



# Sharing Maps: The GIS Cloud

Summer School on Digital Humanities

Web site: <https://bit.ly/dt4h-gis>

Augusto Ciuffoletti

20 giugno 2025

# Sharing Maps: The GIS Cloud

- OpenStreetMap (OSM) does not support adding custom layers
  - It lacks infrastructure for proprietary data storage
- Desktop GIS applications (e.g. QGIS) allow users to overlay OSM data with their own layers
- Alternative services provide infrastructure for collaborative map sharing
- In these services, the server acts as an intermediary between users and data storage
- Unlike OSM, access and sharing restrictions are enforced



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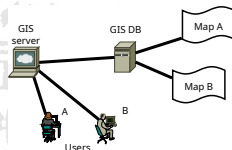
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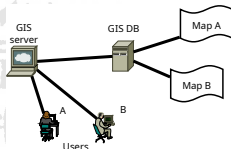
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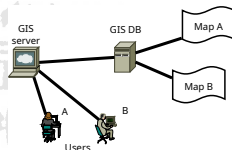
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# The uMap Service

- A stable project (launched in 2014)
- Open-source (can be installed on a private server)
- Uses OpenStreetMap as a background raster layer
- Users can
- Support
- Maps can be shared and collaboratively edited by a restricted user group



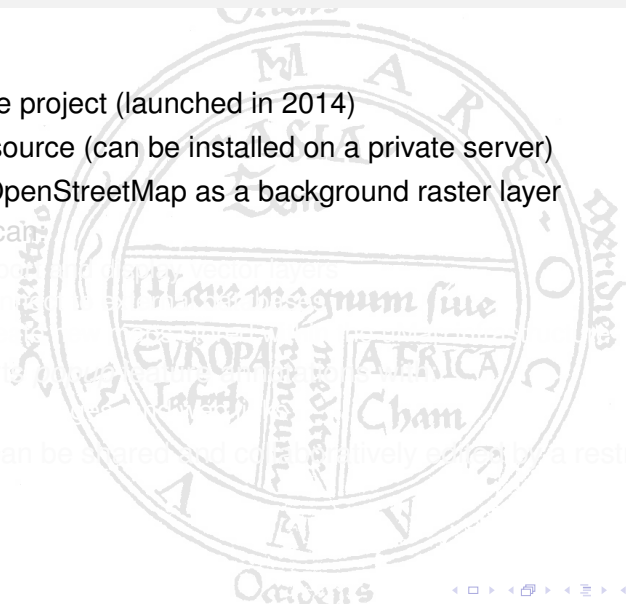
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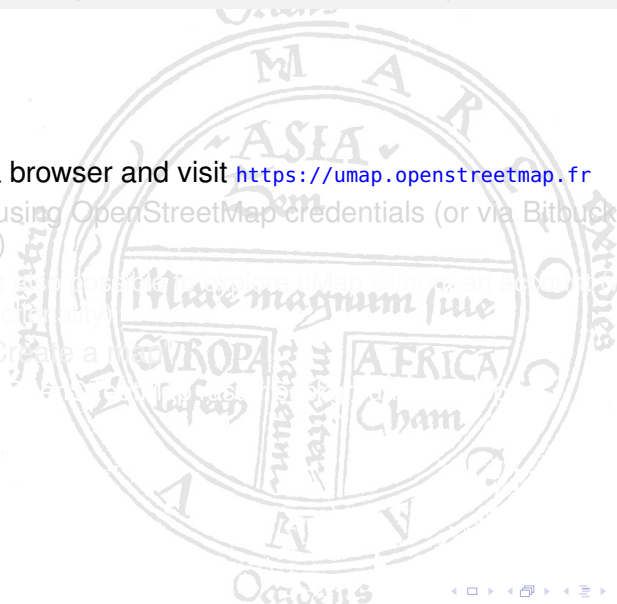
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# A uMap Tour (Sect. 5 in the Booklet)

- Open a browser and visit <https://umap.openstreetmap.fr>
- Log in using OpenStreetMap credentials (or via Bitbucket, or GitHub)
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- Click "Create a map"



