

PhotoLog

GPS Field Camera

User Manual

Version 1.2

A BESTAPP Digital Product

Table of Contents

Table of Contents 2
Welcome to PhotoLog 3
Getting Started 3
Taking A Photo 4
Adding Notes 7
Manage Images 8
Stamped Photos 11
Photo Fingerprints & Verification 12
Finding Your Photos 15
Photo Snap Sets 16
Free Tier and Subscriptions 18
Settings & Preferences 19
Tips & Troubleshooting 20
Thank You 21

Type It or Say It

Anywhere PhotoLog asks you to type, you can dictate instead. Tap the Dictate button or the microphone (🎤) icon beside the field and speak. Dictation is available for:

- Image Keys on the Capture Photos screen
- The search box on Search Photos
- Photo notes, when you take a photo or later
- Photo Snap Sets batch tags and notes, and individual notes
- The report title on Manage Images

Welcome to PhotoLog

PhotoLog began as a fix for a familiar problem: you spot something interesting (a barn find, a classic vehicle, a piece of history sitting in a field) and weeks later you can't remember exactly where it was. PhotoLog tags every photo with its GPS location the moment you take it, so the memory and the map never come apart.

It has grown into a field documentation tool for inspections, job sites, property and insurance records, and anyone who needs to show what they saw, where, and when. Every export includes a formatted field report, stamped copies of your photos and the untouched originals. As a premium feature, each original also gets a tamper-evident fingerprint recorded on the PhotoLog server.

This manual covers capturing, tagging, searching and exporting photos, bringing in photos from your phone's own camera, and verifying photos after they've been sent.

Getting Started

When you first launch PhotoLog, you'll be asked to sign in or create an account. This keeps your subscription status in sync.

On the main menu, you'll see your core navigation options:

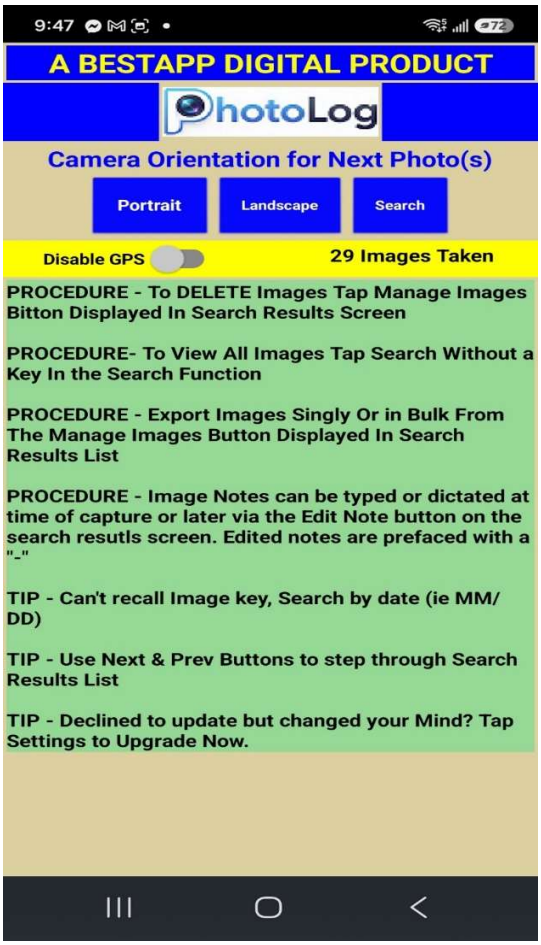


- Capture Photos — take a new GPS-tagged photo
- Search Photos — find and review photos you've already captured

- Manage Images — export, share or delete captured photos
- PhotoSnapSets — add keys and notes to photos already in your phone's gallery so PhotoLog can find them
- Manual & Settings — this manual, app preferences and subscription management

