

Extracting Coordinates: How to Convert KML Files to Excel

You can geocode your data (i.e., finding latitude and longitude) in Google Earth Pro. Given some geographic data (e.g., streets, cities, states) in an Excel spreadsheet, Google Earth Pro will find automatically for you the latitude and longitude of your geographic information.

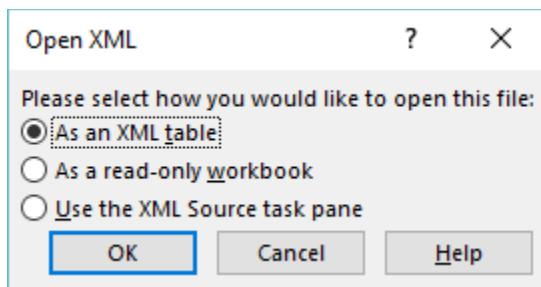
No latitude and longitude, no mapping!

Google Earth Pro will compute latitude and longitude and insert them into the output KML file (Keyhole Markup Language). Unfortunately, Google Earth Pro has no way of exporting latitude and longitude to an Excel file, in case you need them for other GIS programs. There is a way you can do this by reading a KML file into Excel.

The process is relatively simple – just follow this guide (partially sourced from <http://www.landviser.net/content/extracting-geographical-lat-long-data-google-earth-kml-kmz-files-excel>).

Step 1. First, **you will have to convert the KML file to an XML file**. This can easily be done by simply renaming the file with a .xml extension rather than a .kml extension; as KML is essentially XML, this will not change the contents of the file at all.

Step 2. Now, open Excel and open your XML file. You will be presented with this window:

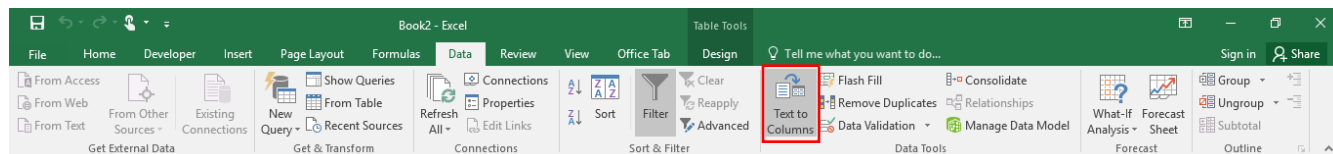


Choose the first option (“As an XML table”) and hit OK. Keep hitting OK for subsequent messages.

You’ll end up with a table something like this, depending on how your KML file was set up:

1	id	ns1:color	ns1:name	ns1:b	ns1:br	ns1:styleUrl	ns1:coordinates
2	redlabel	ff0000aa	Ceasar Sheffield	Victim: Ceasar Sheffield		#redlabel	-83.187687,30.684696,0
3	redlabel	ff0000aa	Ceasar Sheffield	Victim: Ceasar Sheffield		#redlabel	-83.187687,30.684696,0
4	redlabel	ff0000aa	Ceasar Sheffield	Victim: Ceasar Sheffield		#redlabel	-83.187687,30.684696,0
5	redlabel	ff0000aa	Ceasar Sheffield	Victim: Ceasar Sheffield		#redlabel	-83.187687,30.684696,0
6	redlabel	ff0000aa	Ceasar Sheffield	Victim: Ceasar Sheffield		#redlabel	-83.187687,30.684696,0
7	redlabel	ff0000aa	Ceasar Sheffield	Victim: Ceasar Sheffield		#redlabel	-83.187687,30.684696,0
8	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: Ed Dodson			-83.560537,30.784582
9	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: Ed Dodson			-83.560537,30.784582
10	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: Ed Dodson			-83.560537,30.784582
11	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: Ed Dodson			-83.560537,30.784582
12	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: Ed Dodson			-83.560537,30.784582
13	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: Ed Dodson			-83.560537,30.784582
14	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: Tom Miller			-83.560537,30.784582
15	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: Tom Miller			-83.560537,30.784582
16	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: Tom Miller			-83.560537,30.784582
17	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: Tom Miller			-83.560537,30.784582
18	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: Tom Miller			-83.560537,30.784582
19	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: Tom Miller			-83.560537,30.784582
20	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: William Kirkland			-83.978781,30.839422
21	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: William Kirkland			-83.978781,30.839422
22	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: William Kirkland			-83.978781,30.839422
23	redlabel	ff0000aa		Victim: William Kirkland			-83.978781,30.839422

Notice that latitude and longitude are in the same column, separated by comma. If you wish to split them, you can do so easily by highlighting the coordinates column, then going to the Data tab and clicking Text to Columns (highlighted in red below):



As the data is delimited (separated by columns), choose the delimited option:

Convert Text to Columns Wizard - Step 1 of 3

The Text Wizard has determined that your data is Delimited.
If this is correct, choose Next, or choose the data type that best describes your data.

