

Encrypt your memories.

Replace Google Photos and iCloud with Ente.

End-to-end encrypted photo backup where only you hold the key — with the polished apps and auto-backup you're used to, and the option to self-host if you want.

Who this is for

Anyone who wants Google-Photos convenience but not Google reading their library, and who prefers a managed encrypted service to running a server (self-hosting is available too).

Pay Once — the offline & one-time-purchase app directory · payoncehq.com

Free guide · pay what you want · share freely

Why Ente

Google Photos and iCloud can see your library; Ente can't. **Ente Photos** is end-to-end encrypted — everything is encrypted on your device before it leaves, so only you can decrypt it. It's open source and has been independently security-audited, with apps on every platform and automatic phone backup.

Ente or Immich?

Immich is self-hosted — you run the server and get free storage on your own disk. Ente gives you a managed, end-to-end-encrypted cloud with zero maintenance (and a self-host option). Pick Ente if you want strong privacy without running a server; pick Immich if you want everything on your own hardware.

1 · Choose managed or self-hosted

Option	Best for	Notes
Managed cloud	Most people	10 GB free; zero maintenance; paid tiers above that
Self-host	Power users	Run your own Ente server from the open-source repo

Honest note on cost

The managed service is free up to 10 GB, then paid — and above ~200 GB it costs more per GB than Google One, a privacy premium. Self-hosting removes the storage fee but you maintain the server. Decide which trade-off fits you before importing everything.

2 · Install the apps

Install the Ente mobile app (iOS/Android) and turn on backup — new photos upload automatically, encrypted. Also install the desktop app: you'll need it for the import, because encryption happens on your device and the server can't process files for you.

Save your recovery key

Because only you hold the key, no one — not even Ente — can recover your photos if you lose your password. During setup you're given a recovery key. Write it down and store it somewhere safe and offline.

3 · Import your old library

- 1 Google Photos: export via `takeout.google.com` (Photos only) and download the ZIP files.
- 2 In the Ente **desktop** app: Upload → select 'Google takeout' → pick the ZIP. Ente reads the metadata, preserves dates and albums, and encrypts everything as it uploads.
- 3 iCloud: download your photos (via Apple's export) and upload them the same way through the desktop app.

4 · Verify, then decommission

- Check counts roughly match and dates/albums came through.
- Confirm your phone's auto-backup is uploading new photos.
- Confirm you've stored the recovery key safely — this is the one irreversible step.
- Only then free up your Google/iCloud storage.

Common snags

Symptom	Fix
Import won't start	Use the desktop app, not mobile — takeout import is desktop-only.
Dates look wrong	Import the Takeout ZIP itself, not loose unzipped files.
Locked out	Without password and recovery key, data is unrecoverable by design.

Found this useful?

This guide is free — pay what you want if it saved you time. More offline & one-time-purchase alternatives to subscription apps, plus other migration guides, at **payoncehq.com**.

Sources: official Ente documentation (ente.com) and migration FAQ. Details current as of 2026; check the project for the latest. Independent guide, not affiliated with Ente, Google or Apple.