

SEARCH LIGHT IMINT- TRY HACK ME- ROOM



Skullk3r

7 min read

Nov 30, 2025

The screenshot shows a room page for 'Searchlight - IMINT'. At the top left, there's a blue circular logo with a white search icon and the word 'SEARCHLIGHT'. To the right of the logo, the title 'Searchlight - IMINT' is displayed in large white text. Below the title, it says 'OSINT challenges in the imagery intelligence category'. Underneath that, there are four small icons: a signal strength bar, a lock, a timer (45 min), and a user count (33,666). Further down, there are four buttons: 'Share your achievement' (green background), 'Start AttackBox' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Save Room' (with a bookmark icon), and '1439 Recommend' (with a thumbs-up icon). At the bottom of the page, a green progress bar indicates 'Room completed (100%)'.

Hello everyone! This is a **beginner** rated OSINT room from the TryHackMe platform titled
“SEARCH LIGHT IMINT”

This room is classified as **easy** and is an OSINT type challenge. I hope this write-up helps guide you through the process!

My goal is to help you understand each step and provide clear explanations so that anyone, whether a beginner or experienced, can follow along and understand the reasoning behind each action. I hope this write-up makes the process smoother and easier to grasp.

Enough talk — let's dive right in, and I hope you enjoy the journey! :)

Best friend: I can't find him on social media. Plus, I only know his first name.

Me:



Phase 1: Locating European Landmarks

Task 1  Welcome to the Searchlight IMINT room!



Welcome to the Searchlight IMINT room!

In this room we will be exploring the discipline of IMINT/GEOINT, which is short for Image intelligence and geospatial intelligence. This room is suited for those of you who are just beginning your OSINT journey or those brand new to the field of IMINT/GEOINT.

This room will introduce you to several topics within IMINT, among them:

1. Getting into the right mindset and how to be analytical
2. Visually extracting key data points from an image or video
3. Applying different tools to assist you in geolocation and answering context questions

When you have completed this room you should be comfortable applying tools and methodologies to geolocate and answer context questions based on visual intelligence alone. This room will prepare you for harder CTF challenges in this category as well as real-world geolocation work.

Any thoughts, feedback or issues can be forwarded to me directly on the [THM](#) or [OSINT Curious Discord](#). You'll find me there as zewen.

The flag format is: `sl{flag}`. This means that every answer needs to be submitted within the brackets, `sl{your answer}`. **No capitalization is needed.**

If you are stuck or you want someone to discuss these challenges with, head on over to the [OSINT Curious Discord server](#). You can also find me on [Twitter](#) if you have any questions!

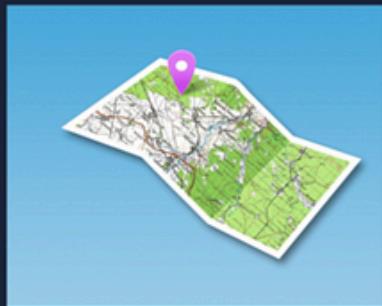
The answer to the question below is: `sl{ready}`.

Answer the questions below

Did you understand the flag format?

Correct Answer Hint

Target 1: Carnaby Street (London)

[Download Task Files](#)

Your first geolocation challenge!

Let's introduce you to your first tool - your eyes!

Before we can apply a tool or a methodology for finding the location of an image, we should use our eyes to scan the image for important information. Extracting key data points from the image will allow you to apply the right tool, craft a good Google search or identify which part of the world the image might have been taken in.

There are 5 elements of IMINT that you should consider when looking at an image, according to Geoint expert Benjamin Strick:

- Context
- Foreground
- Background
- Map markings
- Trial and error

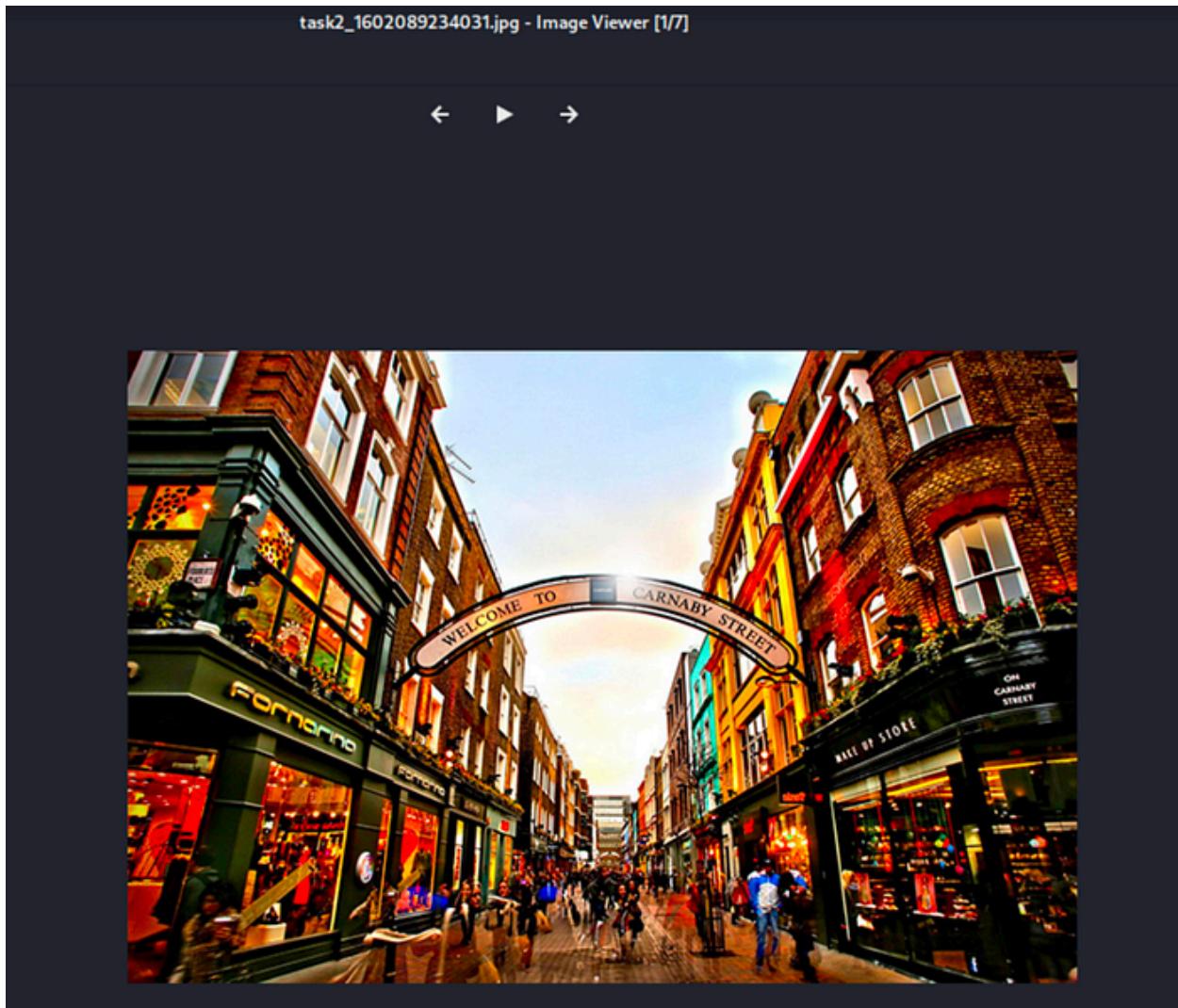


A geolocation challenge like this lacks one important factor, which is the context or the source of the image. In real-world cases, you usually have a context in which the image was produced or shared, usually called context clues. Most of these challenges will not have context clues but you may find clues in the titles and descriptions, or if you're stuck you can use the hint function.

Here are some questions you should ask yourself while looking at the upcoming challenges:

- Are there any obvious data in the image that reveals the location, like a street name or storefront signs?
- Can you determine the country or region of the image by, for instance, which side of the road they drive on, language or architectural characteristics that may reveal a country or continent/region?
- Do you recognize road sign styles, nature and environmental characteristics, or popular motor vehicle brands or vehicle types?
- What is the quality of any visible infrastructure like? Is the road paved or do you see gravel roads?
- Do you see any unique landmarks, buildings, bridges, statues or mountains that can help you geolocate the image?

We begin the investigation by downloading and examining the first resource file provided.



- Start by downloading the resource file provided
- The first thing I see is **Carnaby Street**
- And on the right I see a Make Up Store

These two specific details provide high-confidence location identifiers. We use this information for an online search.

