

How To Use Featured Images In WordPress

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June 11, 2020

How To Use Featured Images In WordPress

WordPress Training

Tutorial Contents



This tutorial explains how to use featured images in WordPress and covers the following:

- **[What Is A Featured Image?](#)**
- **[Editing A Featured Image](#)**
- **[Removing A Featured Image](#)**
- **[Featured Images And WordPress Themes](#)**
- **[Featured Images And WordPress Plugins](#)**

See these tutorials for additional information:

- **[Using Images In WordPress](#)**
- **[How To Add And Format Images In WordPress](#)**
- **[How To Use The WordPress Media Library](#)**
- **[How To Edit WordPress Media Library Images](#)**
- **[Where To Find Free & Royalty-Free Images For Your Content](#)**

What Is A Featured Image?

A **Featured Image** (previously known as a “Post Thumbnail”) is an image that you choose to represent your Posts, Pages, or **[Custom Post Types](#)**.

Featured images can be used to make your posts and pages look more attractive and enticing to your readers and increase the visual appeal of your site and your content.

10 Things You Didn't Know About Coffee

Sed eget diam vel dui ornare sagittis. Etiam pretium faucibus elit a malesuada. Aenean accumsan efficitur sem, nec faucibus est gravida non. Suspendisse sit amet scelerisque diam. Nunc vitae lectus aliquet, tincidunt libero ac, finibus mi. Vestibulum aliquet consequat mauris a consequat. Cras sagittis, sem eget venenatis tristique, leo neque pretium tortor, id euismod magna turpis sit amet nibh. Sed maximus dolor in blandit dignissim consectetur purus sit amet, venenatis.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Vestibulum pulvinar varius libero in viverra. Aliquam erat volutpat. Nullam eget mattis ligula. Vestibulum tincidunt eget, tincidunt ac nunc.

10 Things You Didn't Know About Coffee

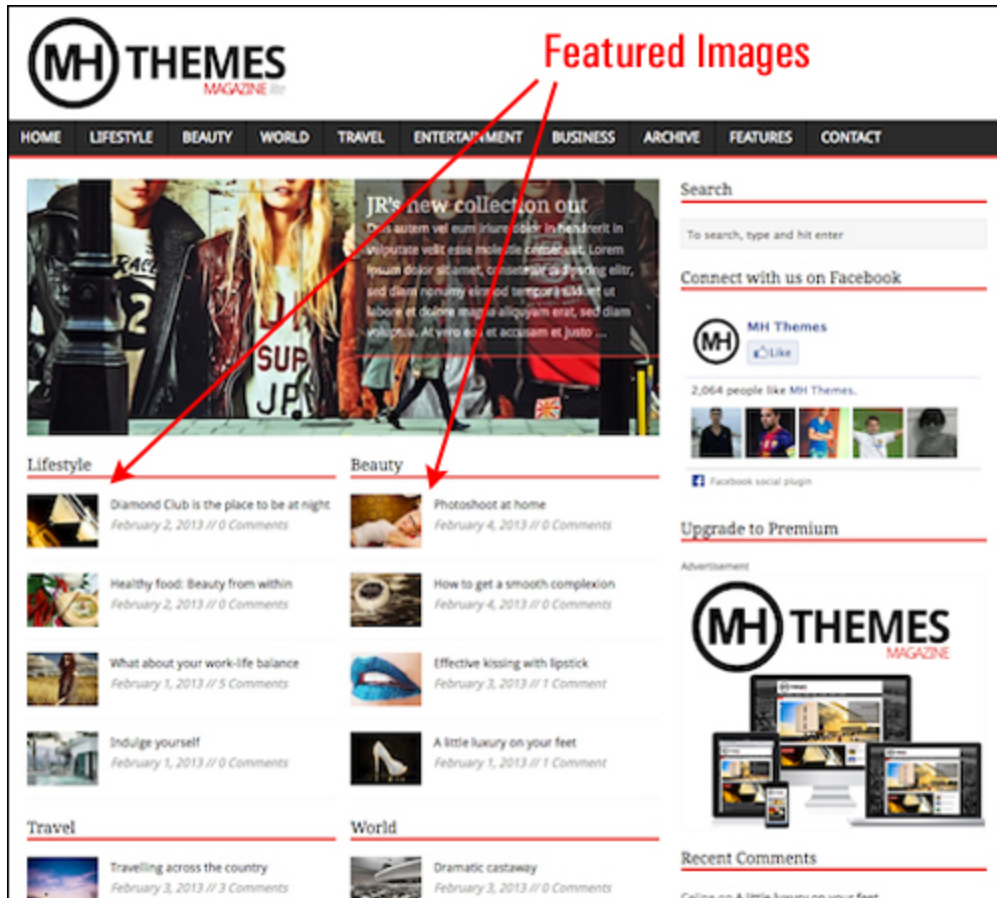


Sed eget diam vel dui ornare sagittis. Etiam pretium faucibus elit a malesuada. Aenean accumsan efficitur sem, nec faucibus est gravida non. Suspendisse sit amet scelerisque diam. Nunc vitae lectus

Featured Image →

A featured image can help make your post stand out.

WordPress themes with “magazine-type” layouts, for example, tend to use featured images prominently. With some themes, featured images may display only on the home page as post thumbnails, or only on the header section of single posts and pages and alongside **post excerpts**.



Magazine-style themes use featured images. (Source: mhthemes.com)

You can **find free WordPress themes** that use featured images by searching for themes in the **free WordPress Theme directory** or the 'Add Themes' screen in your dashboard with the "*Featured Images*" search filter enabled.

Add Themes [Upload Theme](#)

15 Featured Popular Latest Favorites [Feature Filter](#)

[Apply Filters 1](#) [Clear](#)

Subject

- Blog
- E-Commerce
- Education
- Entertainment
- Food & Drink
- Holiday
- News
- Photography
- Portfolio

Features

- Accessibility Ready
- Block Editor Patterns
- Block Editor Styles
- Custom Background
- Custom Colors
- Custom Header
- Custom Logo
- Editor Style
- Featured Image Header
- Featured Images**
- Footer Widgets
- Full Site Editing
- Full Width Template
- Post Formats
- Sticky Post
- Theme Options

Layout

- Grid Layout
- One Column
- Two Columns
- Three Columns
- Four Columns
- Left Sidebar
- Right Sidebar
- Wide Blocks

[Apply Filters 1](#) [Clear](#)

Use the Feature Filter to find WordPress themes that use featured images.



Your **WordPress theme** controls whether featured images display on your posts, pages, and custom post types or not, so make sure that the theme(s) you choose support using featured images.

If you plan to use a theme that doesn't automatically support using featured images, you may need to ask a WordPress developer to **customize your theme templates**.

