EcomLabs

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Cross-document view transitions with only CSS

The full example that makes a product photo travel from the list to the detail page: both pages, the stylesheet with prefers-reduced-motion and how to check it. With a property cheat sheet, the support table and a checklist.

FOR	Multi-page sites: themes, static sites or server-rendered HTML
TESTED WITH	Playwright 1.62 with Chromium 151, WebKit 26.5 and Firefox 155 · python -m http.server locally
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DOCS	developer.mozilla.org · developer.chrome.com/docs/web-platform/view-transitions
ARTICLE	ecomlabs.dev/g/transiciones-en
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BEFORE YOU START

When a transition runs

Per MDN and the Chrome documentation, a cross-document transition only runs when:

- Both pages have `@view-transition { navigation: auto; }`.
- The navigation is same-origin, with no cross-origin redirects.
- It is a link click or back and forward. Reloading, typing the URL or opening a bookmark do not count.
- The new page arrives within four seconds (otherwise Chrome skips it with a `TimeoutError`).
- No `view-transition-name` repeats on the same page.

If any of these fails, navigation still happens, unanimated.

STEP 01

The shared stylesheet

Both pages load it. It opts in only when no reduced motion was requested, lengthens the photo's trip and shortens the fade of the rest:

site/styles.css

```
/* styles.css: both pages load it */
@media (prefers-reduced-motion: no-preference) {
  @view-transition {
    navigation: auto;
  }
}

::view-transition-group(*) {
  animation-duration: 350ms;
  animation-timing-function: cubic-bezier(0.2, 0, 0, 1);
}

::view-transition-old(root),
::view-transition-new(root) {
  animation-duration: 200ms;
}

.grid { display: flex; gap: 1rem; list-style: none; padding: 0; }
```

To keep a fade without the travel for reduced motion, leave `@view-transition` outside the query and add `::view-transition-group(*) { animation-name: none; }` inside `@media (prefers-reduced-motion: reduce)`.

STEP 02

The two pages

Each card carries a unique name, with a prefix because a name cannot start with a digit. The detail page's photo carries the same name as its card. Images have `width` and `height` so their box has its final size from the first render.

site/index.html

```
<!doctype html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="utf-8">
  <title>Products</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="/styles.css">
</head>
<body>
  <ul class="grid">
    <li>
      <a href="/product-42.html">
        <img src="/mug.svg" alt="Blue ceramic mug" width="160" height="160"
             style="view-transition-name: product-42">
        Blue mug
      </a>
    </li>
    <li>
      <a href="/product-43.html">
        <img src="/mug.svg" alt="Green ceramic mug" width="160" height="160"
             style="view-transition-name: product-43">
        Green mug
      </a>
    </li>
  </ul>
</body>
</html>
```

site/product-42.html

```
<!doctype html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="utf-8">
  <title>Blue mug</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="/styles.css">
</head>
<body>
  <main>
    <img src="/mug.svg" alt="Blue ceramic mug" width="480" height="480"
         style="view-transition-name: product-42">
    <h1>Blue mug</h1>
    <a href="/">Back</a>
```

```
  </main>
</body>
</html>
```

Save any image as `site/mug.svg`. If the detail page shows related products, keep their names from clashing with the main photo's.

STEP 03

Try it locally

Serve the `site` folder with a local server (opened through `file://`, WebKit ran no transition in our test). We used Python's:

```
python -m http.server 4791 -d site
```

Open `http://localhost:4791` in Chrome or Safari, click the blue mug, then go back. To confirm it ran, put this in a `<script>` on the detail page (`pagereveal` fires on the new page):

```
addEventListener("pagereveal", (e) => {
  console.log(e.viewTransition ? "with transition" : "no transition");
});
```

In Chrome, the DevTools Rendering panel emulates `prefers-reduced-motion: reduce`: with it on, the detail page opens with no transition.

> **CAUTION**
> A repeated name makes Chromium log `Unexpected duplicate view-transition-name: product-42` and abort the transition. If it fails only sometimes, check image caching: in headless Chromium, with a server that sent no cache headers, it was skipped on 3 out of 8 loads; with `Cache-Control: max-age=600` it passed 12 out of 12, and with Python's server, 11 out of 11.

CHEAT SHEET

Properties and support

WHAT	WHAT FOR
`@view-transition { navigation: auto; }`	Opts in to cross-document transitions (`none` turns them off). On both pages.
`types: name;`	Tags the transition so you can style cases differently.
`view-transition-name`	Pairs the element with the one of the same name on the other page. Unique per page.
`::view-transition`	The overlay on top of the whole page.
`::view-transition-group()`	Animates size and position; 0.25s by default. `*`: all; `root`: the rest of the page.
`::view-transition-image-pair()`	Holds the two snapshots.
`::view-transition-old()` / `-new()`	Static snapshot of the old page and live view of the new one; they do the fade.
`pageswap` / `pagereveal`	Events on the outgoing and incoming page; `e.viewTransition` or `null`.

Cross-document support as of November 19, 2026 (MDN and Chrome): Chrome and Edge 126, Safari 18.2 on macOS and iOS. Firefox only has it in preview builds; same-document transitions work there since 144.

WHEN YOU FINISH

Checklist

- [ ] `@view-transition` is in the CSS of both pages, inside `prefers-reduced-motion: no-preference`.
- [ ] The photo has the same name on the card and on the detail page; each name is unique and starts with a letter.
- [ ] Images have `width` and `height`.
- [ ] The duration feels quick (350ms in the example, illustrative).
- [ ] You tested with a click, forward and back, in Chrome and Safari, and with reduced motion on.
- [ ] In Firefox, navigation works the same, unanimated.