

# Where in the World is the Computing Science Division?



An Introduction to Geoguessr

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CSD lunch entertainment

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# What is Geoguessr?

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- You are dropped anywhere on earth on Google Street View. Place a pin on a world map as close as possible to your location

- Created by Anton Wallén in 2013

Free to play until ~2020, now \$2/Month

5 minutes of free play every 15 minutes



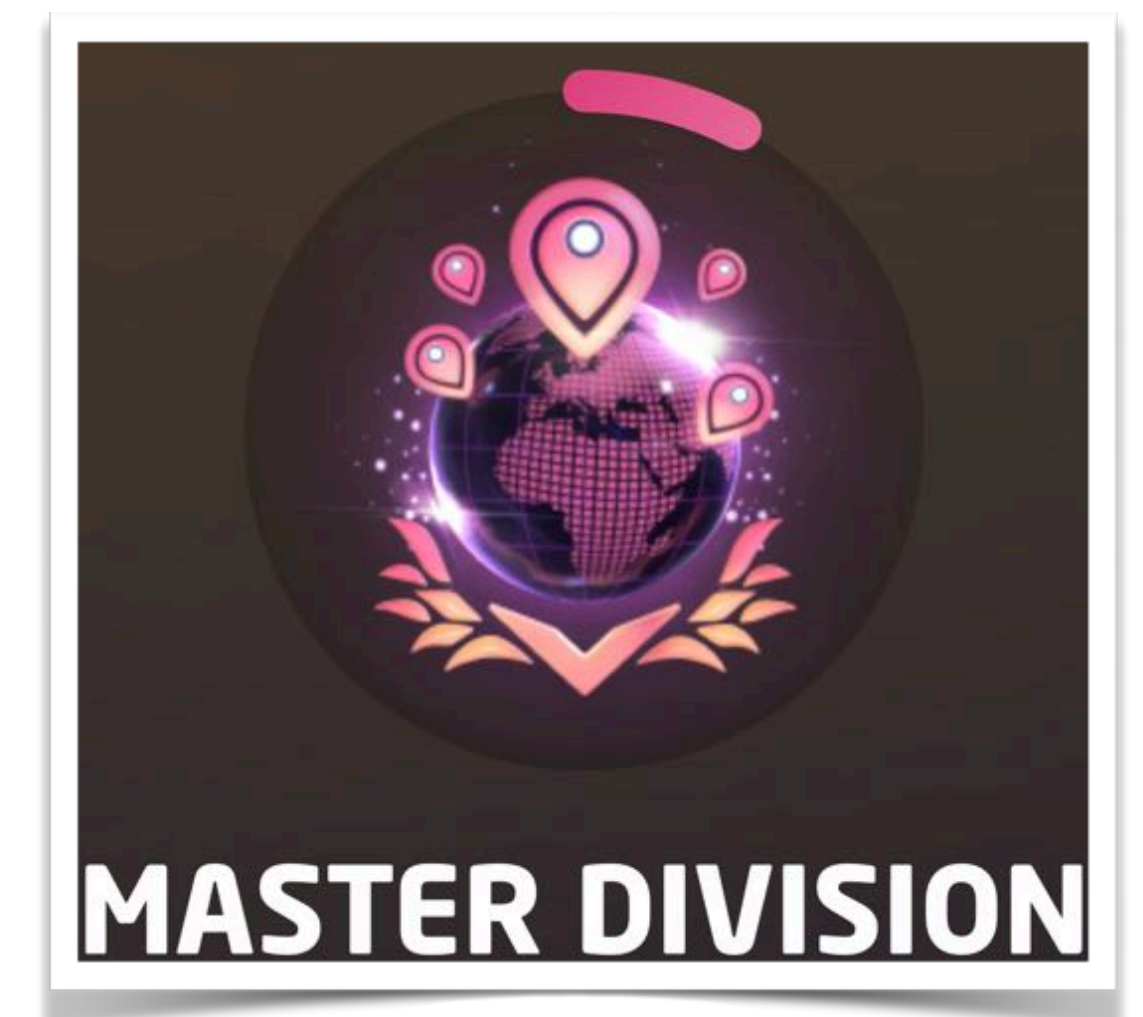
- Multiplayer modes since ~2020

Battle Royal ("Last one standing") getting as close as possible in 60 seconds

Battle Royal getting the right country in 90 seconds

One-on-one getting as close as possible (10 seconds after one person guesses)