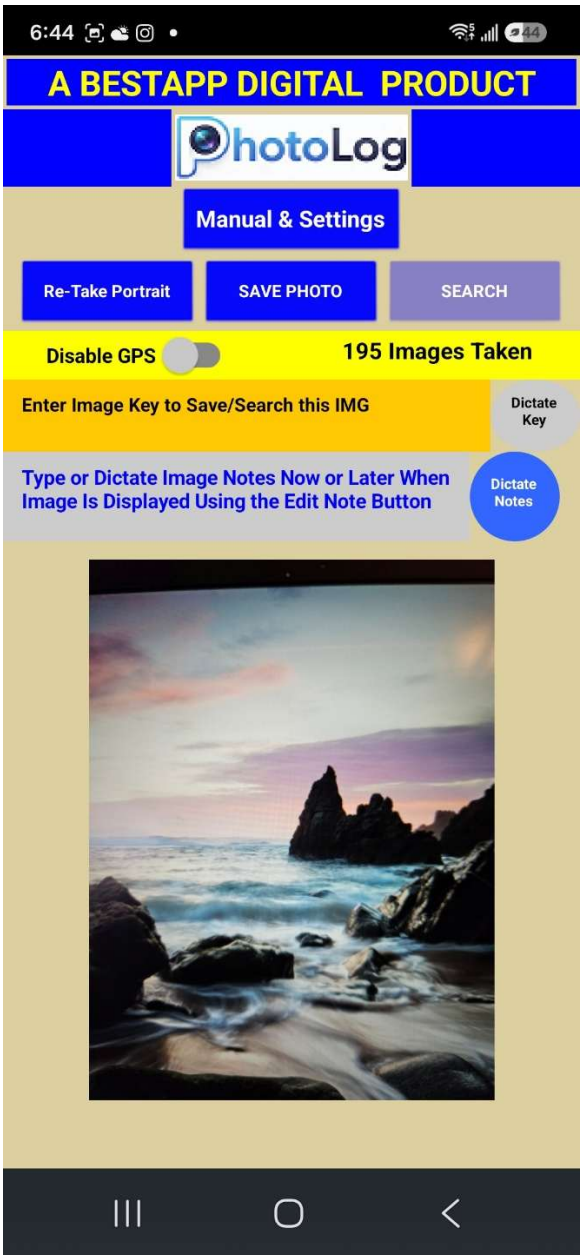
Taking A Photo

Tap Capture Photos from the main menu, then choose the camera orientation for your next photo(s):



- Portrait — for tall subjects or close-up detail shots
- Landscape — for wide shots, full vehicles, or scenes

After you take a photo, PhotoLog asks for an Image Key (a short tag or label) before saving. Type it, or tap Dictate Key and say it.



The key is what you'll search by later, so make it something you'll remember: a make and model, an inspection site, a project number or a landmark. **The key is persistent.** Enter it on the first photo and every photo in that session is saved under it, until you change it or close the app. To add to the same group in a later session, simply enter the same key again.

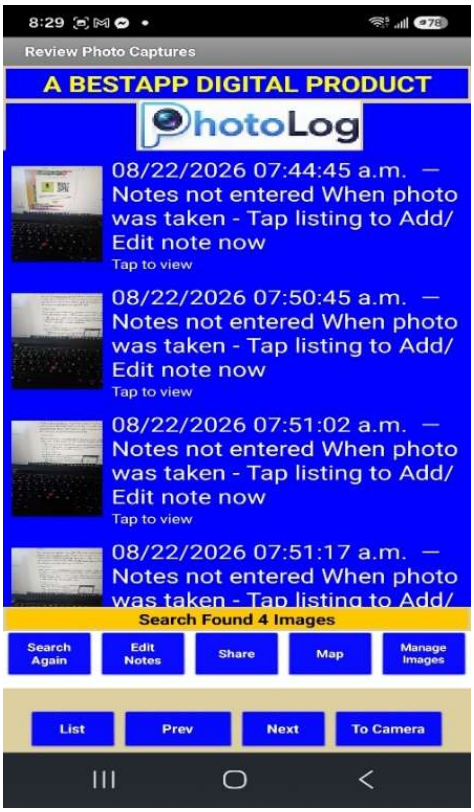
> **TIP:** Can't think of a memorable key? You can also search by date later (see Finding Your Photos), so don't overthink it in the moment.
>
> **TIP:** Commas, quotation marks and a trailing period are removed from keys automatically, so a dictated "Volvo 1966." is saved as "Volvo 1966".

If GPS is available when you take the photo, its location is saved automatically. To leave location off for a session, use the Disable GPS toggle.

After each photo, tap Re-Take for another try with the same orientation, or Save Photo to keep it and move on.

To switch orientation for the next photo(s), tap Change Orientation. Your key stays in place.

After each save, the Search button lets you review the photos taken under the current key, or your whole library (see image below). Tap “To Camera” to return; your key is still in place.

