

12

Quick Lightroom Tricks Every Photographer Should Know



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Author: Jon Phillips
Publisher: Contrastly

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Thank you so much for downloading our Lightroom Classic quick tips guide!

There's no denying that Adobe Lightroom Classic is the industry standard when it comes to editing, organizing, publishing, and post-processing your digital images.

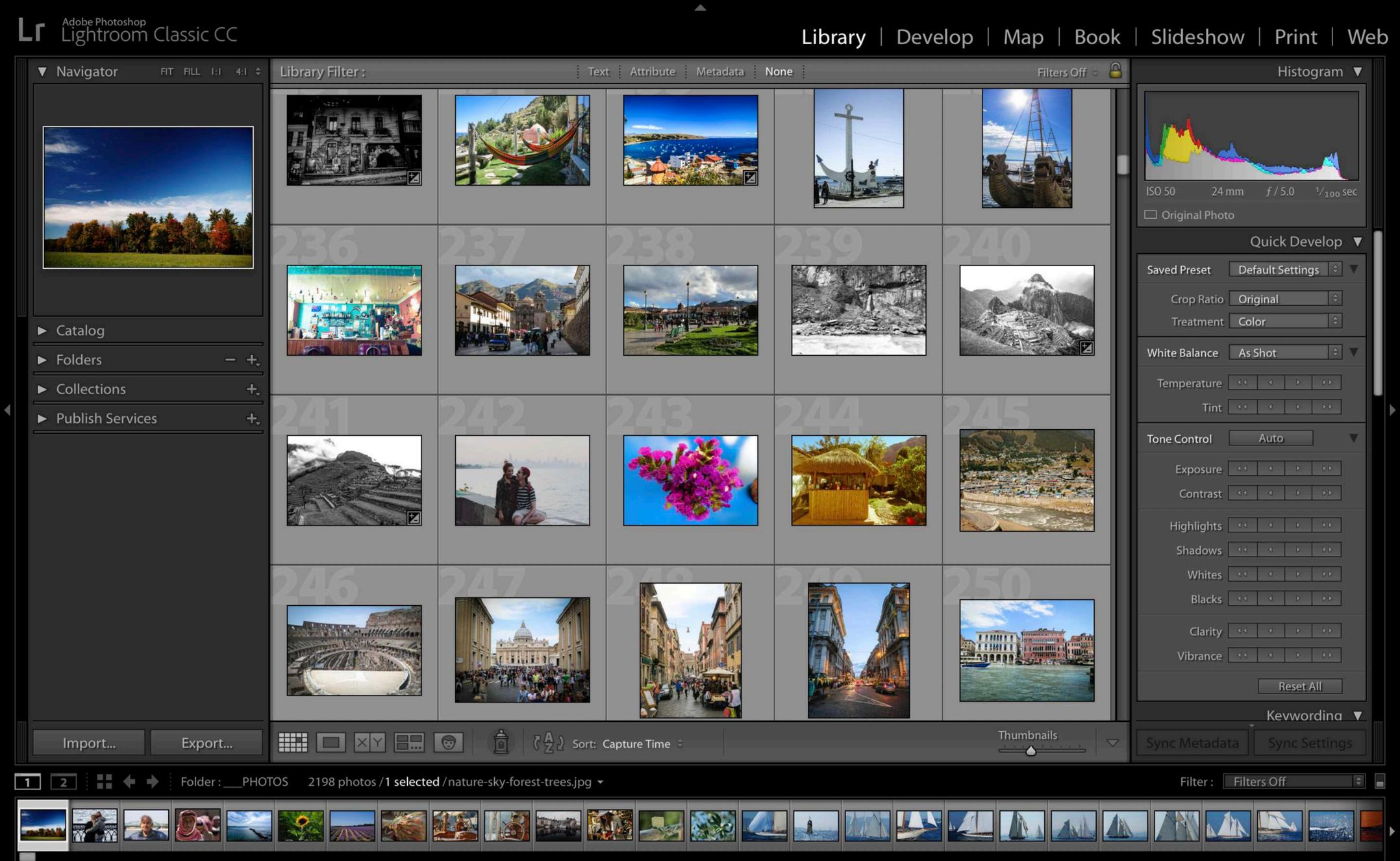
There are so many features, panels, sliders, and modules in Lightroom Classic that some of them can be easily forgotten, or not used much at all - even though they are extremely useful.

Our goal with this quick guide is to help you discover some of those features as well as help improve your experience and make your life easier when you're working in the software. We've created 12 really quick tips that you can use right now in your image editing workflow.

This ebook covers features that exist in the full-featured desktop edition of Lightroom. If you do not have Lightroom Classic yet, you can get it directly via the [Adobe website](#) (there's a free trial available.)

Alright, let's go over the modules in Adobe Lightroom Classic, just so you know where everything is located before we dive in with the 12 “*lesser known*” tips and tricks.

If you'd like to skip straight to the 12 tips, [click here](#).



The Library Module

The Library Module in Lightroom Classic is the home screen. It is where you can import your images, categorize them, group them into collections and apply keywords, keyword sets, and meta data information. You can also apply some adjustments via the quick develop panel on the right side of the window.

The Library Module allows you to view your images in a grid display by default. But, you can click on any of the icons right underneath the center panel to change how you view your images.



The Develop Module

This is where the magic happens. Well, most of the magic anyway. The Develop Module is where you'll edit your images, manage your presets and essentially turn your digital negative images into a finished product.

On the left side, you'll see a preview panel at the top, and the presets you have installed underneath. On the right side you'll see a histogram at the top, and then underneath are all the different adjustment panels that you can use to edit your images.

