

Picasa

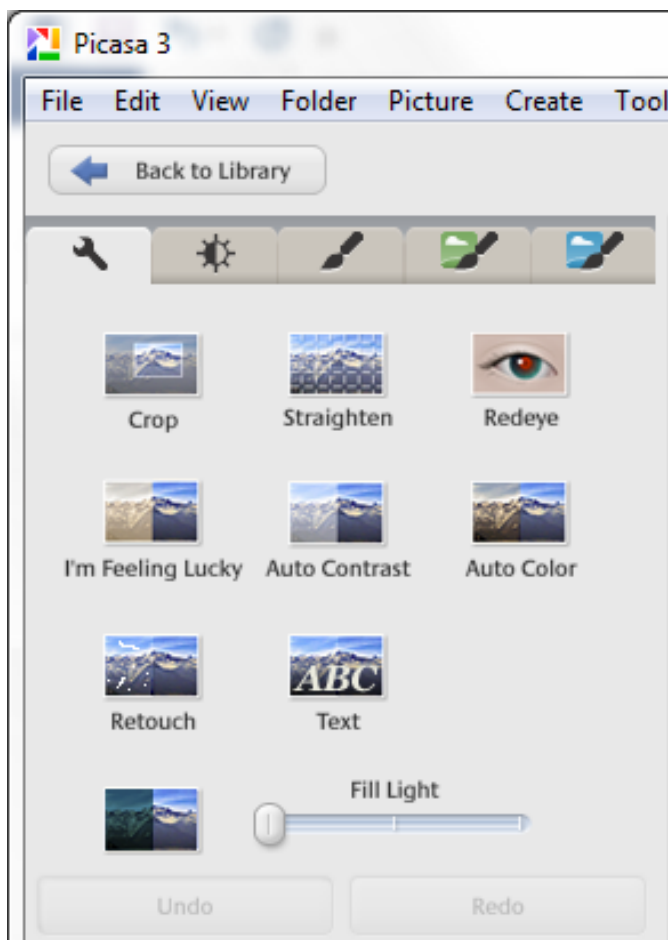
A short primer by Bob Patterson

A free image processing program for both Windows and Mac that was developed by Google. It can be downloaded from the Internet and is very easy and simple to use for basic imaging processing.

Free down load

<https://picasa.google.com/>

Below is the first window to do basic work. Just clicking on an icon and the desired task will performed.



Crop – remove material outside of the main point of interest

Straighten – will straighten a tilted picture

Redeye – will remove the red eye seen commonly when using flash

I'm Feeling Lucky – will try to adjust contrast, brightness and color to give the best picture. Usually works very well.

Auto Contrast - will adjust contrast for the best picture

Auto Color - will adjust color shadings for the best picture

The above two can be adjusted as you may like using the next set of commands.

Retouch – removes spots on the image

Text – you can add text on the image

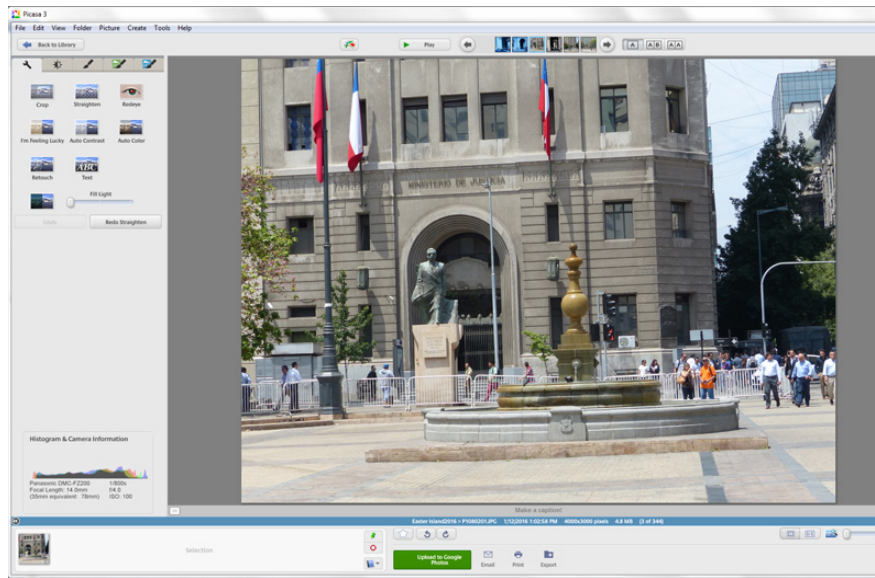
Fill Light – lightens up dark areas like back lit faces

Examples

I would suggest that operations by done in the order presented. Of course all pictures may not need every operation.

