

Via Google Maps on a PC – Peter Mottram

- Search for and then open Google Maps
- Enter the name of a locality in the top left hand box. Choose if it offers options incorporating that name. Let Google show and zoom in to that locality.
- There should be a vertical bar in the bottom right hand of the screen. To zoom in/out, to show more detail/a bigger area, use either the + & - buttons in this bar, or use the scroll wheel on the mouse.
- To move the area covered by the map you can left click and drag the screen in the required direction, or you can use the up/down/left/right keyboard keys.
- To obtain street view, click on the yellow man in the bar. An images bar at the centre bottom of the screen offers you street view or Photo sphere. **Double clicking the yellow man may give you street view directly.**
- Select Street View (Try Photo Sphere on a separate occasion).
- In Street View, various roads are highlighted in blue to show that street view is available from those roads. Identify a stretch of road you wish to see by clicking on the blue line. The screen should then change to show you a view from that point.
- The bottom right hand corner should now offer you a compass and + & - buttons to zoom into or out of the picture. The red compass pointer indicates which way the picture is taken (to the north if it points up).

The camera taking the street view seems to have pointed in all directions. If you click on the picture and drag it left or right. you can select any desired direction of view. (Clicking in the compass symbol seems to rotate the viewing direction by 90 degrees.)

If you click the picture and drag it up or down, you can look upwards or downwards. (It seems to be able to show the ground below and the sky above!)

If you change the direction of view to look along the road, then clicking the road ahead moves the camera to a viewpoint in that direction. The extent of this movement is not continuously adjustable.

Note that the google camera seems to have been held by a giant, i.e. was quite high up. This affects the perspective. You may wish to imagine what the scene would look like if viewed from an artist's standing or sitting height!

The image you see is probably a composite of multiple images. Sometimes these don't quite work or match up, you just have to live with it!

If you click on the left arrow in the top left hand box, or the X at the top right hand, you revert to a map, which is handy if you want to change your viewpoint significantly!

Via Google Earth on an iPhone or iPad (very similar on Android) – Brian Stone

Check if you already have Google Earth. If not, go to the App Store and download it: it's free. Tap on the icon to open it.

1. Tap the magnifying glass at the top and type your destination into the search box: anywhere on Earth. You will be taken all the way from the world view to over 500 feet above your destination which will be marked with a little red arrow.
2. Place your finger and thumb anywhere on the screen and spread them to come closer and closer, say to 50 feet high. You can also "rotate" finger and thumb to alter the angle.
3. At the bottom left of the screen you'll find a button indicating 2D or 3D: if 2D, leave it, but if 3D, tap it. There is also a small person: tap on this and Google Earth adds a series of blue lines and/or dots to the map, indicating where you can get a street view.
4. Choose a desired viewpoint on one of these lines or dots and tap on it. You are taken (plunged!) to that point; then place your finger on the screen and slide it back and forth to look at the surroundings: it will do 360 degrees.

By the way, if you like what you see you can get a still photo: tap the three dots at top screen right, and it offers "snapshot", tap that, then on iPhone tap the option "save image" and the snapshot appears in your photo file. There will be something similar on Android.

On the tablet, top left, among others there is a rectangular snapshot symbol: press that and you can save the shot to email, or notes etc.

Or you can do a screen grab or screenshot: on iPhone or iPad, press and hold the home button and immediately press the on/off switch and what is on screen is saved to your photos. There will be a similar function on Android.

The more you do all this, the more skilled you become. Try it, and enjoy!