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

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

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