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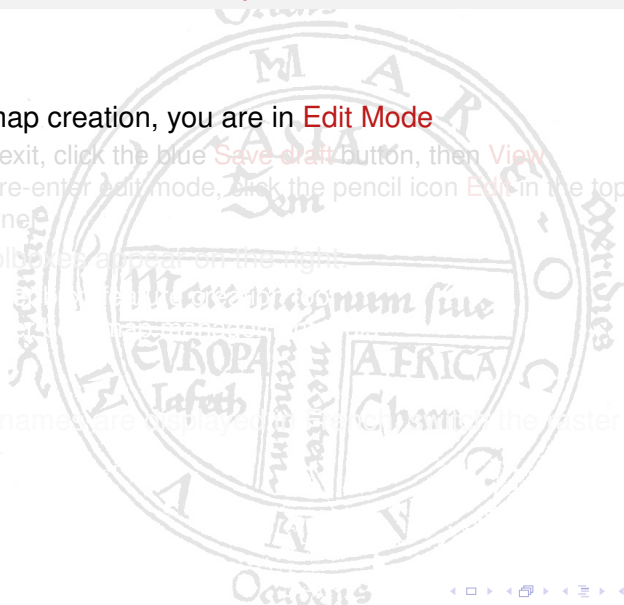
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# Editing Your Shared Map

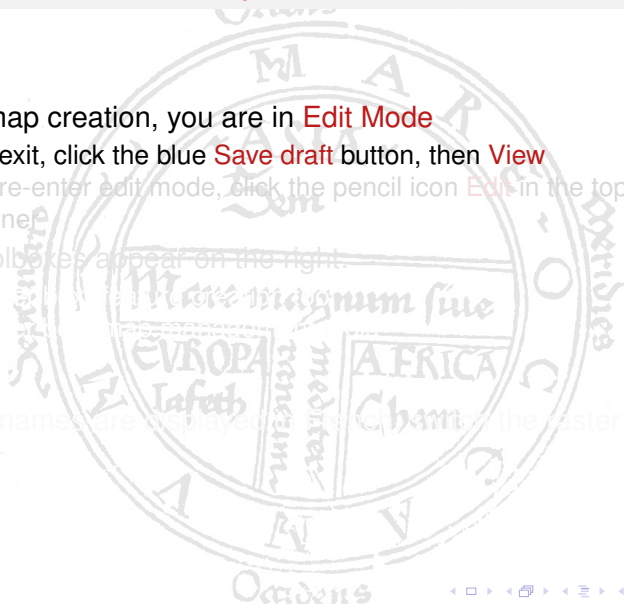
- Upon map creation, you are in **Edit Mode**
  - To exit, click the blue **Save draft** button, then **View**
  - To re-enter edit mode, click the pencil icon **Edit** in the top-right corner
- Two toolboxes appear on the right.
- If town names are displayed in red, click the raster layer:





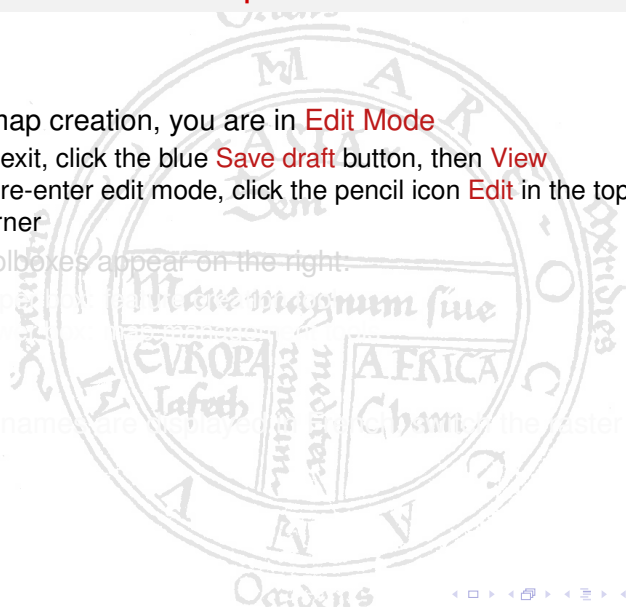
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  - Upper box: **Map**
  - Lower box: **Layers**
- If town names are displayed, check the raster layer:



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  - Upper box: feature creation tool
  - Lower box: map management tools
- If town names are displayed, make sure to uncheck the raster layer:

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  - Lower box: map management tools
- If town names are displayed in French, switch the raster layer:

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  - On the left panel, click 🔍 to search for a town (e.g., "Pisa")
- If town names are displayed in French, switch the raster layer:

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  - On the left panel, click  to search for a town (e.g., "Pisa")
- If town names are displayed in French, switch the raster layer:
  - Click  and select "OpenStreetMap"



# Adding a Feature

- Choose a feature type from the right-hand menu:



- Click on the desired feature type, then interact with the map:
- Once the feature is created, it appears:
- To edit an existing feature, click and select the pencil icon

