MCP SERVER | NO CODE | CLOUD HOSTED

Unsplash MCP

Search, retrieve, and manage high-resolution media assets automatically.

Unsplash MCP connects your AI client directly to Unsplash's massive library of high-resolution photos and curated collections. Your agent can search by natural language prompts, retrieve photo IDs and direct links, pull entire thematic collections, or even list public portfolios from specific photographers. Stop browsing web pages; let your AI handle the visual asset retrieval automatically.

A+ Quality Score 100/100

photography | asset-retrieval | high-resolution | visual-search | media-library | creative-assets

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vinkius.com/mcp/unsplash

SCAN TO VIEW

The connectivity layer between AI and the world's software.

Vinkius sits between AI and every application. All communication passes through Vinkius Cloud via the Model Context Protocol (MCP) — with governance, observability, and security at every layer.

Your AI Connections Run Through Vinkius Cloud

The world's largest managed MCP catalog

Vinkius is the connectivity layer where AI connects to the software your business already runs. We handle the hosting, the security, the credentials, the uptime — you get agents that actually do things.

We operate the world's largest managed MCP catalog. Major SaaS platforms, CRMs, databases, and cloud providers — running, monitored, production-ready. This MCP server is hosted and maintained by the Vinkius Cloud for AI Agents.

> *The agent doesn't manage credentials, doesn't manage uptime, doesn't manage security. Vinkius does.*
>
> — Architecture principle

Four Pillars of the Vinkius Runtime

01 — Security by design

Credentials stay encrypted at rest via AES-256. The AI agent never touches raw keys — they're injected into a sandboxed V8 isolate at runtime. Actions are logged, and connections have an emergency kill switch.

02 — Built on MCP Fusion

This MCP server was built with **MCP Fusion**, the open-source framework (Apache 2.0) that powers the entire Vinkius catalog. Schema-as-firewall strips undeclared fields, compiled PII redaction runs at zero overhead, and cryptographic lockfiles produce git-diffable audit trails.

03 — Deterministic observability

Eight immutable metrics per endpoint: request volume, p95 latency, error rate, active connections, cost attribution. A live payload feed logs every tool call with mutation detection.

04 — Autonomous operations

Servers are deployed, monitored, and patched autonomously. New capabilities and security patches ship weekly. Zero-downtime deployments ensure continuous availability across all managed MCP servers.

AES-256	Ed25519	24h TTL	V8 Isolate
Encryption at rest	PKI vault signatures	Ephemeral session keys	Sandboxed execution

One Token. Instant Access.

Every MCP server on Vinkius is accessed through a **Connection Token**. Tokens are generated in the cloud dashboard and produce a unique MCP endpoint URL. Paste this URL into any MCP-compatible client — no SDK required.

A single token can serve **multiple AI clients simultaneously**, or you can issue separate tokens per client for granular access control. Each token tracks its own request count, last activity timestamp, and can be individually enabled or revoked.

MCP ENDPOINT

```
https://edge.vinkius.com/{token}/mcp
```

Claude · Cursor · VS Code · Windsurf · Grok · Gemini

Security Is the Architecture

Security in Vinkius is not a feature — it's the foundation of the runtime. The gateway enforces multiple independent protection layers between AI agents and third-party APIs.

01 — Ed25519 PKI Vault

Every workspace has an Ed25519 Master Key. Session keys are generated ephemerally (24h TTL) and signed by the Master Key. Credentials never leave the vault boundary.

02 — V8 Isolate Sandboxing

Tool code runs inside isolated-vm V8 isolates with 64 MB memory caps and per-request timeouts. No filesystem access, no network access except through the SSRF-guarded fetch bridge.

03 — SSRF Guard

All outbound HTTP requests are DNS-resolved and validated before execution. Private IP ranges (10.x, 172.16-31.x, 192.168.x, AWS metadata 169.254.x) are blocked at the network layer.

04 — DLP & PII Redaction

A ResponseGuard pipeline intercepts every tool response. Configurable redaction patterns strip sensitive fields (emails, SSNs, card numbers) before data reaches the AI agent.

05 — Cryptographic Audit Trail

Every request is signed into a SHA-256 hash chain with Ed25519 signatures. Events form a tamper-proof, SIEM-exportable forensic record.

06 — Honeytoken Trap System

Phantom credentials are injected into isolated environments. If a honeytoken is used outside Vinkius infrastructure, the server is quarantined instantly.

