Fetching Reviews using the Google Places API

Overview

This notebook demonstrates how to fetch reviews for Points of Interest (POIs) using the **Google Places API**. Specifically, it showcases how to search for places using **Place IDs**, retrieve their details (including reviews), and handle the data.

Requirements

1. **Google API Key**: A valid API key with access to **Google Places API**
2. **Place ID**: A unique identifier for a place, typically retrieved through **TextSearch** or **Nearby Search**.

Request Parameters

The following parameters are used in the API request to fetch **Place Details**:

- `place_id` : Unique identifier for the place (e.g., **ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y**).
- `fields` : Specifies which fields to include in the response. For fetching reviews, we use `name` , `rating` , and `reviews` .
- `key` : **Google API Key**.

Example:

API Request:

```
curl -X GET 'https://places.googleapis.com/v1/places/
ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y' \
-H 'Content-Type: application/json' \
-H 'X-Goog-Api-Key: YOUR_GOOGLE_API_KEY' \
-H 'X-Goog-FieldMask: name,rating,reviews'
```

API Response:

```
In [1]: {
  "name": "places/ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y",
  "rating": 4.1,
  "reviews": [
    {
      "name": "places/ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y/reviews/ChZDSUhNMG9nS0V
      "relativePublishTimeDescription": "a year ago",
      "rating": 4,
      "text": {
        "text": "Excellent service, although my lack of Portuguese. The o
        "languageCode": "en"
```

```json
      },
      "originalText": {
        "text": "Excellent service, although my lack of Portuguese. The o
        "languageCode": "en"
      },
      "authorAttribution": {
        "displayName": "David Raviv",
        "uri": "https://www.google.com/maps/contrib/105476334313911234889
        "photoUri": "https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/a-/ALV-UjU0Dt603lH
      },
      "publishTime": "2024-06-01T07:06:37.378574Z",
      "flagContentUri": "https://www.google.com/local/review/rap/report?p
      "googleMapsUri": "https://www.google.com/maps/reviews/data=!4m6!14m
    },
    {
      "name": "places/ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y/reviews/ChZDSUhNMG9nS0V
      "relativePublishTimeDescription": "2 years ago",
      "rating": 5,
      "text": {
        "text": "If you want Chinese food make sure you see Chinese peopl
        "languageCode": "en"
      },
      "originalText": {
        "text": "If you want Chinese food make sure you see Chinese peopl
        "languageCode": "en"
      },
      "authorAttribution": {
        "displayName": "A I",
        "uri": "https://www.google.com/maps/contrib/115269823780153470021
        "photoUri": "https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/a-/ALV-UjWAKyn87-7
      },
      "publishTime": "2023-05-02T10:35:26.286503Z",
      "flagContentUri": "https://www.google.com/local/review/rap/report?p
      "googleMapsUri": "https://www.google.com/maps/reviews/data=!4m6!14m
    },
    {
      "name": "places/ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y/reviews/Ci9DQUlRQUNvZEN
      "relativePublishTimeDescription": "4 months ago",
      "rating": 5,
      "text": {
        "text": "Excellent! The best Chinese in Aveiro. The staff are sup
        "languageCode": "en"
      },
      "originalText": {
        "text": "Excellent! The best Chinese in Aveiro. The staff are sup
        "languageCode": "en"
      },
      "authorAttribution": {
        "displayName": "Nicole V",
        "uri": "https://www.google.com/maps/contrib/101396357819126084898
        "photoUri": "https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/a-/ALV-UjXH1BbvM9z
      },
      "publishTime": "2025-07-04T05:43:30.339106679Z",
      "flagContentUri": "https://www.google.com/local/review/rap/report?p
      "googleMapsUri": "https://www.google.com/maps/reviews/data=!4m6!14m
    },
    {
      "name": "places/ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y/reviews/ChZDSUhNMG9nS0V
      "relativePublishTimeDescription": "4 years ago",
      "rating": 5,
```

```json
        "text": {
          "text": "Very very delectable! Very good service. The staff was v
          "languageCode": "en"
        },
        "originalText": {
          "text": "Very very delectable! Very good service. The staff was v
          "languageCode": "en"
        },
        "authorAttribution": {
          "displayName": "Fei Lan",
          "uri": "https://www.google.com/maps/contrib/106146405857441651342
          "photoUri": "https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/a/ACg8ocJz59syJF_B
        },
        "publishTime": "2021-10-28T00:21:47.593523Z",
        "flagContentUri": "https://www.google.com/local/review/rap/report?p
        "googleMapsUri": "https://www.google.com/maps/reviews/data=!4m6!14m
      },
      {
        "name": "places/ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y/reviews/ChdDSUhNMG9nS0V
        "relativePublishTimeDescription": "4 years ago",
        "rating": 5,
        "text": {
          "text": "The best Chinese restaurant in Aveiro. The service is fa
          "languageCode": "en"
        },
        "originalText": {
          "text": "The best Chinese restaurant in Aveiro. The service is fa
          "languageCode": "en"
        },
        "authorAttribution": {
          "displayName": "Diogo Alves",
          "uri": "https://www.google.com/maps/contrib/107995482982310735888
          "photoUri": "https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/a-/ALV-UjXNbbQuBjx
        },
        "publishTime": "2021-10-01T22:56:11.698039Z",
        "flagContentUri": "https://www.google.com/local/review/rap/report?p
        "googleMapsUri": "https://www.google.com/maps/reviews/data=!4m6!14m
      }
    ]
}
```