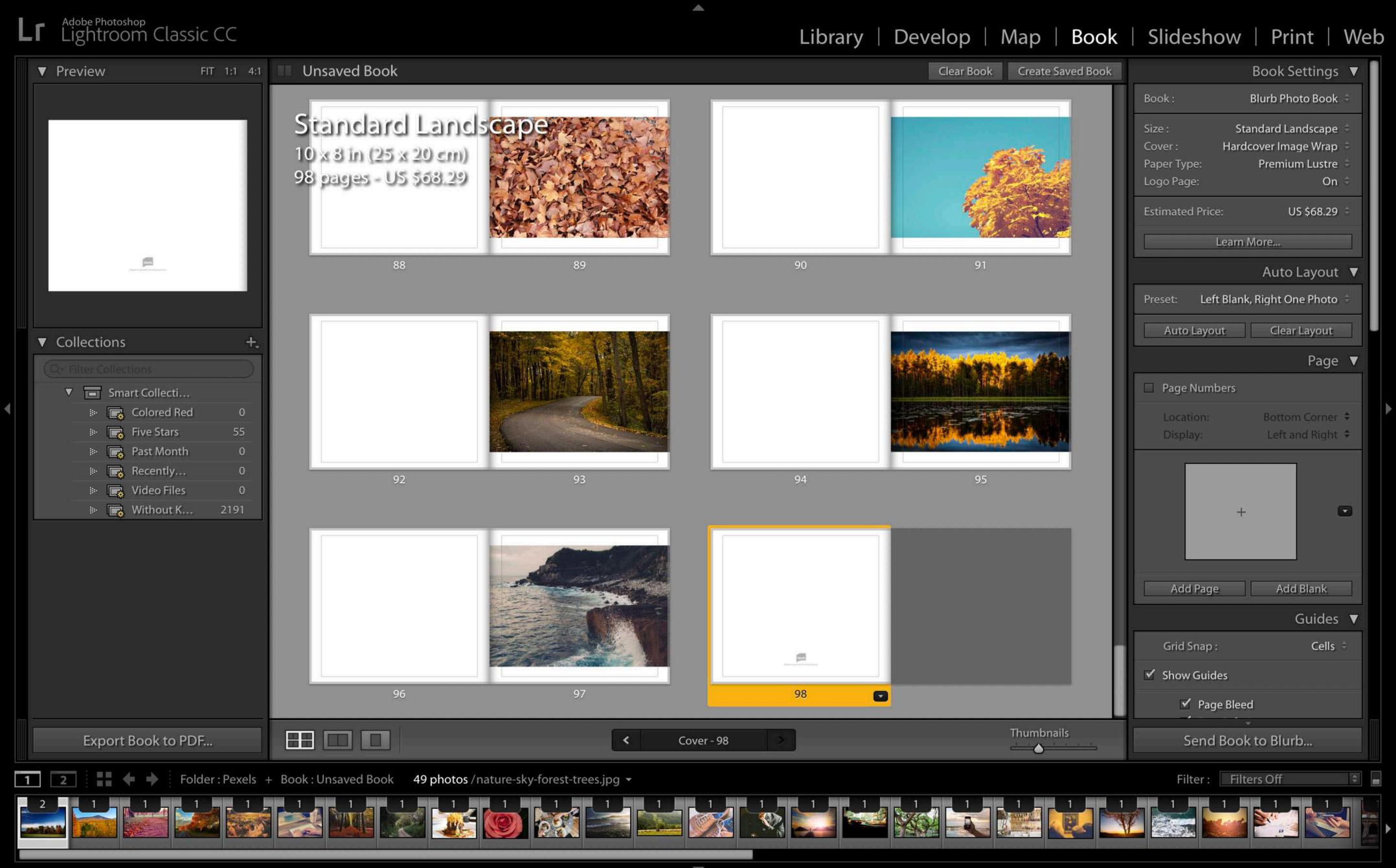


The Map Module

If your images are tagged with geo location information (if you have a camera equipped with a GPS for example), they will appear on the world map in the Map Module.

This can be an extremely useful module as it allows you to keep track of where certain images were captured. That way you can either share the location with other photographers, or use the locations for future reference.

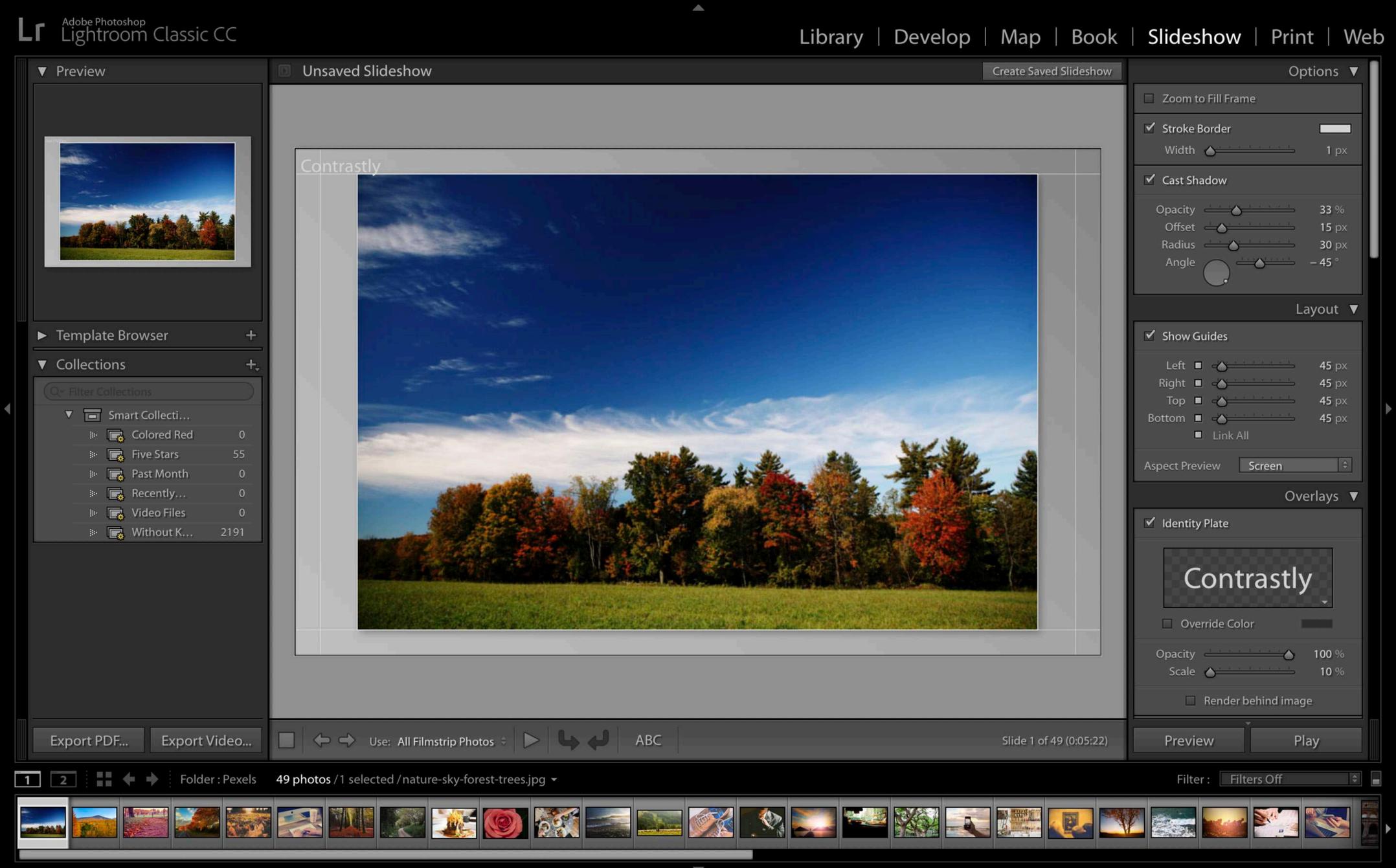
The map is powered by Google Earth.



The Book Module

There's something intrinsically magical about seeing your images in a photo book. The Book Module enables you to select images and lay them out in a book format so it can then be sent to your favorite printer or book service. Or, you can send your photo book for print directly to an online service called Blurb.

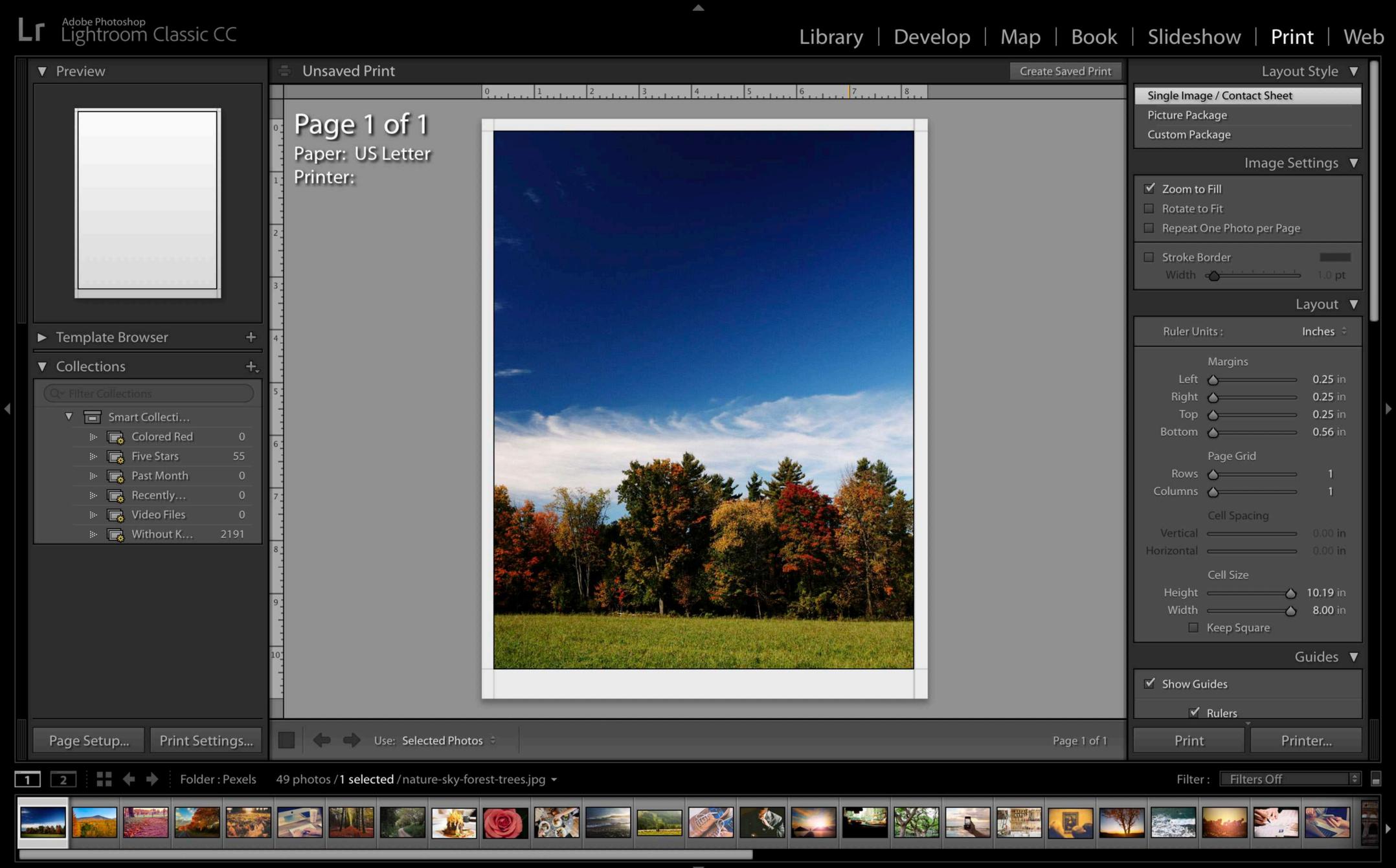
The Book Module even shows you the different paper types, sizes, and estimated price for your photo book.