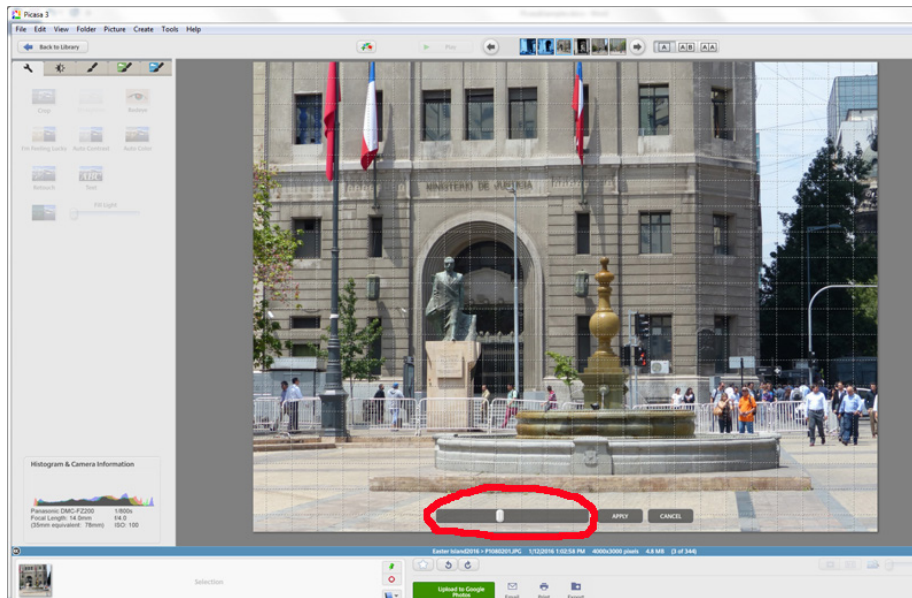
Straighten

Original



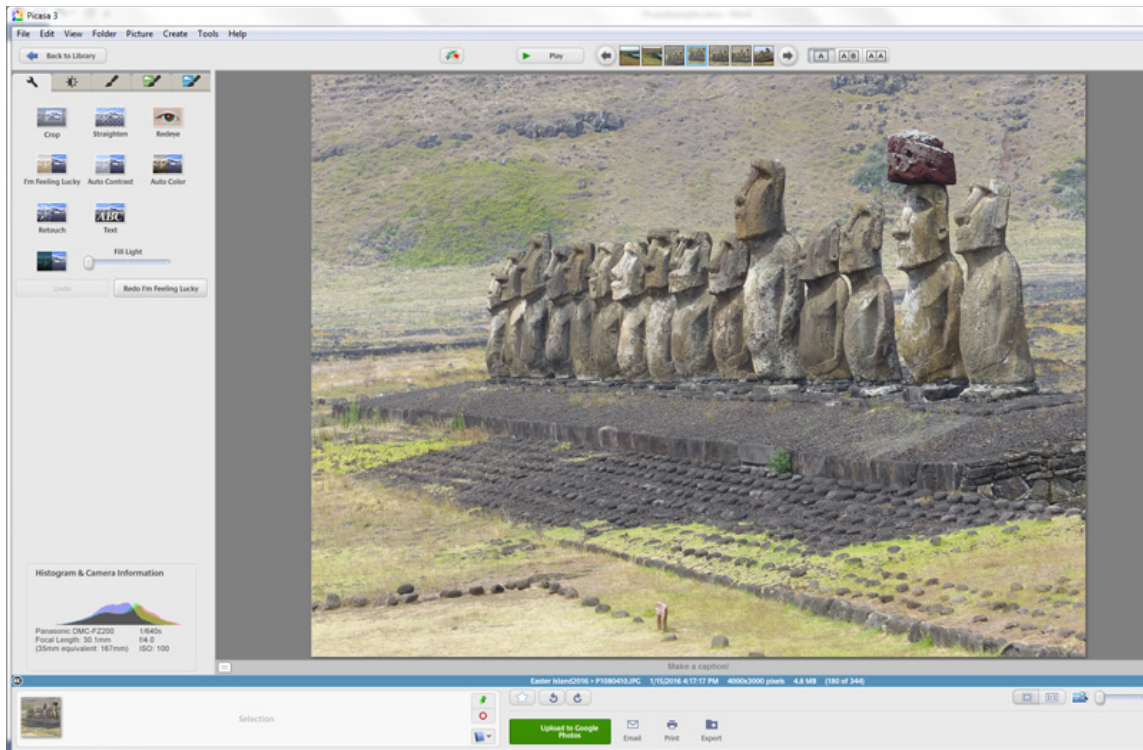
After straightening

The button on the bottom is moved to line up straight edges with the grid.