Out[1]: {'name': 'places/ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y',
 'rating': 4.1,
 'reviews': [{'name': 'places/ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y/reviews/ChZDSU
hNMG9nS0VJQ0FnSUN6eXMyb053EAE',
     'relativePublishTimeDescription': 'a year ago',
     'rating': 4,
     'text': {'text': "Excellent service, although my lack of Portuguese.
The owner did her best to serve me with a vegan dish based on tofu, alth
ough not on the menu.\nIt's a big place, the prices are reasonable..",
       'languageCode': 'en'},
     'originalText': {'text': "Excellent service, although my lack of Port
uguese. The owner did her best to serve me with a vegan dish based on to
fu, although not on the menu.\nIt's a big place, the prices are reasonab
le..",
       'languageCode': 'en'},
     'authorAttribution': {'displayName': 'David Raviv',
       'uri': 'https://www.google.com/maps/contrib/105476334313911234889/re
views',
       'photoUri': 'https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/a-/ALV-UjU0Dt603lHUeY
Pta6AYLwFcH83c43tipF0XeCjyQxy4LmDyIv4cPg=s128-c0x00000000-cc-rp-mo-ba
5'},
     'publishTime': '2024-06-01T07:06:37.378574Z',
     'flagContentUri': 'https://www.google.com/local/review/rap/report?pos
tId=ChZDSUhNMG9nS0VJQ0FnSUN6eXMyb053EAE&d=17924085&t=1',
     'googleMapsUri': 'https://www.google.com/maps/reviews/data=!4m6!14m5!
1m4!2m3!1sChZDSUhNMG9nS0VJQ0FnSUN6eXMyb053EAE!2m1!1s0xd23a2a5e1105745:0x
662fcda3462a968d'},
   {'name': 'places/ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y/reviews/ChZDSUhNMG9nS0VJQ
0FnSURTLXQ2eE13EAE',
     'relativePublishTimeDescription': '2 years ago',
     'rating': 5,
     'text': {'text': 'If you want Chinese food make sure you see Chinese
people actually eating in that restaurant. I always get the picante soup
(sour spicy soup) and the Peking duck and it's always delish! Officially
the best Asian restaurant in Averio. They have some off the menu items
(beef spicy noodle) & this spicy dish (on the Chinese menu) that comes w
ith pork, beef, or fish and I have to say it's the best thing they make
there! I forgot I was in Portugal for a bit. And order the Chinese bread
(steamed not fried!) for your little one and it'll be a big hit!',
       'languageCode': 'en'},
     'originalText': {'text': 'If you want Chinese food make sure you see
Chinese people actually eating in that restaurant. I always get the pica
nte soup (sour spicy soup) and the Peking duck and it's always delish! O
fficially the best Asian restaurant in Averio. They have some off the me
nu items (beef spicy noodle) & this spicy dish (on the Chinese menu) tha
t comes with pork, beef, or fish and I have to say it's the best thing t
hey make there! I forgot I was in Portugal for a bit. And order the Chin
ese bread (steamed not fried!) for your little one and it'll be a big hi
t!',
       'languageCode': 'en'},
     'authorAttribution': {'displayName': 'A I',
       'uri': 'https://www.google.com/maps/contrib/115269823780153470021/re
views',
       'photoUri': 'https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/a-/ALV-UjWAKyn87-79Mv
8MMt9gvtt5azQSNGw_685-cKIFomKCPpek-Qk=s128-c0x00000000-cc-rp-mo-ba5'},
     'publishTime': '2023-05-02T10:35:26.286503Z',
     'flagContentUri': 'https://www.google.com/local/review/rap/report?pos
tId=ChZDSUhNMG9nS0VJQ0FnSURTLXQ2eE13EAE&d=17924085&t=1',
     'googleMapsUri': 'https://www.google.com/maps/reviews/data=!4m6!14m5!
1m4!2m3!1sChZDSUhNMG9nS0VJQ0FnSURTLXQ2eE13EAE!2m1!1s0xd23a2a5e1105745:0x

