Photo Statistic - User Manual

Welcome to **Photo Statistic**! This guide explains everything the app can do, step by step. No technical knowledge is needed.

What the app does:

- Looks at the photos and videos already stored in your Apple Photos library
- Shows you when you took them: per year, per month, per day, and per hour
- Shows you where you took them on a map
- Works privately on your device: nothing is uploaded, nothing is changed or deleted
- Runs on iPhone, iPad, and Mac
- Available in English, German, Spanish, and French

Table of contents

1. Getting started
2. The main screen: your years
3. Diving deeper: months, days, and hours
4. The chart
5. Viewing your photos as thumbnails
6. The map view
7. Filtering photos and videos
8. Selecting photos and marking favorites
9. Asking Siri
10. Apple Intelligence: just say what you want
11. Building your own shortcuts
12. Handoff between your devices
13. Comparing libraries between two devices
14. Privacy
15. Frequently asked questions

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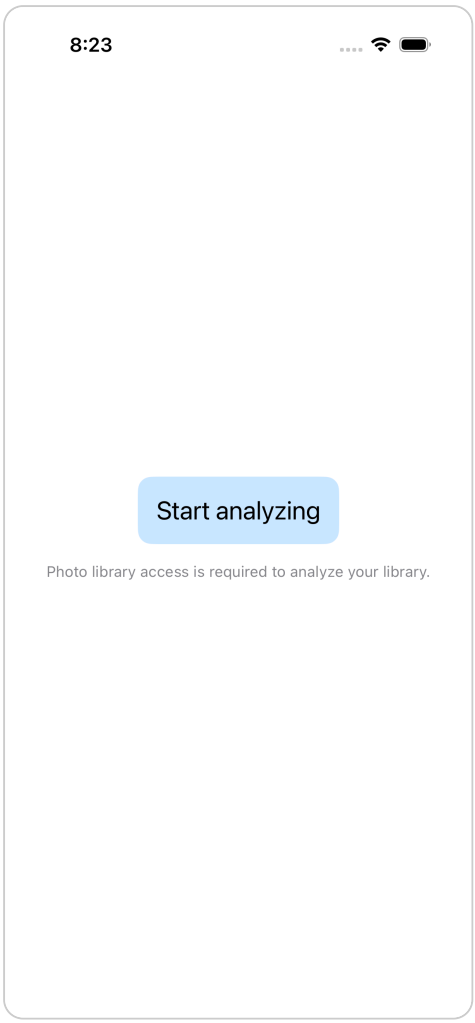
1. Getting started



First launch, step by step:

1. Open Photo Statistic. You see a single button: **Start analyzing...**
2. Tap it.
3. Your device asks whether Photo Statistic may access your photo library.
4. Choose **Allow Access to All Photos** for the full experience.
5. The app reads your library: - The most recent photos appear first, older years fill in one after another. - A thin colored progress bar at the top shows how far along the analysis is. - Even large libraries usually take only a few moments.

If you accidentally denied access:

1. Open the **Settings** app on your device.
2. Scroll down and tap **Photo Statistic**.
3. Tap **Photos** and choose **All Photos**.