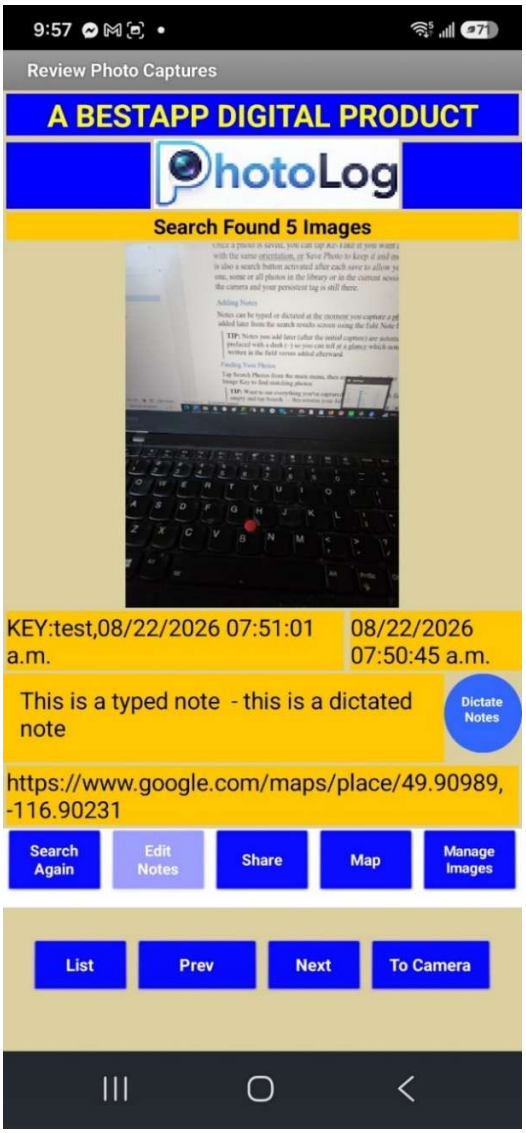


Adding Notes

Notes can be typed or dictated when you take a photo, or added later: open the photo in Search Photos and tap Edit Note.

> **TIP:** Dictated notes you add later are automatically prefaced with a dash (–), so you can tell at a glance which notes were made in the field and which were added afterward.

Your notes travel with the photo. They appear in the field report, in the export spreadsheet and on the stamped copy of the photo.



Manage Images

Manage Images is where you export, share and delete photos, using the Export, Export and Delete, or Delete buttons. You can also switch on a GIS/KML file for the export, for use in Google Earth and similar mapping software.



Report title

The white title box sits just below the record count. It fills in automatically as you select photos: if they all share one key, the title is that key; if they span several keys, it reads "Multiple Tags Export". You can add to it, type your own, or tap 🎤 to dictate one, up to 80 characters. The title appears at the top of every page of the field report.

Selecting photos

Select photos with the Tap to Select box under each photo, or tap Check All. Tap a selection again to clear it, or use Unselect All.

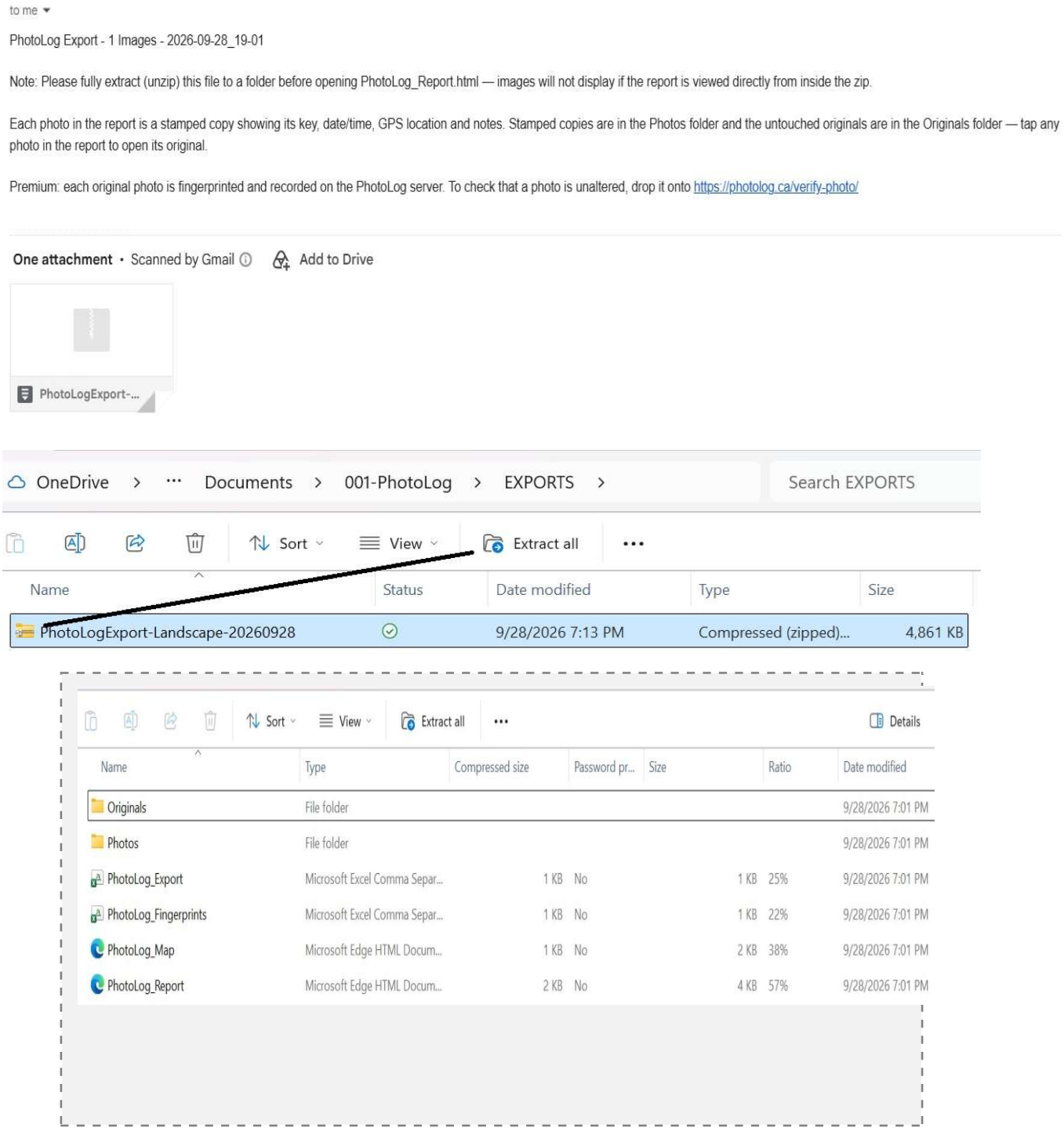
Delete and Export and Delete ask you to confirm first. **Deleted photos cannot be recovered.**

