

# Wikimedia Commons and the public space

A free media repository &  
its ties with cities, urban and  
architectural heritage.

# Welcome



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# Wikimedia Commons



The project.  
The history.  
The future.

# Wikimedia Commons

- Is a online repository of 10,565,695 (counted at 17:21)
  - Images
  - Sounds
  - Videos
  - Some other media files
- Under free licenses
  - GFDL / Creative Commons / etc.
  - Public domain
- Allows anyone to contribute
- Were created in September 2004
- Is a project from the Wikimedia Foundation
- Hosts the Wikipedia images content

# Project scope

- The aim of Wikimedia Commons is to provide a media file repository:
  - that makes available public domain and freely-licensed educational media content to all, and
  - that acts as a common repository for the various projects of the Wikimedia Foundation.
- The expression “educational” is to be understood according to its broad meaning of “*providing knowledge; instructional or informative*”.

Source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:SCOPE>

# The homepage



WIKIMEDIA  
COMMONS

Main Page  
Welcome  
Community portal  
Village pump

Participate  
Upload file  
Recent changes  
Latest files  
Random file  
Help  
Contact us  
Donate

Toolbox  
What links here  
Related changes  
Special pages  
Printable version  
Permanent link  
Cite this page  
Subpages

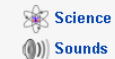
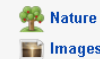
Dereckson My talk My preferences My watchlist My contributions Log out

Main page Discussion

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Search

Welcome to Wikimedia Commons,  
a database of 10,565,859 freely usable media files to which anyone can contribute.



## Picture of the day

Picture of the day



Three Batak warriors with spears and swords in front of a wooden construction. A dog lies between the two girders at the left.

RSS feed · By email · Other Featured pictures

## Media of the day

Media of the day



## Donation by the Russian International News Agency



The Russian International News Agency has donated 100 historical photographs from their archives.

We need help categorizing the images, and completing and re-wording image descriptions. You can read more about how to help here.

See also: Commons:Partnerships

## Highlights

If you are browsing Commons for the first time, you may want to start with **Featured pictures**, **Quality images** or **Valued images**. You can also see some work created by our highly skilled contributors in **Meet our photographers** and **Meet our illustrators**.



## Picture of the Year 2010

In mid-August 2010 ESO Photo Ambassador Yuri Beletsky snapped this amazing photo at ESO's Paranal Observatory. A group of astronomers were observing the centre of the Milky Way using the laser guide star facility at Yepun, one of the four Unit Telescopes of the Very Large Telescope (VLT). (POTD)

More results · Older Pictures of the Year





## Content

### By topic

Nature  
Animalia · Fossils · Landscapes · Marine life ·

[+] Categories  
[+] Commons  
[+] Copyright statuses

# Picture description

<b>Artist</b>	<a href="#">Kristen Feilberg (1839–1919)</a> 
<b>Title</b>	Portret van een drietal gewapende Batak mannen
<b>Description</b>	<b>Français :</b> Trois guerriers Batak avec leurs lances devant une construction de bois. Un chien est couché entre deux poutres.
<b>Date</b>	ca. 1870
<b>Medium</b>	photograph
<b>Dimensions</b>	8.5625 × 11.25 in (21.7 × 28.6 cm)
<b>Accession number</b>	60011135
<b>Notes</b>	The following changes were applied to this restoration: global sharpness increased, levels and curves adjusted (local and global), blemished, stains, dust removed, cloning in damaged areas, recolored
<b>Source/Photographer</b>	<a href="#">Tropenmuseum</a> 
<b>Permission</b> <small>(Reusing this file)</small>	See below.
<b>Other versions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <a href="#">File:Batak Warriors 60011135 original.jpg</a> - original jpg</li><li>■ <a href="#">File:Batak Warriors 60011135 original.tif</a> - original tif</li><li>■ <a href="#">File:Batak Warriors 60011135 edit.tif</a> - edited tif</li><li>■ <a href="#">File:COLLECTIE TROPENMUSEUM Batak krijgers met speren TMnr 60025550.jpg</a> - lower resolution jpg of similar version</li><li>■ <a href="#">File:Feilberg Batak warriors 1870.jpg</a> - lower resolution jpg</li></ul>

# The public space

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How Wikimedia Commons is involved with public space?