4. Return to the app and tap **Start analyzing...** again.

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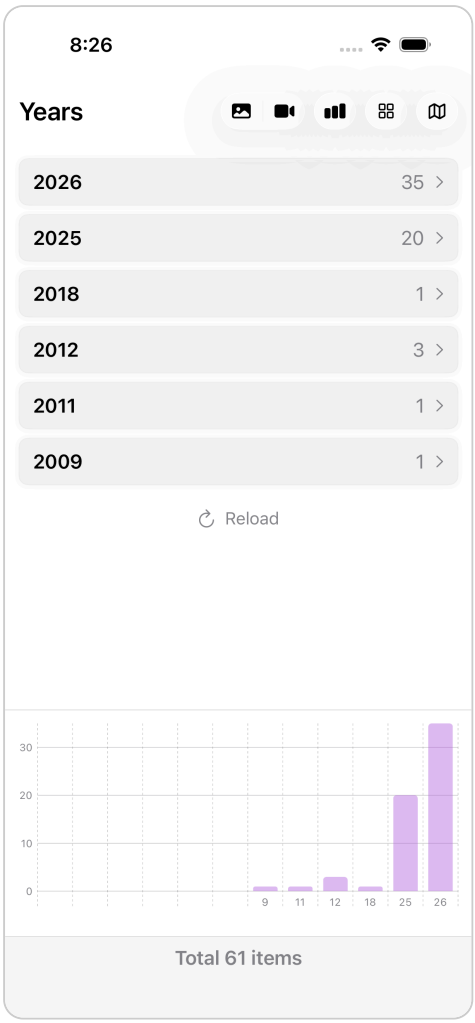
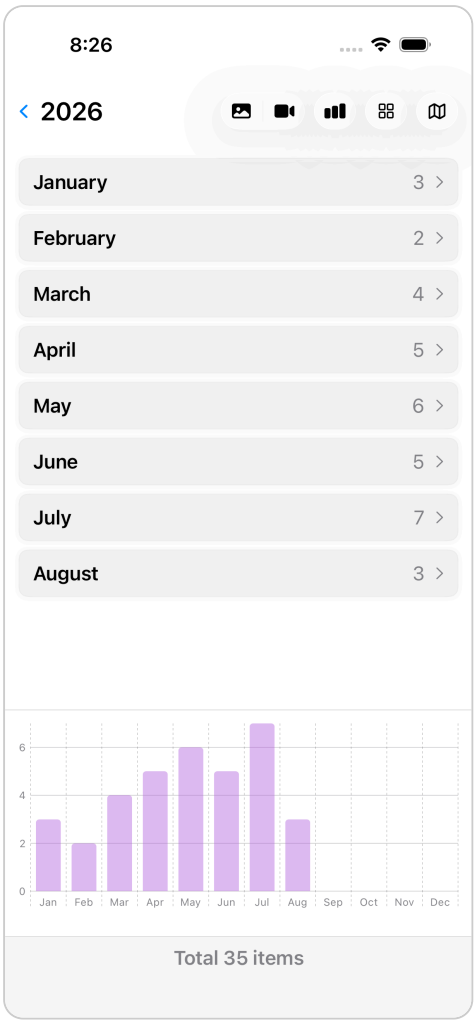
2. The main screen: your years

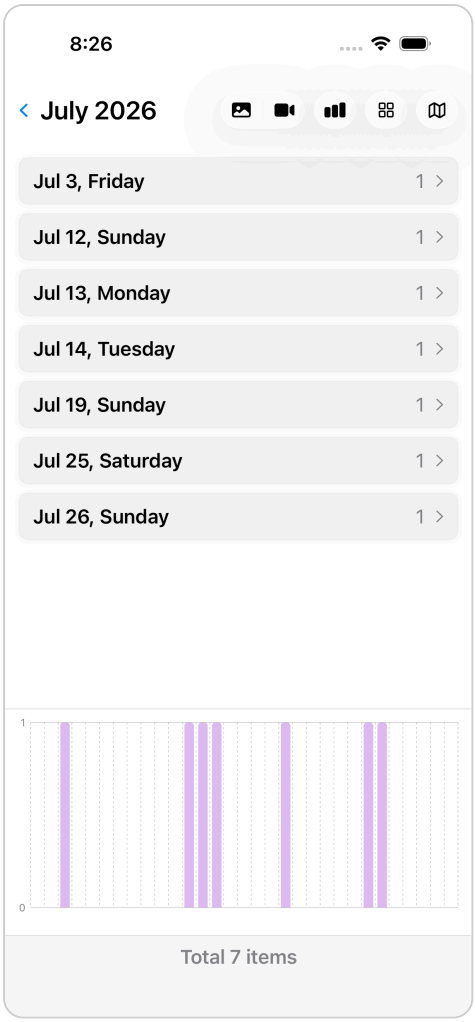


After the analysis you land on the **Years** overview:

- One row per year that contains at least one photo or video, newest year on top
- Each row shows the year and the number of items from that year
- Below the list: a bar chart of your library's growth
- Purple bars: photos
- Yellow bars: videos
- At the bottom: a footer that rotates every few seconds between
- the date range you are looking at,
- the total number of items,
- separate photo and video counts
- At the end of the year list: a **Reload** button
- Tap it to re-read your library, for example after importing new photos