The Slideshow Module

A close cousin of the Book module, the Slideshow module is another method of displaying your photos for the viewing of the greater public.

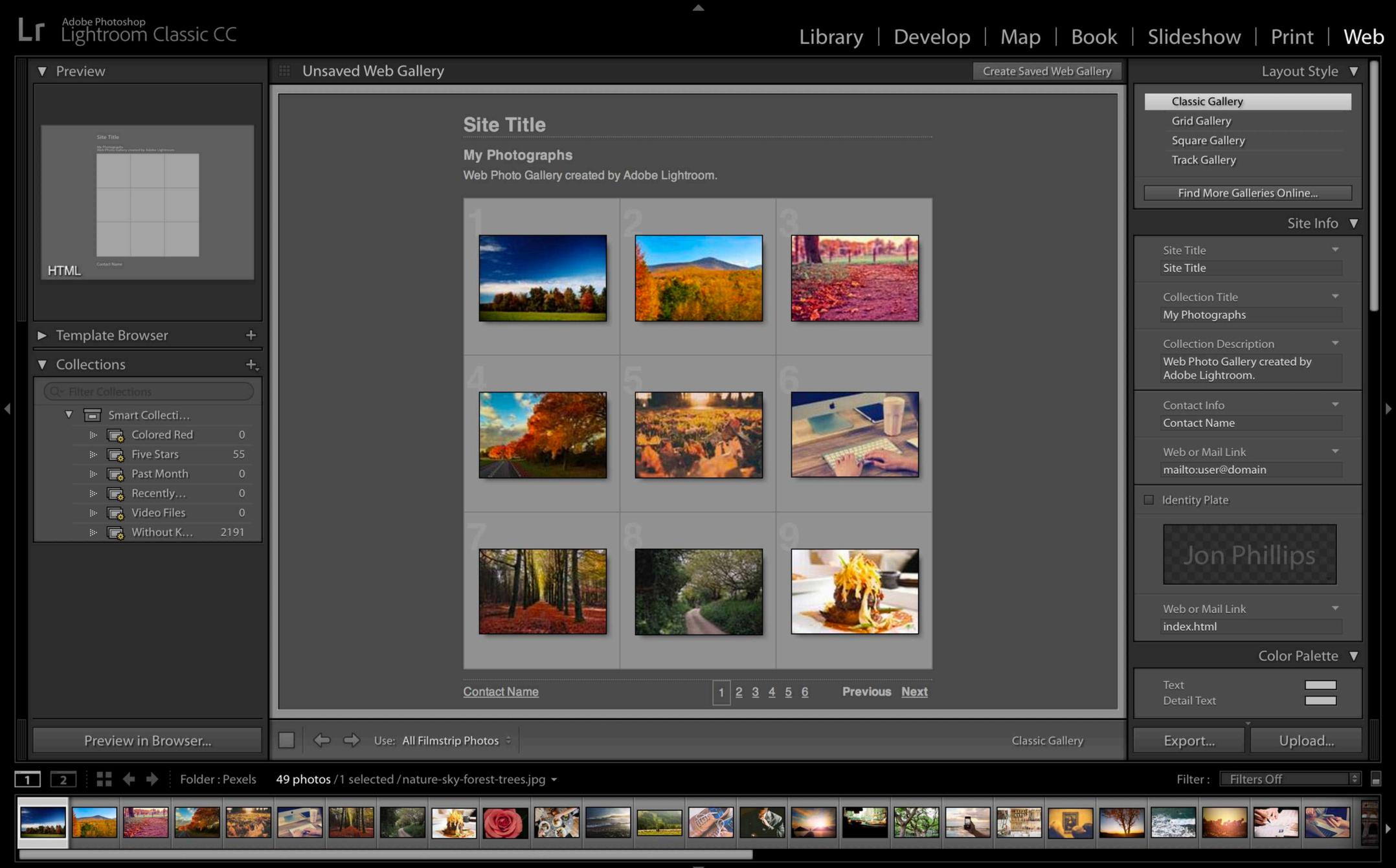
The Slideshow Module enables you to create visually stunning slideshows, complete with transition effects, layouts, overlays, titles, and even music.



The Print Module

Ahh! The Print Module. Printing an image is the culmination of the photographic process. Possessing a tangible, physical manifestation of a captured moment in time is an amazing feeling for a photographer.

The Print Module allows you to prepare your images for print, either at home or to send out to your favorite printing company.



The Web Module

Ever wanted to publish your very own image galleries online? The Web Module enables you to do just that. You can select which images to include in your gallery, adjust colors, fonts, sizes, and layout, and then publish directly to your own web server.

While this module does require a web server for publishing directly to the web, it also allows you to export your image gallery for offline viewing if you need.

12 Quick Tips for Lightroom Classic

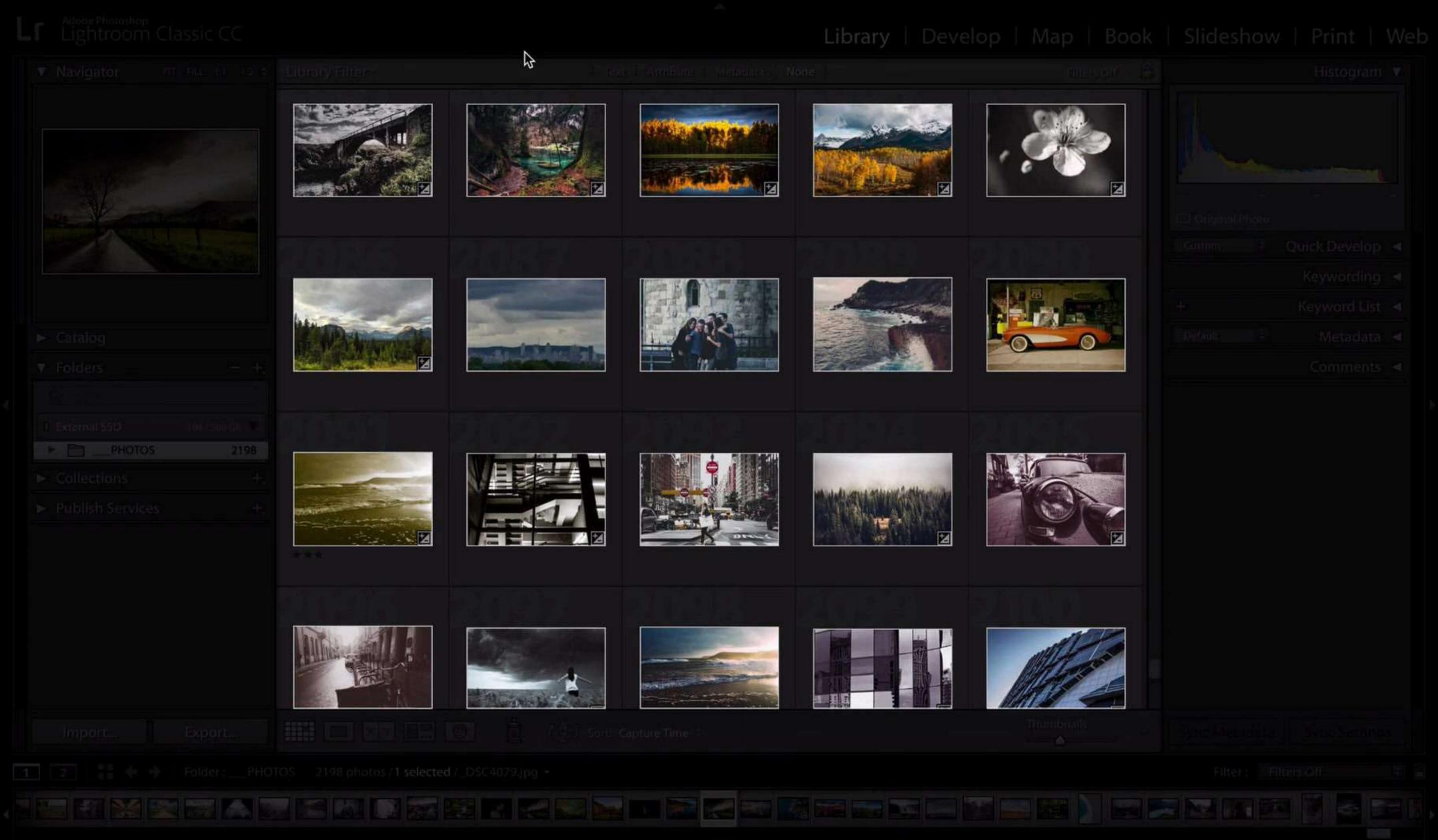
Now that you hopefully have a better idea of what each module does, let's get down to business and go through the 12 tips!