- I started playing March this year



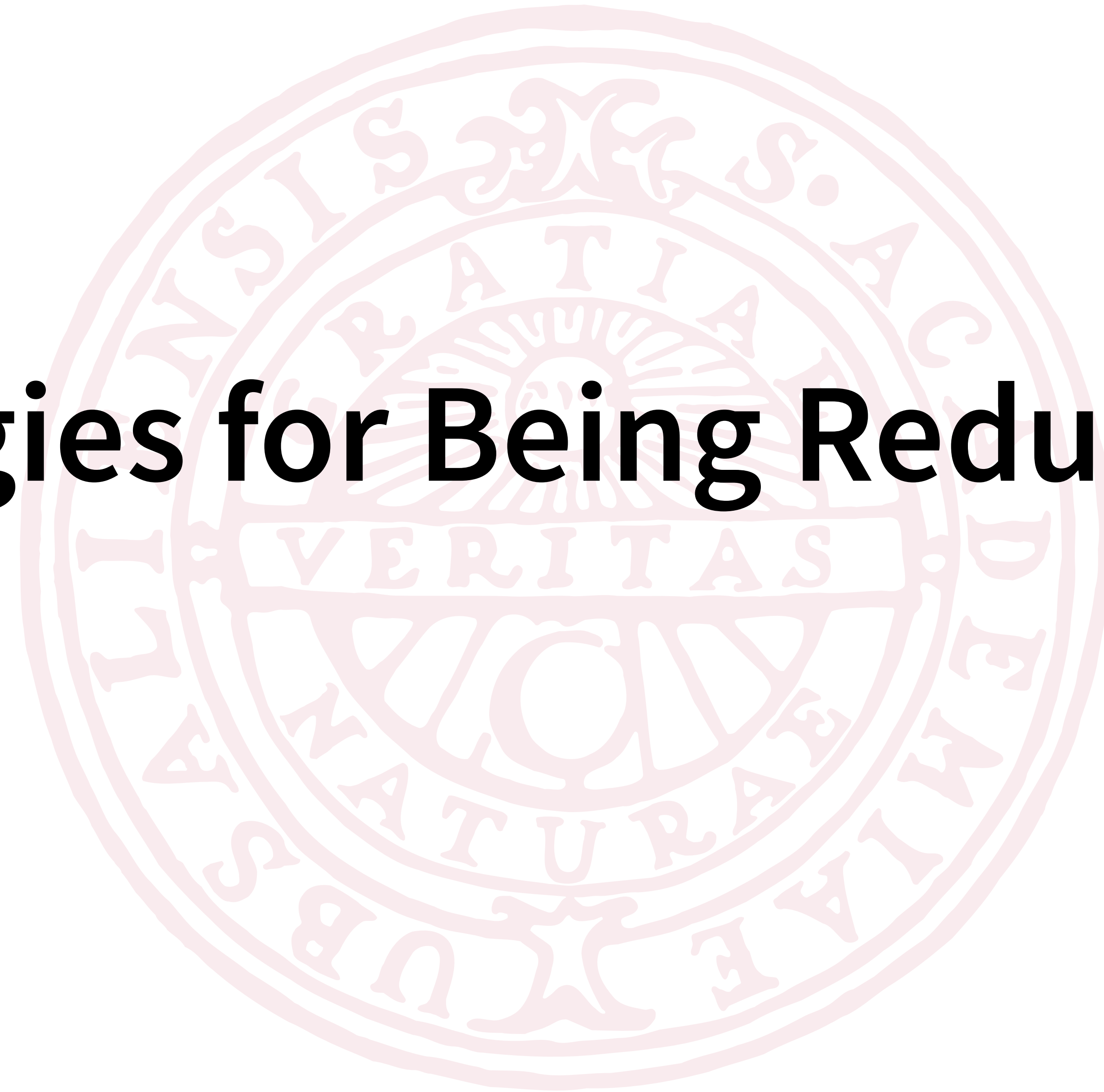


# Where are we?





# Apologies for Being Reductionist





# Countries of the World

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- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Andorra
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Brunei
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo (DRC)
- Congo
- Costa Rica
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Denmark
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Gabon
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- North Korea
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- San Marino
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Sudan, South
- Suriname
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria
- Taiwan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- The Bahamas
- The Gambia
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Vatican City
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe





# Countries of the World With Official Google Streetview Coverage

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- Afghanistan
- **Albania**
- Algeria
- **Andorra**
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- **Argentina**
- Armenia
- **Australia**
- **Austria**
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- **Bangladesh**
- Barbados
- Belarus
- **Belgium**
- Belize
- Benin
- **Bhutan**
- **Bolivia**
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Botswana**
- **Brazil**
- Brunei
- **Bulgaria**
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- **Cambodia**
- Cameroon
- **Canada**
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- **Chile**
- **(China)**
- **Colombia**
- Comoros
- Congo (DRC)
- Congo
- **(Costa Rica)**
- **Croatia**
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- **Czech Republic**
- Côte d'Ivoire
- **Denmark**
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- **Dominican Republic**
- **Ecuador**
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- **Estonia**
- **Eswatini**
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- **Finland**
- **France**
- Gabon
- Georgia
- **Germany**
- **Ghana**
- **Greece**
- Grenada
- **Guatemala**
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- **Hungary**
- **Iceland**
- **(India)**
- **Indonesia**
- Iran
- Iraq
- **Ireland**
- **Israel**
- **Italy**
- Jamaica
- **Japan**
- **Jordan**
- Kazakhstan
- **Kenya**
- Kiribati
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- **Kyrgyzstan**
- **Laos**
- **Latvia**
- Lebanon
- **Lesotho**
- Liberia
- Libya
- Liechtenstein
- **Lithuania**
- **Luxembourg**
- **Madagascar**
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- Micronesia
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- Monaco
- **Mongolia**
- **Montenegro**
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- **Netherlands**
- **New Zealand**
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- **Nigeria**
- North Korea
- **North Macedonia**
- **Norway**
- Oman
- **(Pakistan)**
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- **Peru**
- **Philippines**
- **Poland**
- **Portugal**
- Qatar
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- Sao Tome and Principe
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- **Senegal**
- **Serbia**
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- **Singapore**
- **Slovakia**
- **Slovenia**
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- **South Africa**
- **South Korea**
- **Spain**
- **Sri Lanka**
- Sudan
- Sudan, South
- Suriname
- **Sweden**
- **Switzerland**
- Syria
- **Taiwan**
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- **Thailand**
- The Bahamas
- The Gambia
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- **Tunisia**
- **Turkey**
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- **Uganda**
- **Ukraine**
- **United Arab Emirates**
- **United Kingdom**
- **United States**
- **Uruguay**
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- Vanuatu
- Vatican City
- Venezuela
- **(Vietnam)**
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

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- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Chile
- (China)
- Colombia
- (Costa Rica)
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Estonia
- Eswatini
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Hungary
- Iceland
- (India)
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lesotho
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Madagascar
- Malaysia
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- (Pakistan)
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Uruguay
- (Vietnam)

**Puerto Rico, American Samoa,  
Midway Island, Greenland,  
Faroe Islands, Bermuda...**



# Strategies

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- Nature, Sun, Directions
- Flags, Language, Top-Domains
- Traffic and roads
- Bollards, Utility poles, Street signs
- Meta



# Nature, Sun, Directions

- North or south hemisphere?





# Nature, Sun, Directions

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- Does it seem dry or humid?
- Is it flat or hilly?
- What kind of vegetation is around?
- Are there big bodies of water? In which direction?





# Flags

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Belgium



Slovenia



Romania



Indonesia



Poland



Latvia



Belarus?