3. Diving deeper: months, days, and hours





The app is organized like a set of nested drawers:

- **Years** contain **Months**
- **Months** contain **Days**
- **Days** contain **Hours**
- **Hours** contain the actual **photos and videos**

How to navigate:

- Tap a **year** to see its months
- Tap a **month** to see its days
- Tap a **day** to see its hours
- Tap an **hour** to see the pictures taken in that hour
- Tap the **back arrow** in the top-left corner to go up one level again

Every level works the same way:

- A list of rows with counts
- A chart underneath

- A subtle colored background bar in each row that shows how the period compares to the busiest period on screen, so you spot your most active months at a glance

Shortcut:

- Touch and hold any row (for example a month)
- Choose **Show Thumbnails**
- You jump straight to the pictures of that period without drilling down further

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4. The chart

The bar chart appears below the list on every level:

- Each bar is stacked from two colors:
- **Purple**: photos
- **Yellow**: videos
- Tap a bar to
- see its exact numbers in a small info bubble, and
- jump right into that period

Prefer a simpler look?

- Tap the **chart button** (bar-chart symbol) at the top-right to hide the chart
- The rows then show their colored comparison bars instead
- Tap the button again to bring the chart back

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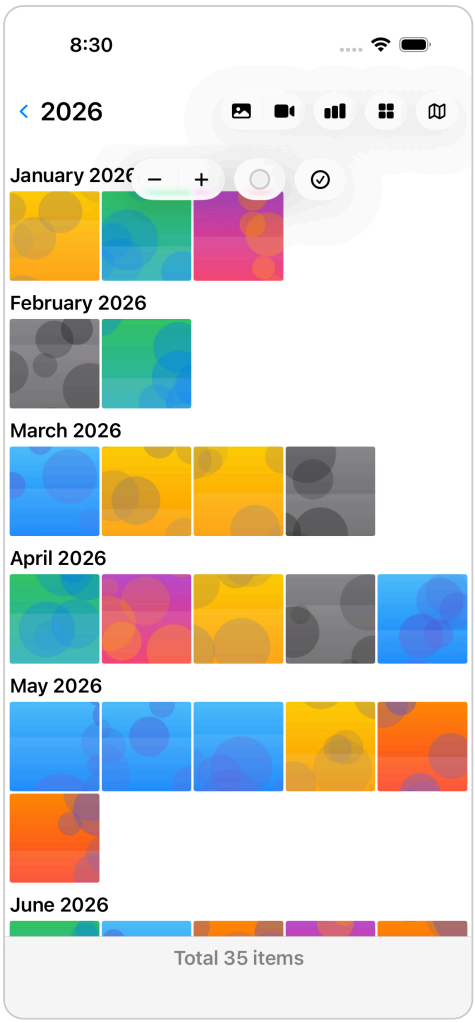
5. Viewing your photos as thumbnails



You do not have to drill all the way down to see pictures:

1. On any level, tap the **grid button** (four small squares) at the top-right.
2. The app shows every photo and video of the current period as small square previews.
3. The previews are grouped with headings: - A year is grouped by month - A month is grouped by day - A day is grouped by hour
4. Videos show their length in the corner of the preview (for example 0:45).
5. To leave the thumbnail view, tap the grid button again or use the back arrow.

Making thumbnails bigger or smaller:

- **Pinch** with two fingers, just like in the Photos app
- Pinch open: bigger previews
- Pinch closed: smaller previews
- Or tap the **minus / plus button** at the top of the screen

- You can have between 1 and 10 columns; the app remembers your choice

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6. The map view

See where your photos were taken:

1. Tap the **map button** at the top-right.
2. Photos with location information are gathered into honeycomb-style **hexagons**.
3. The number in a hexagon tells you how many photos were taken in that area.

On the map you can:

- **Tap a hexagon** to see exactly those photos as thumbnails
- Tap the **viewfinder button** (top-right) to zoom out until all hexagons are visible
- Tap the small **hexagon/gear button** (bottom-right) to open the size control:
- A slider changes the area each hexagon covers, from 1 km up to 100 km
- The panel closes itself a few seconds after you stop using it

Good to know:

- Only photos with location data appear on the map; all other photos still count in the statistics
- The map is available for periods with up to 20,000 items; for bigger periods, drill into a smaller one first
- To close the map, tap the map button again or use the back arrow

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7. Filtering photos and videos

At the top of the screen there is a combined **photo/video button**:

- Tap the **camera half** to hide photos and see only videos
- Tap the **film half** to hide videos and see only photos
- Tap the dimmed half again to bring everything back

All counts, charts, grids, and the map immediately follow your choice.