I truly hope you find the tips useful and that they help you in your Lightroom journey.

Please note that there will be keyboard shortcuts mentioned in the tips below. Those shortcuts will work on both Mac and Windows computers.

Of course if you have any questions, our door is always open! Feel free to reach out to us at hello@contrastly.com.

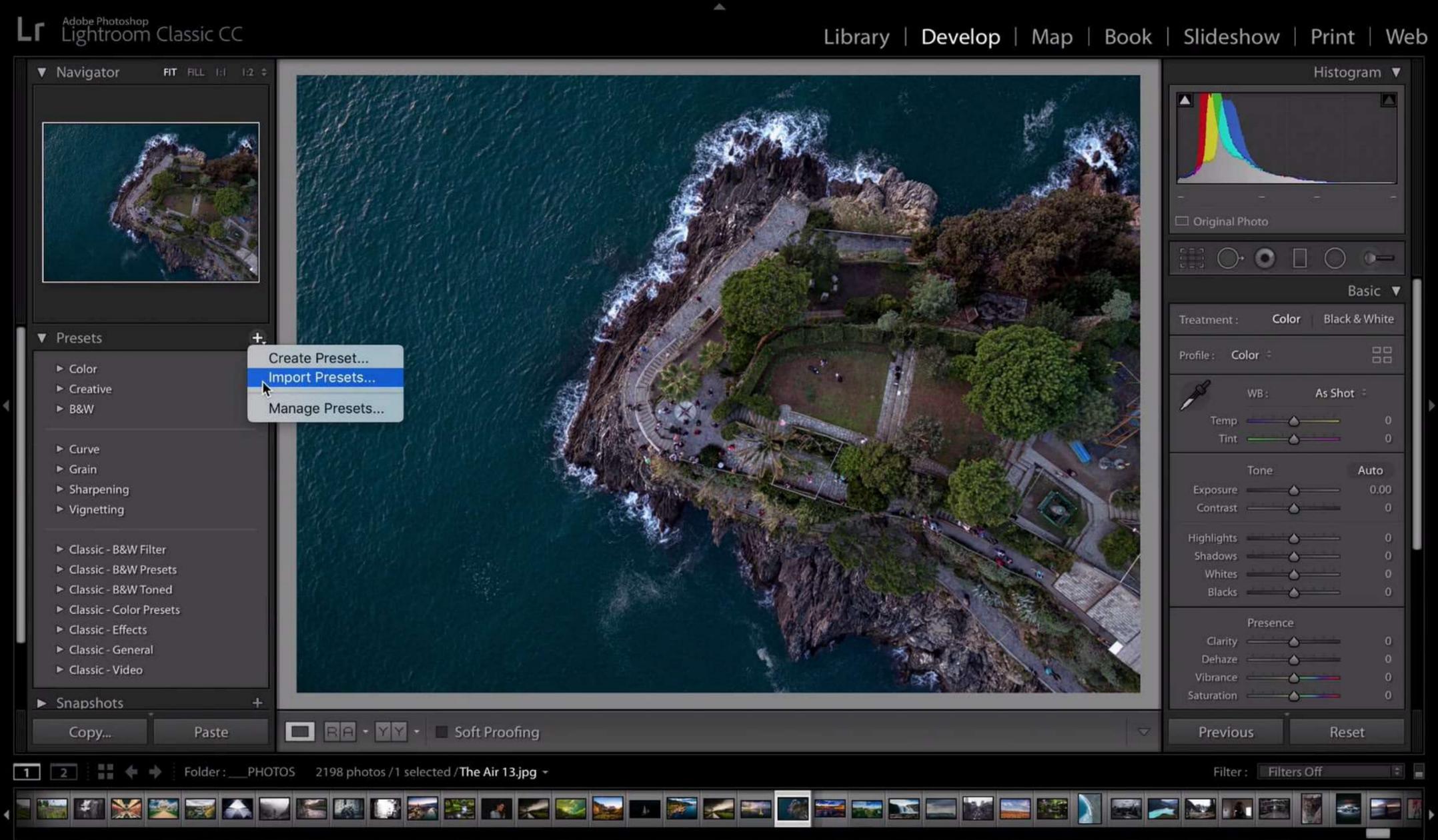
Let's get started, shall we?



#1 – Lights Out Mode

The “*Lights Out*” mode in Lightroom Classic essentially allows you to darken the interface so that the focus is on the center panel. This can be very useful when you need to reflect on your work (or simply admire the results)

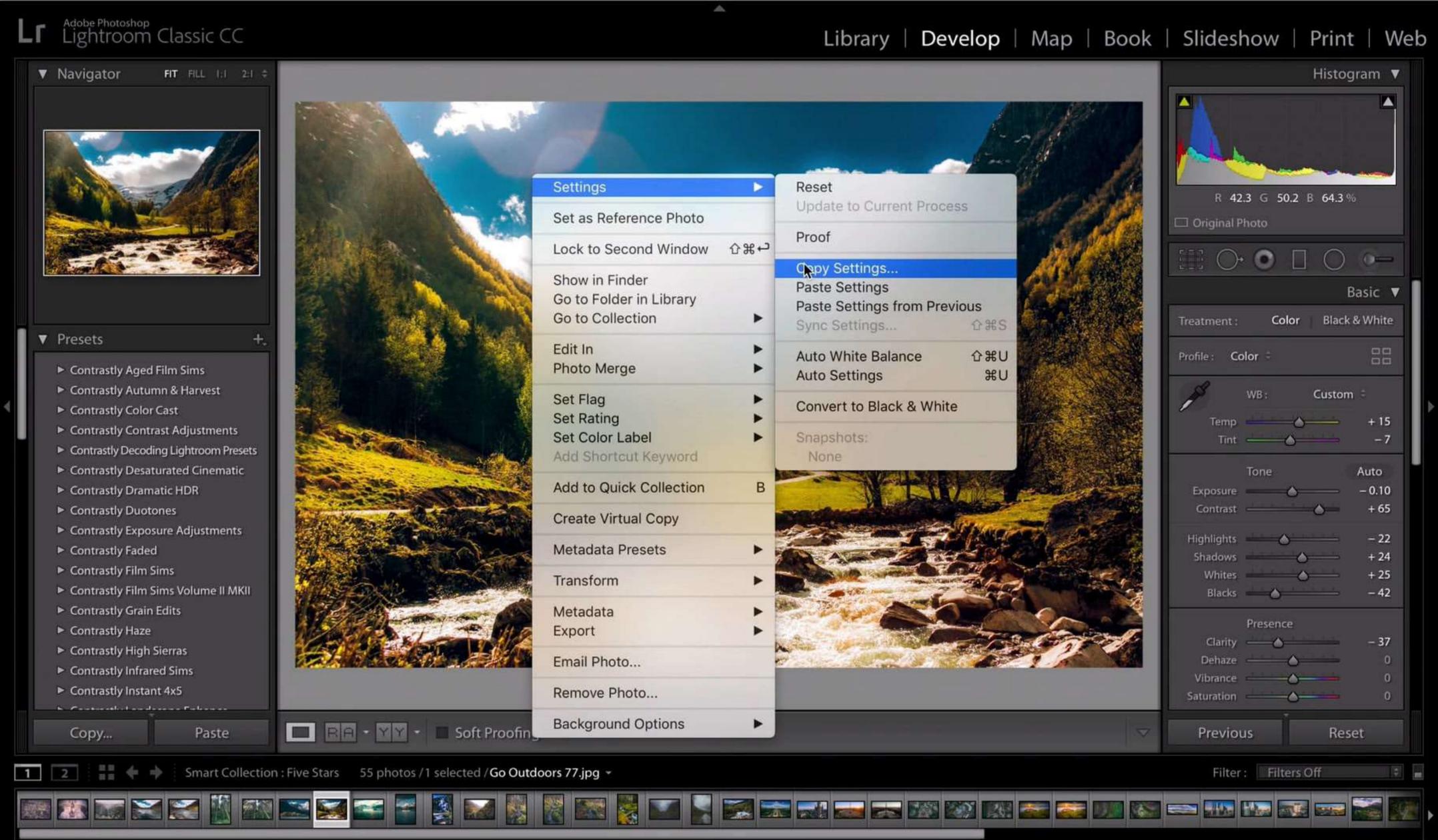
Simply hit the L key on your keyboard. It will darken the whole Lightroom interface and keep the focus on the center pane – this works in every single module. Hit L again to darken the interface even more, and L again to exit Lights Out mode.