To learn more about using WordPress themes go here: **WordPress Themes Explained**

How To Set A Featured Image For Your Posts

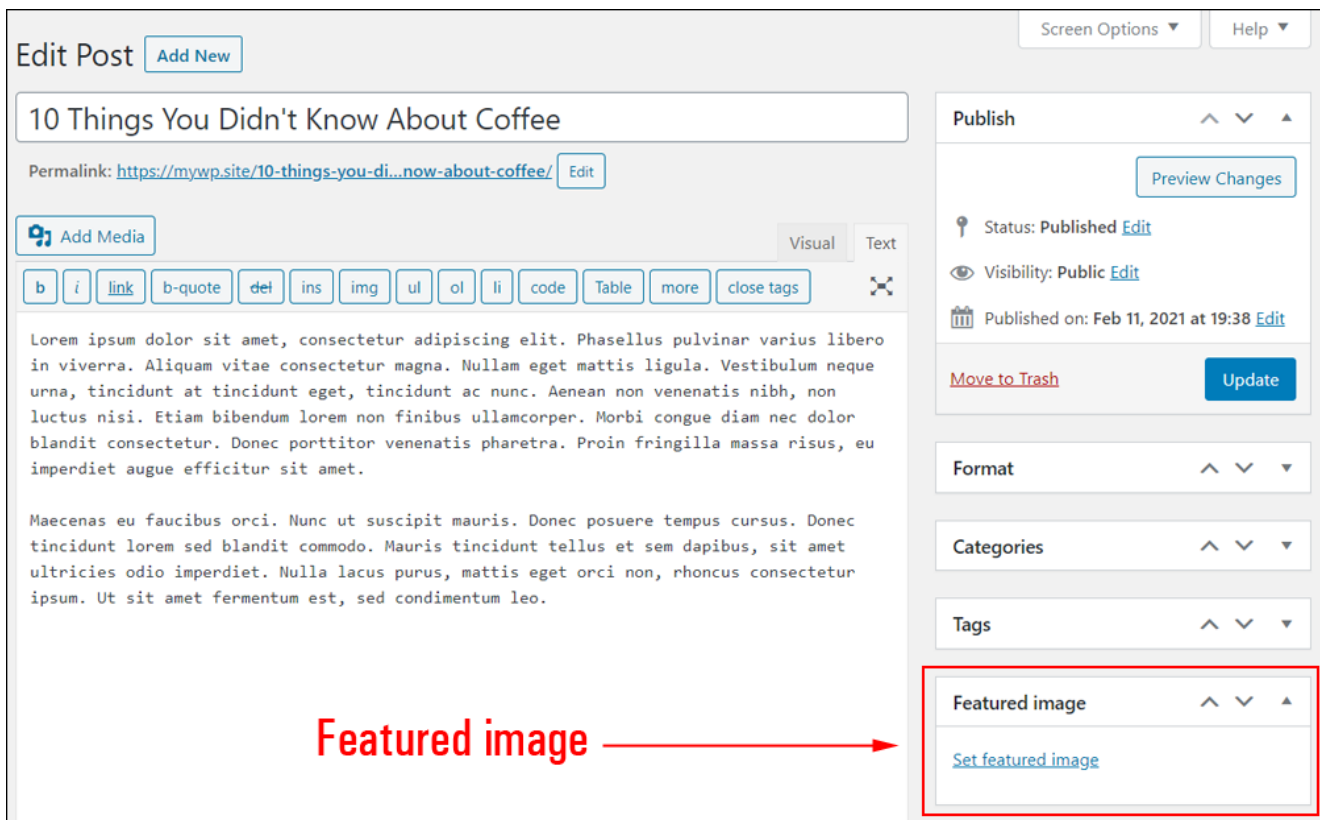
In this section, we'll add a featured image to a post using the **WordPress Classic Editor** and the **WordPress Block Editor**.

If you need help creating or editing posts or pages, see these tutorials:

- **How To Create A Post In WordPress**
- **How To Edit and Delete Posts In WordPress**
- **How To Create Pages In WordPress**
- **How To Edit And Delete Pages In WordPress**

WordPress Classic Editor

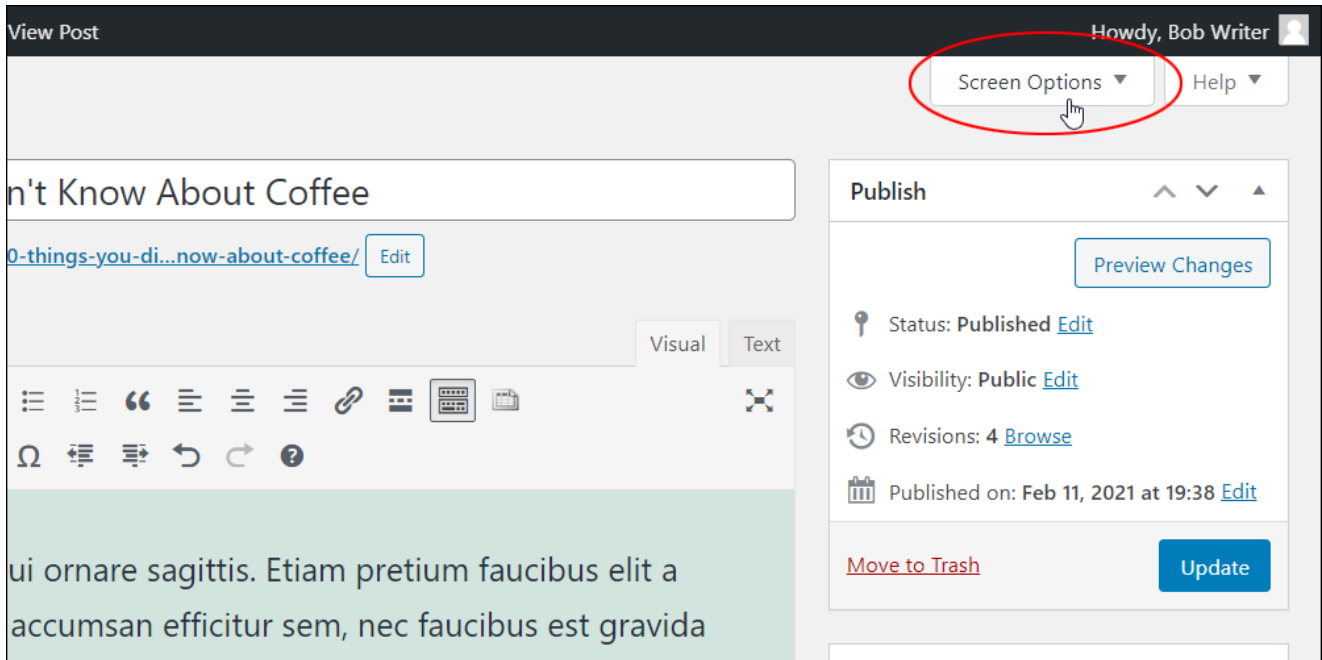
To add a featured image to your post, make sure that the **Featured Image** box in the sidebar of your **Edit Posts** screen is visible.



The screenshot shows the WordPress Classic Editor interface. At the top, there's a title field with '10 Things You Didn't Know About Coffee' and a 'Permalink' field. Below the title is an 'Add Media' button and a toolbar with various formatting options like bold, italic, link, quote, del, insert, image, underline, list, code, table, and more. The main content area has two paragraphs of placeholder text. On the right sidebar, there are several panels: 'Publish' (with 'Preview Changes' and 'Update' buttons), 'Format', 'Categories', 'Tags', and 'Featured image'. The 'Featured image' panel is highlighted with a red box and a red arrow pointing to it from the text 'Featured image' below the screenshot.

