

”By the banana tree” Write-up

June 5, 2025

1 Problem description

I saw a church in the distance while travelling. Can you tell me where it is? The flag consists of latitude and longitude coordinates of the location where the photo was taken, rounded to three decimal places, and the name of the church in the distance in lowercase (according to Google Maps, omitting any potential spaces, punctuation, and diacritics). Regarding flag format, consider this example for Notre Dame de Paris:

grey{N48-853_E2-349_notredamecathedralofparis}



Provided image: bythebananatree.png

2 Solution

2.1 Distinguishable items

2.1.1 Bollard

The most important distinguishable item in the image, immediately, is the blue rock bollard. These types of markings are usually found on national roads or well circulated roads everywhere in the world.



The markings indicate that this bollard represents road ĐT.317G somewhere in Vietnam, since the letter Đ is a specific character that is found in the Vietnamese alphabet.

2.1.2 Church

The second most important distinguishable item in the image is the church itself, which is the biggest and most distinguishable landmark that can be seen. It appears to be a Catholic church located in a rural or semi-rural area, somewhere in Southeast Asia with a Gothic-style architecture.



2.2 Online research

2.2.1 Google search

After running this Google search, "**vietnam road DT.317G**", we get the following article that talks about bans of motor vehicles in specific areas of Vietnam, where we can find this excerpt:

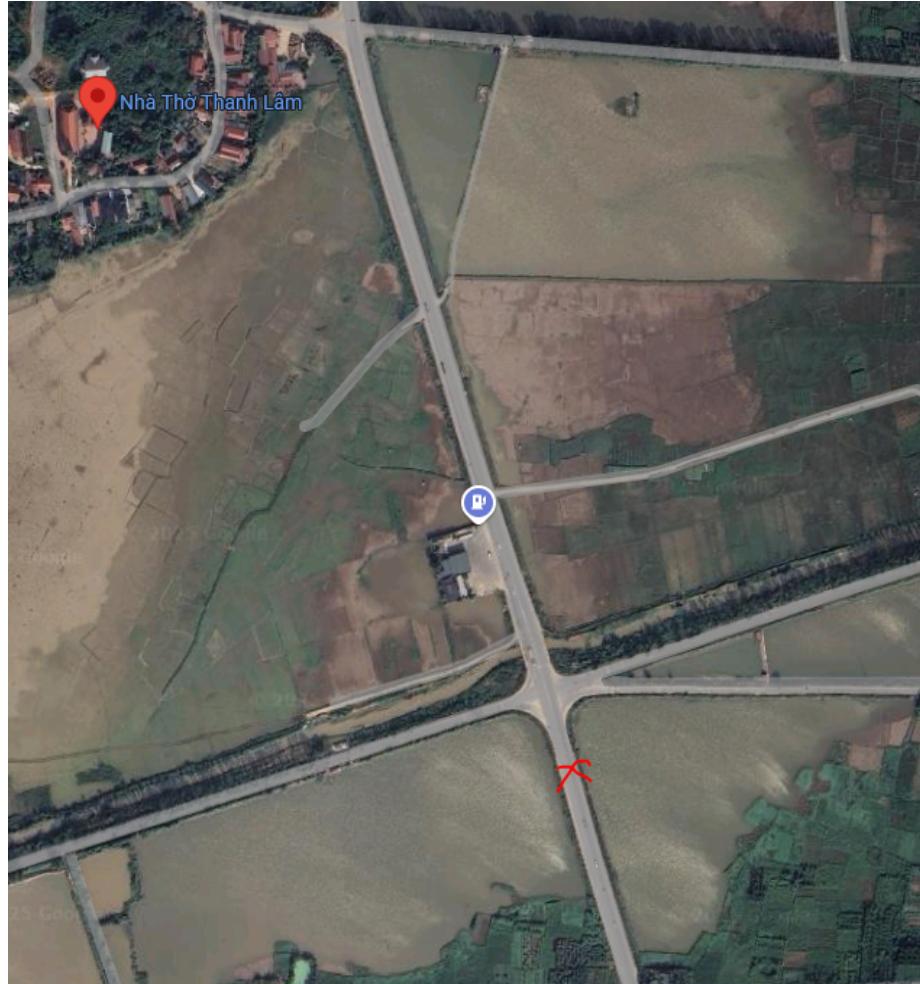
- c) For vehicles from Tam Nong, Thanh Thuy, Thanh Son, Tan Son districts to Hanoi (and vice versa), travel according to the following plan:
 - Direction 1: Go to Km69+00 QL.32 (Dan Quyen commune, Tam Nong district) turn right onto **DT.317G continue to Km17+400 DT.317G (Dong Trung commune, Thanh Thuy district)** turn left onto DT.317E go over Dong Quang bridge to Ba Vi district, Hanoi city and vice versa.
 - Second direction: In addition, vehicles traveling from Hanoi to Phu Tho province and vice versa can follow the Noi Bai - Lao Cai expressway or National Highway 2.

2.2.2 Google Maps

After putting into Google Maps Dong Trung commune, Thanh Thuy district, something very interesting can be seen. Very close to the location given by Maps, we can see the church with the name **Nhà thờ Phù Lao**, which is identical to the church in the images, but, if cross-referenced with the original

image, we can see that the church is too close to the residential area of the village and too far away from the mountains.

The actual final church is the church with the name **Nhà Thờ Thanh Lâm**, which is a little further up the road, where the environment fits the original image perfectly. The red X is the location from which the image was taken.



Coordinates: (21.153037121991744, 105.27449219014595)

3 Final flag

The final flag then is: [grey{N21-153_E105-274_nhathothanhlam}](#)