What an export contains

Export bundles everything into a single Zip file and opens your email app, ready to send. Unzipped, it contains:

- **Photos** folder — stamped copies of each photo, with its details printed on the image (see Stamped Photos)
- **Originals** folder — the untouched original photos, exactly as captured
- **PhotoLog_Report.html** — the formatted field report; opens in any web browser
- **PhotoLog_Export.csv** — a spreadsheet of each photo's key, date and time, notes, GPS map link and file name; opens in Excel
- **PhotoLog_Fingerprints.csv** — each original's fingerprint and server status (see Photo Fingerprints & Verification)
- **PhotoLog_Map.html** — an interactive map of every photo that has GPS
- **PhotoLog_Export.kml** — included only when the KML switch is on

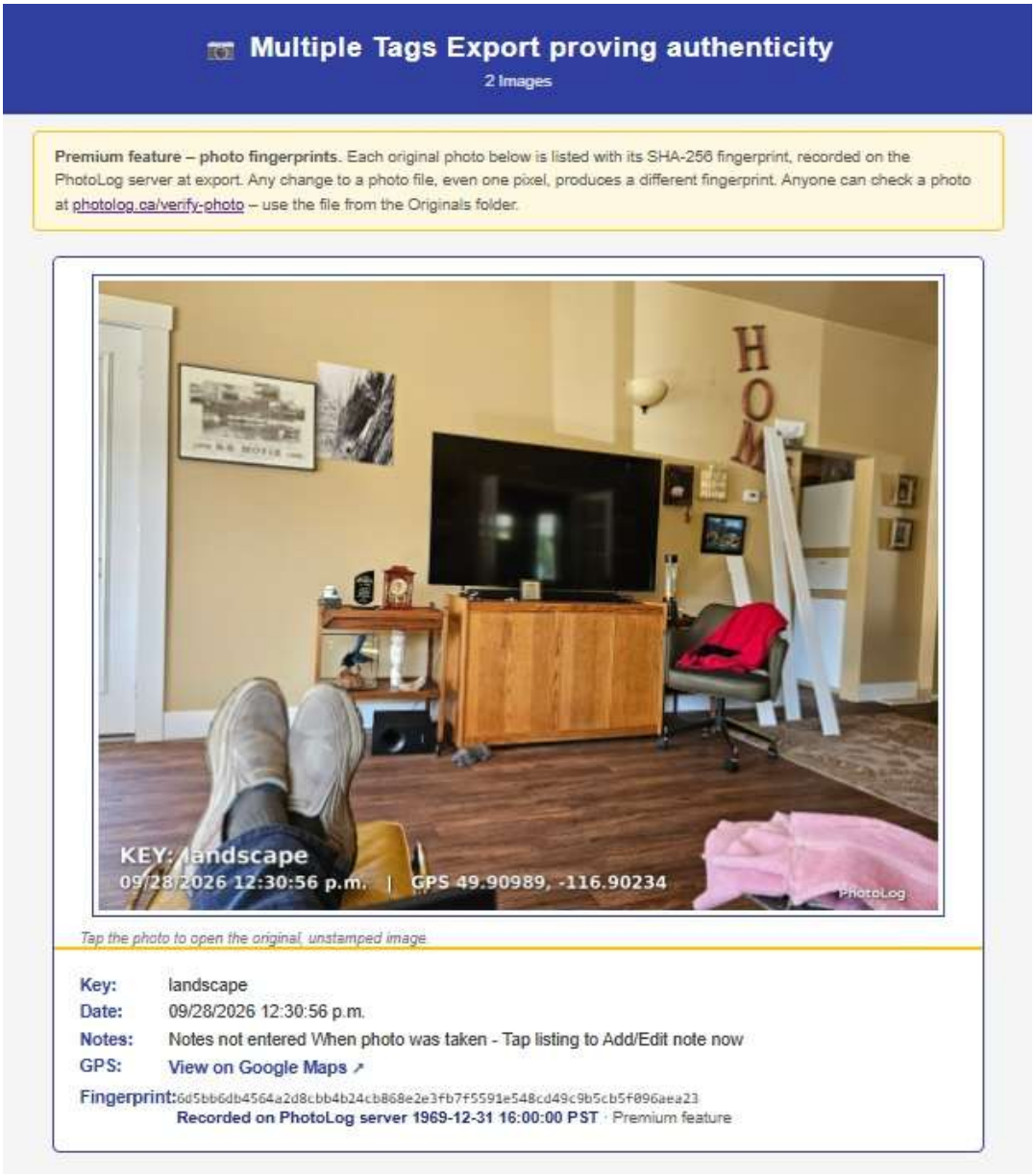
The email includes a short note explaining that the photos are stamped copies, that the originals are included, and that tapping any photo in the report opens its original.