# The public space

- Is a social space
- Is accessible to all people
- Could be taken in photography
  - i.e. you can **technically** shoot a picture when you're in the public space
  - it doesn't mean you can **publish** this picture

# Commons & the public space

- Cities
- Streets
- Sample picture:  
Bermeo harbour  
by Andy Roberts  
under CC-BY 2.0



# Commons & the public space

- Transport
- Sample picture:

Tram 54 partant de la station Charleroi-Sud by Sébastien Santoro under CC-BY 3.0



# Commons & the public space

- Street art
- Sample picture:

Fassade in der Brunnenstraße,  
Berlin-Mitte. Gestaltet 2009  
von Jean-Remy von Matt.  
Photo by Blunt



# Commons & the public space

- Street culture  
(performance, sport,  
gangs, music)
- Sample picture:

Fire breathing "Jaipur  
Maharaja Brass Band"  
Chassepierre Belgium

Photo by Luc Viatour  
Under GFDL and CC-BY-SA



# Commons & the public space

- Architectural inheritance
- Sample picture:

George V bridge

Photo by [Croquant](#)  
Under GFDL and CC-BY-SA



# Commons & the public space

- Architectural inheritance
- Sample picture

George V bridge  
(Arche 9, rive sud)

Photo by Roland45  
Under GFDL and CC-BY-SA



# Actions

- [Wiki Loves Monuments](#)

a public photography contest

this is a call of participation for the public, both enthusiast or professional photographers

- **Projet Monuments Historiques**

6110 articles from the French Wikipedia about patrimoine from France



# Why?

- To illustrate the today world
- To allow reuse of this content right now
- To build an archive for the future
- To show public space evolution

# Limitations



Our world isn't perfect

# Public doesn't mean free

- People can ask you WHY you're taken their screen in photo
- There are more and more places « photos forbidden »  
2011-07-21
- In some countries, you can't take sensible building pictures.
- Embassy photos could be fun too.

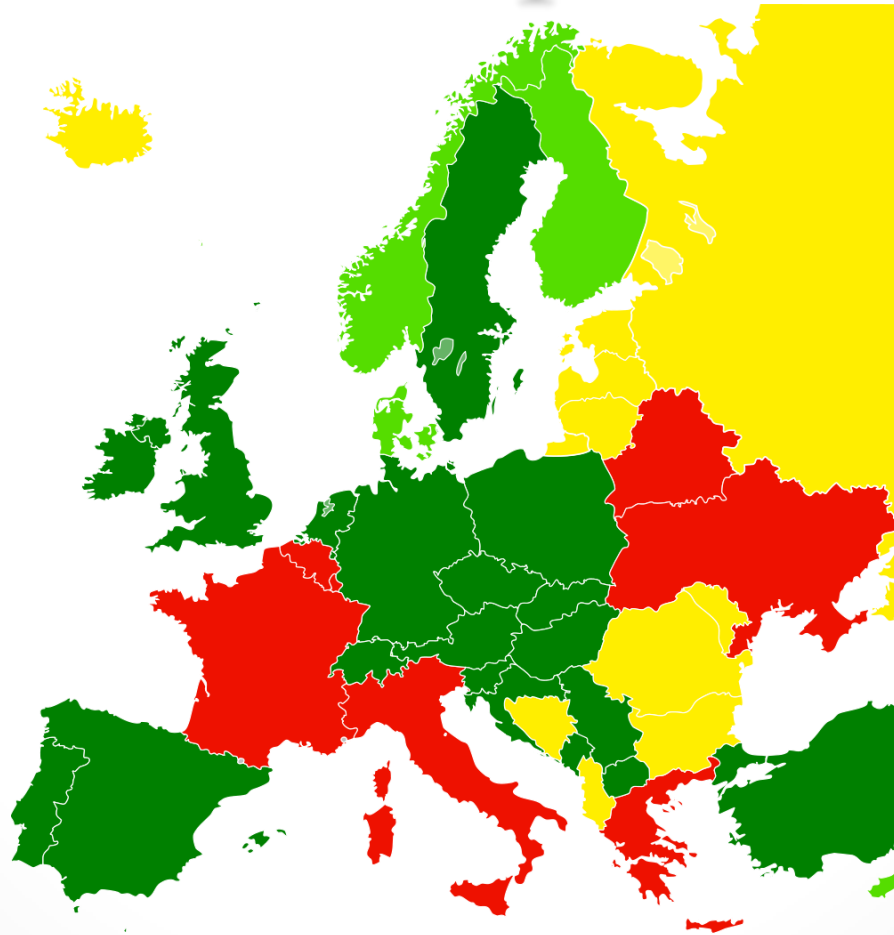
# Copyrighted public space

- The architect keeps copyright on the buildings
- This copyright covers also pictures
- French jurisprudence considers all Grimaud panorama is copyrighted, as it's all the city were designed as a global architectural work
- You can also have modern sculptures, fresques or derivative works from copyrighted stuff.

# Freedom of panorama

- Because it's NORMAL to be allowed to take, use and publish public space photographs.
- An exception in copyright called freedom of panorama (FOP)
- OK in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, US, ....
- Not OK in Belgium, France, Italy, ...

# Freedom of panorama



# So we have to...

- Take all our public space in photo and publish it under free licenses
- Do lobbying – full FOP everywhere
- Explain to people public space photography isn't strange, deviant or evil.

# Thank you

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Wikimedia Commons and the public space