# ExifTool Metadata reader/writer

## CONCEPTS

Writing changes the file and leaves a backup named <file>_original next to it. Add -overwrite_original once you trust the command. Tag names ignore case and can be prefixed with a group, e.g. -XMP:Title.

**File** jpg, tiff, mp4, pdf ...
↓ contains
**Groups** EXIF, IPTC, XMP, GPS ...
↓ hold
**Tags** DateTimeOriginal, Make ...

Metadata lives in the file, in several groups

## READING

**exiftool** *<file>*
Show every tag with its value

**exiftool -***<Tag>* *<file>*
Show only the named tag

**exiftool -s** *<file>*
Use tag names instead of descriptions

**exiftool -S** *<file>*
Very short output: Tag: value

**exiftool -G1 -a** *<file>*
Show group names and duplicate tags

**exiftool -n** *<file>*
Raw values, no print conversion

**exiftool -T -***<Tag1>* **-***<Tag2>* *<files>*
Tab-separated table of chosen tags

**exiftool -ver**
Print the ExifTool version

## SELECTING FILES

**exiftool -r** *<dir>*
Recurse into subdirectories

**exiftool -ext** *<ext>* *<dir>*
Only process files with this extension

**exiftool --ext** *<ext>* *<dir>*
Exclude an extension

**exiftool -if '***<expr>***'** *<files>*
Only files where the expression is true

## WRITING

**exiftool -***<Tag>***=***<value>* *<file>*
Set a tag

**exiftool -***<Tag>***=** *<file>*
Delete a tag

**exiftool -all=** *<file>*
Delete all metadata

**exiftool -***<Tag>***+=***<value>* *<file>*
Add to a list tag, e.g. -Keywords

**exiftool -***<Tag>***-=***<value>* *<file>*
Remove a value from a list tag

**exiftool -overwrite_original** *<file>*
Edit in place, no _original backup

**exiftool -o** *<outfile>* *<file>*
Write the result to a new file

**exiftool -P** *<file>*
Keep the file modification date

**exiftool -delete_original** *<dir>*
Delete all _original backups

**exiftool -restore_original** *<dir>*
Restore files from their _original backups

## DATES AND RENAMING

**exiftool -AllDates="***<YYYY:MM:DD HH:MM:SS>***"** *<file>*
Set all three EXIF dates

**exiftool -AllDates+=***<h:mm>* *<file>*
Shift all dates forward

**exiftool -FileName<***DateTimeOriginal' -d '%Y%m%d_%H%M%S%%-c.%%e'* *<dir>*
Rename by capture date

**exiftool -Directory<***DateTimeOriginal' -d '%Y/%m/%d'* *<dir>*
Move into date folders

**exiftool -FileModifyDate<***DateTimeOriginal'* *<dir>*
Set file mtime from the capture date

## COPYING TAGS

**exiftool -tagsFromFile** *<src>* *<dst>*
Copy the writable tags from src to dst

**exiftool -tagsFromFile** *<src>* **-***<Tag>* *<dst>*
Copy only the named tag

**exiftool -tagsFromFile** *<src>* **-all:all** *<dst>*
Copy all tags, keeping their groups

**exiftool -all= -tagsFromFile @ -***<Tag>* *<file>*
Strip everything except one tag

**exiftool '-***<DstTag><SrcTag>***'** *<file>*
Copy one tag into another

## GPS

**exiftool -gps:all -n** *<file>*
Show GPS tags as decimal numbers

**exiftool -GPSLatitude=***<n>* **-GPSLatitudeRef=***<N|S>* **-GPSLongitude=***<n>* **-GPSLongitudeRef=***<E|W>* *<file>*
Set coordinates

**exiftool -gps:all=** *<file>*
Remove GPS data

**exiftool -geotag** *<track.gpx>* *<dir>*
Tag photos from a GPS track log

## EXPORT AND IMPORT

**exiftool -csv** *<dir>* **>** *<out.csv>*
Export tags to CSV

**exiftool -csv -***<Tag1>* **-***<Tag2>* *<dir>*
CSV with chosen tags only

**exiftool -csv=***<in.csv>* *<dir>*
Import tags from CSV

**exiftool -json** *<files>*
Output as JSON

**exiftool -p '***<fmt>***'** *<files>*
Custom output format with $Tag

## RECIPES

**Strip location before sharing**

```
exiftool -gps:all= -overwrite_original -r -ext jpg <dir>
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