662fcda3462a968d'},
  {'name': 'places/ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y/reviews/Ci9DQUlRQUNvZENod
HljRjlvT2pWTFYyWlFjMWhPVEZoMU1UY3dMVVJVT0hORk5XYxAB',
    'relativePublishTimeDescription': '4 months ago',
    'rating': 5,
    'text': {'text': 'Excellent! The best Chinese in Aveiro. The staff ar
e super friendly with kids and you cannot beat their lunch menu during t
he week.',
      'languageCode': 'en'},
    'originalText': {'text': 'Excellent! The best Chinese in Aveiro. The
staff are super friendly with kids and you cannot beat their lunch menu
during the week.',
      'languageCode': 'en'},
    'authorAttribution': {'displayName': 'Nicole V',
      'uri': 'https://www.google.com/maps/contrib/101396357819126084898/re
views',
      'photoUri': 'https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/a-/ALV-UjXH1BbvM9zO-1
yiOpy5f73D7OBh4QUmmKmwglNydVWrd0Gtyp7w=s128-c0x00000000-cc-rp-mo-ba4'},
    'publishTime': '2025-07-04T05:43:30.339106679Z',
    'flagContentUri': 'https://www.google.com/local/review/rap/report?pos
tId=Ci9DQUlRQUNvZENodHljRjlvT2pWTFYyWlFjMWhPVEZoMU1UY3dMVVJVT0hORk5XYxAB
&d=17924085&t=1',
    'googleMapsUri': 'https://www.google.com/maps/reviews/data=!4m6!14m5!
1m4!2m3!1sCi9DQUlRQUNvZENodHljRjlvT2pWTFYyWlFjMWhPVEZoMU1UY3dMVVJVT0hORk
5XYxAB!2m1!1s0xd23a2a5e1105745:0x662fcda3462a968d'},
  {'name': 'places/ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y/reviews/ChZDSUhNMG9nS0VJQ
0FnSUNHcG9QWUF3EAE',
    'relativePublishTimeDescription': '4 years ago',
    'rating': 5,
    'text': {'text': 'Very very delectable! Very good service. The staff
was very kind and accommodating. Cozy atmosphere.',
      'languageCode': 'en'},
    'originalText': {'text': 'Very very delectable! Very good service. Th
e staff was very kind and accommodating. Cozy atmosphere.',
      'languageCode': 'en'},
    'authorAttribution': {'displayName': 'Fei Lan',
      'uri': 'https://www.google.com/maps/contrib/106146405857441651342/re
views',
      'photoUri': 'https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/a/ACg8ocJz59syJF_B4SO
e-285SaDDm8yr7UYB5F1dn7beIdLc0K9lCA=s128-c0x00000000-cc-rp-mo-ba4'},
    'publishTime': '2021-10-28T00:21:47.593523Z',
    'flagContentUri': 'https://www.google.com/local/review/rap/report?pos
tId=ChZDSUhNMG9nS0VJQ0FnSUNHcG9QWUF3EAE&d=17924085&t=1',
    'googleMapsUri': 'https://www.google.com/maps/reviews/data=!4m6!14m5!
1m4!2m3!1sChZDSUhNMG9nS0VJQ0FnSUNHcG9QWUF3EAE!2m1!1s0xd23a2a5e1105745:0x
662fcda3462a968d'},
  {'name': 'places/ChIJRVcQ4aWiIw0RjZYqRqPNL2Y/reviews/ChdDSUhNMG9nS0VJQ
0FnSUQ2b2VXYWxnRRAB',
    'relativePublishTimeDescription': '4 years ago',
    'rating': 5,
    'text': {'text': 'The best Chinese restaurant in Aveiro. The service
is fast and the staff is very heartwarming and nice.\nThe food is very g
ood.\nChoose the wine wisely tho, we had a bottle not ok, but the staff
changed it immediately with no added costs and apologized. Crowdy but no
t full and not expensive. Less than 20€ per person eating and drinking w
ell.',
      'languageCode': 'en'},
    'originalText': {'text': 'The best Chinese restaurant in Aveiro. The
service is fast and the staff is very heartwarming and nice.\nThe food i
s very good.\nChoose the wine wisely tho, we had a bottle not ok, but th

```
e staff changed it immediately with no added costs and apologized. Crowd
y but not full and not expensive. Less than 20€ per person eating and dr
inking well.',
    'languageCode': 'en'},
  'authorAttribution': {'displayName': 'Diogo Alves',
    'uri': 'https://www.google.com/maps/contrib/107995482982310735888/re
views',
    'photoUri': 'https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/a-/ALV-UjXNbbQuBjxfAx
feAG9G52uzVIY0RrcWYizKCfbCcqYEgrxgtK1SaQ=s128-c0x00000000-cc-rp-mo-ba
5'},
  'publishTime': '2021-10-01T22:56:11.698039Z',
  'flagContentUri': 'https://www.google.com/local/review/rap/report?pos
tId=ChdDSUhNMG9nS0VJQ0FnSUQ2b2VXYWxnRRAB&d=17924085&t=1',
  'googleMapsUri': 'https://www.google.com/maps/reviews/data=!4m6!14m5!
1m4!2m3!1sChdDSUhNMG9nS0VJQ0FnSUQ2b2VXYWxnRRAB!2m1!1s0xd23a2a5e1105745:0
x662fcda3462a968d'}]}
```