Emergency Kill Switch

EU AI Act Art. 14(1) Compliant

The kill switch is an **emergency halt** mechanism — not a simple toggle. When triggered, it executes three actions atomically:

01 — Server deactivated

The MCP server is immediately taken offline across the entire cluster.

02 — All tokens revoked

Every connection token is invalidated. Total lockout — reconnection blocked until new tokens are issued.

03 — WebSocket connections killed

Active connections terminated via Redis pubsub broadcast. Propagates to every runtime node in the cluster.

Full Visibility. Zero Guesswork.

The Vinkius cloud dashboard includes a full MCP Governance suite — real-time analytics and security controls for production AI operations.

Control Plane

KPI dashboard with request volume, latency, success rate, token consumption, and AI-generated operational briefings.

Agent Activity

Which AI clients are connecting, how often, and what they're doing — real-time session tracking.

FinOps

Cost tracking per tool, payload compression savings, budget optimization signals, and consumption trends.

Tool Health

Slowest and most error-prone tools, with actionable root-cause insights and performance baselines.

Firewall & DLP

PII redaction activity, sensitive data protection counters, and security event timeline.

Incident Log

Error trends, failure rates, status-code breakdowns, and forensic audit trail access.

> Get started at **cloud.vinkius.com** — connect your AI agent in under 60 seconds.

Unsplash MCP

10 tools available
Cloud-hosted on Vinkius

Need stunning visuals for a project, but hate clicking through dozens of stock sites? This MCP connects your AI client to Unsplash's full photography ecosystem. You get autonomous control over discovering and pulling high-res images right inside your chat interface.

Instead of spending time on the Unsplash homepage manually searching or downloading assets, you give a plain language prompt to your agent—like 'Give me three minimalist shots of coffee shops.' Your AI client then uses this MCP to find those exact photos, pull the direct links, and provide all the metadata needed for proper credit. It’s like having a dedicated visual research assistant that never gets tired.

When you connect this through Vinkius, your agent can handle complex tasks instantly. You can ask it to search thematic collections by keyword or even pluck out a random high-res image when prototyping a layout. This means less time searching and more time building. It's the difference between browsing an index and getting the finished asset ready for production.

Core Capabilities

01 — Find photos using keywords

You can search Unsplash’s entire library to find high-resolution images that match specific concepts or subjects.

02 — Retrieve photo details and links

The MCP pulls deep data on any given image, including its ID, resolution properties, and direct hotlinks for use in web projects.

03 — Browse curated groups of photos

You can request specific themed collections or audit existing photo sets by their unique IDs.

04 — Get random inspiration shots

If you need a placeholder image for testing, your agent can retrieve a completely random high-resolution visual instantly.

05 — Track specific artists' work

You can list all the public photos uploaded by a particular photographer or user ID.

06 — List trending and new content

The agent retrieves lists of the most recently published images or current editorial topics to see what's popular now.

One Click on Vinkius — From Prompt to Execution

Available at **vinkius.com/mcp/unsplash** — connect your AI agent in three steps.

01 First, manually subscribe to this MCP instance within Vinkius and provide your Personal Unsplash Developer App Access Key.

02 Next, trigger the photo search or collection audit by giving a specific semantic constraint prompt to your AI client (like Claude or Cursor).

03 Finally, your agent executes the necessary tools, retrieves the direct asset links and metadata, and presents them directly in your chat window.

The bottom line is that you give an instruction in natural language, and your MCP handles all the complicated API calls to get you exactly what you need.

Built For

This connector is for anyone whose job involves visual media. If you're a content editor tired of downloading assets from multiple sites, or a developer who needs realistic placeholder images quickly, this saves hours.

Content Editor

You use the MCP to automatically request themed image sets for blog posts, bypassing manual searches and ensuring consistent visual quality.

Frontend Developer

When scaffolding a new web project, you instruct your agent to pull random visuals or search for specific aesthetics (e.g., 'minimalist coffee shop') to use as realistic placeholders in React components.

Marketing Designer

You ask the MCP to find entire thematic collections to maintain a consistent brand look and feel across ad campaigns, without leaving your primary workflow tool.

What Changes When You Connect

01 Save time by eliminating manual browsing. Instead of opening the Unsplash site and clicking through pages to find images, you simply tell your agent what you need, and it runs a targeted search using `search_photos`.