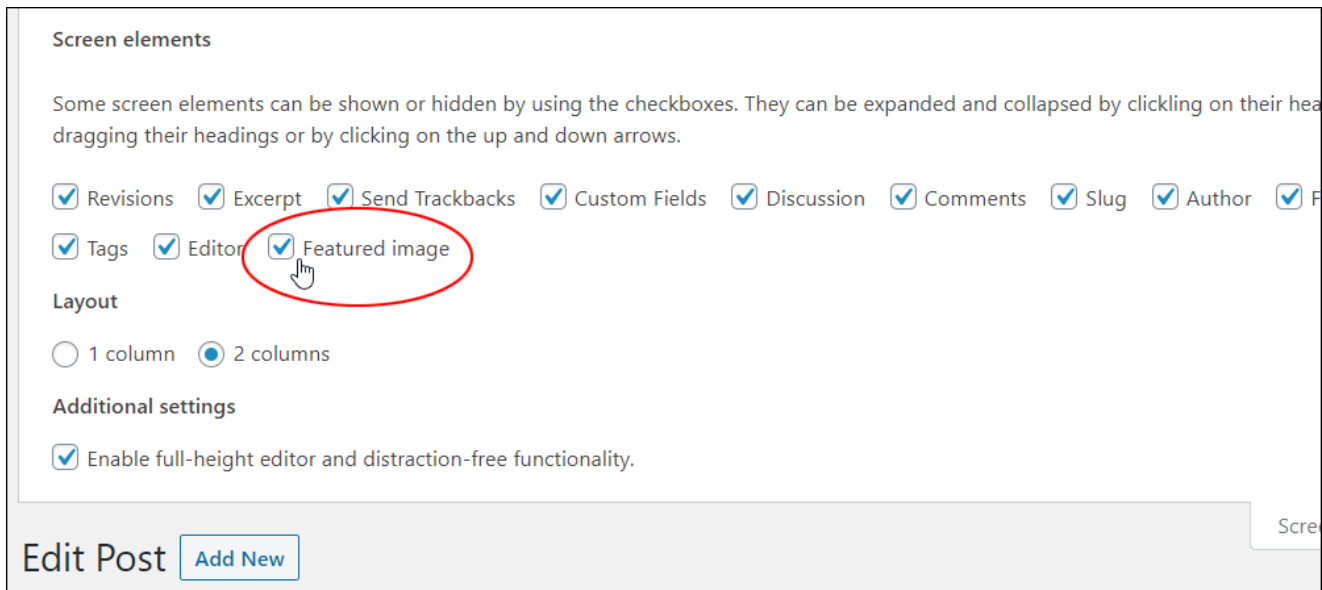
Use the Featured Image box to add a featured image to your posts or pages.

If you cannot see the Featured Image box in your Edit Post screen, click on the **Screen Options tab** at the top of your screen.



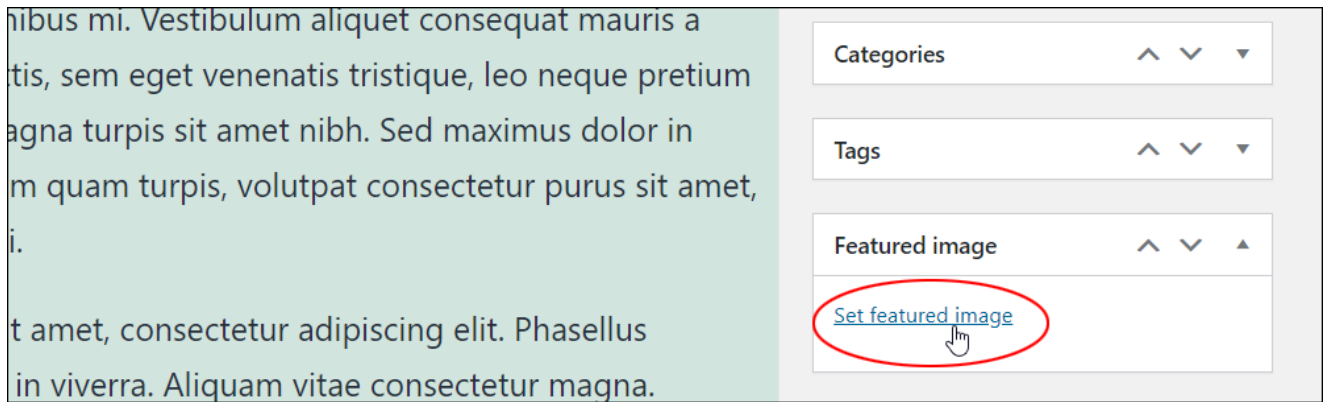
Click on the Screen Options tab.

Make sure that the checkbox next to **Featured Image** in the **Screen elements** section is ticked.



Make sure the Featured image checkbox is enabled in the Screen Options tab.

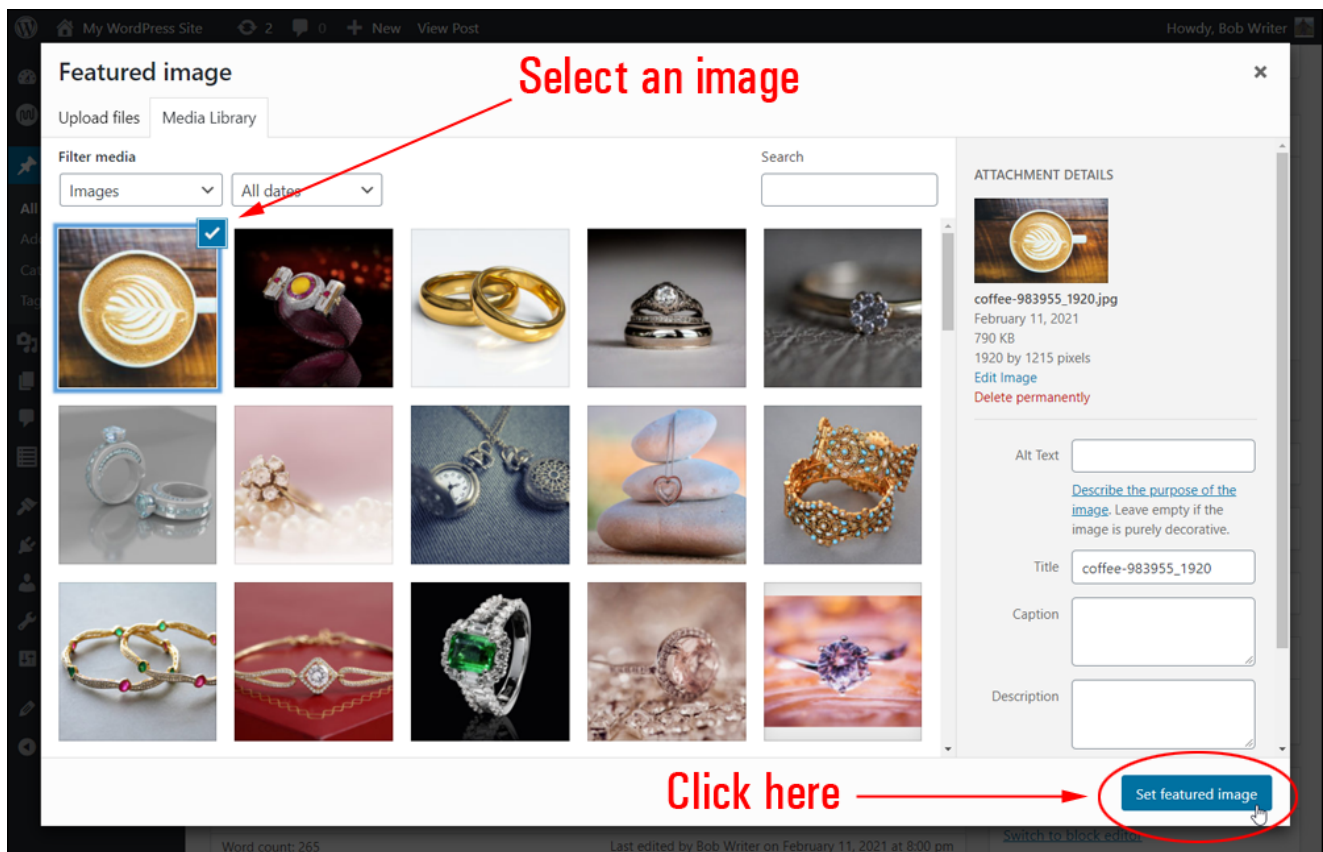
With the Featured image box visible, click on the **Set featured image** link.