The response contains the place's name, rating, and reviews, which will include:

- `publishTime` : The time when the review was made
- `rating` : The reviewer's rating (1-5)
- `text` : The content of the review

Python example: fetch Place Details and load reviews into a DataFrame

The following cells show how to call the Place Details endpoint from Python and convert the returned reviews into a DataFrame for downstream analysis.

```
In [2]:  import os, time, json
         import requests
         import pandas as pd

         GOOGLE_API_KEY = os.getenv('GOOGLE_API_KEY', 'AIzaSyAwme_k4xStLv2_bLFAckn
         DRY_RUN = False  # set False to perform a real HTTP request
         SLEEP_BETWEEN_REQUESTS = 0.3

         def fetch_place_details_python(place_id: str) -> dict:
             """Fetch place details (name, rating, reviews) for a given place_id."
             # DRY_RUN: returns a small mocked payload matching the API shape for
             if DRY_RUN:
                 mock = {
                     'name': f'places/{place_id}',
                     'rating': 4.2,
                     'reviews': [
                         {
                             'publishTime': '2025-07-04T05:43:30Z',
                             'rating': 5,
                             'text': {'text': 'Excellent! The best place.' , 'lang
                             'originalText': {'text': 'Excellent! The best place.'
                             'authorAttribution': {'displayName': 'Test User'},
                             'googleMapsUri': f'https://maps.google.com/?cid={plac
                         }
                     ]
                 }
                 return mock
```

```python
    url = f'https://places.googleapis.com/v1/places/{place_id}'
    params = {'key': GOOGLE_API_KEY}
    headers = {'X-Goog-FieldMask': 'name,rating,reviews'}
    r = requests.get(url, params=params, headers=headers, timeout=20)
    time.sleep(SLEEP_BETWEEN_REQUESTS)
    r.raise_for_status()
    data = r.json()
    if isinstance(data, dict) and 'place' in data:
        return data['place']
    return data

place_id_example = 'ChIJK9obTqqiIw0RhVRHSWeXC9c'
details = fetch_place_details_python(place_id_example)
print(json.dumps(details, indent=2)[:2000])
```

```
{
  "name": "places/ChIJK9obTqqiIw0RhVRHSWeXC9c",
  "rating": 4.6,
  "reviews": [
    {
      "name": "places/ChIJK9obTqqiIw0RhVRHSWeXC9c/reviews/Ci9DQUlRQUNvZENo
dHljRjlvT2xKWmVuUkdWVXhKWVdkKbE1uVkJTblZQTlhOdVlrRRAB",
      "relativePublishTimeDescription": "2 months ago",
      "rating": 4,
      "text": {
        "text": "Nice university facilities. I was there as a participant
in ICC 2025 (International Camp on Communication and Computers), which thi
s year took place in Aveiro, Portugal.\nIn my opinion, the level of access
ibility was average. Still, the buildings are beautiful.\nThe dormitory ro
oms were very basic, and unfortunately, there were ants inside. They also
have shared restrooms, which may not feel particularly safe if you are a w
oman. You need a card to enter and exit the building, which at least provi
des security against external risks.\nThe distances are huge, and in winte
r it probably gets very windy here. If you don\u2019t want to walk a lot,
make sure to get a bicycle, otherwise, good luck with all the exercise you
\u2019ll need to do!",
        "languageCode": "en"
      },
      "originalText": {
        "text": "Nice university facilities. I was there as a participant
in ICC 2025 (International Camp on Communication and Computers), which thi
s year took place in Aveiro, Portugal.\nIn my opinion, the level of access
ibility was average. Still, the buildings are beautiful.\nThe dormitory ro
oms were very basic, and unfortunately, there were ants inside. They also
have shared restrooms, which may not feel particularly safe if you are a w
oman. You need a card to enter and exit the building, which at least provi
des security against external risks.\nThe distances are huge, and in winte
r it probably gets very windy here. If you don\u2019t want to walk a lot,
make sure to get a bicycle, otherwise, good luck with all the exercise you
\u2019ll need to do!",
        "languageCode": "en"
      },
      "authorAttribution": {
        "displayName": "Christina Sar
```