02 Get structured data, not just pictures. The MCP retrieves photo IDs, direct URLs, and metadata. This means your AI client can plug assets directly into code or reports without manual copy-pasting.

03 Maintain visual consistency across projects. You don't have to settle for random images; you can use `search_collections` to pull entire thematic bundles of visuals that share a consistent look and feel.

04 Prototype faster with placeholder imagery. When building a new layout, the MCP lets your agent run `get_random_photo`, instantly giving you realistic assets so you don't have to stop development to source images.

05 Track creative sources reliably. Use `search_photographers` or `get_photographer_photos` to find and catalogue work from specific artists, ensuring proper attribution right out of the gate.

Real-World Applications

Building a Portfolio Site

A designer needs 15 images for a client's mood board. Instead of manually searching Unsplash repeatedly, they prompt their agent to use `search_collections` and then run `list_collection_photos` on the best result. The agent returns all 15 assets with links in one go.

Testing a Landing Page Layout

A frontend developer needs background images for rapid prototyping. They simply tell their AI client to use `get_random_photo` multiple times, which instantly provides diverse, high-res assets without the friction of leaving their IDE.

Writing a Travel Blog

A blogger is writing about Italian architecture. They prompt their agent with 'Renaissance buildings' and the MCP uses `search_photos` to find relevant images, providing direct links for the blog post's embedded visuals.

Researching Brand Identity

A marketing manager needs to see what a competitor might look like. They use `search_photographers` to locate similar accounts and then run `get_photographer_photos` to audit the public style of specific artists.

Patterns to Avoid

Treating it as a simple image search

✗ AVOID

You ask your agent, 'Find me some cool pictures.' The agent returns 5 links, but you still have to manually check if they are the right resolution or if they belong to a specific theme.

✓ INSTEAD

Be precise. Instead of general requests, use `search_photos` with detailed keywords like 'minimalist coffee shop' and then follow up by using `get_collection_details` on a promising result for guaranteed consistency.

Relying on the web UI

✗ AVOID

Spending 30 minutes navigating Unsplash, clicking through themed folders, and copying URLs one by one.

✓ INSTEAD

Give your agent the task. Ask it to use `search_collections` with a broad theme like 'Nature.' The MCP returns the entire structure and assets in an actionable format immediately.

Forgetting attribution

✗ AVOID

Copying images without knowing who took them, leading to legal or ethical issues.

✓ INSTEAD

Always ask your agent to use `get_photo_details` on the assets you select. This ensures you retrieve not only the link but also the photographer's name and necessary attribution data.

The Right Fit

Use this MCP if your core workflow involves sourcing, vetting, or cataloging visual media from Unsplash. If you need to search for specific concepts (e.g., 'cyberpunk city'), pull entire thematic collections (`search_collections`), or track the work of known artists (`get_photographer_photos`), this is exactly what you need.

Don't use this if all you need are simple, one-off images and you don't care about metadata. If your goal is merely to find a single random photo for quick testing, `get_random_photo` handles that fine, but for robust workflow integration involving multiple assets or collections, stick with the full MCP.

If your source of media was Instagram or Pixabay, this MCP wouldn't help—it's exclusively Unsplash. But if you need to systematically search and retrieve data *from* Unsplash, it is unmatched.

The daily chore of finding high-quality visual assets

Today, getting the right images means jumping between tabs. You start on a blog post draft, realize you need a hero image, then open Unsplash, type keywords, click through pages of similar photos, and finally download three different high-res files to use in your presentation deck. This process takes time, requires context switching, and often results in inconsistent assets.

With this MCP, that entire manual cycle disappears. You just tell your agent the vibe you're going for—say, 'Industrial warehouse lighting.' Your AI client executes the search against Unsplash's library and instantly returns a curated set of links with all necessary metadata. The output is ready to use.

Unsplash MCP: Getting assets directly into your workflow

You no longer have to open the Unsplash website, manually type in a collection ID, or copy/paste URLs into a spreadsheet. The MCP handles all those backend steps automatically.

Your agent talks to the Unsplash API directly. It gets you the raw asset links and photographer information right where you are working, keeping your focus on creation, not research.

Unsplash: 10 Tools for Visual Asset Retrieval

These tools let your AI client systematically search Unsplash—from general keyword searches to specific collection audits—to pull precise, high-resolution media assets.