Click on the Set featured image link.

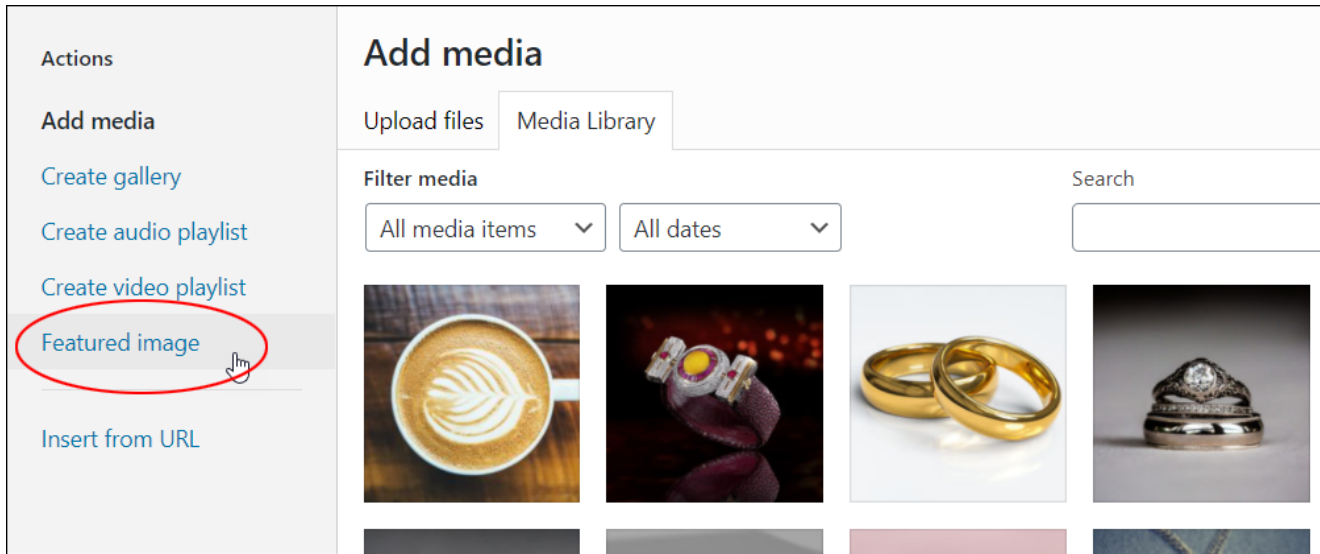
This will open the **Featured Image** screen.

Select the image you would like to use as your featured image and click on the **Set featured image** button.



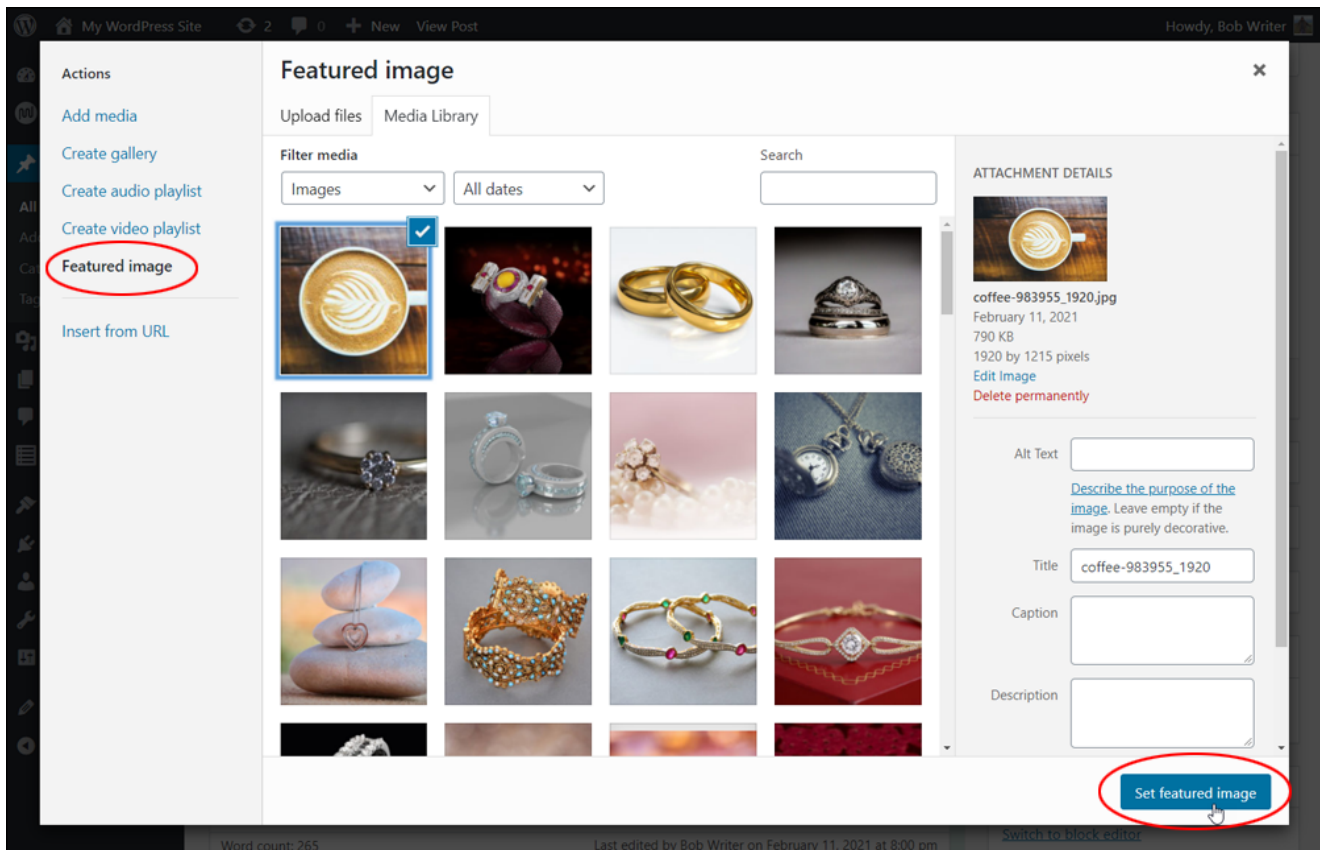
Select an image and click on the Set featured image button.