# How do you say "street"?

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- Rue **French**
- Rua **Portuguese**
- Calle **Spanish**
- Ulica **Polish, Serbo-Croatian, Slovak, Slovene**
- Utca **Hungarian**
- Vej **Danish**
- Vei **Norwegian**
- Tie **Finnish**
- Tee **Estonian**

- Bosnia and Herzegovina? **?**





# Top-domains

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- .ec **Ecuador**
- .uy **Uruguay**
- .my **Malaysia**
- .sk **Slovakia**
- .lv **Latvia**
- .tn **Tunisia**
- Philippines ? **.ph**





# Traffic and Roads

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# Bollards, Utility Poles





# Street Signs





# Meta (the secret strategies)

- Anything related to **how** and **when** the footage was captured

What vehicle carried the camera?

What generation of camera captured the footage?

Where (and from when) is footage available?

Is there a follow vehicle?

Artefacts and anomalies in the footage itself

- Dangerous to rely on, since updates to Google St





# Getting the Right General Area

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- **Europe**

EU-plates



- **Africa**

Dark-skinned majority

- **North America**

Yellow center lines on highways

- **Central and South America**

Spanish and Portuguese (looks non-European)

- **The Caribbean**

Like South America, but lower buildings

- **West Asia**

Arabic and Hebrew, lots of desert

- **Central Asia**

Indo-Aryan languages (rarely India)

- **East Asia**

Different writing systems

ส บาย ดี ไหม  
สะ บาย ดี ข้ม

- **Oceania**

Like North America but drives on the left



# Europe

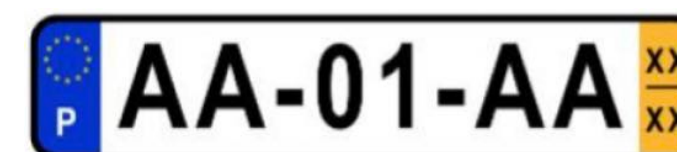
- Albania
- Andorra
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- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary



**Letters ř and ě**

**“Blurmany”**

- Iceland
- L** • Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- L** • Malta
- Montenegro
- Netherlands
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania



- Russia
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- L** • United Kingdom



**Greenland, Faroe Islands  
Isle of Man**



# Africa

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- Botswana
- Eswatini
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Nigeria
- Senegal French
- South Africa
- Tunisia Arabic
- Uganda

English and African languages

## South of the equator

- Botswana
- Eswatini
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- South Africa

## Left-hand traffic

- Botswana
- Eswatini
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Uganda
- South Africa

## Special meta-mentions

- Ghana Black tape on the roof rack
- Kenya Snorkel-like rear-view mirror
- Madagascar Trekker coverage only
- Nigeria Visible roof rack (no black tape)
- Senegal "Tears" in the sky
- Uganda Visible rear-view mirrors



# Central and South America, Caribbean



- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brazil **Portuguese (look for ã)**
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic **Visible roof rack**
- Ecuador
- Guatemala
- Mexico
- Peru
- Uruguay





# North America

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- Canada



- USA





# West and Central Asia

- Israel/Palestine **Hebrew/Arabic**
- Jordan **English/Arabic**
- United Arab Emirates **Mostly Arabic**  
**Watch out for Tunisia!**



- Bangladesh **বাংলা ভাষা**
- Bhutan
- (India)
- Kyrgyzstan
- Mongolia
- (Pakistan)
- Sri Lanka

**සිංහල**





# East Asia

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- Cambodia
- L • (China)
- L • Indonesia
- L • Japan **Meta: low camera**
- Laos
- L • Malaysia
- Philippines **Filipino, English, Some Spanish**
- L • Singapore
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- L • Thailand
- L • (Vietnam)





# Oceania

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- American Samoa **Meta: red pickup truck**

- L • Australia

- Guam **American signage**

- L • New Zealand

- Northern Mariana Islands  
**American signage**







# How to Learn?

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- YouTube

GeoWizard

Rainbolt

GeoPeter

- <https://geotips.net>

Tips per country: language, roads, signs, bollards, phone numbers to different regions...

- <https://geohints.com>

Tips per category: bollards, utility poles, road lines, camera generations...

- **Learn by doing!**

**These slides at**  
**[eliasc.github.io/geoguessr.pdf](https://eliasc.github.io/geoguessr.pdf)**





# It's time to play!

These slides at  
[eliasc.github.io/geoguessr.pdf](https://eliasc.github.io/geoguessr.pdf)