#2 - Importing Presets

Importing Develop Presets into Lightroom has always been a little bit painful (to put it lightly). But, since Lightroom Classic version 7.5, you can simply click the + sign in the Presets panel of the Develop module and import presets from there instead.

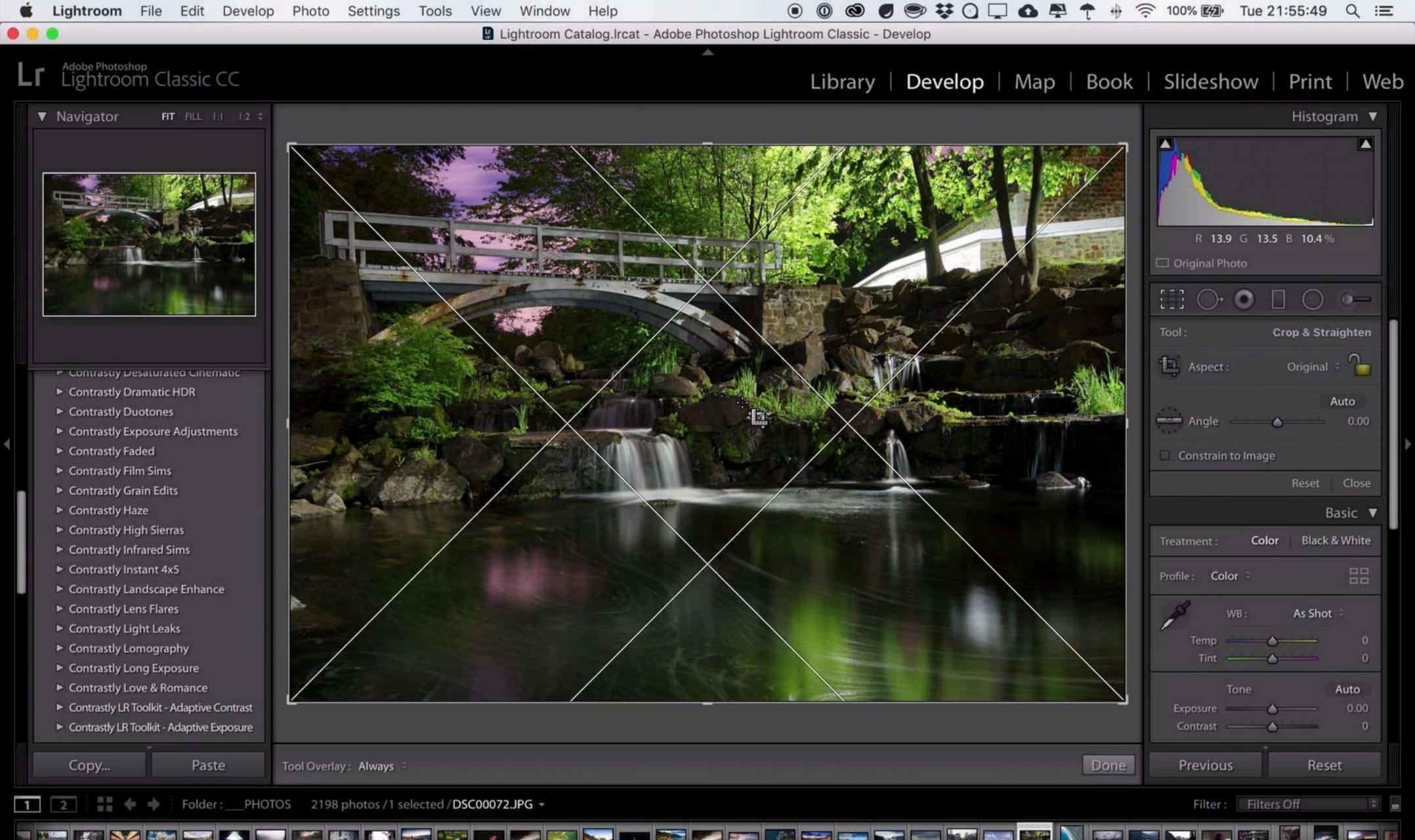
You can even import a ZIP file and Lightroom will import the presets and even keep the folders and hierarchy intact. Easy, right?



#3 – Copy Settings

Would you like to quickly copy the edits you have made to one photo to another image? That's easy.

Simply right-click on the image, select *Settings* > *Copy Settings*, then select your second image, right-click on it and go to *Select* > *Paste Settings*. This will effectively copy all of your edits from image #1 to image #2.



#4 – Crop Overlays

Want an overlay of some pretty useful composition tools (like the rule of thirds, golden ratio, golden spiral, etc...) on your image in the Develop module?