Original data type

Choose the file type that best describes your data:

☒ Delimited - Characters such as commas or tabs separate each field.

☐ Fixed width - Fields are aligned in columns with spaces between each field.

Preview of selected data:

1	ns1:coordinates
2	-83.187687,30.684696,0
3	-83.187687,30.684696,0
4	-83.187687,30.684696,0
5	-83.187687,30.684696,0

Cancel < Back Next > Finish

Hit next and select “Comma”:

Convert Text to Columns Wizard - Step 2 of 3

This screen lets you set the delimiters your data contains. You can see how your text is affected in the preview below.

Delimiters

☐ Tab

☐ Semicolon

☒ Comma

☐ Space

☐ Other:

☐ Treat consecutive delimiters as one

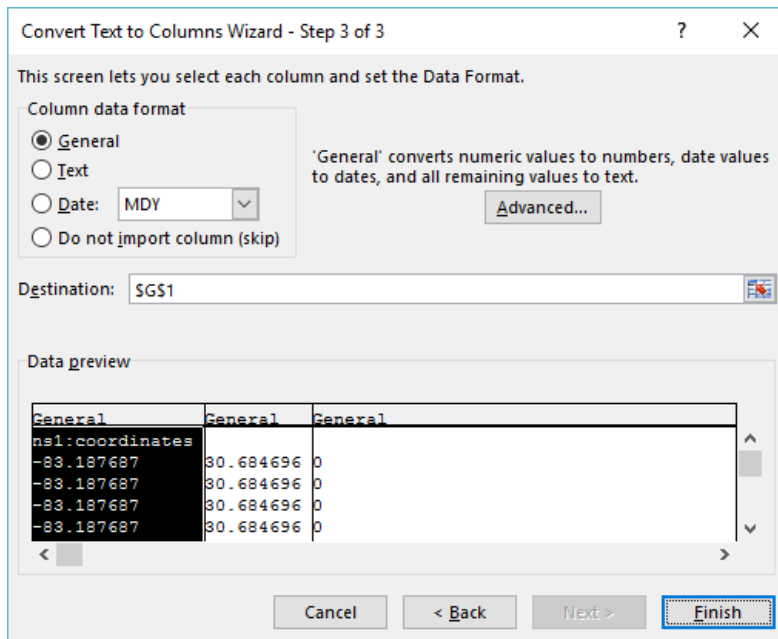
Text qualifier: "

Data preview

ns1:coordinates		
-83.187687	30.684696	0
-83.187687	30.684696	0
-83.187687	30.684696	0
-83.187687	30.684696	0

Cancel < Back Next > Finish

Hit next. You can leave the data type as “General”:



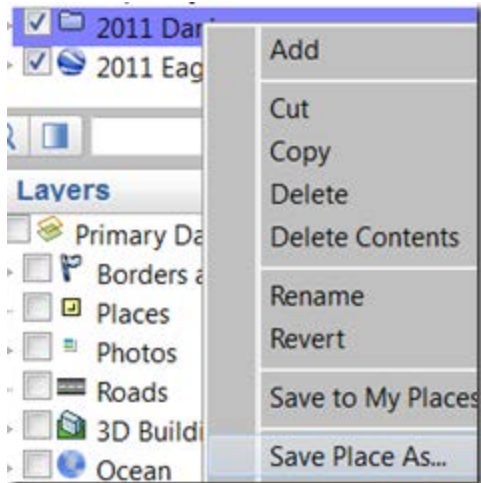
You should now have 2 columns, which you can rename appropriately. In the Western hemisphere, longitude is negative.

Longitude	Latitude
-83.187687	30.684696
-83.187687	30.684696
-83.187687	30.684696
-83.187687	30.684696
-83.187687	30.684696
-83.187687	30.684696
-83.560537	30.784582
-83.560537	30.784582
-83.560537	30.784582
-83.560537	30.784582
-83.560537	30.784582
-83.560537	30.784582
-83.560537	30.784582

Converting KMZ file to KML

The procedure described above will not work on KMZ files directly. KMZ files are compressed, and their data cannot be accessed directly; you will first need to convert them to KML.

To convert KMZ to KML you will need Google Earth installed. Bring KMZ to the map, right click on the layer you want to convert and select "Save Place As"



and “Save as KML” from drop down list. This will generally blow up the file size about 3 times. To bring those Coordinates to Excel, follow the instructions above for KML file.