The image you have selected will be added to your post as a featured image.



Select Featured image.

Next, select the image you would like to use as your featured image and click on the **Set featured image** button.



Select your featured image and click on the Set featured image button.

Your selected image will be set as the featured image of your post (or page).

Remember to click **Update** to save and publish your new post settings.

In't Know About Coffee

[10-things-you-di...now-about-coffee/](#) [Edit](#)

Visual Text

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Publish

[Preview Changes](#)

Status: **Published** [Edit](#)

Visibility: **Public** [Edit](#)

Revisions: **4** [Browse](#)

Published on: Feb 11, 2021 at 19:38 [Edit](#)

[Move to Trash](#) [Update](#)

Format

Categories

Tags

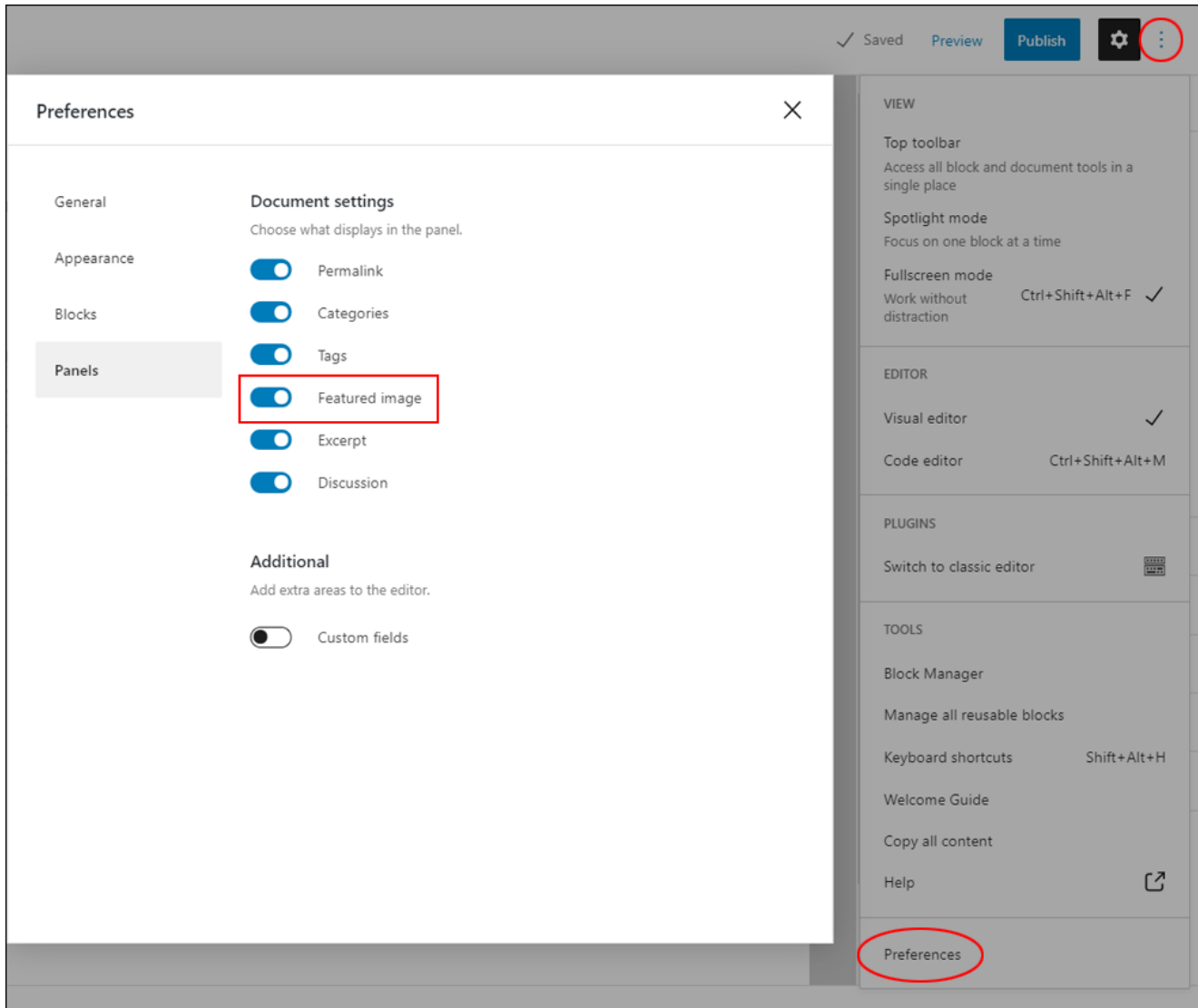
Featured image

Update your post to save your new settings.

WordPress Block Editor

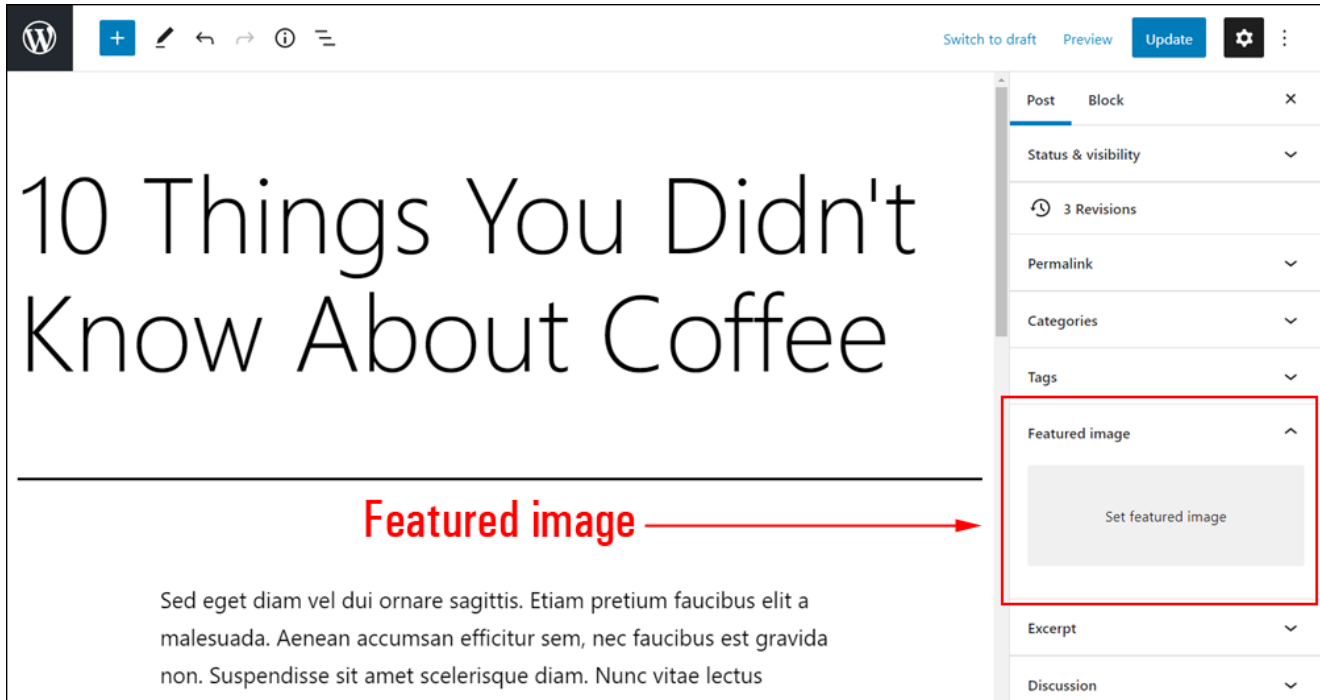
Adding a featured image in the Block Editor follows a similar process.