#	TOOL	DESCRIPTION
01	`list_collection_photos`	Lists every photo contained within an existing Unsplash collection ID.
02	`get_collection_details`	Retrieves all information about a specific, named photo collection.
03	`get_photo_details`	Pulls comprehensive data for any single Unsplash photo.
04	`get_photographer_photos`	Lists every image uploaded by a specific, named user account on Unsplash.
05	`list_latest_photos`	Retrieves a list of the most recently published photos from the main feed.
06	`list_editorial_topics`	Shows available, curated topics like 'Nature' or 'Architecture' that you can search within.
07	`get_random_photo`	Fetches a random high-resolution photo, optionally narrowed by a specific query.
08	`search_collections`	Searches for entire curated photo collections based on keywords like 'Nature' or 'Industrial'.
09	`search_photos`	Performs a broad search across Unsplash, returning IDs and URLs of free high-resolution photos.
10	`search_photographers`	Finds specific photographers or artists by their name or username on Unsplash.

See It in Action

Real prompts you can use once this MCP is connected to your AI agent through Vinkius Cloud.

U Search for 3 high resolution images containing 'cyberpunk city' aesthetics and provide their URLs natively in your response.

I've tapped the search engine: I found three gorgeous neon-lit cyberpunk style captures. [Image 1: Tokyo Nights API URL], [Image 2: Neon Reflection API URL], [Image 3: Rainy Alley API URL]. Photographers are mentioned below for proper attribution.

U Grab a random photo matching 'coffee desk concept' to help me prototype a blog layout.

Random request executed. I returned Photo ID yX45p, showcasing a minimalist white desk with an espresso shot, shot natively by James L. [Here is the Raw Image URL] to plug into your `src` tag.

U I need to see what's trending. Quickly gather the 10 most recently published latest photos off the main feed.

I've hit the latest unformatted feed natively. The top fresh photos display a significant trend in abstract landscapes and minimalist tech setups from users across Europe. Returning a list of their IDs alongside URLs right now.

Frequently Asked Questions

01 **How do I use the search_photos tool with the Unsplash MCP?**

You ask your agent to run `search_photos` and provide descriptive keywords. Your agent then uses these tools to return IDs, URLs, and photographer information for free high-resolution images.

02 **Does the Unsplash MCP help me find a specific collection?**

Yes. You can use `search_collections` by keyword (e.g., 'Nature') or, if you have an ID, use `get_collection_details` to pull all information on it.

03 **What is the difference between search_photos and get_random_photo?**

Use `search_photos` when you need results based on specific keywords or themes. Use `get_random_photo` when you just need an immediate, random high-res placeholder to test a layout.

04 **Can I track the work of one photographer using Unsplash MCP?**

Absolutely. You use the `search_photographers` tool to find their account, and then run `get_photographer_photos` to list every public picture they've uploaded.

05 **Is the data from the Unsplash MCP always free to use?**

The MCP retrieves links to high-resolution photos that are available under Unsplash's licensing terms, and it provides the necessary metadata for proper attribution.

Go Live in 60 Seconds

Get your connection token from **cloud.vinkius.com**, then paste the endpoint URL into any MCP-compatible client.

YOUR MCP ENDPOINT

```
https://edge.vinkius.com/[TOKEN]/mcp
```

CLIENT	WHERE TO CONFIGURE
Claude AI	Profile → Customize → Connectors → "+" → Add custom connector → Paste endpoint
Cursor	Settings → Features → MCP Servers → "+ Add New MCP Server" → Type: SSE → Paste endpoint
VS Code	Ctrl/Cmd+Shift+P → "MCP: Add Server" → add `"unsplash": { "url": "…" }`
Windsurf	MCP Settings → `mcp_settings.json` → Add endpoint URL
ChatGPT	Settings → Tools & plugins → Add MCP server → Paste endpoint
Gemini	Extensions → Add MCP Server → Paste endpoint URL

ASK AN AI ABOUT THIS

Let your preferred AI explain this MCP server

- Ask ChatGPT
- Ask Claude
- Ask Perplexity
- Ask Gemini
- Ask Grok

READY TO CONNECT

Unsplash is live on Vinkius Cloud.

Get your connection token, paste it into your AI agent, and start building. No SDK. No deployment. Just results.

Start at cloud.vinkius.com →

vinkius.com · support@vinkius.com

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