# Adding a Feature

- Choose a feature type from the right-hand menu:

-  Point



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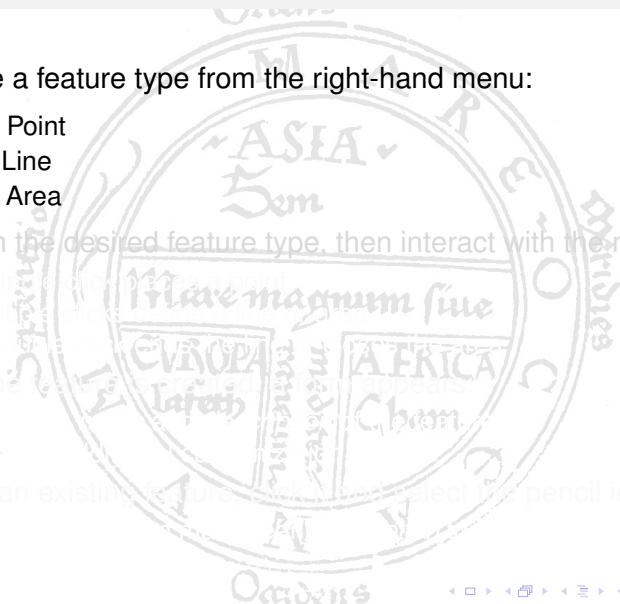
# Adding a Feature

- Choose a feature type from the right-hand menu:
  -  Point
  -  Line
- Click on the desired feature type, then interact with the map:
- Once the feature is created, it appears.
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# Adding a Feature




- Choose a feature type from the right-hand menu:
  -  Point
  -  Line
  -  Area
- Click on the desired feature type, then interact with the map:
  - A single click creates a point
  - Multiple clicks create a line
  - A click and drag creates a polygon
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- Choose a feature type from the right-hand menu:
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- Click on the desired feature type, then interact with the map:
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  - Multiple clicks define a line or area
  - A double-click on the line or closes the area
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- Once the feature is created, a form appears:
  - Enter the name of the described feature
  - Explore additional customization options
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# Special Content in the **Description** Field

The *Description* field can contain interactive elements:

(Note: these appear only after **Save** and **View**)

