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As we continue to build on old image technology, file format types continue to accumulate, each with its own nuances and uses. JPG, PNG and GIF have become the most common, but what sets them apart from each other? These formats have become the most popular due to their compatibility with modern browsers, broadband speed and the needs of average users. Join us as we look in detail at each format and cover everyone's strengths and weaknesses. JPG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) JPG is a type of file developed by the Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG) to be a standard for professional photographers. Like the method used by ZIP files to find redundancies in files to compress data, JPG files compress image data by reducing sections of images to pixel blocks or tiles. JPG compression has the unfortunate side effect of being permanent, however, since the technology for the file was created to store large photo image files in surprisingly small spaces, and not for photo editing. JPGs have become the standard de facto image of the Internet because they can be compressed so much. A typical JPG can be compressed with a ratio of 2:1 to 100:1, depending on the settings. Especially in the days of Internet Access, JPGs were the only viable way to send information about images. However, due to the lossy nature of JPG, it is not an ideal way to store art files. The highest quality setting for JPG is also compressed and will change the look of your image, if only slightly. JPG is also not an ideal medium for typography, sharp lines or even sharp-edged photographs, as they are often blurry or smeared by anti-aliasing. What is potentially worse is that this loss can accumulate: saving multiple versions of the graphics can cause degradation with each save. Even so, it is common to see these things saved as JPG, simply because the file type is so ubiquitous. First half of a high quality JPG. First of a very lossy JPG. The Joint Photographic Experts Group has developed loss-free JPG technology to combat this serious quality degradation problem. However, due to the speed of access to the dial-up and the general lack of interest in high-quality non-degrading files, the JPG-LS standard never took over. You can download plugins that allow users to open and save the JPG2000 without loss, and some programs, such as Apple's Preview application, can read and save JPG2000 directly out of the box. JPGs support 24-bit RGB and CMYK, as well as 8-bit grayscale. I personally don't recommend using CMYK color spaces in JPGs. It is also important to note that grayscale JPGs do not almost as much as the color ones. GIF Graphics Interchange Format (GIF), such as JPG, is a previous type of file and generally associated with the Internet compared to photography. GIF stands for Graphics Interchange Format and uses the same lossless LZW compression used by TIFF images. This technology was once controversial (for patent enforcement issues) but but become an accepted format since all patents have expired. Close-up of an 8-bit color GIF. GIF is by its nature an 8-bit color file, which means that they are limited to a palette of 256 colors, which can be chosen by the RGB color model and saved in a Color Look Up Table (CLUT) or simply Color Table. There are, however, standard color palettes, such as the Safe Web palette. An important note is that grayscale images are by nature an 8-bit palette, so saving them as GIFs is quite ideal. In addition to support for transparency, GIF also supports animations, limiting each frame to 256 preselected colors. Although GIF is not lossy like JPG, 8-bit color conversion distorts many images, using dithering filters to optically blend, or diffuse colors, similar to midtone dots or pointing. This can radically alter an image for the worse or, in some cases, be used to create an interesting effect. Because of this non-data loss format, GIF can be used to keep tight lines on typography and geometric shapes, although these things are better suited for vector graphics files such as SVG or adobe illustrator native format, AI. GIF is not ideal for modern photography, nor for storing images. With small size with very limited color tables, GIF images can be smaller than JPG files. But in most ordinary sizes, JPG compression will create a smaller image. They are largely outdated, useful only to create dancing children or to sometimes create rough transparencies. Portable Network Graphics (PNG) PNG stands for Portable Network Graphics (or, depending on who you ask, the PNG-Not-GIF recursive). It was developed as an open alternative to GIF, which used the proprietary LZW compression algorithm discussed earlier. PNG is an excellent type of file for internet graphics, as it supports transparency in browsers with an elegance that GIF does not possess. Notice how the transparent color changes and blends with the background. Right-click the picture you want to display. This is actually an image that is located on four different background colors. PNG supports 8-bit color as GIF, but also supports 24-bit color RGB, as JPG does. They are also non-leaking files, which compress photographic images without degrading image quality. PNG tends to be the largest of the three file types and is not supported by some (usually older) browsers. In addition to being an excellent format for transparency, non-loss-loss nature of 24-bit PNG is ideal for screenshot software, allowing pixels in the desktop environment to play. Which one to use? From left to right, these files are: 24-bit compressed JPG, 8-bit GIFs, 8-bit PNG, full-quality 24-bit JPG, and 24-bit PNG. Yes file sizes increase in the same direction. PNG is the largest type of image for larger images, often containing information that you may or may not find useful, depending on your needs. 