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8. Selecting photos and marking favorites

Photo Statistic can collect your favorite shots into a real album in the Photos app.

Selecting on iPhone and iPad:

1. Open a thumbnail view (see chapter 5).
2. Tap the **checkmark button** to switch on selection mode.
3. Select photos: - Tap individual photos to select or deselect them - Slide your finger sideways across a row to select several photos in one sweep - Tap a group heading (for example a day) to select the whole group at once
4. The footer at the bottom shows how many photos and videos are selected.

Selecting on a Mac:

- Click a photo to select it
- Hold **Cmd** and click to add individual photos
- Hold **Shift** and click to select a whole range
- Click the empty background to clear the selection

Marking the selected photos:

1. With photos selected, tap the **round mark button** (a circle with a dot).
2. The selected items are added to an album named **Photo Statistic** in your Photos app (on a German device: **Fotostatistik**).
3. Marked photos show a small white dot on their thumbnail.
4. Tapping the mark button again while a marked photo is selected removes it from the album.

Good to know:

- Your original photos are never moved, changed, or deleted; the album only contains references, exactly like any other album in Photos
- Creating the album requires access to your full photo library; if you granted access to only selected photos, marking will not work
- Mac only: choose **Edit > Clean Photo Statistic Album** in the menu bar to empty the album in one go

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9. Asking Siri

You do not have to open the app to get your numbers. Siri answers out loud while the app stays closed.

One rule to remember:

- The app name has to appear somewhere in your sentence. Siri only passes your question to Photo Statistic when it hears the name.
- Besides "Photo Statistic", Siri accepts the shorter names **Photo Report** and **Photo Stats**.

Asking for a report:

- "Photo Statistic report"
- "Photo Report for last month"
- "Photo Statistic this year"
- "Photo Report for last 7 days"
- "Create a Photo Report"
- "Show my Photo Report"

Asking for a count:

- "Photo Statistic photo count"
- "Photo Stats count photos this week"
- "Photo Statistic count videos"
- "Photo Report photo count for last month"
- "Count photos in Photo Statistic"
- "How many photos did I take with Photo Statistic?"
- "How many photos did I take last month with Photo Statistic?"
- "Ask Photo Statistic how many photos I took"

What Siri says back:

- Photos and videos: "You captured 4,510 photos and 302 videos in March 2026."
- Photos only: "You took 4,510 photos in 2025."
- Videos only: "You recorded 302 videos in March 2026."
- Nothing in that period: "You have no photos or videos from March 2026."

When Siri asks you back

You never have to name a period yourself. Say just "Photo Statistic report" and Siri asks **"Which time period?"**, then offers a list in four groups:

- **Recent**: Today, Yesterday, This Week, Last 7 Days, Last 30 Days
- **Months and Years**: This Month, Last Month, This Year, Last Year, Last 12 Months
- **Whole Library**: All Time
- **Choose a Period**: A Number of Days, A Specific Month, A Specific Year, A Date Range

The periods in the last group need one more detail, so Siri asks a second question:

- **A Number of Days**: "How many days back?" Answer with any number from 1 to 36500.
- **A Specific Month**: "Which month?" The current year is assumed, so naming the month is enough.
- **A Specific Year**: "Which year?"
- **A Date Range**: "Which start date?" followed by "Which end date?"

Several periods answer to more than one name, so you do not have to hit the exact wording:

- "Current Month" also works for This Month, "Previous Month" for Last Month
- "Current Year" for This Year, "Previous Year" for Last Year
- "All Photos", "Everything", and "My Whole Library" all mean All Time

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10. Apple Intelligence: just say what you want

On devices with Apple Intelligence, you do not have to remember any phrase at all. Photo Statistic registers itself with the system-wide photo search, so a request in your own words can be handed straight to the app.