Carnaby Street: 10 Fascinating Facts You Never Knew

19/06/2014 - Updated On 06/10/2014 | In Features | Reading Time: 2 mins read



- Searching up with these details online
- We find that it's in **London**
- And the exact image is even here:

<https://www.ldnfashion.com/features/carnaby-street-10-fascinating-facts-never-knew/>

[ew/](#)

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- What is the quality of any visible infrastructure like? Is the road paved or do you see gravel roads?
- Do you see any unique landmarks, buildings, bridges, statues or mountains that can help you geolocate the image?

Download the attached image and answer the question below - good luck!

Answer the questions below

What is the name of the street where this image was taken?

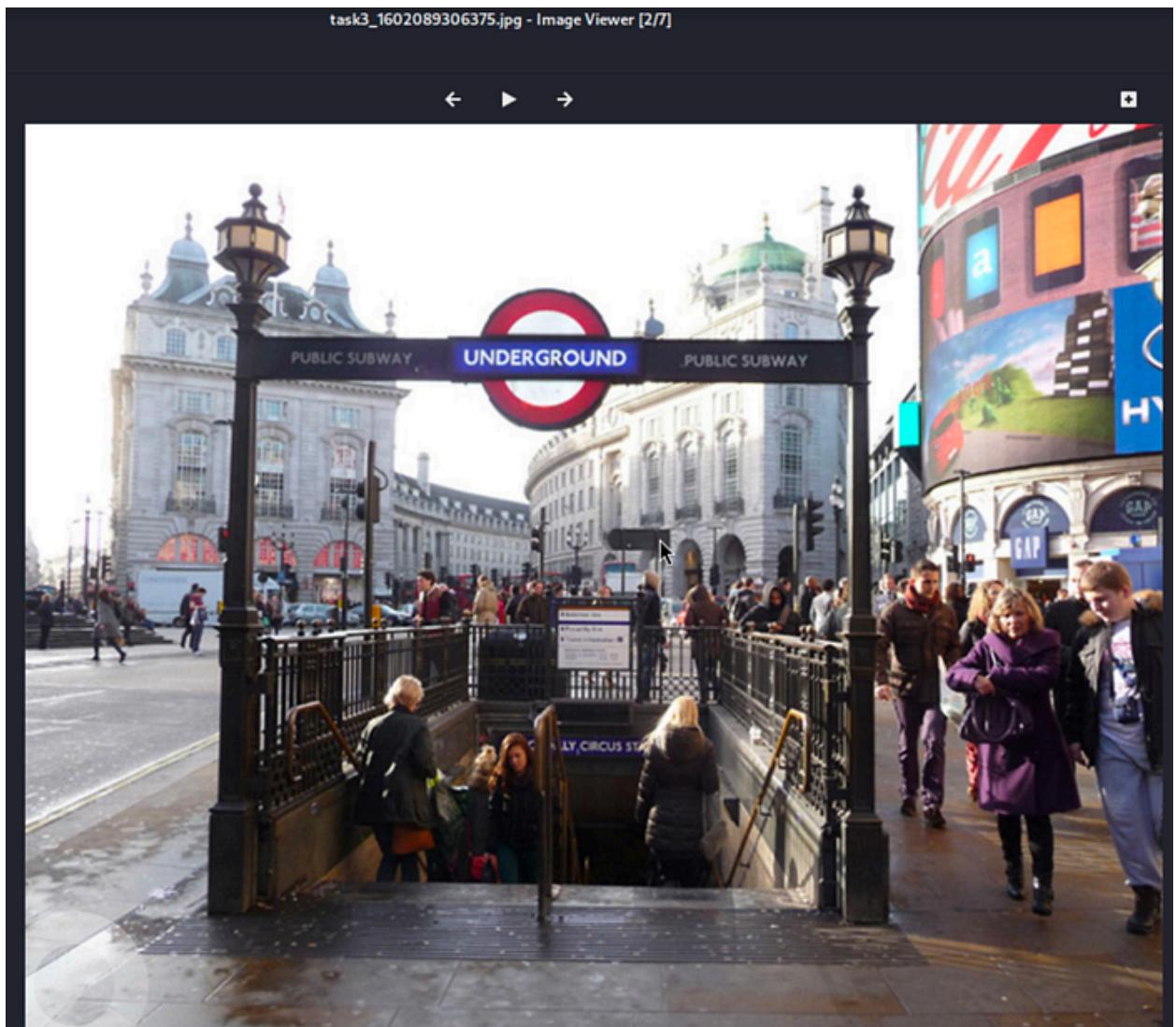
sl[carnaby street]

✓ Correct Answer

✗ Hint

Target 2: Piccadilly Circus Tube Station (London)

For the next image, external knowledge and visual recognition provide the initial hint.

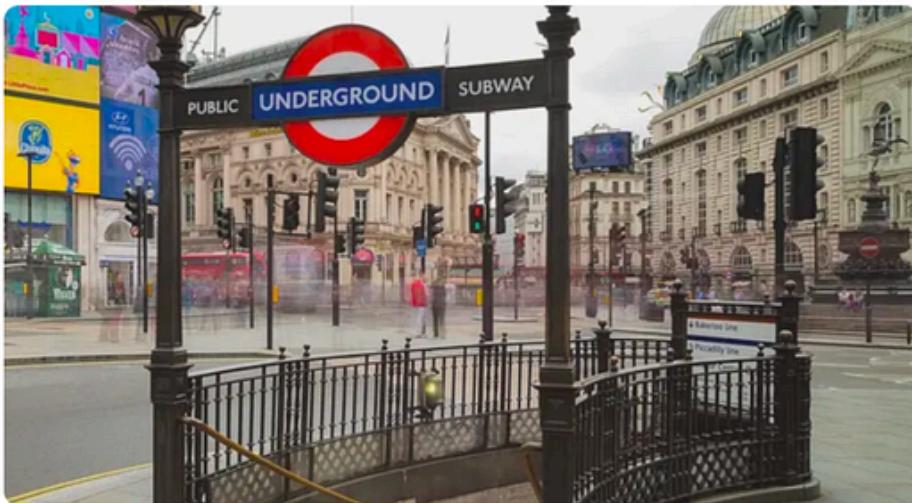


- Next, I see the image and get the hint it has something to do with London because I've seen many similar points like the design and logo in many music videos

Searching with these visual clues, we confirm the location and gather its details:

Piccadilly Circus tube station

London Underground station
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Piccadilly Circus is a [London Underground](#) station in Central London. It is located directly beneath [Piccadilly Circus](#) itself, with entrances at every corner. The station is served by the [Bakerloo](#) and [Piccadilly](#) lines, and is in [London fare zone 1](#).

- Searching it up I confirm it's in **London, Piccadilly Circus, opened in 1906, 4 platforms**

History

Summarize ⚖ Perspective ⓘ

The station was opened on 10 March 1906 by the [Baker Street and Waterloo Railway](#) (now the [Bakerloo line](#)) with the platforms of the [Great Northern, Piccadilly and Brompton Railway](#) (now the [Piccadilly line](#)) being opened on 15 December 1906.¹ As originally built it had, like other stations, a surface booking hall (designed, like many in central London built at this time, by [Leslie Green](#)). The development of traffic before and after [World War I](#) meant that the need for improved station facilities was acute – in 1907 1.5 million passengers used the station, by 1922 it had grown to 18 million passengers.¹

- https://www.wikiwand.com/en/articles/Piccadilly_Circus_tube_station

Piccadilly Circus Underground station has 4 platforms. Two platforms are for the Piccadilly line and two are for the Bakerloo line.

Task 3 Just Google it!



The last challenge wasn't really a challenge, was it?

Let me introduce you to your first tool, Google! If you see anything in the image that can be extracted into a keyword, phrase, a company name, telephone number or any other question you may have as a result of scanning the image up and down: GOOGLE IT!

Here is a short introduction to what we call 'dorking', the art of using Google search queries to have Google return specific types of data. The next challenges will require you to do some basic Googling in order to answer the questions. You can also practice dorking by joining the Google Dorking room.

When geolocating a picture finding the exact location is key, but we may need to answer other questions about the location or the image as well, usually referred to as context questions.

The next few challenges will ask multiple questions that you need to answer based on the information you extract from the image.

