Android Photo Library app

→ by Thibault Deckers

Post on Aves, the libre/free photo library app for Android that has nice/logical gestures, "scrollability", search options and some power features.

Intro	Since using the fairphone looking for a Apple Photos replacement on Android. Having access to photos important: creativity + mindful
Backdrop	Switch to Fairphone /e/OS, libre. Earlier took control (back) over photos. Now how to have all photos in my pocket?
Aves + rsync + SO	Showing the app, bulletpoints what sets it apart: gestures, scrollabitiy, search options, some power features and customisation
Conclusion	They lived happily ever after: "just works" mostly anyway. Give it a try.

Android Photo Library App

All your photos in your pocket with Aves Gallery

19 August 2025

In Europe the summer holidays are nearing their end and if you are like many young parents, you probably shot a ton of new photos and videos. These are not just a bunch of files, they are like windows into our personal memories. This post is about an Android app that you can use to look at all your memories, right from your pocket, no cloud or subscription required.

Maybe it is because I get a little older, but I have increased my emphasis on the _good_. Things like durability, respect for other people, health and freedom are more important to me than ever before.

I hold no grudge towards any company, but I do not like the modern trend of needing a subscription for everything. The tools I use and the things I do reflect that, like these previous posts on my laptop and smartphone:

[post 2025-03-05 2025-02-10]

Vitamins for the Mind

While I had [my grumpy old man reasons] (link) for leaving iCloud Photos, one thing I think Apple understands well is how important photos and videos are for our wellbeing. In [an interview] on YouTube, Dr Sumbul Desai (Apple Vice President of Health) mentions the importance of photos Right along heart monitoring and fall detection. Memories of loved ones can make us feel good. Apple integrates this vision into their products with features like "on this day" and the photo Watch faces automatically showing different memories. Easy access to your photos and videos helps you to reflect and can be a perfect antidote for other things that might cause anxiety or stress.

[image]

Apple is serious about health and photos. (Dr Sumbal Sasai.)

Aves Gallery

Standard photo gallery apps work well with smaller collections of photos, but I if you are like me and want to carry your entire photo and video collection they often fall short compared to cloud and subscription based services like Apple iCloud Photos and Google Photos. Basic things like simply be able to handle large amounts of files and more advanced features like using meta data to find certain photos. After trying various apps, I found Aves Gallery ([Google Play], [F-droid], [Github]) to be really good. It is a libre/free app released under BSD3 licensce created by Thilbault Deckers. I like it because:

- <u>Gesture support</u>: Swipe with your fingers through your photos just like Apple Photos or Google Photos. It works fast, fluid and, unlike many other Android gallery apps, continuously and multi directional. There are also gestures available to return to the overview (swipe down from detailview), pinch to zoom and a single tap to show/hide textual info on any photo.

- <u>Scrollability</u>: Most photo gallery apps can scroll, but with Aves you an extra powerfull scrollbar which enables you to scroll both fast _and_ accurate.

- <u>Search options</u>: Aves indexes the metadata from your photos and enables advanced searching and filtering by city, state or country. You can also filter on date, media type or a combination of these.

- <u>Customisation</u>: You can set main menu buttons, tab bar buttons and photo action buttons to match your style of browsing. You can change the look of the overview by changing thumbnail size, dimension (squares vs rectangles) and sorting
[image]

Syncing Photos

New photos you take automatically appear in the Aves Gallery app. You can set Android to use Aves as default media viewer and picker app. If your currently using a cloud photo service you might first have to relate control over your photos. I did that in 2020 and wrote the following post on it:
[post 2020-08-31]

In that post I describe the app I use on my laptop [Shotwell] and describe. You could use rsync, [Syncopoli] or [Syncthing] to setup automatic synchronisation between your smartphone and other devices

[image]
Syncing photos between laptop and smartphone

Conclusion

Don't dismiss your photos and videos as just files. With the right app they can really bring you bits of joy. Using the Aves Gallery app that joy does not require a cloud and is fully free.