If you can't see the Featured Image box in the sidebar of your block editor, check that this option is enabled in your **Block Options menu** (the vertical ellipsis) > Preferences > Panels > Document settings section.



Enable the Featured image settings in the Preferences – Panels area of the Block Editor's Options section.

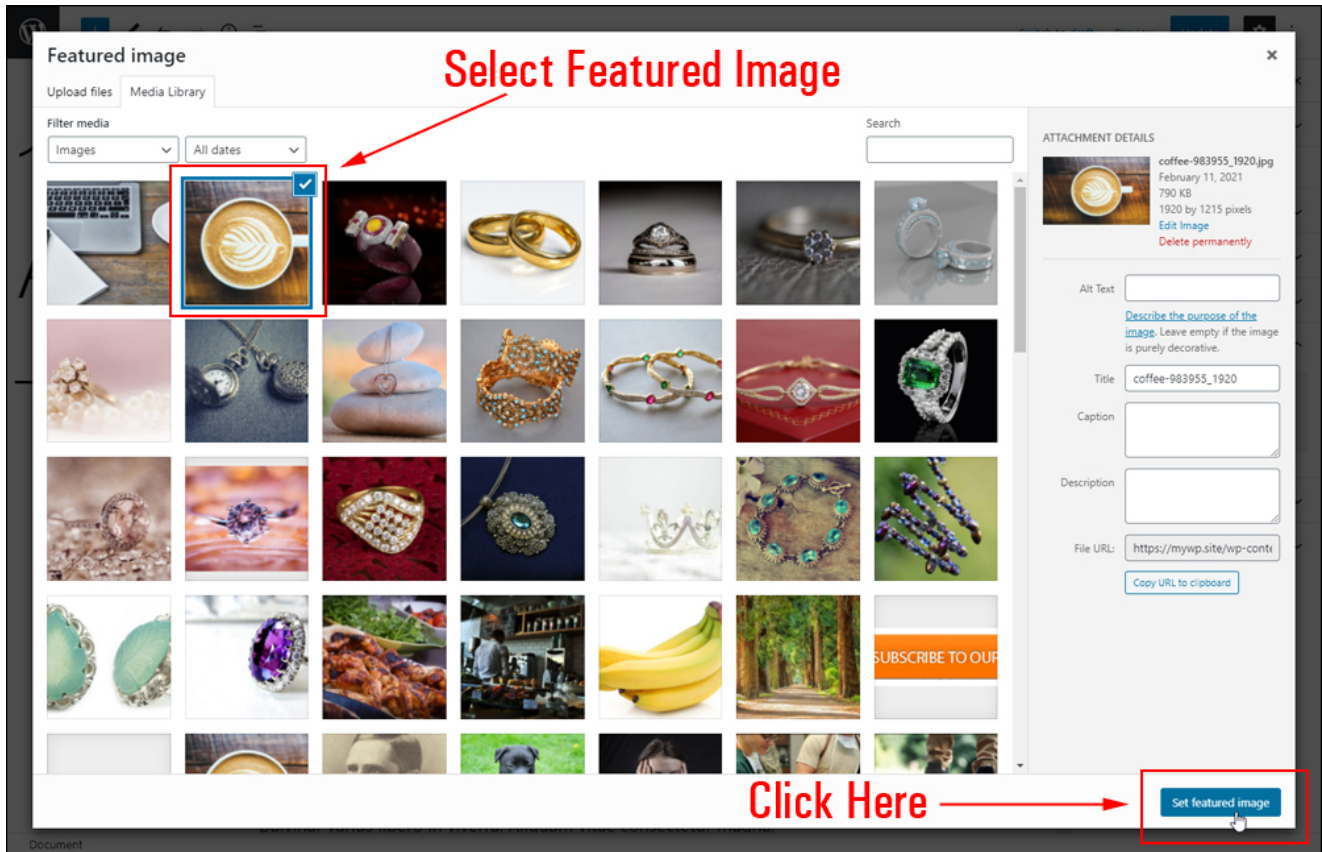
With Featured image settings enabled, click on the 'Set featured image' panel.



Click on the Set featured image area.

This brings up the Featured image screen

Select the image you would like to use as your featured image and click on the **Set featured image** button.



Select and add a featured image.

This will add the selected image to your post as a featured image.

Switch to draft Preview **Update** ⚙️ ⋮

You Didn't Know

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cumsum efficitur sem, nec faucibus est gravida
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Feature Image →

Post Block ×

Status & visibility ▾


🕒 4 Revisions

Permalink ▾

Categories ▾

Tags ▾

Featured image ▴



[Replace Image](#)

[Remove featured image](#)

Excerpt ▾

Discussion ▾

Featured image added to post.

Save and publish your post (or page) and visit your post to view the featured image you have specified and make sure that it is displaying correctly.

10 Things You Didn't Know About Coffee



Sed eget diam vel dui ornare sagittis. Etiam pretium faucibus elit a malesuada. Aenean accumsan efficitur sem, nec faucibus est gravida non. Suspendisse sit amet scelerisque diam. Nunc vitae lectus aliquet, tincidunt libero ac, finibus mi. Vestibulum aliquet consequat mauris a consequat. Cras sagittis, sem eget venenatis tristique, leo neque pretium tortor, id euismod magna turpis sit amet nibh. Sed maximus dolor in blandit dignissim. Nam quam turpis, volutpat consectetur purus sit amet, venenatis faucibus mi.