Answer the questions below

Which city is the tube station located in?
st(london) ✓ Correct Answer

Which tube station do these stairs lead to?
st(piccadilly circus) ✓ Correct Answer

Which year did this station open?
st(1906) ✓ Correct Answer

How many platforms are there in this station?
st(4) ✓ Correct Answer

Phase 2: International and Business Locations

Target 3: Vancouver International Airport (Canada)

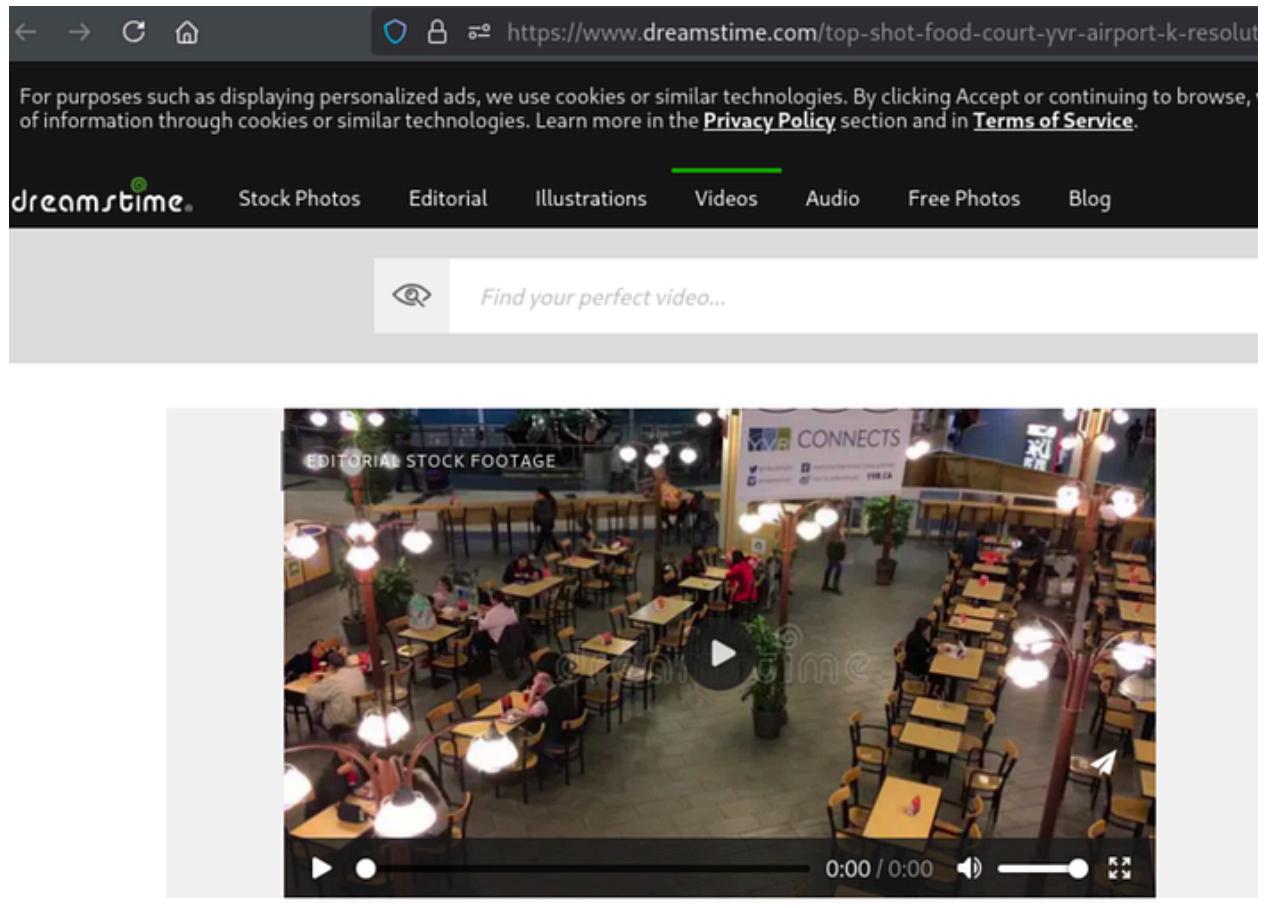
The third image contains a clear three-letter code that acts as an immediate identifier.

◀ ▶ →



- Next, I open the image and see YVR
- Knowing the airport code I immediately think of Vancouver, Canada

We confirm this using an image search to gather regional details:



Top shot of food court at YVR airport with 4k resolution. Top shot of food court at YVR airport in Vancouver BC Canada with 4k resolution

- I confirm it by using the image search and yes it's in Vancouver
- it's **Vancouver International Airport, Canada, Richmond City**

Vancouver International Airport (IATA: YVR, ICAO: CYVR) is an international airport^[4] located on [Sea Island](#) in [Richmond](#), [British Columbia](#), serving the city of [Vancouver](#) and the [Lower Mainland](#) region. It is located 12 km (7.5 mi) from [Downtown Vancouver](#). YVR is the [second busiest airport in Canada](#) by passenger traffic (26.2 million),^[3] behind [Toronto Pearson International Airport](#) in [Ontario](#). As a trans-Pacific hub,^[5] the airport has more direct flights to China than any other airport in North America or Europe.^[6] It is a [hub](#) for [Air Canada](#) and [WestJet](#). Vancouver International Airport is one of eight Canadian airports that have [US Border Pre-clearance facilities](#). It is also one of the few major international airports to have a [terminal](#) for scheduled [floatplanes](#).

The airport has won several notable international best airport awards. It won the [SkyTrax Best North American Airport](#) award in 2007 and 2010 through 2022, for a record of 12 consecutive years.^[7] The airport also made the top 10 list of airports in the world for the first time in 2012, rated at 9th (2012), 8th (2013), and 9th (2014) overall.^[8] It is the only North American airport included in the top 10 for 2013 and 2014.^{[8][9][10][11]} YVR also retains the distinction of Best Canadian Airport in the regional results.^[12]

Vancouver International Airport



IATA: YVR · ICAO: CYVR · TC LID: YVR
· WMO: 71892

Summary

Airport type	Public
Owner	Transport Canada
Operator	Vancouver International Airport Authority
Serves	Greater Vancouver
Location	Sea Island, Richmond , British Columbia , Canada

Task 4 Keep at it!



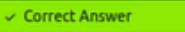


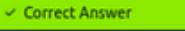
Good job solving the last challenge! You were able to find the location of the image and by doing that, you could answer contextual questions about the location. This challenge will also require you to do some 'Google dorking' to answer the questions below.

Scan the image for data and remember the questions from the introduction -  you see anything in the image that can be used in a search query or help you narrow down the potential location?

Answer the questions below

Which building is this photo taken in?
 

Which country is this building located in?
 

Which city is this building located in?
 

Target 4: The Wee Coffee Shop (Scotland)

The next image includes a hint that mentions Scotland, prompting us to focus our attention on visible signage.

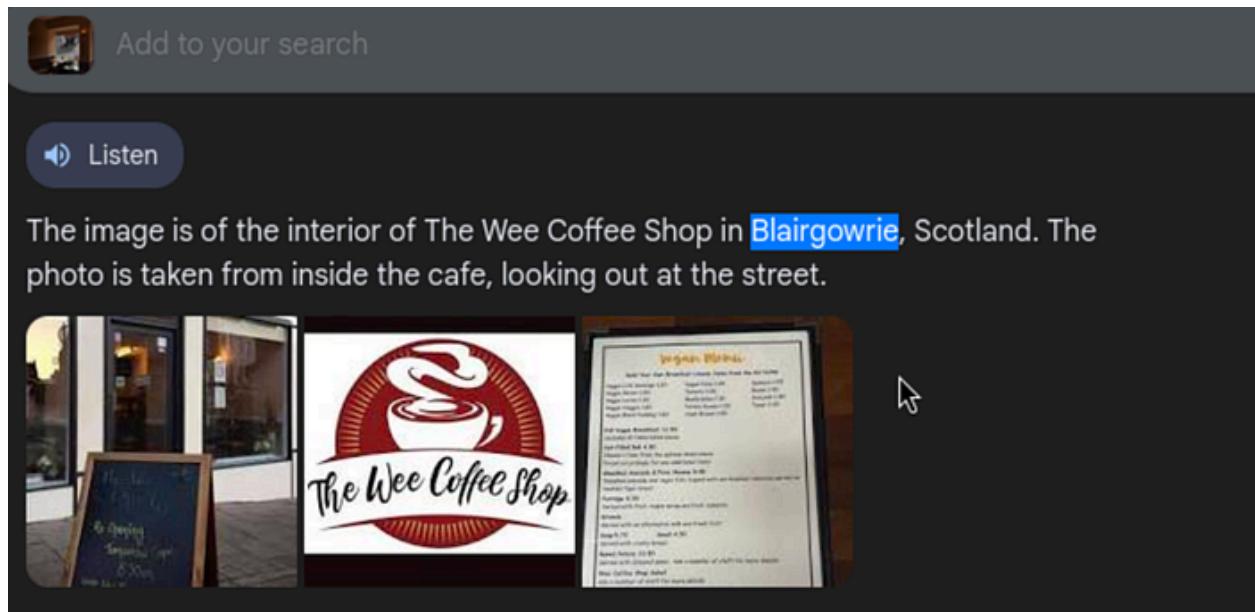
◀ ▶ →



- Next, I see the image and the *hint mentions Scotland*

- I see the banner of a *shop opposite to the coffee shop*: The Edinburgh Woolen Mill

Using the banner name, we perform a *reverse search* that leads us directly to the coffee shop's social media presence:



- A simple reverse search leads me to identifying the place and heading to their facebook page I get the details

https://www.facebook.com/weecoffeeshop/ ★

Email or phone
 Password
 L

Posts
About
Reels
Photos
...

