

Through the Lens: *A guide to digital photography for computer enthusiasts.*
After the click of your camera, you're only half done!

Sharing your pictures on the Internet

by Linda Buske

There are numerous free sites for sharing photos on the web. Some, like Flickr, have been around a long time while others, like Snapchat, are more recent phenomena. Some (including Flickr) limit the number of photos you can post before needing a paid account. Instagram is popular but it doesn't allow you to nicely customize a personal website. Snapchat only posts your pic for 24hrs and uploads have to be from an Android or iOS device. A site called 500px, designed for your best photos, buries your pictures unless you get a certain number of "likes" within a short period of time. Sites like SmugMug have a monthly fee but they do include functionality that allows you to sell your photos. Facebook is of course very popular for posting quickly but I find it frustrating to find an old set of pictures, especially if I have to scroll through baby goat videos I have posted in the meantime!

I have used Shutterfly.com for many years to share my travel photos (see screenshot). Once you have created a free account, you simply click on "share sites" to get started. You choose a unique personal URL and select a template. You have free unlimited space (I have posted close to 10,000 pics) and ads do not appear on your home page. When you are viewing an album, some static ads appear off to the side but can be avoided by viewing pics in slide show mode. Shutterfly does not require you to drive people to your site; they make their money by selling you personalized products containing your photos such as photo books, mugs, playing cards, etc. Their home page details all the available customizable merchandise.

When creating an album, you can upload photos from your computer, Instagram, FB or Google photos. You can add extra photos to existing albums or rearrange photos within the album. You can also rearrange albums on the site or change the "look" at any time.

Anyone can post a general comment on your home page but people who want to comment on individual pictures need to register with Shutterfly. You can keep your page completely private to invited friends only, but the downside to that is everyone must sign up with Shutterfly to view your photos. I prefer to keep mine public so I can easily flip my link to anyone via email or post on Facebook after a trip. The worse that could happen is someone downloads one of my pics and uses it for their own purposes. Much as I'm proud of some of my photos, I don't consider this very likely!

For anyone who is interested in setting up a shared site, I have posted some step-by-step screen shots at: <https://tinyurl.com/lbuske-shutterfly> or feel free to contact me at lbuske@sympatico.ca.

Lynda's Photos

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Welcome

Welcome to my site. Here you'll find updates on my latest travel adventures plus local outings.

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Windjammer Resort, St. Lucia

January 28, 2020

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