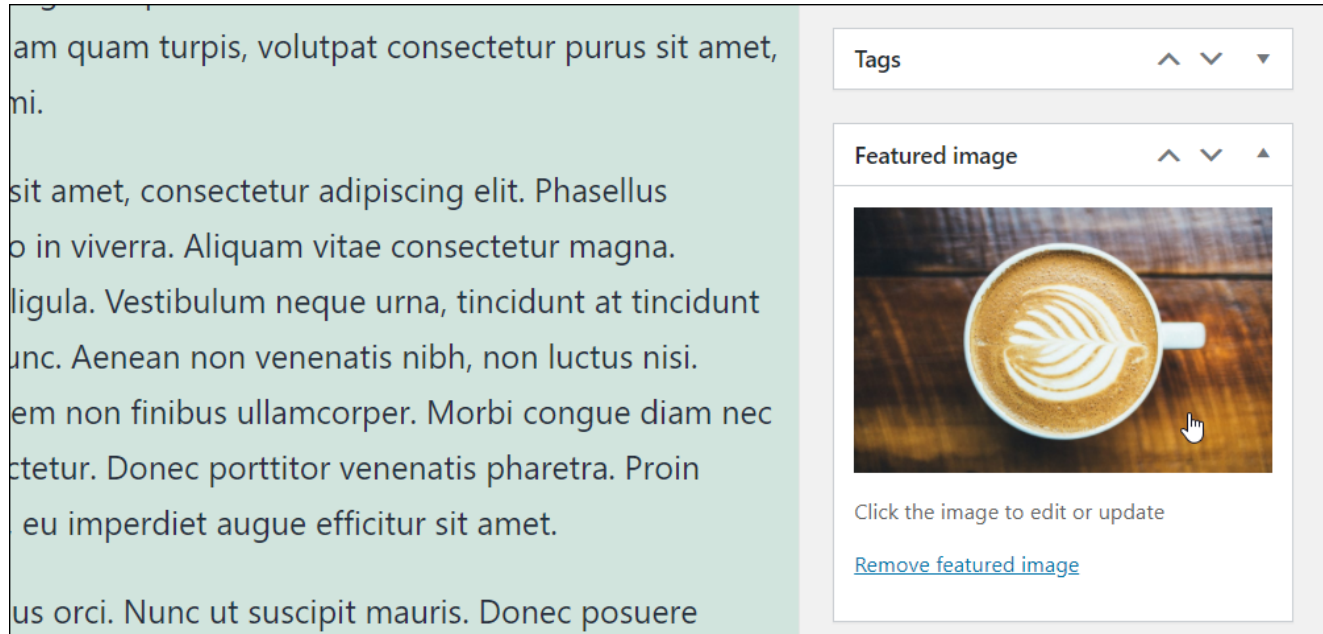
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Phasellus pulvinar varius libero in viverra. Aliquam vitae consectetur magna. Nullam eget mattis ligula. Vestibulum neque urna, tincidunt at tincidunt eget, tincidunt ac nunc. Aenean non venenatis nibh, non luctus nisi. Etiam bibendum lorem non finibus ullamcorper. Morbi congue diam nec dolor blandit consectetur. Donec porttitor venenatis pharetra. Proin fringilla massa risus, eu imperdiet augue efficitur sit amet.

Your post now displays a featured image.

Editing A Featured Image

To replace a featured image in a post or page, do the following:

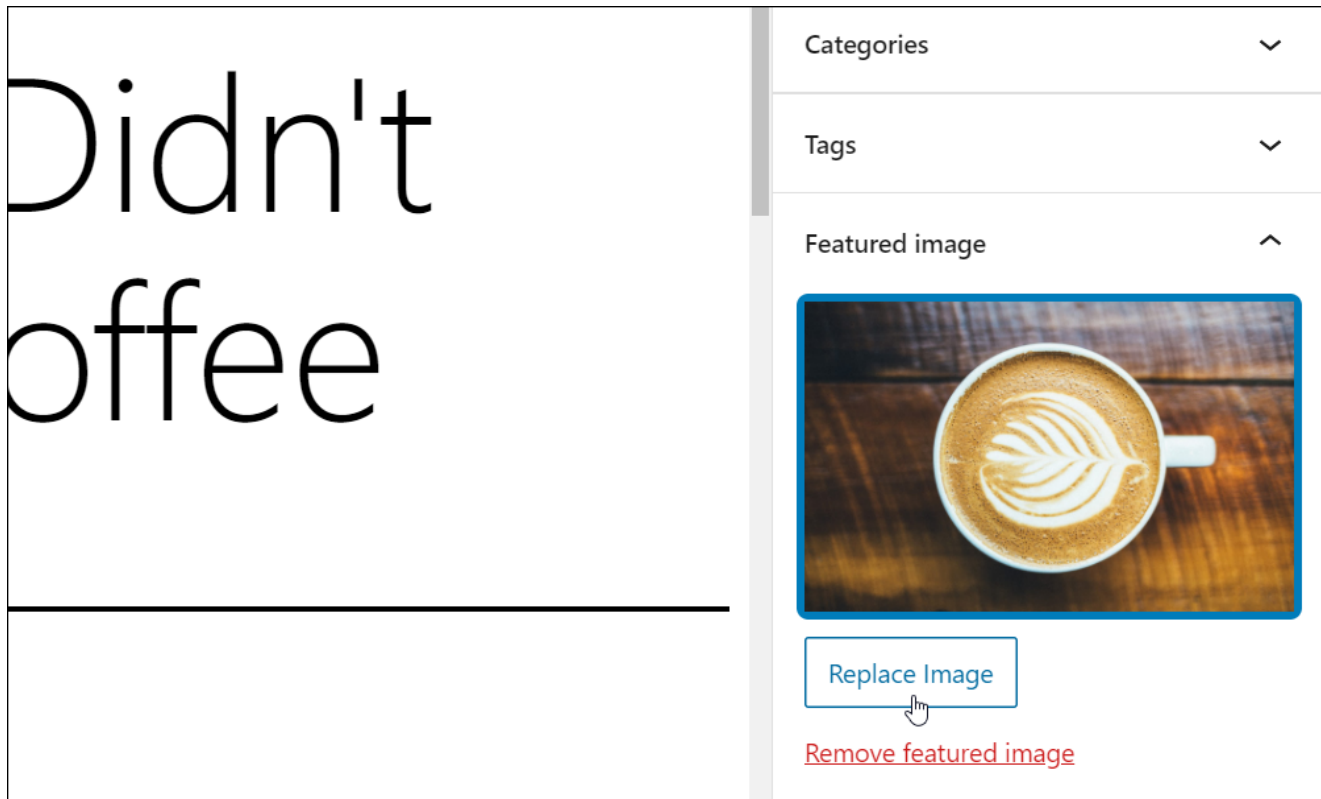
If using the **WordPress Classic Editor**, click on the image in the Featured image box, select a new image from the **Media Library**, and add it to your post or page using the methods described earlier in this tutorial.



The screenshot shows a portion of the WordPress Classic Editor. On the left, there is a light green background with placeholder text: "am quam turpis, volutpat consectetur purus sit amet, ni. sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Phasellus o in viverra. Aliquam vitae consectetur magna. ligula. Vestibulum neque urna, tincidunt at tincidunt unc. Aenean non venenatis nibh, non luctus nisi. em non finibus ullamcorper. Morbi congue diam nec ctetur. Donec porttitor venenatis pharetra. Proin eu imperdiet augue efficitur sit amet. us orci. Nunc ut suscipit mauris. Donec posuere". On the right, there is a sidebar with a "Tags" section and a "Featured image" section. The "Featured image" section contains a photograph of a white coffee cup with latte art on a dark wooden surface. A mouse cursor is hovering over the image. Below the image, the text reads "Click the image to edit or update" and there is a blue link that says "Remove featured image".

Click the image to edit or update.

If using the **WordPress Block Editor**, click on the 'Replace Image' in the Featured image section and follow the same process as described above.



Click the Replace Image button.



If you need to resize, crop, or adjust your featured image, refer to this tutorial: [**How To Edit WordPress Media Library Images**](#)

Removing A Featured Image

Removing a featured image from a post or page works in the same way regardless of the content editor you are using.

To remove a featured image from a post, edit the post, then scroll down to the Featured Image box and click on the **Remove featured image** link.

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mi.

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o in viverra. Aliquam vitae consectetur magna.
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em non finibus ullamcorper. Morbi congue diam nec
ctetur. Donec porttitor venenatis pharetra. Proin
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us orci. Nunc ut suscipit mauris. Donec posuere

Tags



Featured image



Click the image to edit or update

[Remove featured image](#)



Remove featured image

Featured Images And WordPress Themes

The featured image should continue to display on your post or page even if you change the active WordPress theme on your site if the new theme supports using featured images.