Intro

Family run coffee shop, in the centre of bustling East Perthshire town of Blairgowrie. We are dog friendly

- Page · Breakfast & brunch restaurant
- Location · 1 Allan Street, Blairgowrie, United Kingdom
- Phone · +44 7878 839128
- Email · thewecco~~ffe~~eshop@aol.com
- Dine in · Roadside collection
- Price range · ££
- Star rating · 98% recommend (227 reviews) i

The Wee Coffee Shop
1d ·

Karen Law - Transformational Therapist
1d ·

I frequently encourage people to prioritise self-care. Often we put ourselves last on the list. Especially if we're mothers. ... [See more](#)

Share 42

Discover Blairgowrie

[Home](#) [What's On](#) [Live Blairgowrie](#) [Info](#) 🔍

The Wee Coffee Shop

[Claim this Business](#)

Award Winning Coffee Shop serving lovely Breakfasts, Brunch, Soup and Sandwiches

Tel: **07878 839128**

Updated: 21:00 Monday 26 April 2021.
This is a free listing made possible by groups and businesses who pay for their listing

Address:

1 Allan Street Blairgowrie, Perth And Kinross,
United Kingdom



Owner/Manager:

Debbie and David Cochrane

Opening Times:

Tuesday to Saturday: 9am until 4pm

Social Media Links:



- It's in **Blairgowrie City, Allan Street, phone: +447878 839128, email: theweecoffeeshop@aol.com, owners: Debbie and David Cochrane**



Now that you've started to learn some techniques I figured we could try and do some good while we hone our skills.

A friend of mine contacted me asking if I could help them locate a coffee shop that is supposed to serve the best lunch there is. They told me the coffee shop is somewhere in Scotland, and he sent me these two pictures. Do you think you could locate it and answer the questions below for me?

Answer the questions below

Which city is this coffee shop located in?

sl(blairgowrie)

✓ Correct Answer

✗ Hint

Which street is this coffee shop located in?

sl(allan street)

✓ Correct Answer

What is their phone number?

sl(+447878 839128)

✓ Correct Answer

What is their email address?

sl(theeweecoffeeshop@aol.com)

✓ Correct Answer

What is the surname of the owners?

sl(cochrane)

✓ Correct Answer

Target 5: Katz's Deli (New York City)

The fifth target is identified through reverse image searching and requires correlation with a specific person.

◀ ▶ →



- Next, I do the usual reverse image search



Add to your search



Tripadvisor

Very busy katz deli!! - Picture of
Katz's Deli, New York ...

[See exact matches](#) >



Related search

Katz's Delicatessen



ramblingsfromthecomplex...

New York 2013 – Katz's Deli |
Ramblings from the Complex ...



Tripadvisor

[Busy, as it should be - Picture of
Katz's Deli, New York ...](#)



Instagram

A few snacks in New York 🇺🇸 😁



NoGarlicNoOnions

Katz: The Place of Dream
Sandwiches



- I see a lot of images saying it's: **Katz's Deli**

We then search for the required name to confirm the correlation:

katz's deli bon appetit editor worked 24 hours

AI Mode All Images Videos Short videos Forums News More ▾ Tools ▾

◆ AI Overview

🔊 Listen

Yes, [Bon Appétit](#) deputy editor [Andrew Knowlton](#) worked a 24-hour shift at Katz's Delicatessen for a series called "Working 24 Hours At...". He documented his experience working behind the scenes to get an inside look at the iconic deli, from preparing food to the hectic, fast-paced environment. ⓘ



- The project was part of a Bon Appétit series about working 24 hours straight at iconic food establishments.

- Searching up for bon bon appetit editor working there: [Andrew Knowlton](#)

Task 6 ✔ Reverse your thinking

[Download Task Files](#)



One of the methods for geolocating an image is to do an image reverse search. This means that we are searching for the image itself online, and if the image has been indexed by search engines we may find the exact image or we can do a visual search or crop search to help us find similar images.

Aric Toler from Bellingcat has written a fantastic guide on reversing images, please read it [here](#). OSINT Curious also has a [write-up](#) on the topic that you should look through before attempting this challenge.

I recommend adding this extension to ease the workflow for when you find images online that you want to do an image reverse on:

Addon description: "Perform a search by image. Choose between the image search engines Google, Bing, Yandex, TinEye and Baidu."

Chrome: RevEye Reverse Image Search

Firefox: RevEye Reverse Image Search

Remember that changing the crop and the keywords for searching an image may yield completely different results.

Answer the questions below

Which restaurant was this picture taken at?

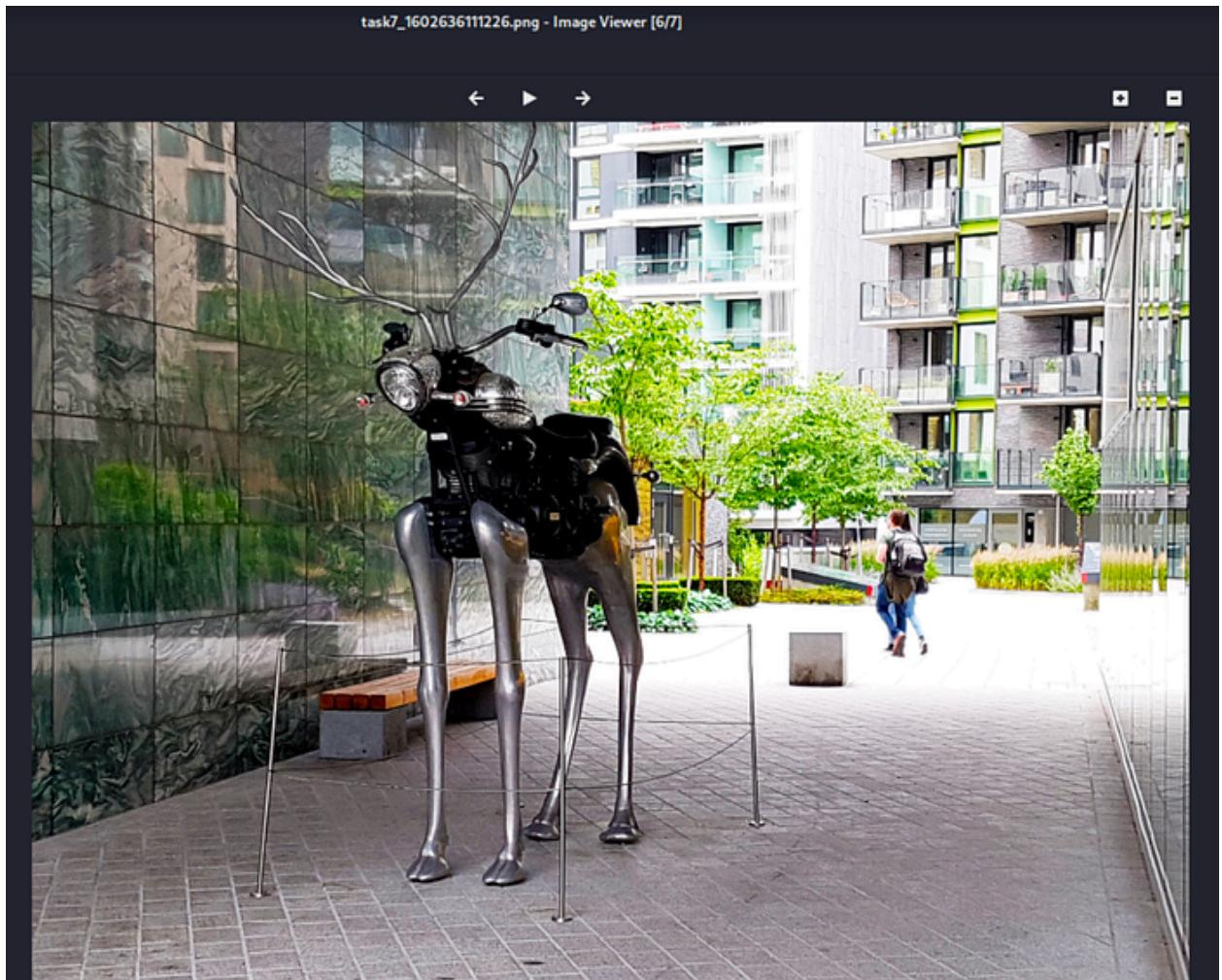
✓ Correct Answer 💡 Hint

What is the name of the Bon Appétit editor that worked 24 hours at this restaurant?