- Add an image by inserting its link within double braces:

```
{{http://gardenersnet.com/flower/pics/daffodil04.jpg}}
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- Add a hyperlink using double brackets:

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[[http://www.google.com/]]
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- Embed a video (e.g. YouTube) using triple braces:

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{{{https://player.vimeo.com/video/5016854}}}
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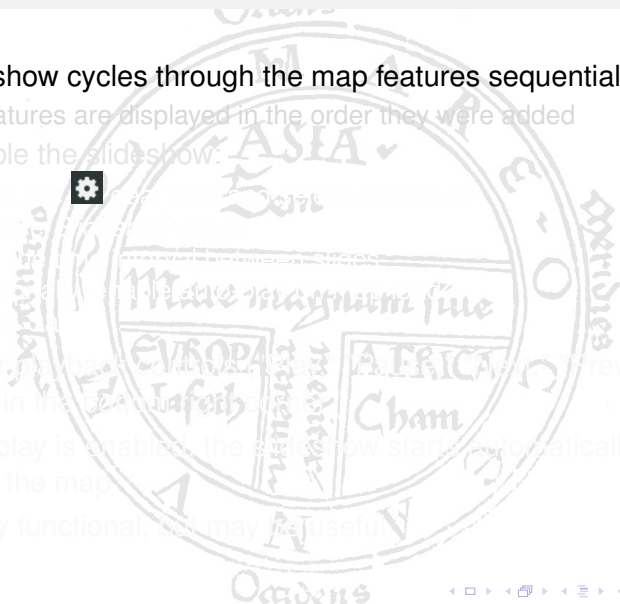


# Creating a Slideshow

- A slideshow cycles through the map features sequentially
  - Features are displayed in the order they were added
- To enable the slideshow:



- Familiar playback controls (Previous, Play/Pause, Next) appear in the bottom right corner
- If auto-play is enabled, the slideshow starts automatically upon loading the map
- Not fully functional, but may be useful



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- Click the gear icon and select Slideshow
- Enable the slideshow mode
- Click the play button to start the slideshow
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- Enable *Slideshow mode*
- Set the time interval between slides
- Opt to enable auto-play or map load
- Click *Save*

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# How to Share, Embed, and Export

To share your map with specific users or anyone

To embed your map in a webpage

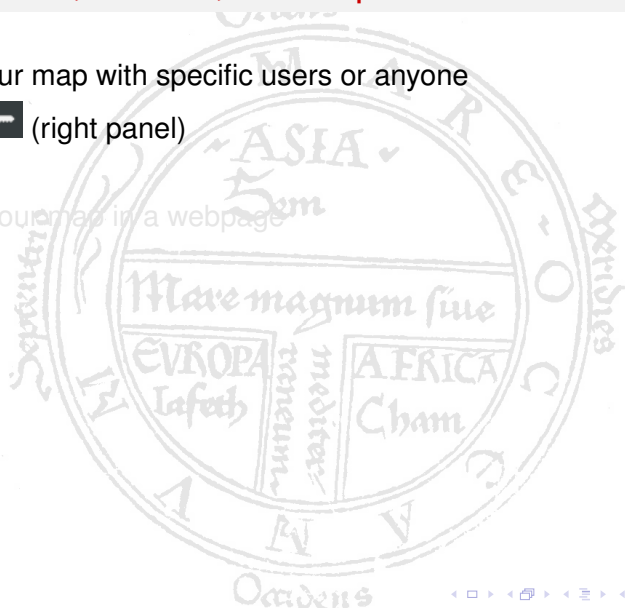


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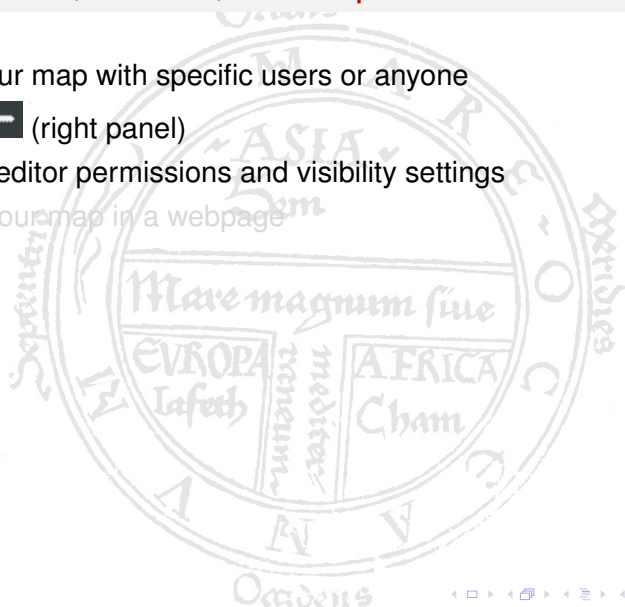


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To share your map with specific users or anyone

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- Adjust editor permissions and visibility settings

To embed your map in a webpage

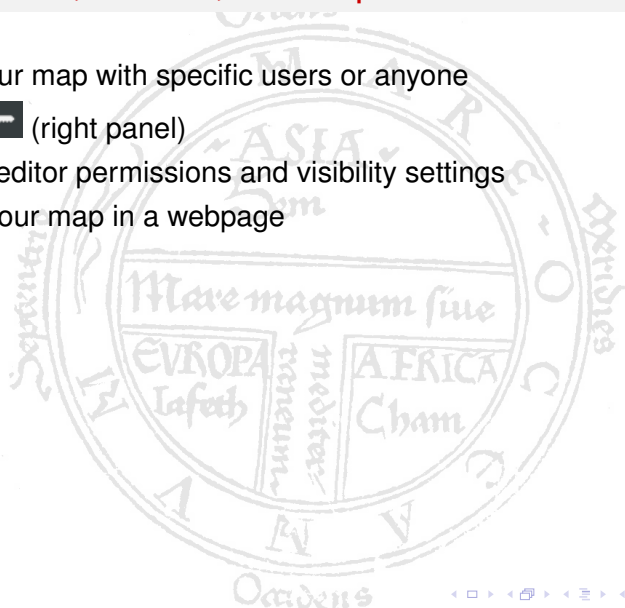


# How to Share, Embed, and Export

To share your map with specific users or anyone

- Click  (right panel)
- Adjust editor permissions and visibility settings

To embed your map in a webpage



# How to Share, Embed, and Export

To share your map with specific users or anyone

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To embed your map in a webpage

- Click  (left panel)




# How to Share, Embed, and Export

To share your map with specific users or anyone


- Click  (right panel)
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To embed your map in a webpage


- Click  (left panel)
- Export features in various formats

# How to Share, Embed, and Export

To share your map with specific users or anyone

- Click  (right panel)
- Adjust editor permissions and visibility settings

To embed your map in a webpage


- Click  (left panel)
- Export features in various formats
  - GeoJSON – JavaScript-compatible format

# How to Share, Embed, and Export

To share your map with specific users or anyone


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To embed your map in a webpage


- Click  (left panel)
- Export features in various formats
  - GeoJSON – JavaScript-compatible format
  - KMZ – Google Maps format

# How to Share, Embed, and Export

To share your map with specific users or anyone

- Click  (right panel)
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To embed your map in a webpage


- Click  (left panel)
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  - GeoJSON – JavaScript-compatible format