The field report

Each photo gets its own page: a large stamped image in a light frame, with its key, date and time, notes, and GPS location with a Google Maps

link. Tap the image to open the original. Photos taken without GPS say so instead of showing a map link. When fingerprints are recorded, each page also shows the photo's fingerprint and its server status.



Stamped Photos

Every exported photo is also saved as a stamped copy, with its details printed along the bottom in bold white text with a soft shadow, so it reads clearly on bright and dark scenes alike. The stamp shows:

- The Image Key

- The date and time the photo was taken
- The GPS location, when available
- Your notes (long notes wrap onto extra lines)

The stamp is added only to the copies in the export's Photos folder. The photos in PhotoLog and the files in the Originals folder are never altered.

TIP: Send the stamped copy when you want the details visible at a glance. Keep the original for anyone who needs to verify the photo (see the next section).

Photo Digital Fingerprints & Verification

Premium feature. A fingerprint is a 64-character code (a SHA-256 hash) calculated from the exact contents of a photo file. Change the file in any way (crop it, edit it, even alter a single pixel) and the fingerprint changes completely. That makes it a simple, reliable way to show that a photo is the same one you exported.

How it works

- When you export, PhotoLog calculates the fingerprint of each original photo on your phone. It takes a fraction of a second per photo.
- Each fingerprint is recorded on the PhotoLog server and time-stamped by the server's own clock, not the phone's. A record can be written once and never changed.
- Your photos are never uploaded. The record holds only the fingerprint, the file name, the export name, the date the photo was taken and an anonymous account ID.
- Each photo's fingerprint and status appear in the field report and in PhotoLog_Fingerprints.csv.

What the status means

- **Recorded on PhotoLog server** (with date and time) — recorded during this export.

- **Previously recorded on PhotoLog server** (with date and time) — this exact photo was recorded in an earlier export. The original record and its date stand.
- **Queued on this phone** — there was no connection during the export. The fingerprint will be recorded automatically at your next export with a connection.
- **Not recorded on server** — the server couldn't confirm a record. Export the photo again with a good connection.
- **Could not read photo file** or **Fingerprint error** — the photo couldn't be fingerprinted. Try exporting it again.

Exporting without a connection

You can export anywhere, even with no signal. If PhotoLog can't reach the server within about 8 seconds, it finishes the export without waiting and saves the fingerprints on your phone. A message tells you how many were saved; tap OK to close it. The next time you export with a connection, PhotoLog sends the saved fingerprints first and confirms how many were recorded.

> **NOTE:** A queued fingerprint is time-stamped when it reaches the server, not at the original export. The report sent from the dead zone will still say "Queued"; the Verify page will find the photo once the fingerprint has been sent.

