

MANUAL PHOTOPLACE

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What is Photoplace?

Photoplace is a software developed to allow the georeferentation of pictures from gpx files. This software allows to generate Google Earth products (routes with pictures, additional information, etc), being a tool that let the user to publish graphic georeferenced information. It has been developed for linux and windows OS, and it requires the Google Earth 6 version for a right visualization.

What can be done with Photoplace?

1. Georeference of pictures

If a GPS route (.gpx) and the pictures have been recorded and taken simultaneously, Photoplace lets the georeference of the pictures adding in their Exif the information about the spatial coordinates where the pictures were taken. The software uses the time and date information of the both type of files (.jpg and .gpx) to synchronize pictures and routes. Due to this reason, it is very important to have synchronized the time and the dates of the digital camera and the GPS (although the time use does not necessary have to be the same).

To make the georeference, the next steps must be followed (Fig. 1):

- Select the folder where the pictures have been saved (icon "Select input photo directory").
- Select the .gpx file (icon "Input GPX file").
- Define the possible differences in time caused by time uses in the tab "Time zone of photos".
- Let's go!!

Once the pictures have been georeferenced, they can be georeferenced again (in case of committing any mistake or having a more accuracy gpx file), by selecting "overwrite" in the main tab.

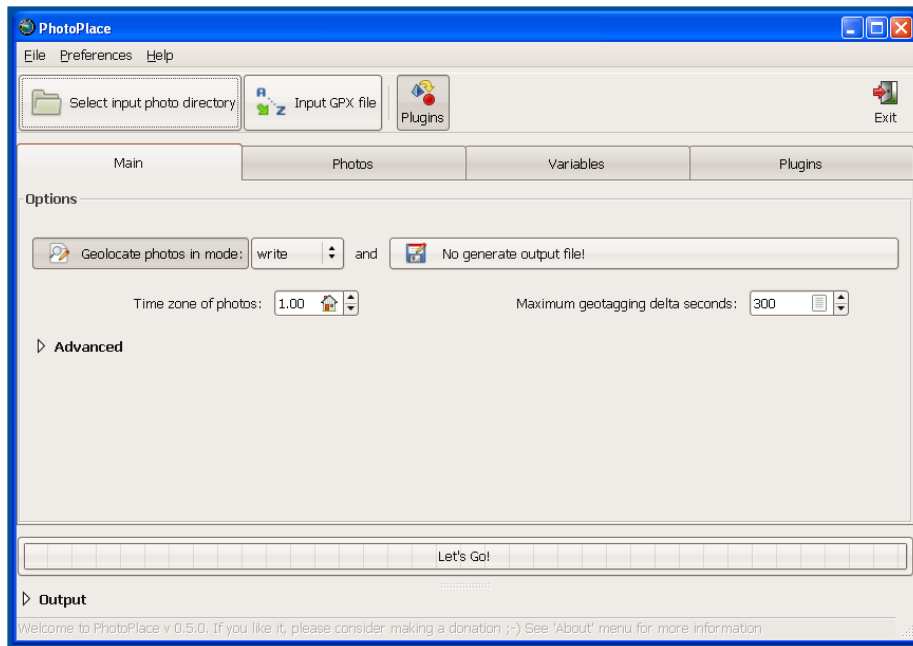


Figure 1: Programa Photoplace. Pestaña principal.

2. Create a kmz file for Google Earth

Photoplace allows not only to georeference pictures but also to generate kmz files where the pictures are properly georeferenced with the information added by the user (title, description, etc).

To generate those files, and once the folder of pictures and the gpx file have been loaded, the option "Generate a file" (Fig.2) must be matched in the main tab, defining the name of the file that will be created. Furthermore, in the option "Advanced" (in the main tab), let define the type of compression and the size that the pictures will show in the resulting kmz (Fig.3).

Then click in "Let's go" to generate the file with all the pictures that were in the selected folder. To make a selection of the pictures to show in the kmz file and/or add information to each one of the image, click in the tab "Photos" (Fig. 4). This tab shows a list of every picture and lets their activation or deactivation (left button at the left of every picture), and lets the addition of information in every picture. The fields that appear by default are "Título" and "Descripción", but in the tab "Variables" it is possible to add new fields if it is considered necessary.

The button "Simulate geotagging" let the user to assign to each picture the corresponding coordinates according to the GPX file. This tool shows the coordinates close to every picture (Fig. 4) but it does not write the Exif file. To do this, it necessary to click in "Let's go".