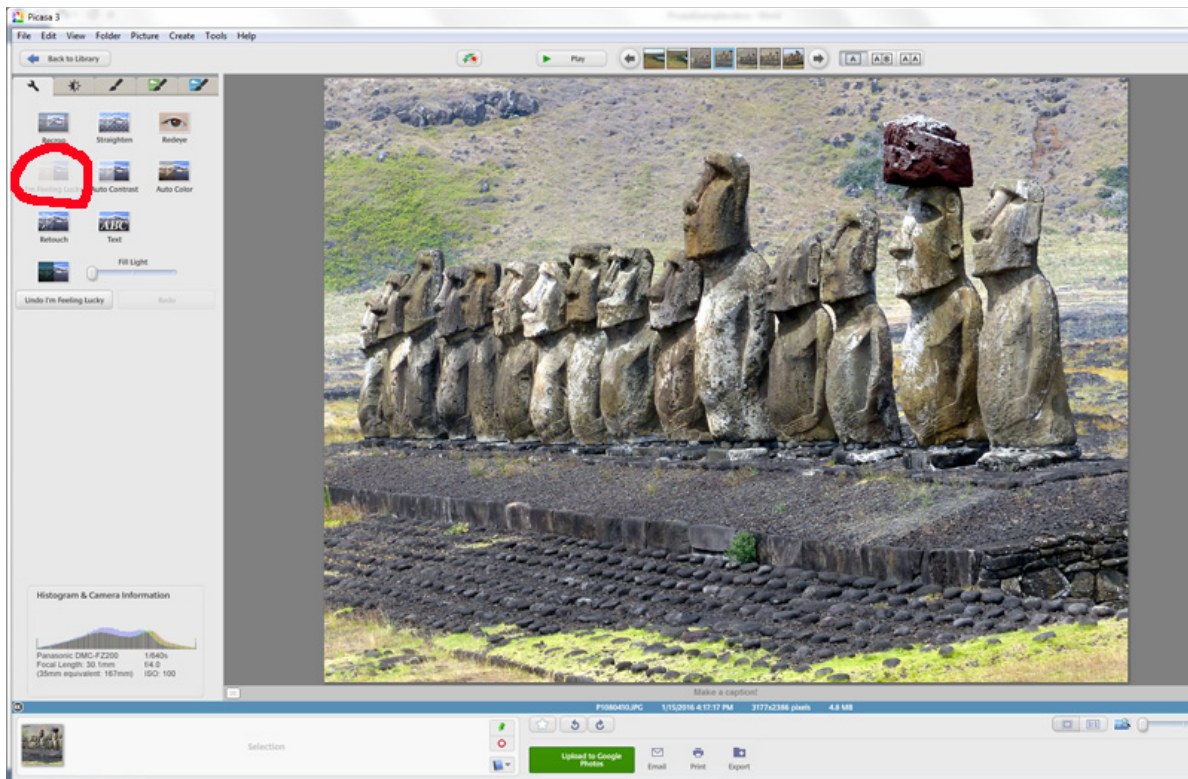


Crop

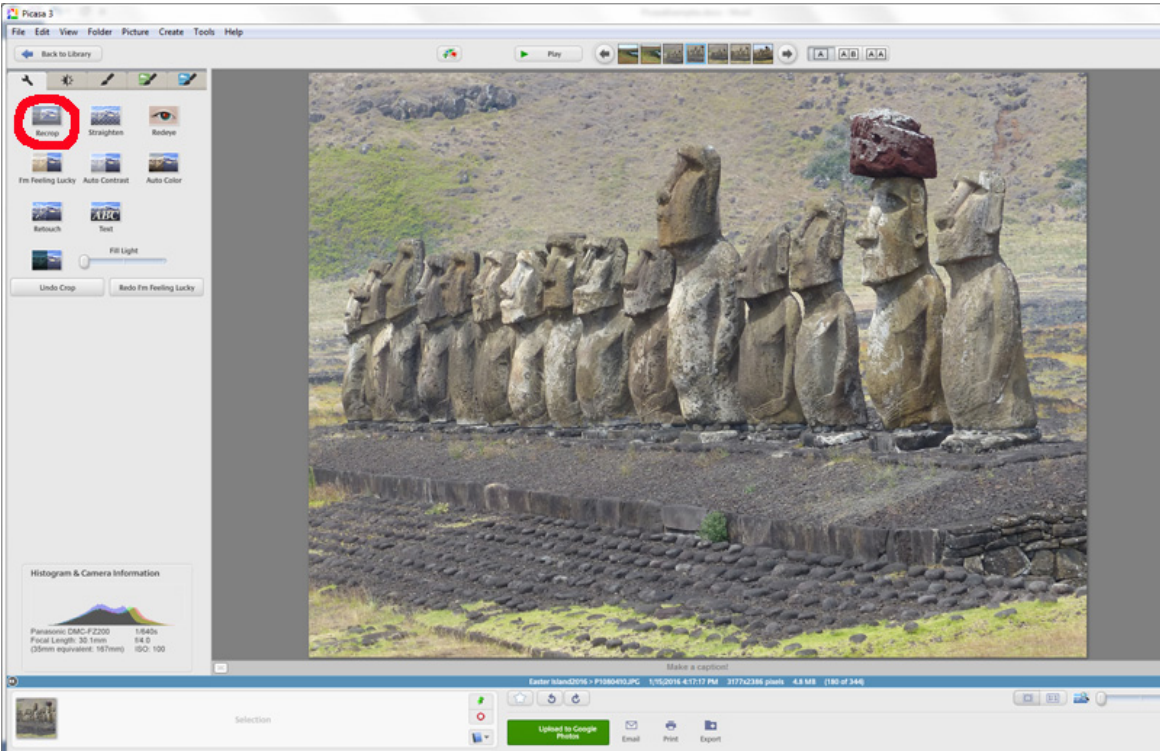
Original



After cropping

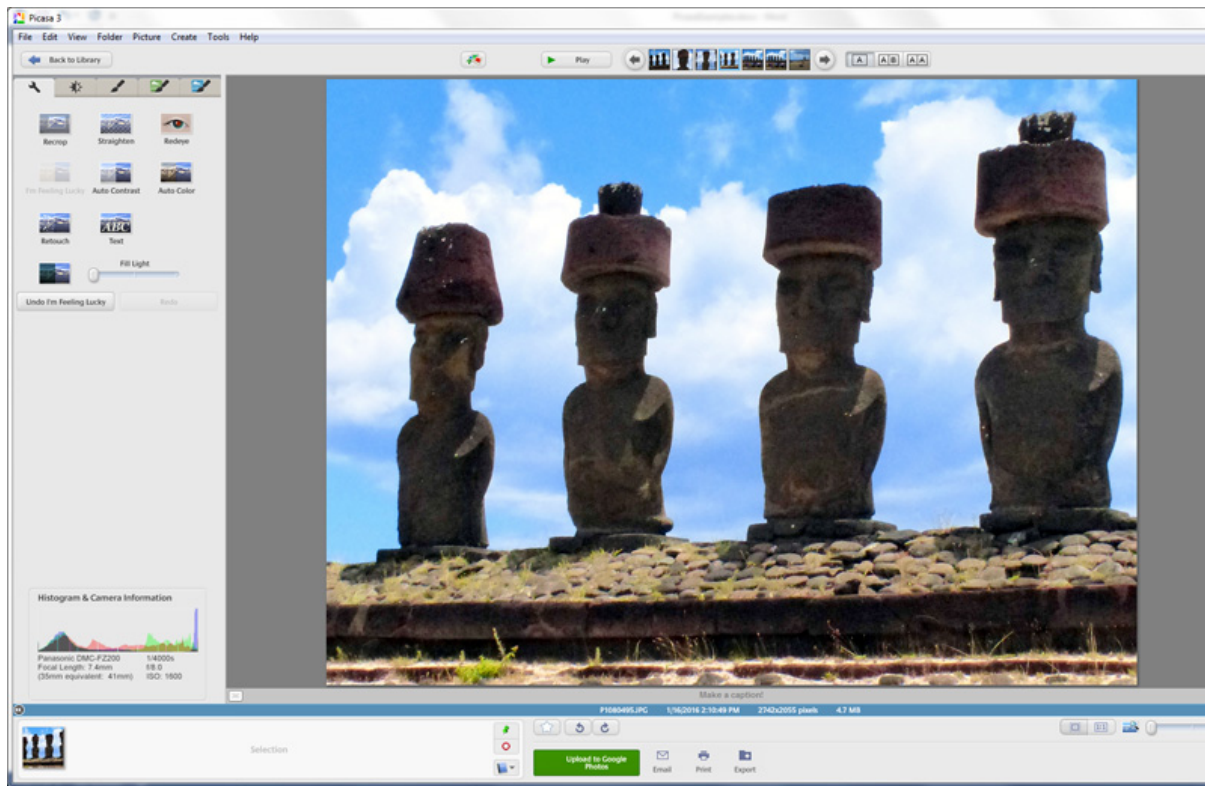


Adding “I’m feeling lucky” for contrast and color improvement