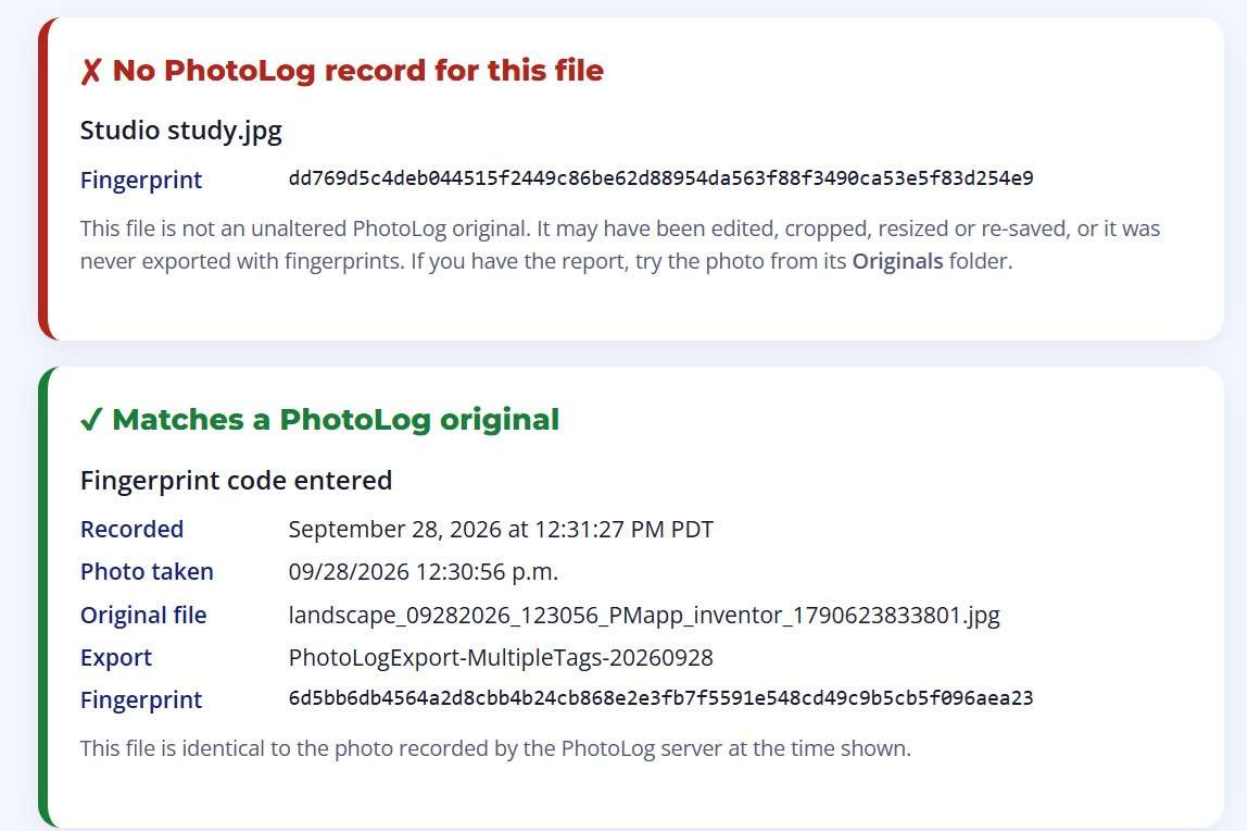
Verifying a photo

Anyone who receives your export can check a photo at **photolog.ca/verify-photo**:

- Unzip the export and open the Originals folder.
- Go to photolog.ca/verify-photo and drag the original photo onto the page, or tap to choose it.
- The page calculates the fingerprint on the recipient's own device (the photo is never uploaded) and looks it up on the PhotoLog server.

- A match shows when the fingerprint was recorded, when the photo was taken, its original file name and the export it came from. No match means the file isn't one PhotoLog recorded, or it has been changed since.

You can also paste a fingerprint code from the report or the CSV to look it up directly.



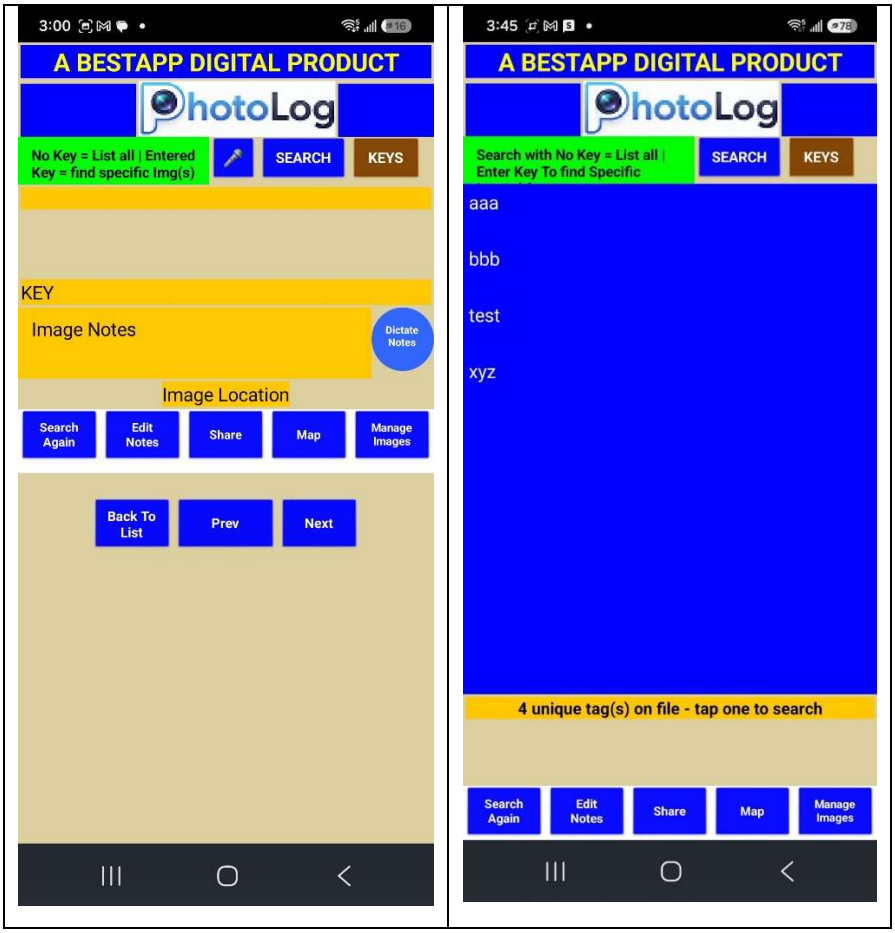
> **TIP:** Always verify the file from the Originals folder. Stamped copies have different fingerprints by design, and photos re-sent through email or messaging apps are often resized or compressed, which also changes the fingerprint.