Say or type something like:

- "Show me my photos from March 2026"
- "My photos from last month"
- "Photos from 2019"
- "Show my pictures from yesterday"

How this differs from chapter 9:

- **Siri phrases answer out loud** and leave the app closed. Use them when you want a number.
- **Apple Intelligence opens the app** at the matching screen. Use it when you want to look at the pictures.

What the app can pick out of your request:

- A **year** written with four digits, for example 2019
- A **month** by name or short form, in your language or in English, for example "March" or "Mar"
- A **day** together with a month, for example "14 March 2024"
- The relative periods **today**, **yesterday**, **this month**, **last month**, **this year**, and **last year**

Helpful details:

- A month without a year means the current year.
- The wording does not have to be exact. Different endings still match, so "in the last year" works as well as "last year".
- If the app cannot tell which period you mean, it opens the overview instead of guessing.
- If the analysis has not run yet, it starts by itself. You do not have to tap **Start analyzing** first.
- If your library has nothing for the period you asked for, the app stops at the closest level that does contain pictures.

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11. Building your own shortcuts

The **Shortcuts** app lets you combine Photo Statistic with everything else your device can do. A shortcut you build yourself also becomes its own Siri phrase, because you can start it by saying its name.

Creating a shortcut, step by step

1. Open the **Shortcuts** app.
2. Tap the **plus button** in the top-right corner to start a new shortcut.
3. Tap **Add Action** and type the app name into the search field.
4. Pick one of the four Photo Statistic actions (listed below).
5. Tap the blue parameter in the action, for example **Time Period**, and choose what you want.
6. Add further actions underneath if you like (see the recipes below).
7. Tap the shortcut name at the top and rename it, for example "My photo year".
8. Tap **Done**.

Your shortcut is now ready to use:

- Tap it in the Shortcuts app
- Or say "Hey Siri, My photo year" - the name you gave it is the phrase
- Or put it on your Home Screen from the shortcut's share menu

The four building blocks

Action	What it gives you	Worth knowing
Get Photo Statistics	Totals plus a finished report	Always asks for a period, because it has no default
Get Photo Statistics Breakdown	One entry per year, month, day, or hour	Made for "Repeat with Each"
Export Photo Statistics	A ready-made file	CSV, JSON, or Markdown
Count Photos	A single number	For photos, videos, or both

Every action offers the same time periods as Siri (chapter 9), plus these settings:

- **Include Breakdown** (Get Photo Statistics): adds the per-period table to the report
- **Group By** (Breakdown and Export): Automatic, By Hour, By Day, By Month, or By Year

- **Media** (Count Photos): Photos and Videos, Photos, or Videos
- **File Format** (Export): CSV, JSON, or Markdown

Left on **Automatic**, the grouping follows the length of the period: by hour for a single day, by day up to about two months, by month up to about two years, and by year beyond that.

Recipe: a PDF report of last year

1. **Get Photo Statistics** with Time Period **Last Year** and Include Breakdown switched on
2. **Make Rich Text from Markdown**: tap the input variable and choose the **Report** property of the result
3. **Make PDF**
4. **Quick Look** to view it, or **Save File** to keep it

Recipe: a spreadsheet of this year

1. **Export Photo Statistics** with Time Period **This Year** and File Format **CSV**
2. **Save File**

The file is named after the app and the period, for example "Photo Statistic 2026.csv", and opens in Numbers or Excel.

Recipe: a monthly report that writes itself

1. In Shortcuts, open the **Automation** tab and create a new automation
2. Choose **Time of Day**, set it to the first day of each month, and select **Run Immediately**
3. Add **Get Photo Statistics** with Time Period **Last Month**
4. Add **Make Rich Text from Markdown** with the **Report** property, then **Make PDF**, then **Save File**

What you get back

The result of **Get Photo Statistics** carries much more than the number it speaks. Tap a variable in any later action to pick one of:

- **Period**, **Total**, **Photos**, **Videos**, **Start Date**, **End Date**
- **Report**: the formatted report, ready for a PDF
- **CSV**: the same numbers as a spreadsheet table
- **JSON**: for scripting
- **Breakdown**: the individual rows

Very long periods are listed with at most 400 rows. When that happens, a note at the end of the report says so.