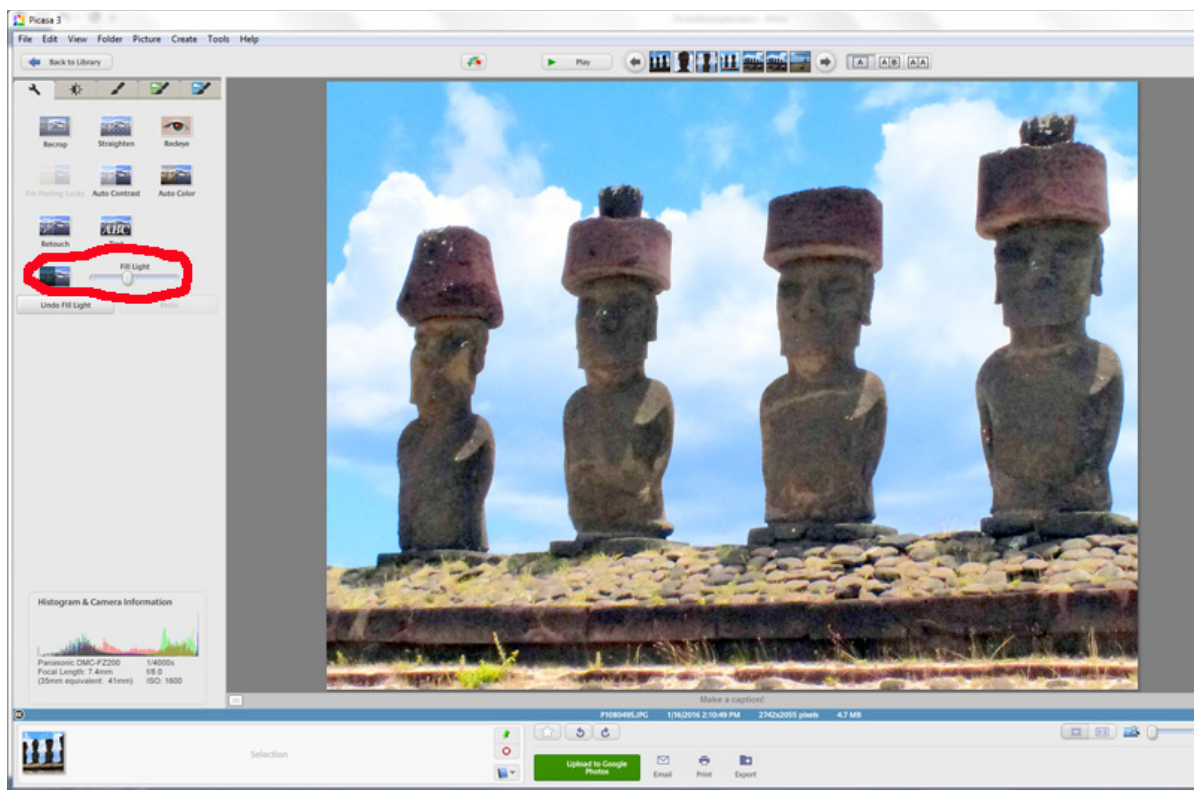


Fill Light

Original – the sun was on the back

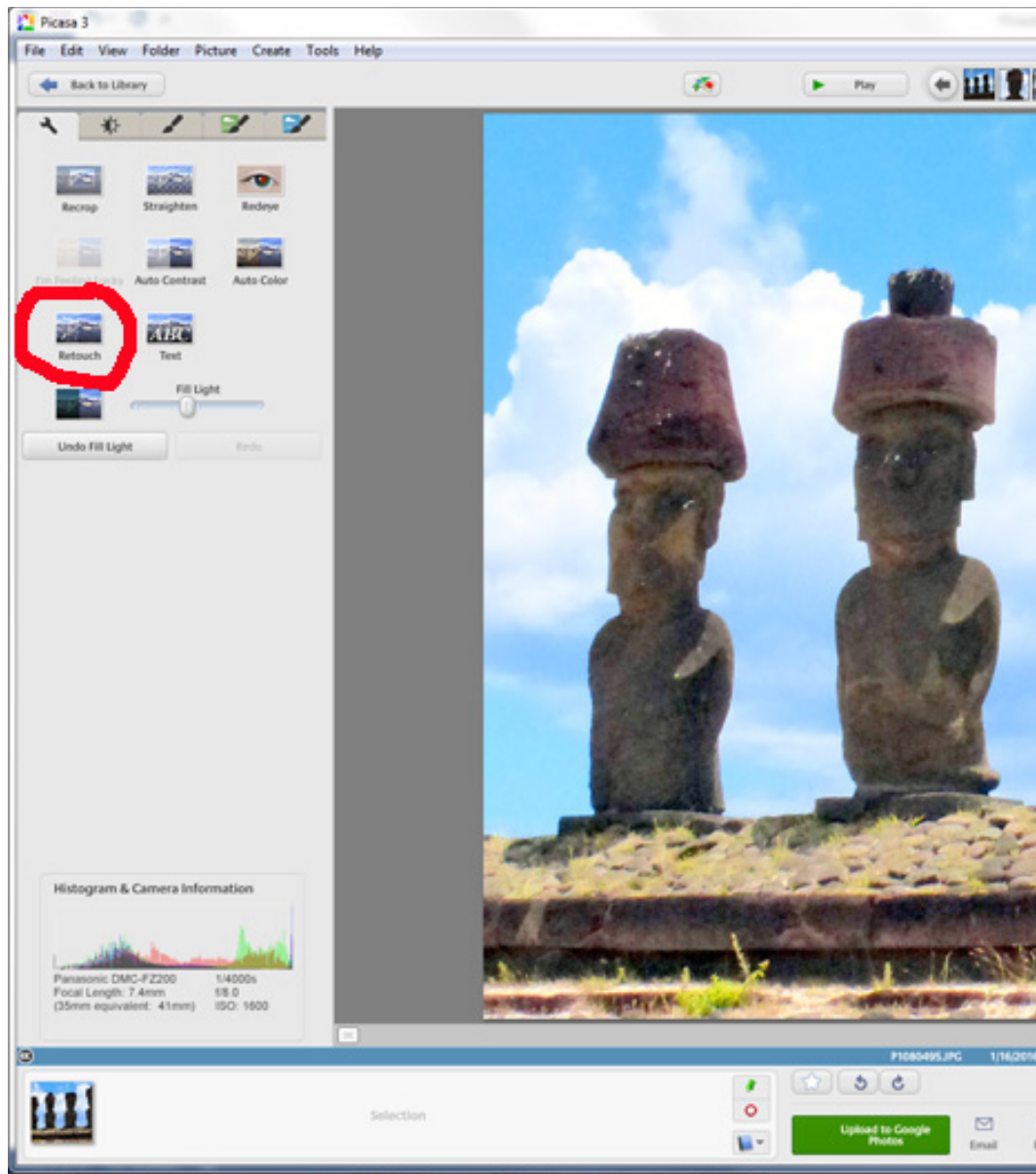


With fill light



Retouch

As can be seen below some of the statures have white spots



Using retouch, which covers the spots with the neighboring color, the spots are removed as shown below.



Picasa has many other features that can be used with the top tabs shown on the screen.

When first started, Picasa searches the computer for all image files and list them by year and file name. The may take many minute on the first time used. This can be very useful, if over many years, files are stored in different places based things like the camera you used or even the computer used.