  - KMZ – Google Maps format
  - GPX – GPS-compatible format

# How to Share, Embed, and Export

To share your map with specific users or anyone

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- Click  (left panel)
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  - KMZ – Google Maps format
  - GPX – GPS-compatible format
  - CSV – spreadsheet compatible format

# How to Share, Embed, and Export

To share your map with specific users or anyone

- Click  (right panel)
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To embed your map in a webpage


- Click  (left panel)
- Export features in various formats
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  - GPX – GPS-compatible format
  - CSV – spreadsheet compatible format
- Copy the embed code ("iframe" tag) for use in web pages

# How to Share, Embed, and Export

To share your map with specific users or anyone

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To embed your map in a webpage

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  - CSV – spreadsheet compatible format
- Copy the embed code ("iframe" tag) for use in web pages
- Configure a custom URL with query

# Time for a uMap *Challenge!* (Step 1)

## Geolocate Yourself

- Open [https://umap.openstreetmap.fr/it/map/dhss\\_2025\\_610270](https://umap.openstreetmap.fr/it/map/dhss_2025_610270)
- Add a *point* feature at a location you like (e.g., your town, favorite hike, birthplace)
- Enter your nickname in the *Description* field
- Save the point as a *visible* feature
- Warning: the map is public: *avoid personal data*



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# Time for a uMap *Challenge* (Step 2)

## The Map to the Tower

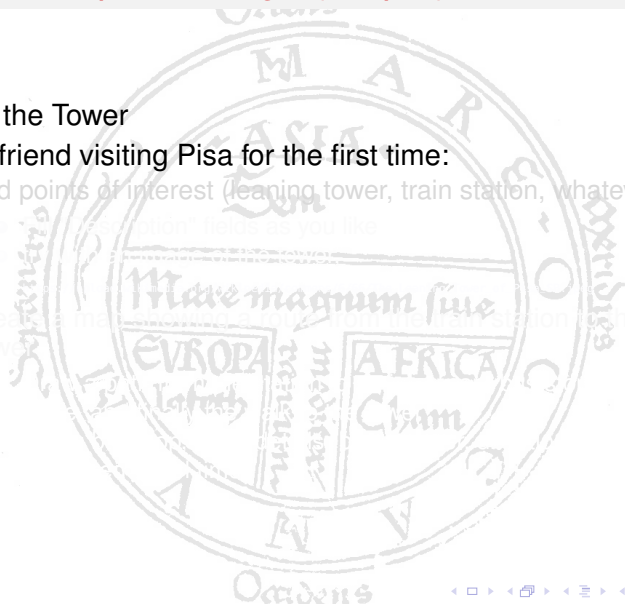
- Help a friend visiting Pisa for the first time:
  - Add points of interest (Leaning tower, train station, whatever...)



# Time for a uMap *Challenge* (Step 2)

## The Map to the Tower

- Help a friend visiting Pisa for the first time:
  - Add points of interest (leaning tower, train station, whatever...)
  - Add "description" fields as you like
  - Create a map showing a route from the train station to the Leaning Tower



# Time for a uMap *Challenge* (Step 2)

## The Map to the Tower

- Help a friend visiting Pisa for the first time:
  - Add points of interest (leaning tower, train station, whatever...)
    - Fill "Description" fields as you like
    - Add with an image of the tower
- Create a map showing a route from the train station to the Leaning Tower



# Time for a uMap *Challenge* (Step 2)

## The Map to the Tower

- Help a friend visiting Pisa for the first time:
  - Add points of interest (leaning tower, train station, whatever...)
    - Fill "Description" fields as you like
    - Try with an image of the tower,  
[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/66/The\\_Leaning\\_Tower\\_of\\_Pisa\\_SB.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/66/The_Leaning_Tower_of_Pisa_SB.jpg)
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- Create a map showing a route from the train station to the Leaning Tower
  - Draw a path from the station to an imaginary bus stop, then the bus route, and finally the walk to the tower.
  - At the bus stop, enter details: bus number, direction, stop name, and estimated travel time

# Time for a uMap *Challenge* (Step 2)

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