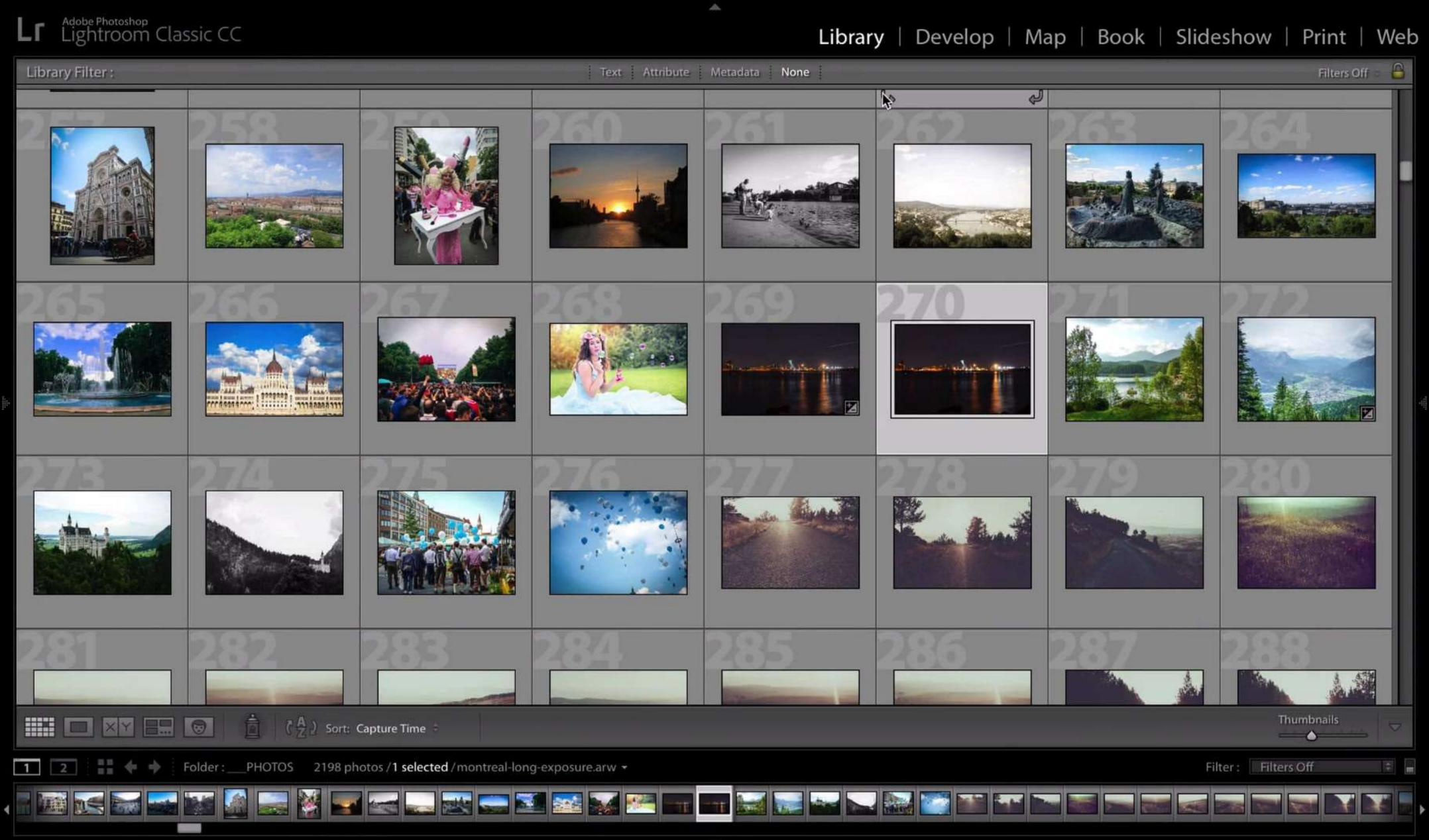
Select the Crop tool, then go to *Crop Guide Overlay > Choose Overlays to Cycle*. Then simply hit the letter O on your keyboard to cycle through them! Hit Shift+O to rotate the overlays 90 degrees.



#5 – Incremental Develop Sliders

Did you know that you can move sliders in the Develop Module by hovering your cursor over any of the sliders and pressing the Up and Down arrows on your keyboard? This can be rather useful when you need to do some fine tuning.

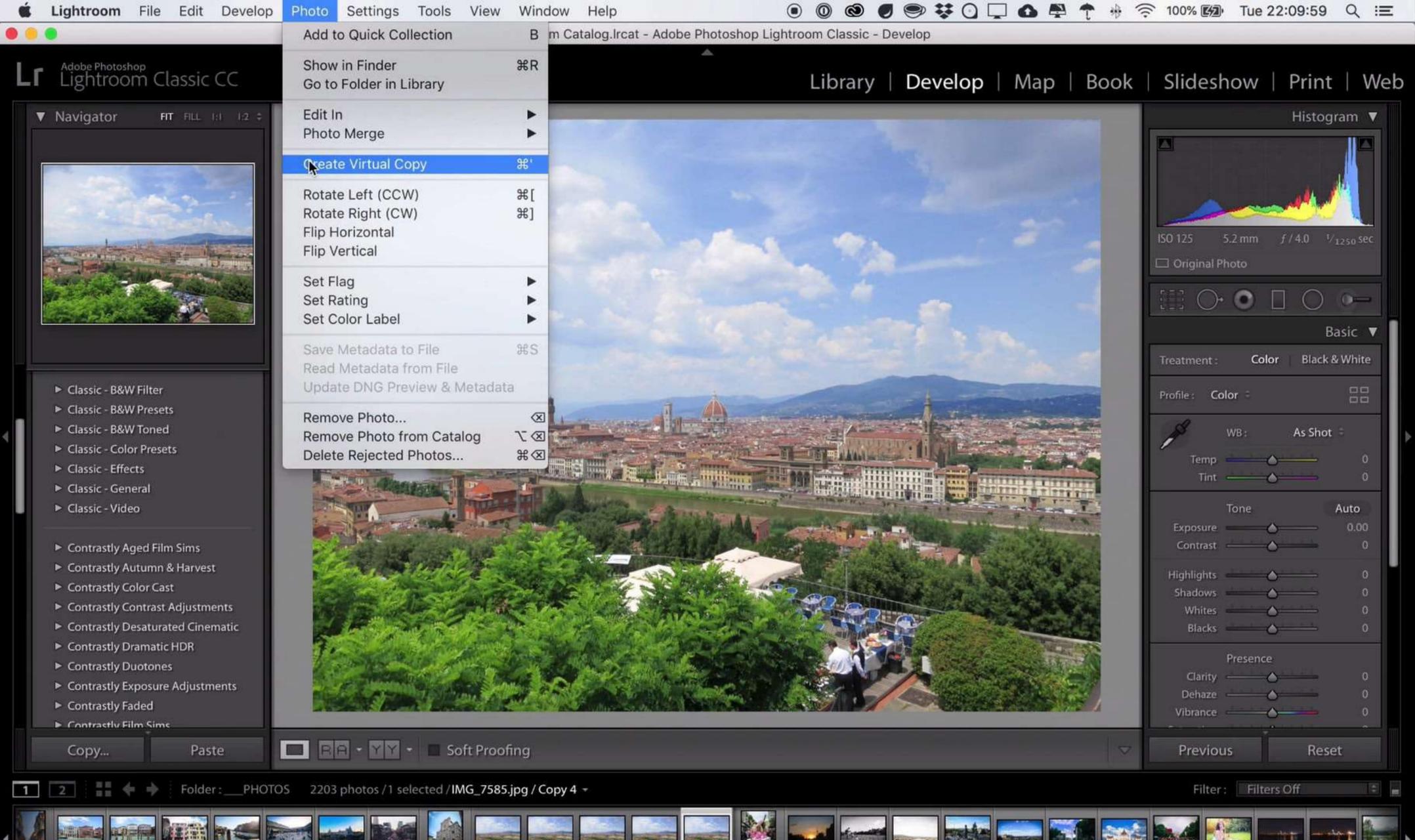
If you hold the Shift key on your keyboard while pressing the Up and Down arrows, it'll adjust the slider that you are hovering over in larger increments.



#6 – Show & Hide Side Panels

Do you need a little bit more room to work in Lightroom? Are the left and right panels in the way?

Just hit the *Tab* key on your keyboard to hide the left and right panels. This works in every single module. Then you can hit *Tab* again to get the panels back.