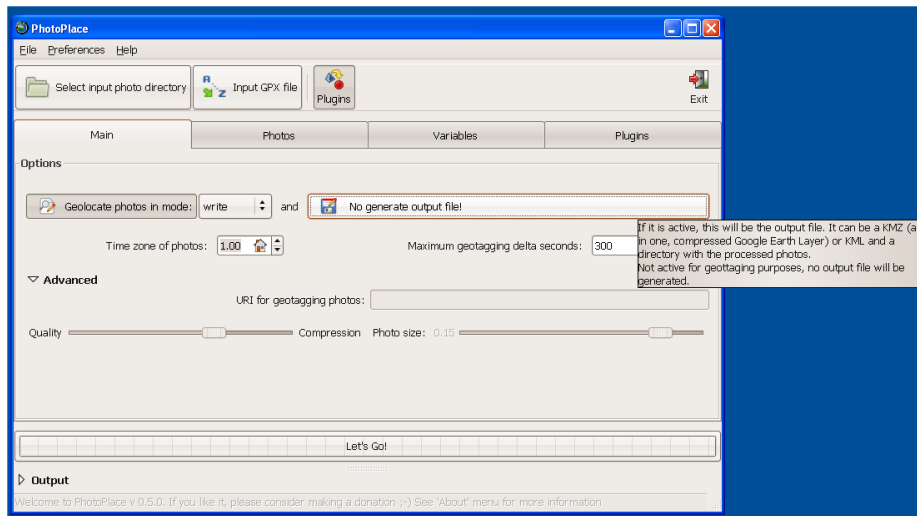


Figure 2: Generar un archivo .kmz

3. Customization of the kmz and plugings

.kmz files customization

Photoplace let the users to customize the generated kmz file editing the main parameters of the file and the fields that will be added in every picture. The tab "Variables" shows the variables that can be added to the kmz file as metadata. In this tab it is possible to add new variables if the user pretends to show more information about the file (Fig.5).

Furthermore, the user can add new fields to each picture (adding to the field "Título" and "Descripción") by editing the themplate "PhotoDescription.xhtml" (Fig. 6). The "Recover" option let the user to return to the default template.

Plugings

Photoplace includes two plugings: Paths and Tour. The first one addsto the kms files a line that show the path defined in the file gpx (the user can select the colour and the thickness of the line, Fig. 7) . The second plugging let the user to generate a route that goes along each stop (usually pictures). It is possible to add audio files and texts at the beggining and at the end of the route (Fig. 8).

The button "Plugings" activates and deactivated all the plugings running on the software. To activate or deactivate just one of the, use the menu "Preferences / Plugings".

