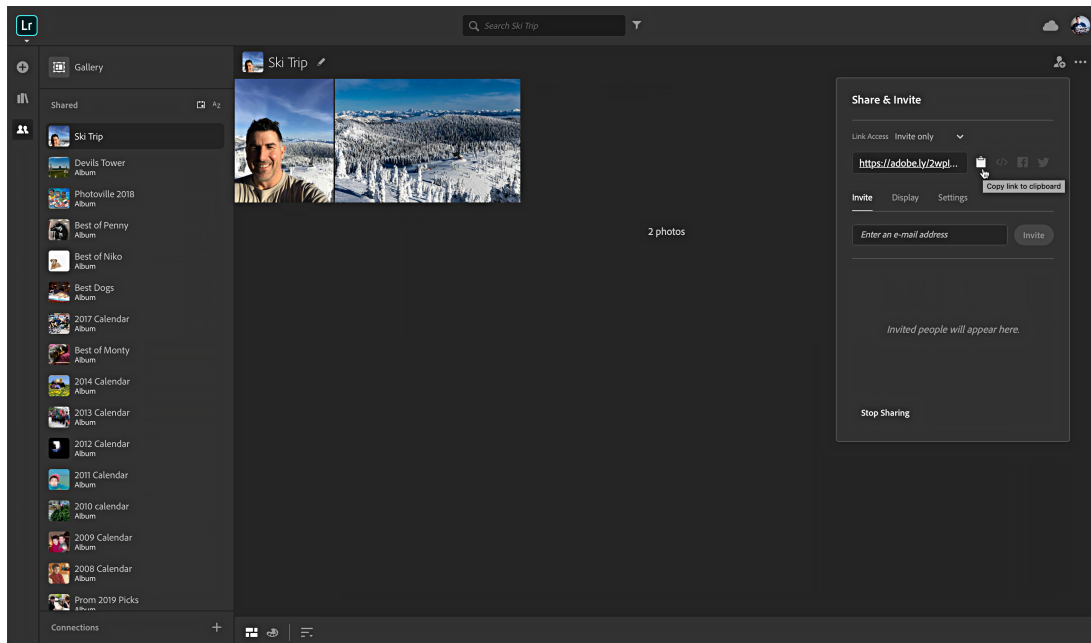
If you want to do more than just share an album publicly, such as add some descriptive text to help tell a story you can choose the Create a New Share option. You can do this a number of ways, but I'm going to jump to All Photos and select individual photos that I want to create a share with. Just like before, you want to click the checkmark on each photo you want to select.



For contiguous photos, click the checkmark on the first photo, hold the Shift key, then select the last photo in the line. For non-contiguous photos, hold the CMD (PC: Ctrl) key and select the desired photos. Once all photos are selected, click the Share button at the top to create the share. Give the share a name and click Save.



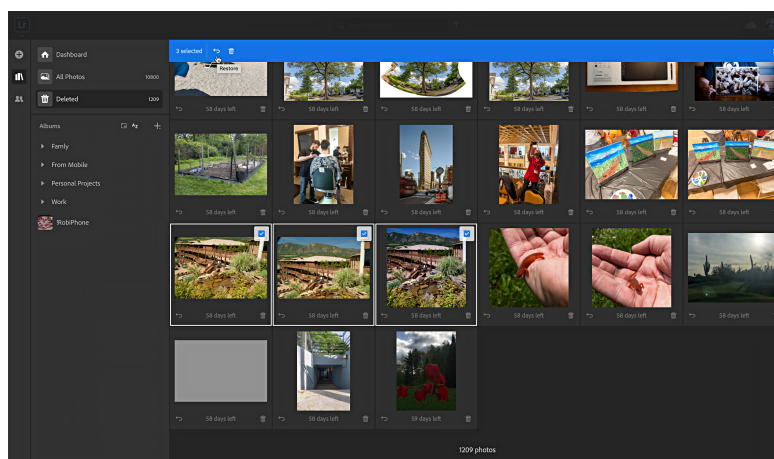
You'll then be presented with the same options we saw previously when sharing an album.



These shared groups of photos are only displayed when you click the Shares icon in Lightroom for web to filter only your shared collections. There is a region at the top where these shared groups of photos appear.

Restoring Deleted Photos

The Lightroom ecosystem finally gained a trash/recycle bin function that allows you to restore photos you've deleted from any of the Lightroom ecosystem apps. This has been a highly requested feature. Click the Deleted icon in the left panel to access your deleted items. Photos deleted within any of the Lightroom ecosystem apps (not Lightroom Classic) will remain here for up to 59 days. You can restore individual photos by clicking the Restore icon (curved arrow) under the thumbnail, or you can select multiple photos and click the Restore icon that appears in the blue bar above the thumbnails. You can also permanently delete photos by clicking the Delete icon (trash can).



Lightroom on the web gains new features and functionality on a regular basis, so be sure to check back from time to time to see what has been added. I hope you find this as useful as I do.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly @ rob@lightroomers.com if you have any Lightroom questions. Be sure to check in at <https://lightroomkillertips.com/> for my weekly tips column on all things Lightroom. Of course, KelbyOne members can always reach me through the [Lightroom Help Desk](#).