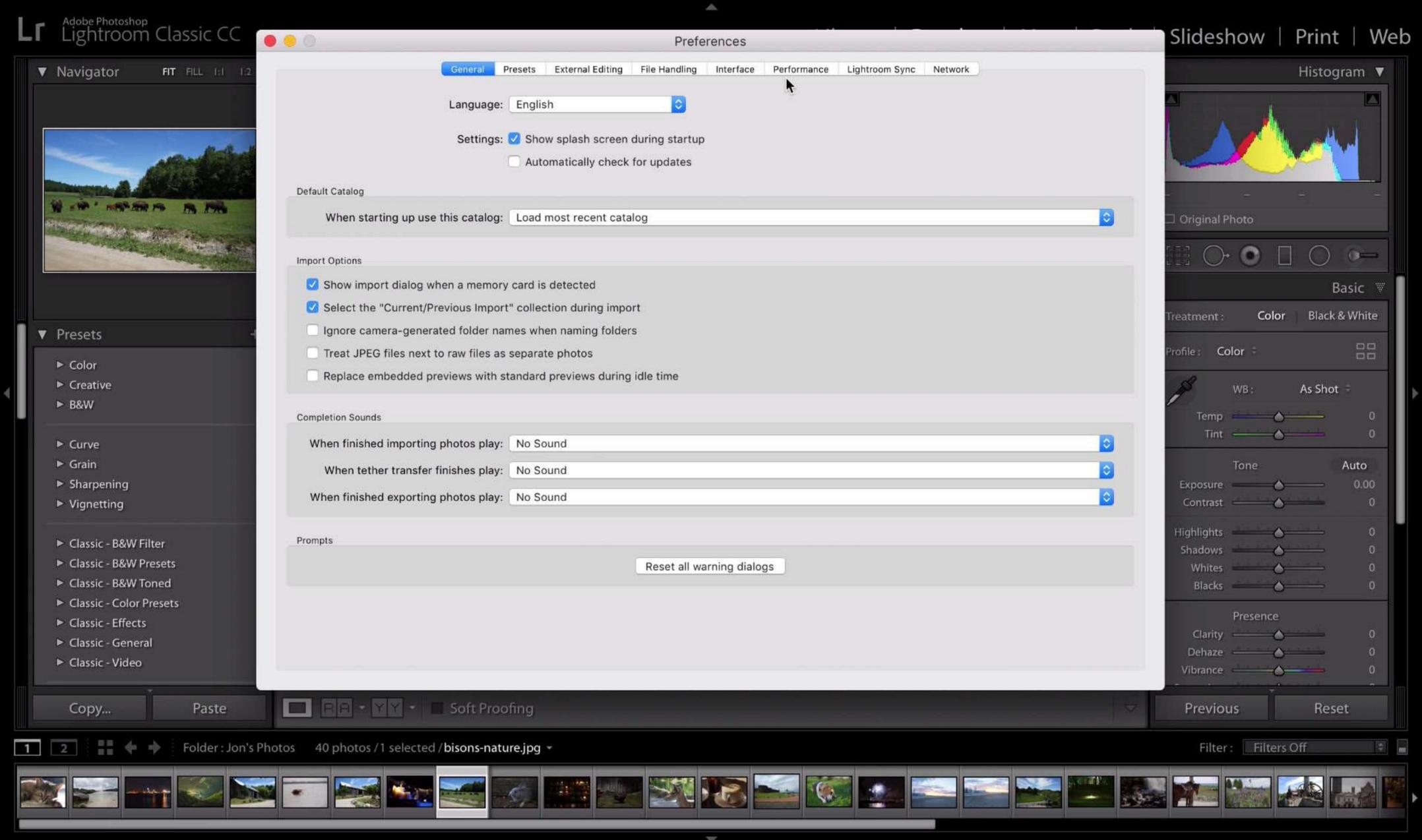


#7 – Virtual Copies

Want to create new virtual copies of an image? Maybe you'd like to do completely different edits and then compare them?

Select an image in the film strip at the bottom of the Lightroom interface and then right-click and select *Create Virtual Copy*.

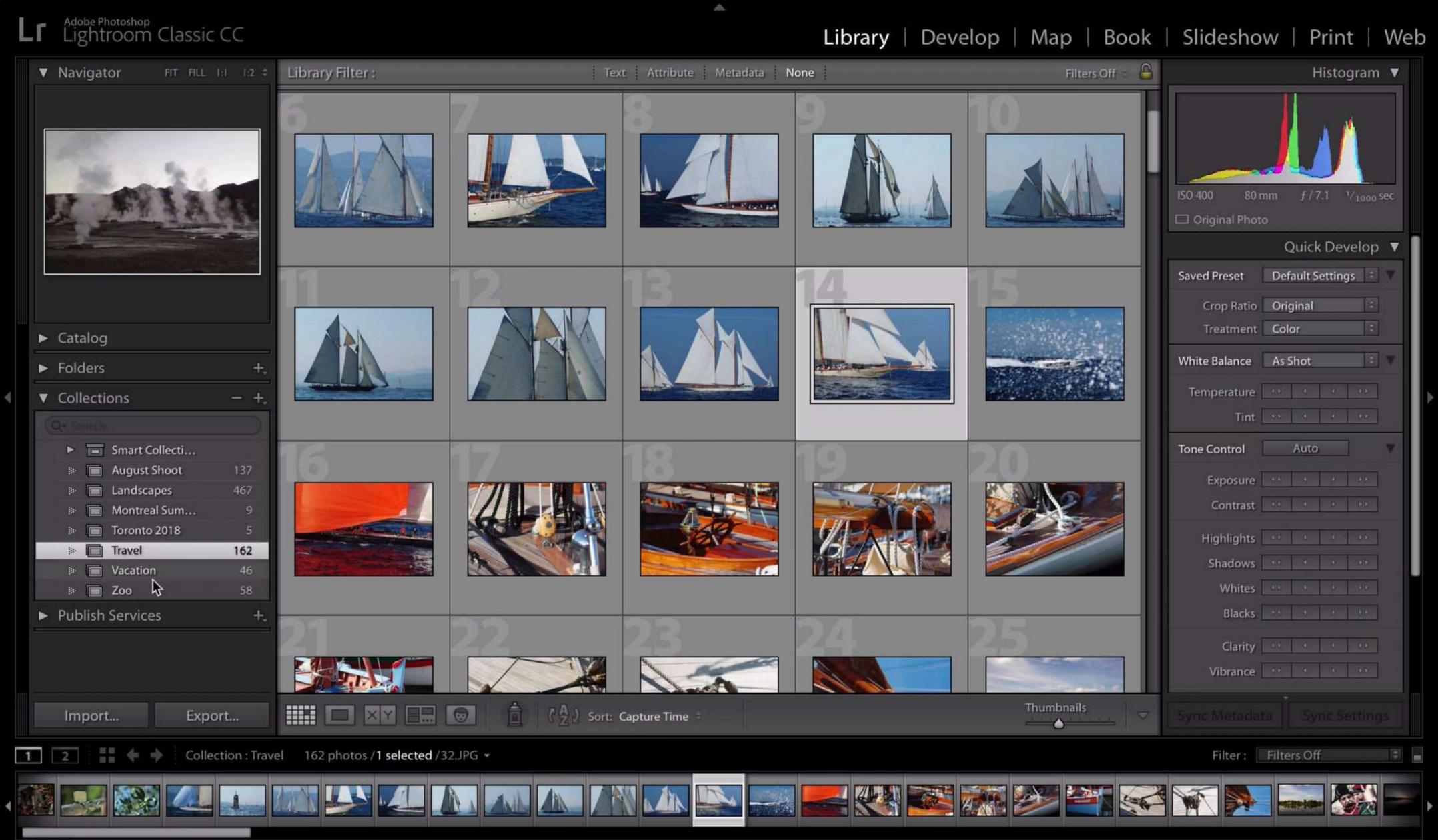
Lightroom will create a new virtual copy of your image. You are then free to work on both the original and the copy independently. This does not create an actual copy of the original image file on your computer, it's simply a virtual copy.



#8 – Increase Camera RAW Cache

If you find that Lightroom Classic is running a little slow on your computer, can you try to increase the Camera RAW Cache to speed things up.