✓ Correct Answer 💡 Hint

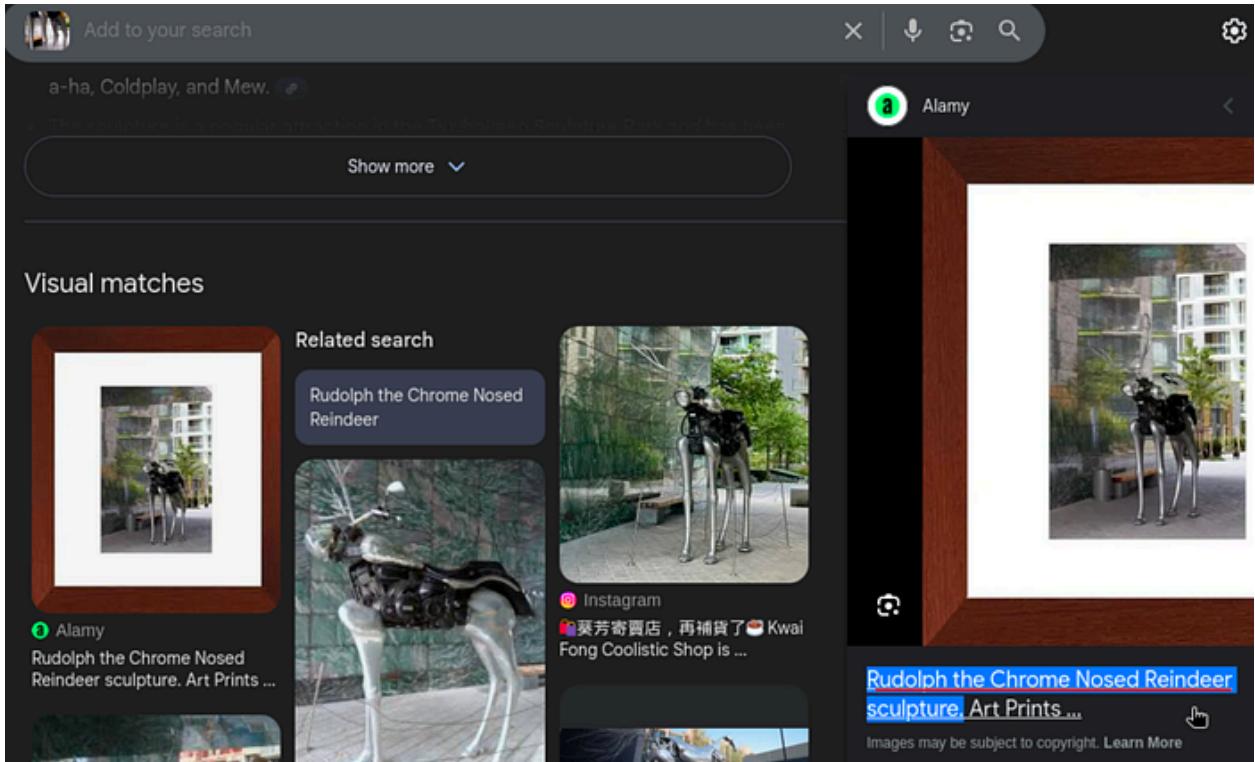
Target 6: Rudolph the Chrome Nosed Reindeer (College Sculpture)

The image structure suggests a college or apartment setting due to the architecture visible behind the statue.



- Next, as it looks, I think it's in a college because of the dorm structure or apartments behind the statue

A reverse search identifies the specific statue and its creator:



- Reverse searching the image

The image was taken by [Kjersti Stensrud](#). It features the sculpture "[Rudolph the Chrome Nosed Reindeer](#)," created by Magne Furuholmen and the band Apparatjik, which is located in Tjuvholmen, Oslo, Norway. [♂](#)

- It is taken by: **Kjersti Stensrud**
- It is called: **Rudolph the Chrome Nosed Reindeer**

Task 7 Locate this sculpture

[Download Task Files](#)



This challenge will require you to apply some the techniques I have touched on so far: Scanning the image for visual clues, reverse image searching and Google dorking. Tools should not be your primary focus - don't underestimate how far you can get with dorking and scrolling search results.

Answer the questions below

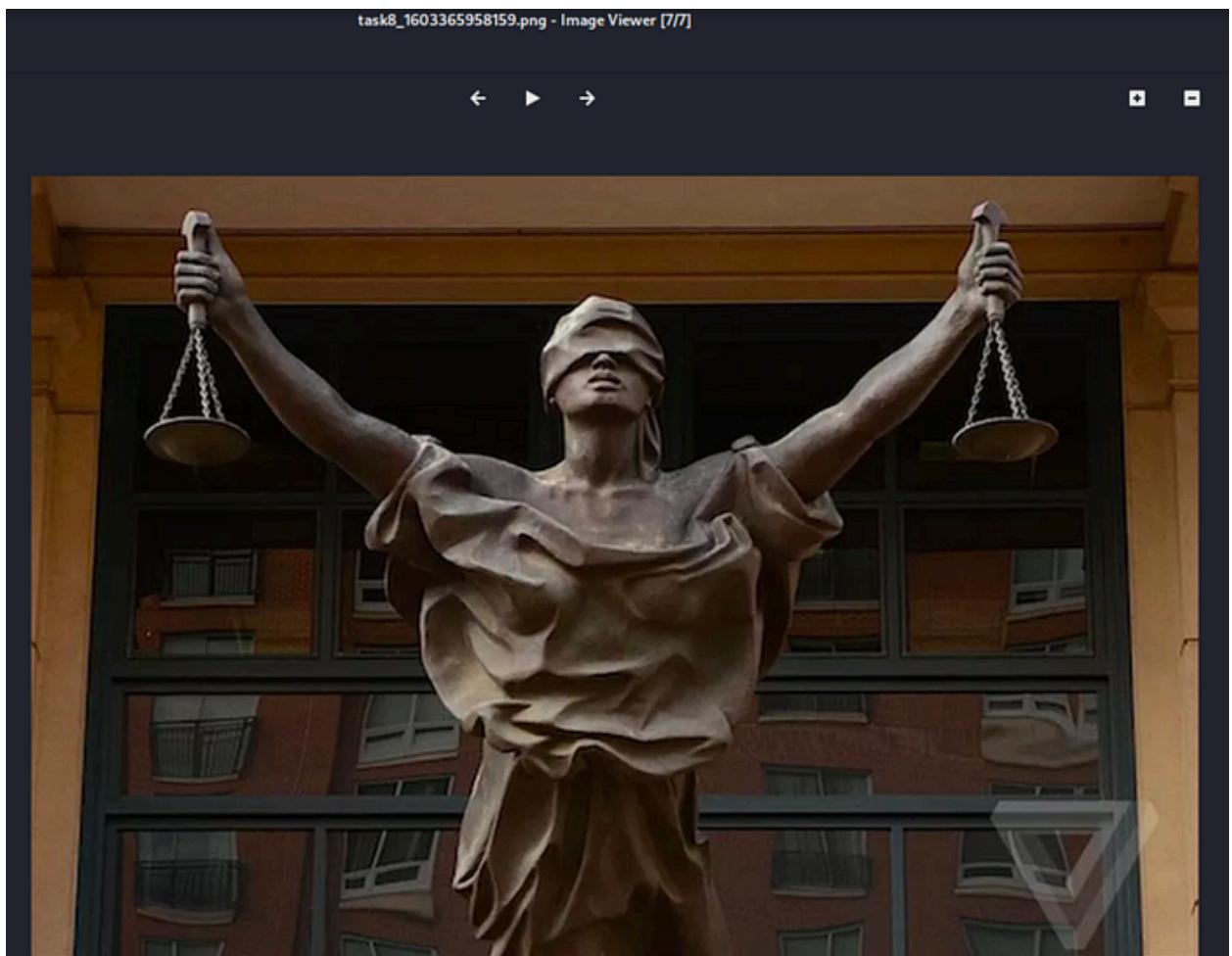
What is the name of this statue?
 Correct Answer ? Hint

Who took this image?
 Correct Answer ? Hint

Phase 3: Advanced Geospatial Correlation

Target 7: Lady Justice Statue and Westin Hotel (Alexandria, VA)

The final two targets require detailed map correlation using a 360-degree view. We begin with the statue.