8-bit PNG is an option, but GIF is smaller. Nor are they optimal options for photography, as JPG is much smaller than leak-free PNG with only minimal loss of quality. E E High-resolution file storage, JPG compresses to lowercase proportions, with loss of quality visible only at close inspection. In short: PNG is a good option for transparency and smaller and not lossy files. Larger files, not so much, unless you require images not with loss. GIF is largely new and only useful for animation, but it can produce small 8-bit images. JPG is still the king for photo-like photographs and images on the internet, but be careful, as your file can degrade with every save. Image of Keizersgracht, amsterdam by Massimo Catariella via Wikipedia, released under the Creative Commons license. Derived images available under the same license. I don't care who created the dancing baby. Image of G AdventuresIndia is an incredible country: from north to south, it is full of natural diversity and cultural riches. On this spectacular journey, discover iconic sights such as Delhi's Jama Mosque, glorious Taj Mahal, and Rajasthan's great forts and palaces. Then head to malabar's lush coastline to explore the fragrant spice plantations and fringed backwaters of the Kerala jungle. Meet artisans, fishermen, and villagers along the way, and witness ancient crafts and traditions that continue to thrive. Day 1: Delhi Arrive anytime; your arrival transfer is included through Women With Wheels, a project supported by G Adventures. Day 2: DELHI/ AGRA Set out to discover Delhi, the capital of India, which consists of two cities: historic Delhi and New Delhi, built by the British in the early 20th century. Explore New Delhi's vibrant Paharganj district with a youth guide from the G Adventures-backed City Walk project, and hear how the program offers opportunities to disadvantaged street youth. Then soak up the narrow, winding lanes of Old Delhi, visiting the 17th-century Jama Masjid — India's largest mosque — and the Sikh Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib temple, located near a busy shopping area. Drive to Agra this afternoon. Day 3: AGRA Spend the day in historic Agra, which served as the capital of the Delhi Sultanate and later of the Mughal Empire. Discover the Taj Mahal, one of the new seven wonders of the world; widely considered the best example of Mughal architecture, this breathtaking mausoleum was built by Emperor Shah Jahan for his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Next, visit mumtaz Mahal's exquisite grandfather's tomb, often referred to as the little Taj, and explore Agra Fort, an impressive red sandstone citadel that hides white marble palaces inside. Day 4: AGRA/JAIPUR Travel to Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan state. On the way, stop in the magnificent Mughal town of Fatehpur Sikri, a masterpiece of red sandstone, and its fascinating history. Emperor Akbar built a short-lived capital here in the 16th century to honor a Muslim saint from the village of Sikri who had predicted the birth of his son, Jehangir. Then visit Abhaneri's Rajasthan village for a walk around chand chand Richly decorated stepwell or water tank built more than a thousand years ago - learning about india's ancient methods of water conservation. Day 5: Jaipur Explore Jaipur, known as the Pink City for its pink buildings. Take a tour of the sprawling Amber Fort, the former residence of Jaipur's Rajput rulers, and visit Hawa Mahal, or the Palace of the Winds, a gorgeous five-story sandstone building with distinctive honeycomb windows. We will also meet a local historian to discuss india's complex social fabric, customs and architecture. Tonight, consider going to the movies to watch a Bollywood movie, a truly unique experience. Day 6: Jaipur/Pachewar Drive to the rural village of Pachewar, where we stay in a beautiful heritage house. Exploring this traditional community is like going back in time: walking and meeting local residents, watching potters, silversmiths, and slippers at work; wander among old temples and mud houses, perhaps witnessing a cooking demonstration; and notice how urbanization and modernization have altered village life. Day 7: Pachewar/Delhi Back to bustling Delhi. Tonight, choose to join the group for a farewell dinner. Day 8: Delhi/Kochi Fly to the port city of Kochi. Take a seat in your hotel and enjoy free time to relax for the rest of the day. Choose to catch the sunset over the Arabian Sea, framed by hundreds of boats and fishing nets. Day 9: Kochi/Thekkady set out to explore Kochi, a charming port city on the malabar coast and the site of India's first European settlement. Visit the Mattancherry Palace, built in the mid-16th century by Portuguese settlers and later expanded by the Dutch, and venture into the colorful streets of the Jewish Quarter, where antique shops and cafes abound. Then travel to Thekkady, India's spice capital, and visit a spice and tea plantation with a local expert to understand the medicinal value of the region's distinctive spices — from cardamom and nutmeg to vanilla and turmeric — as well as the process of making black tea, India's favorite drink. Day 10: Thekkady Thekkady is also home to Periyar National Park, one of India's most famous elephant reserves. This morning, enjoy a boat ride on beautiful Lake Periyar, looking for elephants, deer, monkeys, and a variety of rare birds. Next, visit a local family's home for a cooking demonstration and delicious spice-filled lunch. Relax this afternoon or choose to take a nature walk before heading to a local theater for a show of a kalaripayattu, an ancient martial art of Kerala. Day 11: Thekkady/Kumarakom Continue to the lush village of Kumarakom on Lake Vembanad, the most freshwater lake in the state of Kerala. Explore the palm-lined rural backwaters of this renowned bird sanctuary, and hop on a boat to Manjira Village, where we'll meet local villagers and learn about coconut farming and rural customs. Witness a fascinating demonstration of toddy tapping and enjoy a refreshing twig of coconut water, straight from the tree. Day 12: Kumarakom This morning, meet a representative of the Vembanad Wetlands Conservation Program to learn about the ongoing work of local communities to conserve the lake and surrounding wetlands. This project was created by the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), an organization with which National Geographic has collaborated in the past. Continue by boat to a fish sanctuary set up by local fishermen with the support of the program, and see firsthand how their traditional ways of harvesting and processing clams have become models for sustainable management of the lake's resources. Then venture to a private houseboat in charming Alleppey, a golden vein of land surrounded by rivers, lakes, lagoons, and canals. Relax on deck and enjoy the scenery, watching daily life unfold along the water. Day 13: Kumarakom/Kochi Back to Kochi and take a walk to Fort Kochi, a delightful seaside district with vestiges of Portuguese, Dutch, and British colonial architecture. Visit a local fish market and explore a maze of stalls selling fresh fish. Tonight, take part in a kathakali show, Kerala's classical-drama dance that combines storytelling with acting, dance, and martial arts. Day 14: Kochi Departure at any time. Hours.

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