Fingerprints are tamper-evident: they show whether a photo file has changed since it was recorded. They don't prove what a photo shows or who took it.

Finding Your Photos

Tap Search Photos from the main menu, then type or dictate (tap the microphone) all or part of an Image Key. A dictated key searches straight away. To see every photo in your library, leave the box empty and tap Search.

Can't remember the key? Tap Keys for an alphabetical list of every key on file, then tap any key to bring up its photos.



TIP: You can also search by date. Use MM/DD format, for example 08/21.

Use Prev and Next to step through the results one at a time, viewing each photo with its notes and GPS location. You can edit a note from here.

To export or delete photos, tap Manage Images from the results screen.

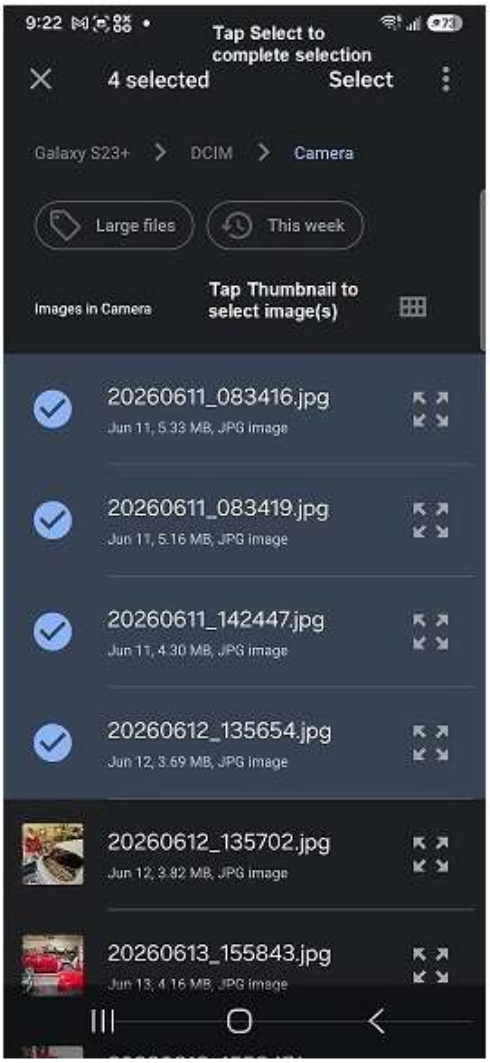


Photo Snap Sets

Already have photos taken with your phone's own camera?

Photo Snap Sets brings existing photos into PhotoLog's searchable library, without retaking them in PhotoLog's camera.