- Next, I reverse search this image and I find out it's about justice but similar statues are located in multiple locations around the world



Add to your search

AI Mode

All

Exact matches

Products

Visual matches

About this image

Feedback

◆ AI Overview

🔊 Listen

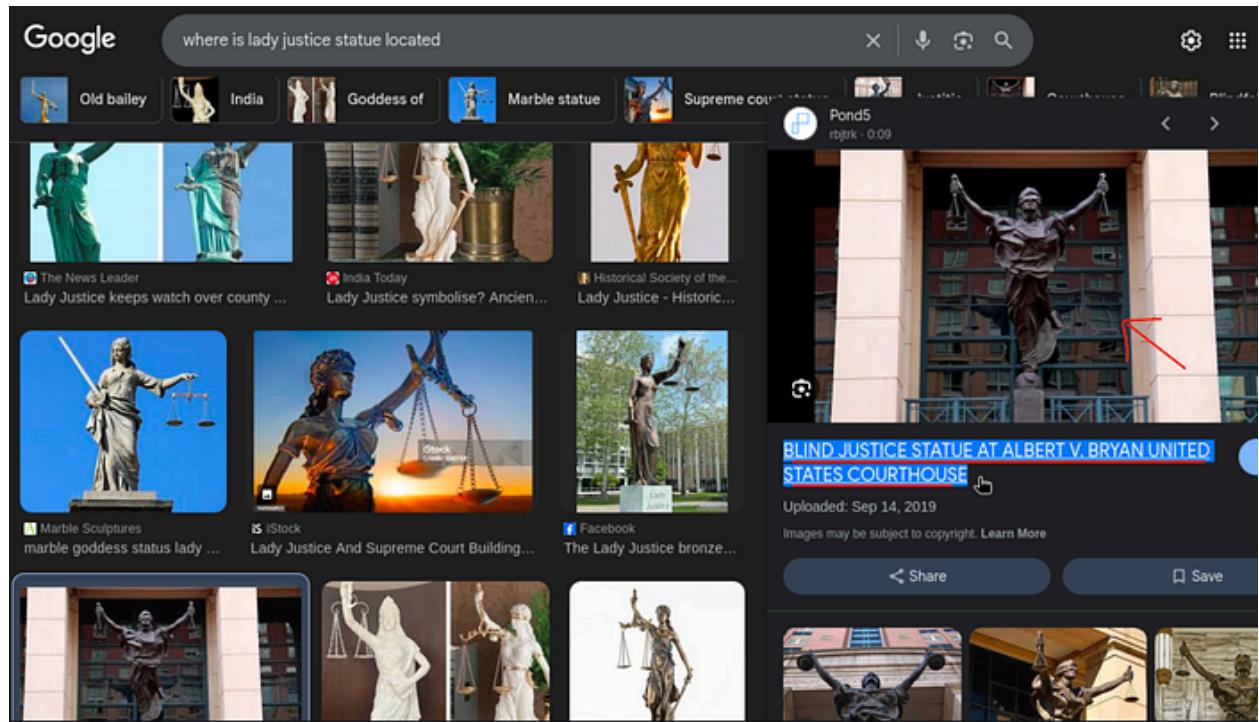
The image shows a statue of Lady Justice, a personification of the moral force in judicial systems.

She is often depicted with three key symbols: ⓘ

- A blindfold, which represents impartiality and that justice should be applied without regard to wealth, power, or other status.
- A set of scales, symbolizing the weighing of evidence and the balance of fairness.
- A sword, which represents the power of justice to enforce its decisions.

In some modern interpretations, particularly in India, the statue has been updated. The blindfold and sword are sometimes removed, and she may hold a copy of the Constitution instead, to symbolize that justice is not blind but sees everyone equally and is grounded in the nation's democratic values. ⓘ

- Going through multiple images



- I find an ***exact match*** because of the ***reflection in the image***

The specific details allow us to pinpoint the exact statue and courthouse building:



Size of this preview: 800 × 531 pixels. Other resolutions: 320 × 212 pixels | 640 × 425 pixels | 1,024 × 680 pixels | 1,280 × 850 pixels | 2,000 × 1,328 pixels.

[Original file](#) (2,000 × 1,328 pixels, file size: 363 KB, MIME type: image/jpeg); [ZoomViewer](#)

[Open in Media Viewer](#)

[File information](#)

[Structured data](#)

Captions

[Edit](#)

English

Add a one-line explanation of what this file represents

Summary [\[edit\]](#)

Description

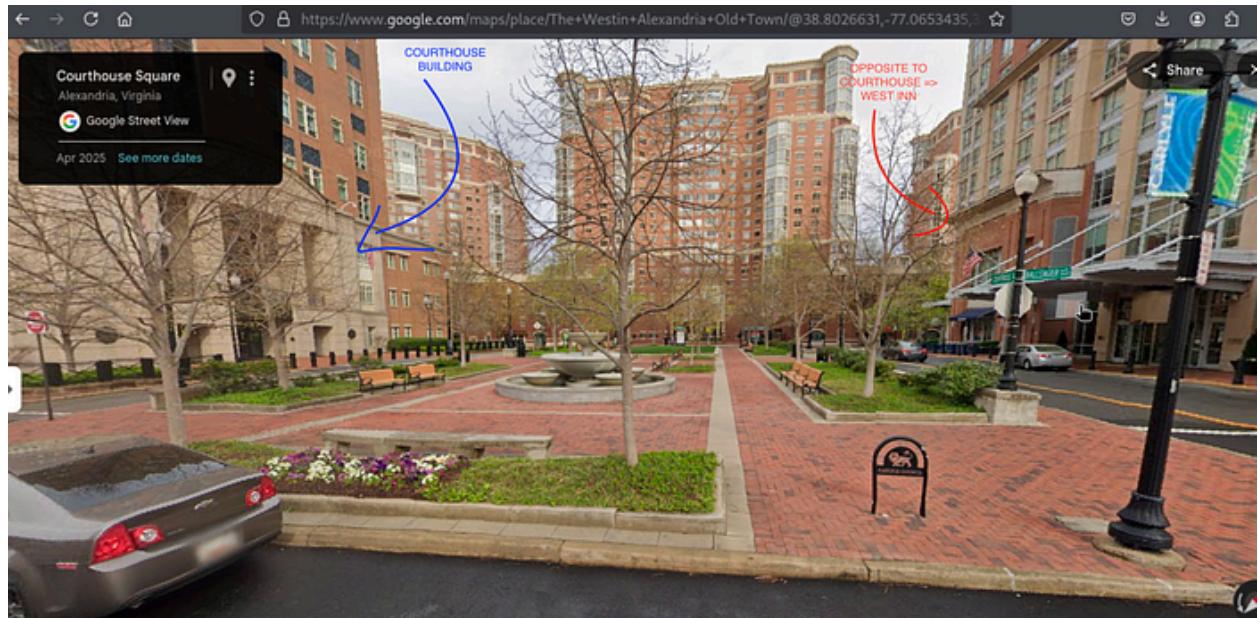
English: Looking up at the statue of Blind Justice on front of the [Albert V. Bryan United States Courthouse in](#)

[Alexandria, Virginia](#). This courthouse is home to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

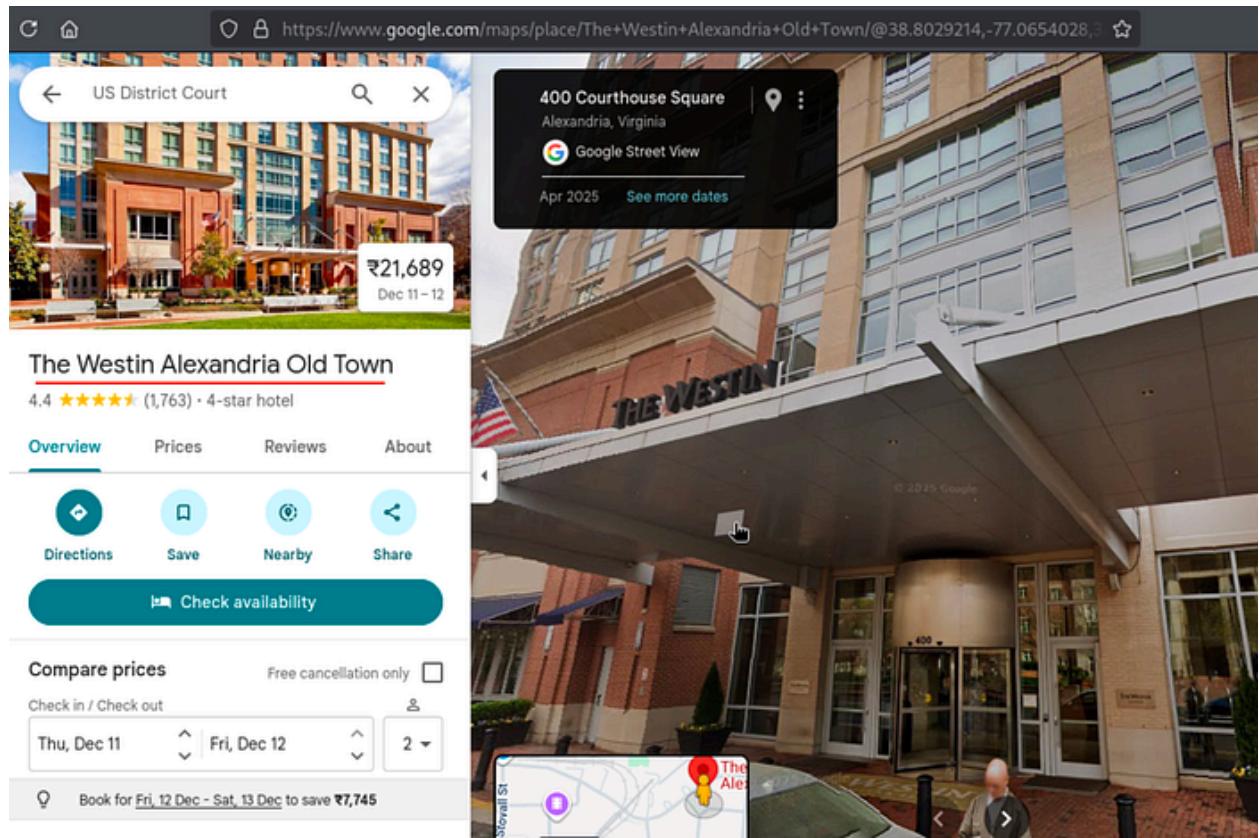
The statue and architrave constitute the artwork "Justice Delayed, Justice Denied." This is a 1994 artwork by