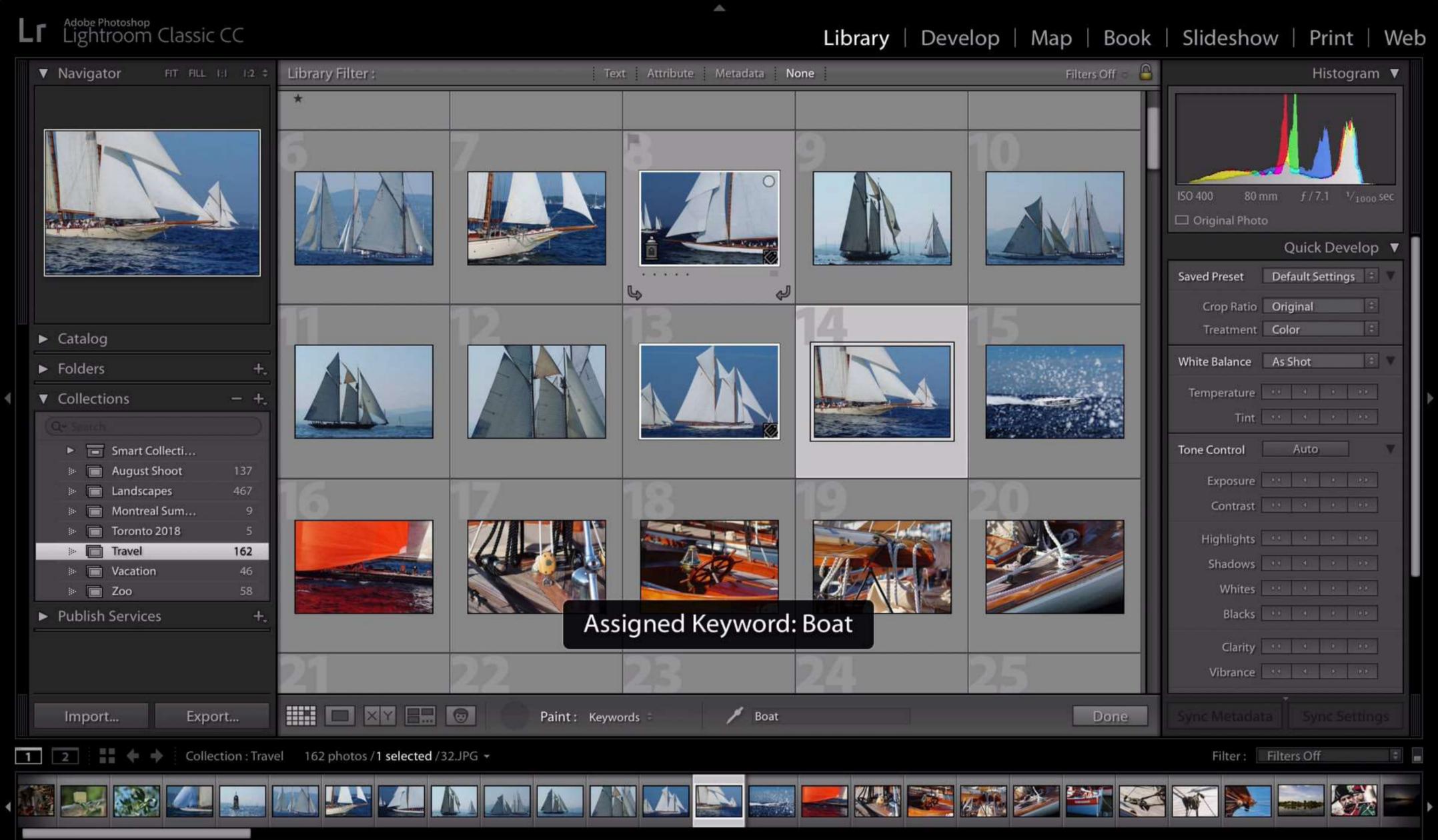
Go to Lightroom's Preferences and select the *Performance* tab at the top. Then, increase the *Camera Raw Cache Settings* to say 20 or 40 GB (by default it should be either 1 or 5 GB) depending on how many images you have and available space on your HD. Restart Lightroom and enjoy the performance boost.



#9 – Use Collections

Use Collections. Really. The Collections Panel is such a useful but underused feature of Lightroom Classic.

It is the only panel that is always accessible via any of the Modules. By organizing your photos into Collections, you can easily find them no matter what Module you're in.



#10 – The Paint Tool

Have you ever used the Paint tool in the Library module? If you're like most people, chances are the answer is no. It's the small paint can icon in the toolbar above the filmstrip in the Library Module.

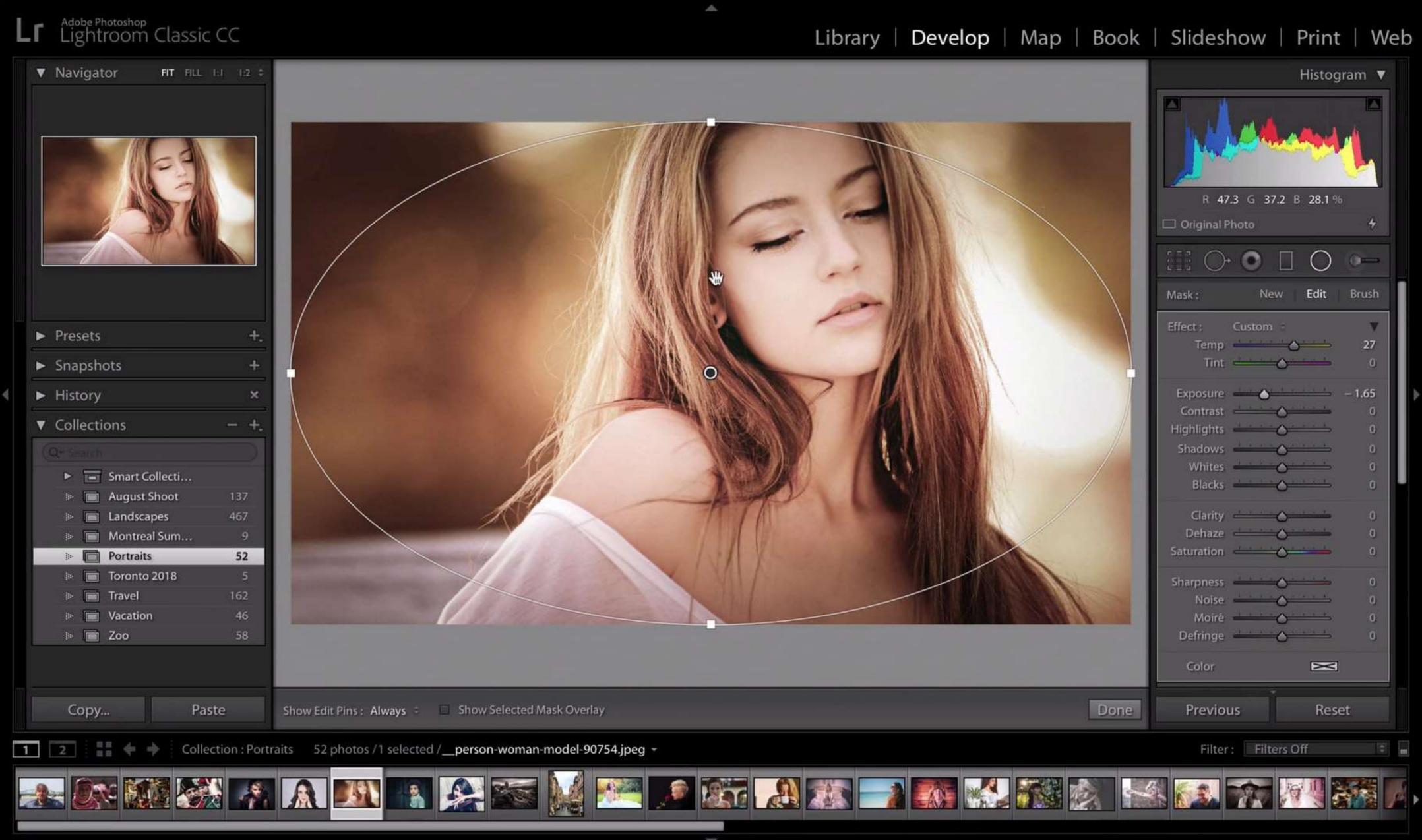
The Paint Tool is a great way to apply various settings to multiple images. Select the Paint can icon at the bottom, then select what you'd like to "paint", Keywords for example. Then enter a keyword in the field. Then click on all the images that are related to that keyword. It really makes those repetitive tasks much easier!



#11 – Solo Mode

If you're on a smaller monitor, you can enable Solo Mode in the Develop Module to save some space and avoid scrolling up and down the panels while you're editing.

Right-click on one of the panel's arrows and select Solo Mode. Now you can have only one panel open at once, no more scrolling endlessly and having all the panels open!



#12 – Radial Filter Tool

Have you ever wanted to create a vignette effect using the radial filter tool in Lightroom Classic but had a hard time getting the radial filter to fit the whole image?

That's easy! Hold CTRL (Win) or Command (Mac) and then double-click on the pin in your radial filter and it will make your radial filter extend to the edges of your image creating a perfect vignette, every single time. Nice!

That's it!

This concludes our quick tips for Lightroom Classic. I hope you learned a few things and that the tips in this ebook help you.

Lightroom Classic is a rather big piece of software, and there are many more hidden features and things you can do with the software.

If you would like to learn even more we have a complete PDF ebook on the topic called **Lightroom Mastery**. It covers everything there is to know about Lightroom Classic: [Check out the Lightroom Mastery Ebook](#)

If you would rather learn by watching videos, the **Decoding Lightroom** video course contains over 5 hours of training material to help you understand and work with Lightroom Classic: [Learn more about the Decoding Lightroom Video eCourse](#)