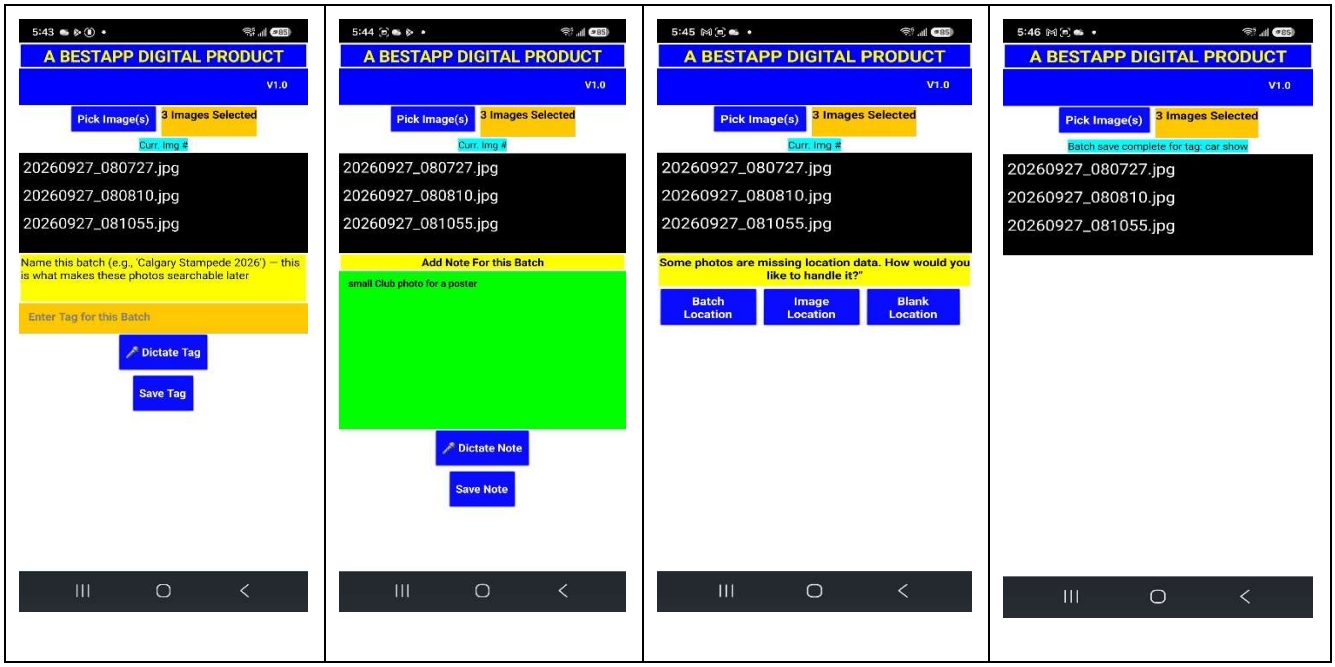


Tap PhotoSnapSets from the main menu. The first screen selects a single photo; tap the list icon at the top right of the photo display to select several at once.

Then choose how to tag them. Every entry field can be typed or dictated with the 🎤 icon or the Dictate button:

- Batch mode — apply the same Image Key, notes and GPS location to every photo in the set. Ideal when the whole group belongs together, such as photos from the same event, site or trip.
- Individual review — step through the photos one at a time, giving each its own key and notes.

- PhotoSnapSets Progression



> **TIP:** Where available, PhotoLog reads the original capture date directly from each photo's own file information, so imported photos keep their real timestamp rather than the date you happened to import them.

Once tagged, these photos are fully searchable alongside everything captured in PhotoLog, and appear in your search results like any other photo.

Free Tier and Subscriptions

PhotoLog is free to start, with 24 photo captures included. As you approach the limit, you'll be offered a Monthly or Annual subscription for unlimited captures; the Annual plan saves 44% over paying monthly. **If you only use PhotoLog to make photos from your phone's own camera searchable (Photo Snap Sets), the app stays free, forever.** Charges apply only to photos taken with PhotoLog's camera.

If you're on the Monthly plan and decide the Annual plan makes more sense, you can switch directly:

- Open Manual & Settings from the main menu
- If you're on the Monthly plan, you'll see a Subscribe Annually button.
- Tap it to switch. Your annual billing starts the day after your monthly subscription ends.

> **TIP:** The upgrade option appears only after you've visited the Capture Photos screen at least once in that session. This lets PhotoLog confirm your current plan with Google Play first.

You can cancel your subscription at any time from the Manual & Settings page. Your access continues until the end of the current billing period.

Settings & Preferences

From the Manual & Settings page you can also:



- Correct photo orientation if images are displaying sideways or upside down, using the Change Orientation settings
- Review your current settings for both Portrait and Landscape capture
- Upgrade or cancel. These buttons appear only when they apply to your current plan.

> **TIP:** Declined an upgrade earlier but changed your mind? Come back to Manual & Settings to upgrade whenever you're ready.

Tips & Troubleshooting

- If GPS wasn't available when a photo was taken, PhotoLog says so rather than showing a wrong location, and the report shows no map link for that photo. You can still save and tag the photo normally.
- If images are appearing rotated incorrectly, use the Change Orientation settings on the Manual & Settings page to correct future captures.
- If PhotoLog's camera keeps opening on the front (selfie) camera, open your phone's own camera app, switch to the back camera and close it. The camera remembers the last mode it was in.
- Export ended with a "No connection" message? Nothing is lost. The fingerprints are saved on your phone and sent automatically at your next export with a connection.
- Verify page says "no match"? Make sure you're checking the file from the Originals folder, not a stamped copy or a photo that was re-sent through email or a messaging app.
- For anything not covered here, contact us through the support link on PhotoLog's Play Store page or at www.photolog.ca. We're actively improving PhotoLog based on real feedback from users like you.
- Field report not showing Images? Go back and do the Extract Files from the Zip.

Thank You

PhotoLog started as a personal solution to a personal problem: losing track of interesting finds in the field. It has since proved useful to all kinds of people, in professional and personal work alike. To that end

Thank you for being part of the PhotoLog community as it grows. Your feedback directly shapes where the app goes next. If you have comments, suggestions or observations please send a note to admin@photolog.ca