

Exploring Google Earth

Google Earth puts the entire world at your fingertips, making it simple to explore new places or revisit your favourite spots.

What is Google Earth?

More than just a collection of maps, Google Earth is an interactive digital atlas that lets you explore the whole planet. It can fly you to anywhere around the world, right down to your own house.

- Google Earth is stitched together using recent satellite images and aerial photography covering every corner of the globe.
- Starting with a view of the entire planet, you can zoom in for a closer look at a country or drill right down to a city or individual street address.
- More just a bird's eye view of the world, Google Earth is also a travel encyclopaedia, complete with virtual tours.
- Google Earth is different to Google Maps, which is more like an interactive street directory.

Getting Started with Google Earth

Google Earth is free to use and simple to set up using your computer or mobile device. You'll be flying around the globe and discovering new places in no time.

- Google Earth runs in the web browser on your computer, or you can install the special Google Earth app on your Apple or Android smartphone or tablet.
- Because of the large screen, Google Earth works best on a computer.



Explore the world for free using Google Earth



Google Earth works on most browsers, including Google Chrome

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- Google Earth works on most browsers, including Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge and Opera. If it doesn't work reliably on your computer's browser, try installing the Google Chrome browser.
- Google Earth is completely free, regardless of which device you're using. To use it on your computer, visit **google.com/earth**
- You need to stay connected to the internet when using Google Earth. The faster your internet connection, the smoother Google Earth will run.
- Starting with a view of Earth from space, you can look up a point of interest or street address in the **Search bar**.
- Alternatively, you can spin the globe and click on any location to fly down for a better look.

Find yourself on Google Earth

Google Earth doesn't just look down on the world from above, it also lets you zoom right in and see lots of extra detail on maps to help you find your way around.

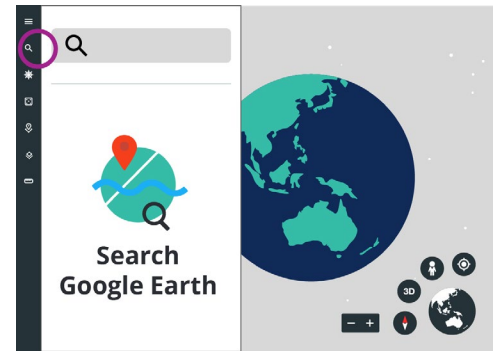
- By default, the maps include borders, roads and place names, but you can opt for a clean view of the world or add extra details such as public transport.
- As you zoom in, Google Earth will automatically add more detail to the picture as you fly down through the clouds.
- You can zoom right down to street level and see the rooftops and backyards in your neighbourhood.
- When you are low enough you can click on the **2D/3D** button so you're looking at a 3D view of the world.
- You can click on the **Target** icon to jump directly to your present location in the real world. (Your computer may ask you for permission to tell Google Earth where you are.)
- Remember, you're not looking at a real-time view of the world, only photos. This means you can't use Google Earth to spy on people, and they can't spy on you.

How do you find things on Google Earth?

Google Earth is like a search engine for the physical world, making it easy to find and explore any location across the globe with just a few clicks of your mouse.

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- You'll find the **Search bar** in the main control menu on the left, just click on the magnifying glass icon.
- You can search for a country, city or suburb – anywhere in the world – or you can enter the exact street address. This makes it easy to find your house.
- You can also search for landmarks and other points of interest by name. You can ask for the **Louvre** and be flown to Paris, or you can search for a category, such as museums, and see all those in the nearby area.
- Google Earth also understands basic search queries, such as **the capital of France**.
- It's easy to bookmark places so you can return to them regularly.
- And try using the **Voyager** and **I'm Feeling Lucky** buttons to experience the unexpected.



Use the search function to explore anywhere in the world

What is Street View?

You're not just limited to the view from above, Google Earth also lets you see the view from the ground. This helps you explore the globe as if you are really there walking through the streets.

- Street View images are captured by special cars with cameras on the roof, meaning Street View lets you walk along almost any street in the world. Just click the white arrows to move to the next spot down the road.
- When you drag the **Street View** icon onto the map, you'll see blue lines along the roads where Street View is available.
- When in Street View, you've got a 360-degree view of the world, with the ability to zoom in on things for a closer look.
- Like the satellite and aerial photography, Street View images are updated regularly so it's worth going back for another look.
- Street View isn't just limited to the view from the street. Often the cameras go off-road, letting you walk into shops or take a journey through a national park.



Click the Street View icon for a ground-level view of a location