- It's called: **Lady Justice**, building location: **Albert V. Bryan United States Courthouse in Alexandria, Virginia**

To find the building *opposite* the courthouse, we use the *map's 360-degree view feature*.



- To find the opposite building I use 360 view on maps and I see a WestInn



- Click on it: **The Westin Alexandria Old Town**

Task 8 ...and justice for all

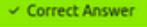


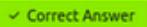
Download Task Files

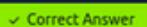
This challenge is a step up in difficulty from the previous challenges and you shouldn't expect to solve this quickly, especially if you are new to IMINT. While you can certainly apply the techniques and tools you've used to so far, this challenge may force you to revise your thinking and your approach while you're working on solving this challenge.

I highly recommend watching this Ted talk by Amy Herman on visual intelligence: "A lesson on looking" if you want a unique view on how you perceive visual data.

Answer the questions below

What is the name of the character that the statue depicts?
st[lady justice]  

Where is this statue located?
st[alexandria, virginia]  

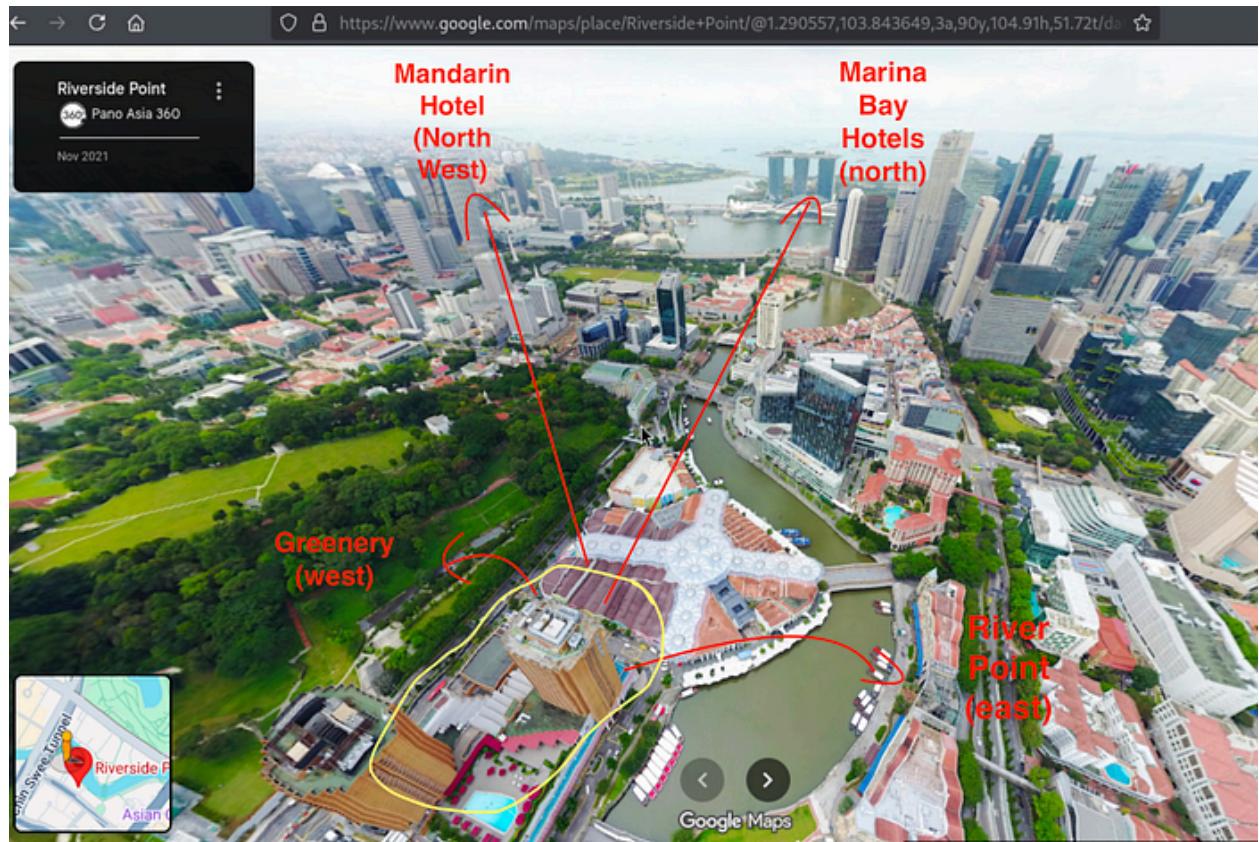
What is the name of the building opposite from this statue?
st(the westin alexandria old town)  

Target 8: Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay (Singapore)

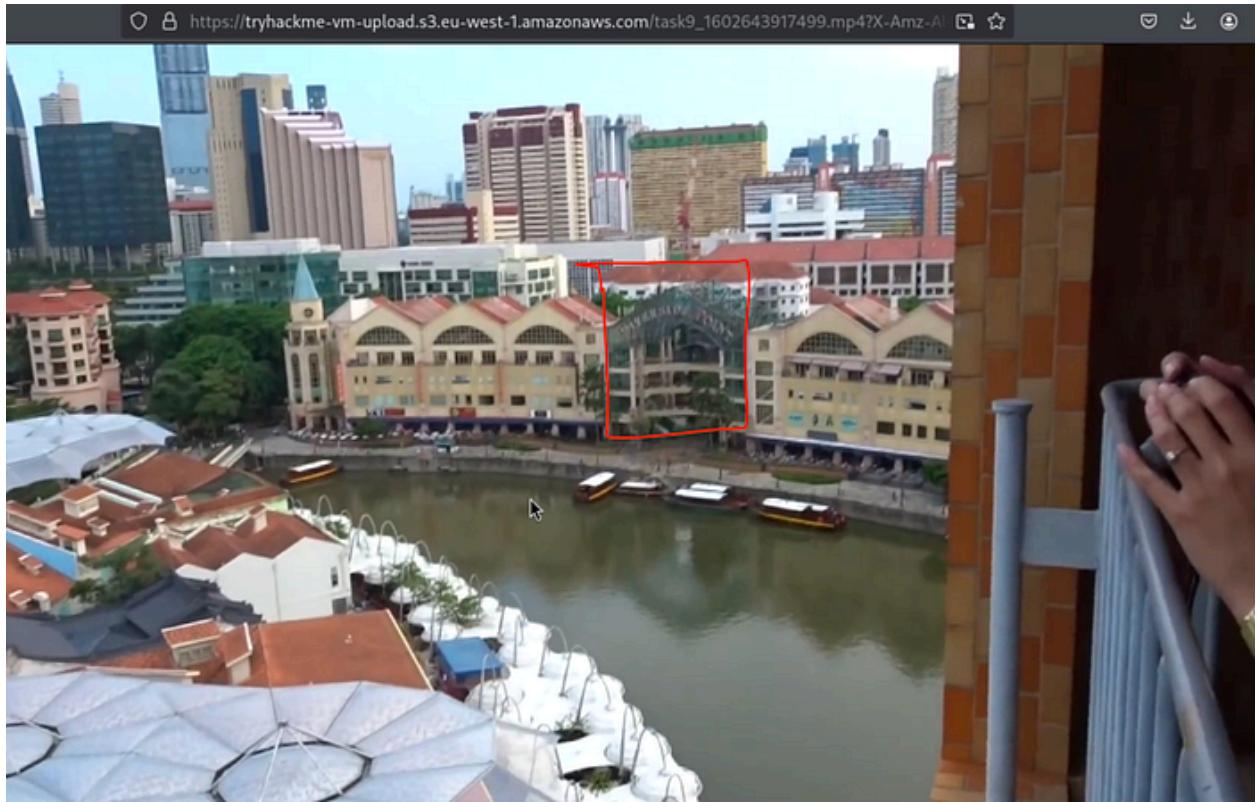
The final file is a video, which provides clear geographical clues based on the surrounding landmarks.