As mentioned earlier, your WordPress theme controls how featured images display on your site.

Some themes, use featured images to make posts stand out on the home page...

My WordPress Site

My Tagline Goes Here

[Salads](#) [Summer Recipes](#) [Winter Recipes](#) [Blog](#) [Login](#)



[10 Things You Didn't Know About Coffee](#)

Posted on [February 11, 2021](#) by [Bob Writer](#)

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Phasellus pulvinar varius libero in viverra. Aliquam vitae consectetur magna. Nullam eget mattis ligula.

[Read Article](#)



[The World's Most Desirable Jewelry Collection](#)

Posted on [February 7, 2021](#) by [Bob Writer](#)

Nulla convallis, magna eget volutpat ullamcorper, sem risus varius tellus, ut ullamcorper sapien tortor at risus.

[Read Article](#)

This theme uses featured images prominently. (Theme: [Ada Pearl](#))

Portfolio themes also rely on featured images to draw visitors in.


Latest Blogs



A portfolio theme (Theme: [BlogJr Portfolio](#))

Several themes display featured images with post excerpts on their blog section.


Blog
Featured Images



10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT COFFEE

Sed eget diam vel dui ornare sagittis. Etiam pretium faucibus elit a malesuada. Aenean accumsan efficitur sem, nec faucibus est ...


[Read More](#)



THE WORLD'S MOST DESIRABLE JEWELRY COLLECTION

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Vestibulum viverra porta nunc a pulvinar. Nunc ultricies ex eget tristique pulvinar ...

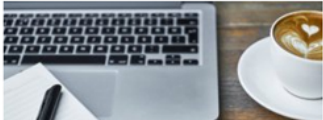
[Read More](#)



ANOTHER DOGGONE YEAR

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Suspendisse pulvinar vestibulum mollis. Etiam scelerisque aliquet tellus, non malesuada massa facilisis ...

[Read More](#)



MY COFFEE BLOG

Café au lait white turkish spoon latte skinny caramelization dripper. Extraction sweet and extraction acerbic coffee irish aftertaste java as ...

Search ...

RECENT POSTS

- [10 Things You Didn't Know About Coffee](#)
- [The World's Most Desirable Jewelry Collection](#)
- [Another Doggone Year](#)
- [My Coffee Blog](#)
- [Our Sales Have Gone Bananas](#)

RECENT COMMENTS

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- [Felton Hansen on Recipes For Going Nuts And Bananas](#)
- [Dr. Oda Dicki on Alphabet Soup Recipes](#)
- [Elinore Becker on Quod necessitatibus debitis id](#)
- [Anthony Hilpert on Quod necessitatibus debitis id](#)

ARCHIVES

Select Month

CATEGORIES

Featured images are typically used in blog pages to draw attention to posts. (Theme: [Twenty Sixteen](#))

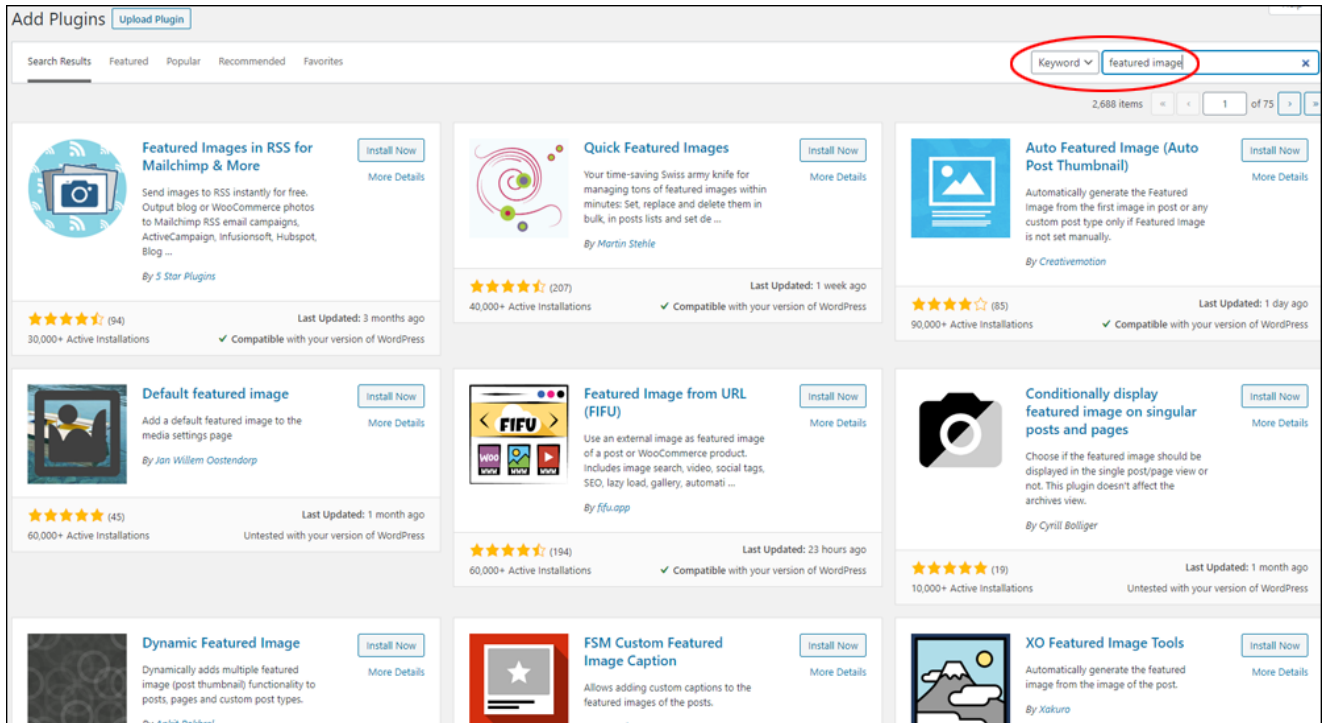
To learn where to find quality free and premium WordPress themes, see this tutorial: [Where To Find WordPress Themes](#)

Featured Images And WordPress Plugins

You can also use plugins to enhance the use of featured images and add new features and functions to your site, such as:

- Add images to RSS feeds.
- Automatically set a featured image for posts if a featured image has not been set manually (e.g. make a featured image from the first image on your post).
- Bulk replace and delete featured images in your posts.
- Use external images as featured images.
- Add multiple featured images to posts.
- Display custom captions in featured images.
- and more!

You can search for feature image-enhancing plugins inside your WordPress dashboard (**Plugins > Add New**), or by visiting the [free WordPress Plugin Directory](#).



WordPress plugins can extend the capabilities of using featured images on your site.

Search the free WordPress Plugin Directory for feature image plugins here: **[WordPress Featured Image Plugins](#)**

10 Things You Didn't Know About Coffee



Sed eget diam vel dui ornare sagittis. Etiam pretium faucibus elit a malesuada. Aenean accumsan efficitur sem, nec faucibus est gravida non. Suspendisse sit amet scelerisque diam. Nunc vitae lectus

Featured image

Congratulations! Now you know how to use featured images on your WordPress site.

Updated: April 9th, 2023