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12. Handoff between your devices

If you use the same iCloud account on several devices:

1. Browse any view in Photo Statistic on your iPhone, for example March 2024.
2. The app icon appears in the Dock of your Mac (or in the App Switcher of your iPad).
3. Open it there.
4. The app jumps straight to the same month and even starts the analysis by itself.

Since photo libraries can differ between devices, the app lands on the closest matching view.

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13. Comparing libraries between two devices

Sometimes iCloud Photos gets stuck: the Photos app keeps showing a message like "8 items still to sync" for weeks, and one device permanently holds more photos than the other. Photo Statistic can find exactly which photos and videos are affected and nudge iCloud into syncing them again.

You need two devices signed into the same iCloud account, connected to the same network, with iCloud Photos switched on and full photo access granted to the app on both.

How it works:

1. On the first device, open Photo Statistic and tap the antenna button at the top of the year list (on the Mac you can also use **Edit > Compare with Nearby Device...**)
2. Do the same on the second device
3. The devices find each other; tap the name of the other device on one of them
4. The other device asks whether to accept the comparison - tap **Accept**
5. The app now compares both libraries step by step: first the totals, then year by year, month by month and day by day, until it knows exactly which items are missing on which device. Depending on the size of your library this can take a few minutes; keep the app open on both devices
6. Both devices then show what was found and ask before anything is changed: first whether the app's own album may be emptied, then whether the missing items may be added to it. Each device only ever adds items it actually has - your photos and videos themselves are never changed or deleted
7. The final step shows how many items each device has that are missing on the other one

The album now contains, on each device, the items the other device is missing. Because the album itself syncs through iCloud, this pushes the stuck items back into the queue. Leave both devices on power and Wi-Fi for a while, then compare again - the difference should shrink to zero.

Good to know:

- The wizard can be stopped at any time: on the iPhone and iPad by pulling the sheet down, on the Mac with the **Cancel** button. The other device then reports that the comparison was ended. Nothing is changed without your confirmation
- Emptying the album also removes the photos you marked yourself (chapter 8) from the album - the photos themselves stay untouched
- If the album does not exist yet on the second device, it can briefly appear twice under the same name until iCloud merges the changes; the empty duplicate can be deleted in the Photos app

- Items that could not be matched between the devices are counted separately in the summary; this usually means iCloud Photos is switched off or an item has not been uploaded yet

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14. Privacy

- All analysis happens **on your device**; nothing is sent to the internet
- The app **never changes or deletes** your photos or videos
- The only thing the app ever writes is its own album, and only when you mark photos yourself (chapter 8) or confirm it in the device comparison (chapter 13)
- The device comparison talks **directly** to your other device over the local network; no photo ever leaves your devices, only counts and anonymous identifiers are exchanged
- No accounts, no advertising, no tracking

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15. Frequently asked questions

Photos says "items still to sync" for weeks - can the app help?

- Yes: compare the libraries of two devices (chapter 13); adding the missing items to the app's album usually makes iCloud pick them up again

The app only shows a button saying "Start analyzing..." - why?

- The analysis has not run yet, or photo access is missing
- Tap the button; if nothing happens, check the photo permission in the Settings app (see chapter 1)

Why doesn't the map button work?

- The map needs photos with location data in the current period
- It is available for periods with up to 20,000 items; drill into a year or month and try again

Why is an old year missing from the list?

- Years without any photos or videos are hidden
- Also check whether a media filter is active (chapter 7); maybe you are only looking at videos right now

Do I need the internet?

- Only the map needs a connection to load the map imagery
- Everything else works completely offline

How current are the numbers?

- The library is analyzed when you tap **Start analyzing...** or **Reload**
- If you take new photos while the app is open, tap **Reload** at the bottom of the year list

Siri answers something else instead of asking the app

- Make sure the app name is part of your sentence
- Put it at the front if you can, for example "Photo Statistic count photos this week" instead of "how many photos did I take"

Nothing happens when I ask in my own words

- Free-form requests (chapter 10) need a device with Apple Intelligence switched on
- The fixed Siri phrases in chapter 9 work on every device

Where do I find my marked photos?

- In the Apple **Photos** app, under **Albums**
- Look for the album named **Photo Statistic** (or **Fotostatistik** in German)

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