In [3]:
```python
def reviews_to_dataframe(details: dict) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Convert the 'reviews' list from place details into a pandas DataFr
    reviews = details.get('reviews') or details.get('review') or []
    rows = []
```

```python
        for rv in reviews:
            author = None
            aa = rv.get('authorAttribution') or rv.get('author_attribution')
            if isinstance(aa, dict):
                author = aa.get('displayName') or aa.get('authorName') or aa.
            if not author:
                author = rv.get('author_name') or rv.get('name')

            text = None
            t = rv.get('text') or rv.get('originalText')
            if isinstance(t, dict):
                text = t.get('text') or (t.get('localized') and t.get('locali
            elif isinstance(t, str):
                text = t

            publish = rv.get('publishTime') or rv.get('time')
            rating = rv.get('rating')
            lang = None
            if isinstance(t, dict):
                lang = t.get('languageCode') or (t.get('localized') and t.get

            rows.append({
                'author': author,
                'rating': rating,
                'text': text,
                'publishTime': publish,
                'language': lang,
                'googleMapsUri': rv.get('googleMapsUri') or rv.get('google_ma
            })

    df = pd.DataFrame(rows)
    if 'publishTime' in df.columns:
        df['publishTime'] = pd.to_datetime(df['publishTime'], errors='coe
    return df

details = fetch_place_details_python('ChIJK9obTqqiIw0RhVRHSWeXC9c')
df_reviews = reviews_to_dataframe(details)
print(f'Found {len(df_reviews)} reviews (DRY_RUN={DRY_RUN})')
df_reviews.head()
```

Found 5 reviews (DRY_RUN=False)

Out[3]:

	author	rating	text	publishTime	language	googleMaps
0	Christina Sarri	4	Nice university facilities. I was there as a p...	2025-08-24 17:00:30.704453931+00:00	en	http www.google.c maps/revie data=!4m
1	Farooque Janjhi	5	The University of Aveiro is a remarkable insti...	2024-10-13 21:21:21.930357+00:00	en	http www.google.c maps/revie data=!4m
2	Rita	5	It is a big university. They have many buildin...	2021-06-21 16:57:33.416064+00:00	en	http www.google.c maps/revie data=!4m
3	BENAMRANE Mohammed	5	It is the University of Aveiro. A wonderful u...	2022-02-12 11:39:36.587568+00:00	en	http www.google.c maps/revie data=!4m
4	Luís Mendes	5	University of excellence with buildings design...	2022-04-17 09:48:39.934371+00:00	en	http www.google.c maps/revie data=!4m