- Next, I click on the file and it's a video
- I immediately know it's **Singapore** seeing the *Marina Bay Hotel* with the famous infinity pool

We list all surrounding landmarks visible in the video for correlation:

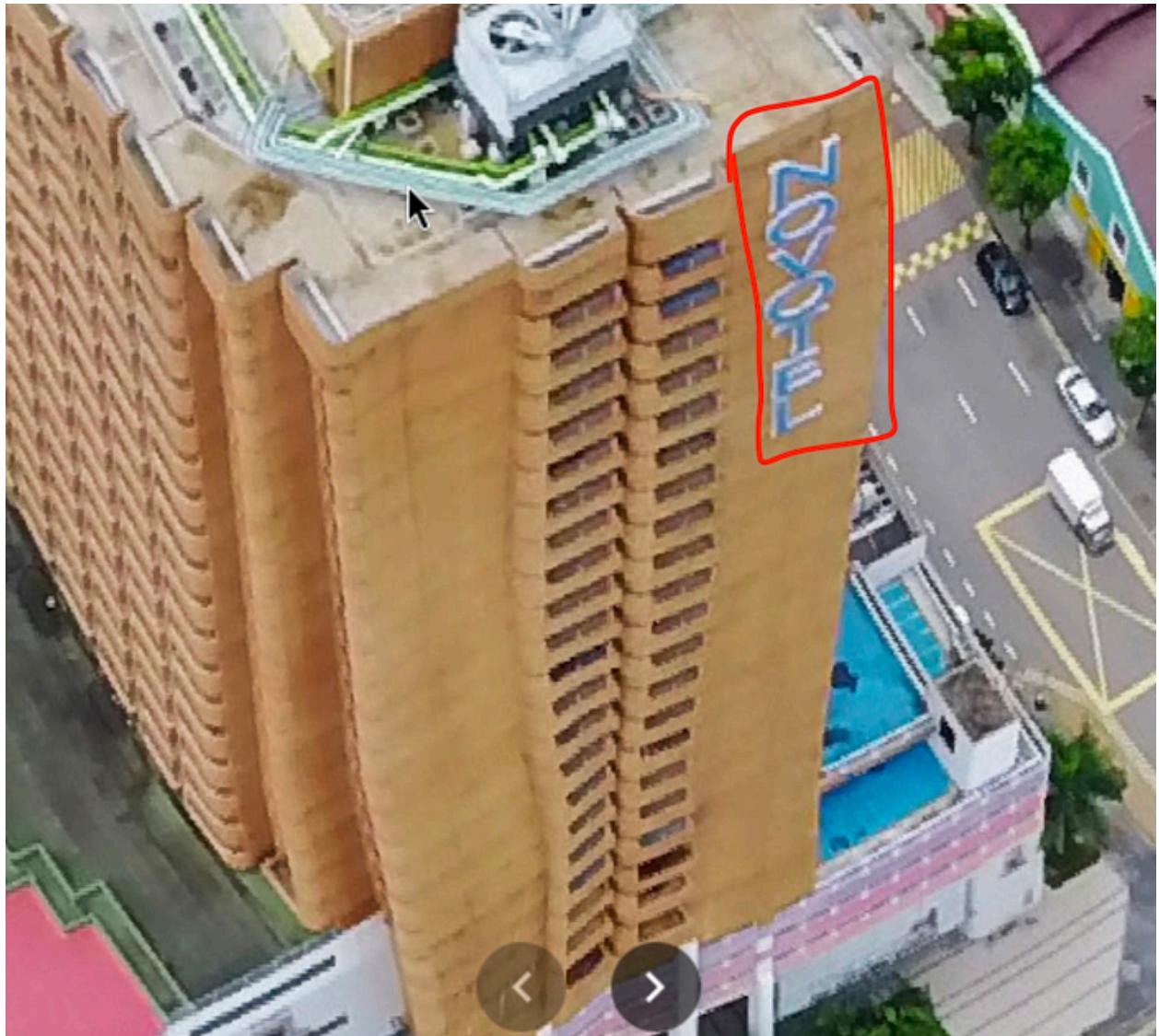


- Being somewhat familiar with Singapore, another hint is it's near and facing the **riverside point (east)**, a massive chunk of **greeneries (west)**, facing **Clarke Quay Central (north) & Marina Hotel (north)**, Mandarin Hotel (north-west)



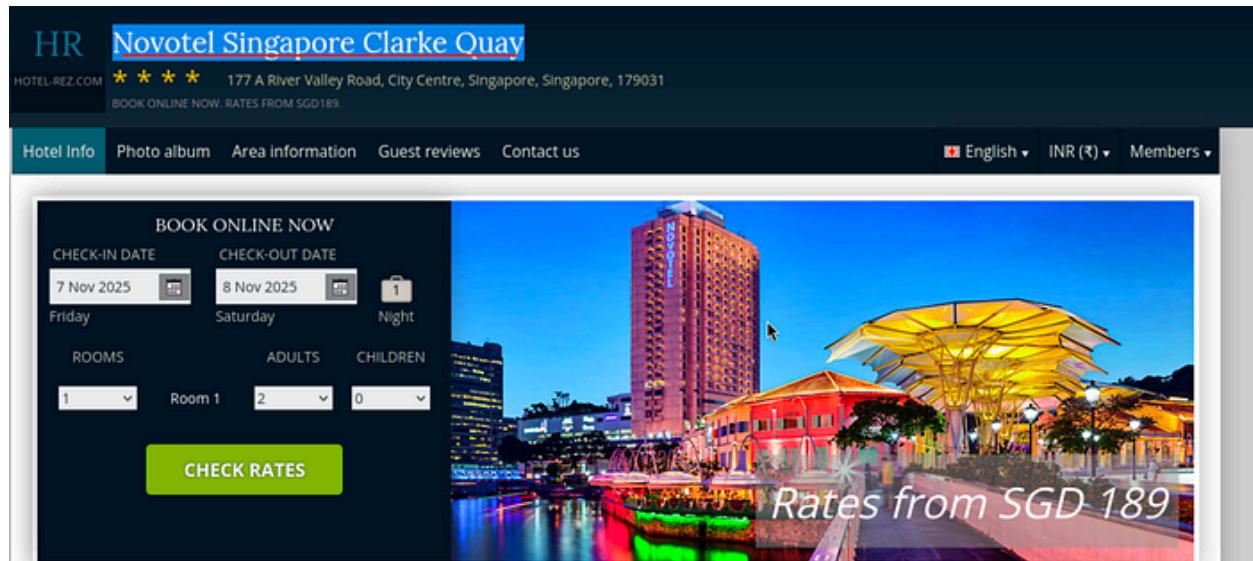
Using **Riverside Point** as a reference, we *use the 360-degree map view to position ourselves and identify the building from which the high-angle video was shot:*

- Using 360 views I use river point as the reference and position myself in a way that on my *east is Riverside Point*



- Right at the position there is a high-rise building and it's **Hotel Novotel**

The architectural details of the source building are then confirmed against the hotel:



- from the video we know it was taken from a *multi-story building and at a higher point* and I even noticed the brown walls/bricks which resembled the same hence the hotel is: **Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay**

Task 9 ✔ The view from my hotel room

[Download Task Files](#)



Geolocating videos aren't much different from geolocating images. A video is just a string of images, usually played at 24 frames(or images) per second. In other words, a video will hold a whole lot more images that can be analyzed, reversed and scrutinized by you.

Here's a good writeup by Nixintel on a tool called FFmpeg, which will help you extract the key images from the video that you may need to solve this challenge. Download the attached video and follow Nixintel's guide!

You may have to apply other tools to solve this challenge as well!

Answer the questions below

What is the name of the hotel that my friend stayed in a few years ago?

✓ Correct Answer ✗ Hint

CONCLUSION:

I hope this write-up walkthrough was helpful to you all!

Now that I've gotten through it, I hope it helps you and gets you through the room as well. I plan on putting out more like these in the future!

If you guys want me to cover any specific room or challenge, or if you have any queries, feel free to drop a comment.

Imma bounce for now, but I'll catch you all in the next writeup!