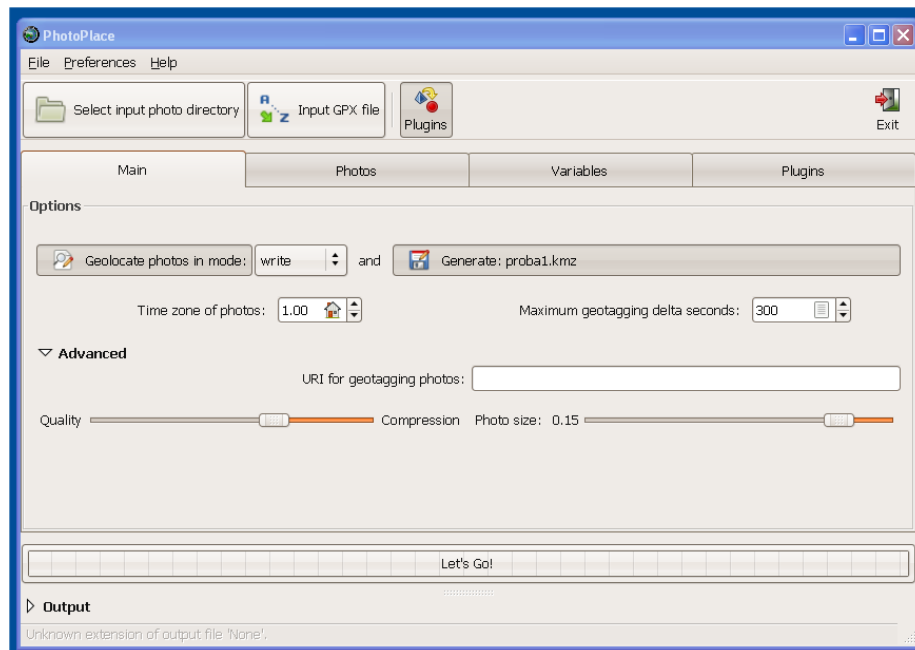


Figure 3: Menú Advanced

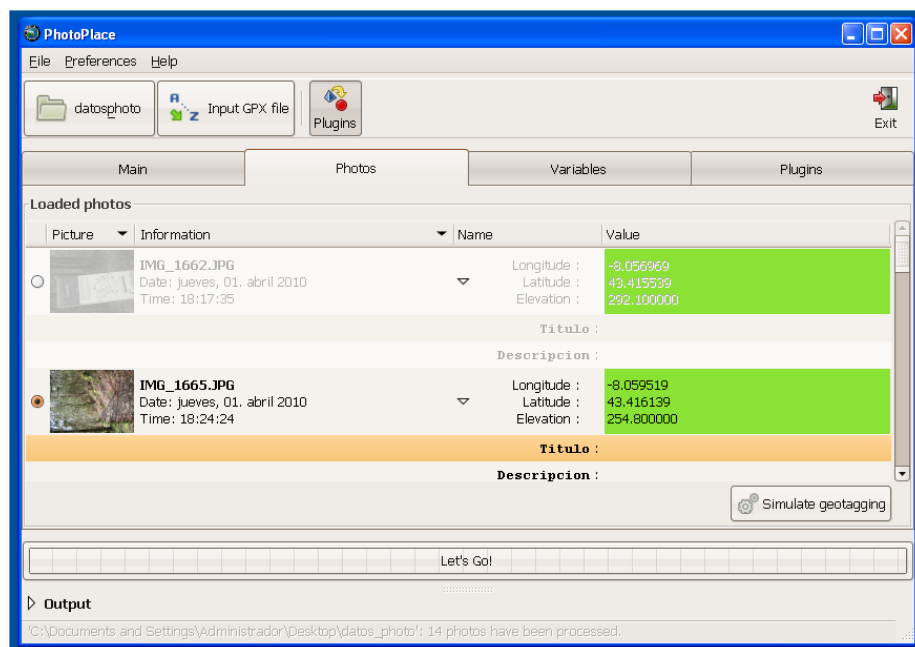


Figure 4: Pestaña Fotos

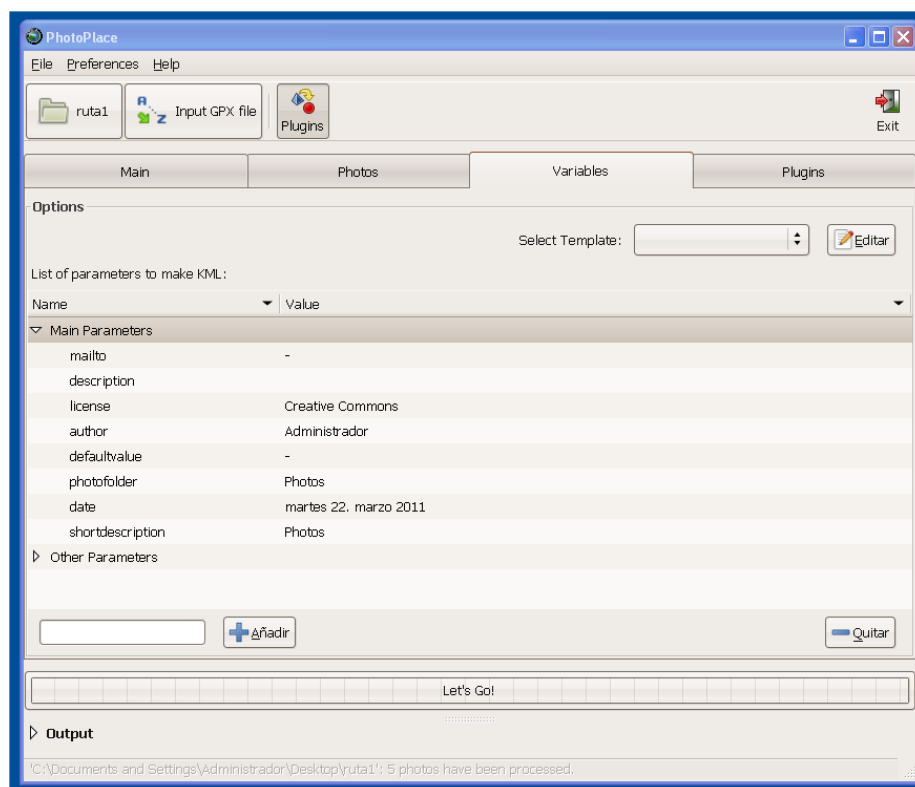


Figure 5: Pestaña Variables

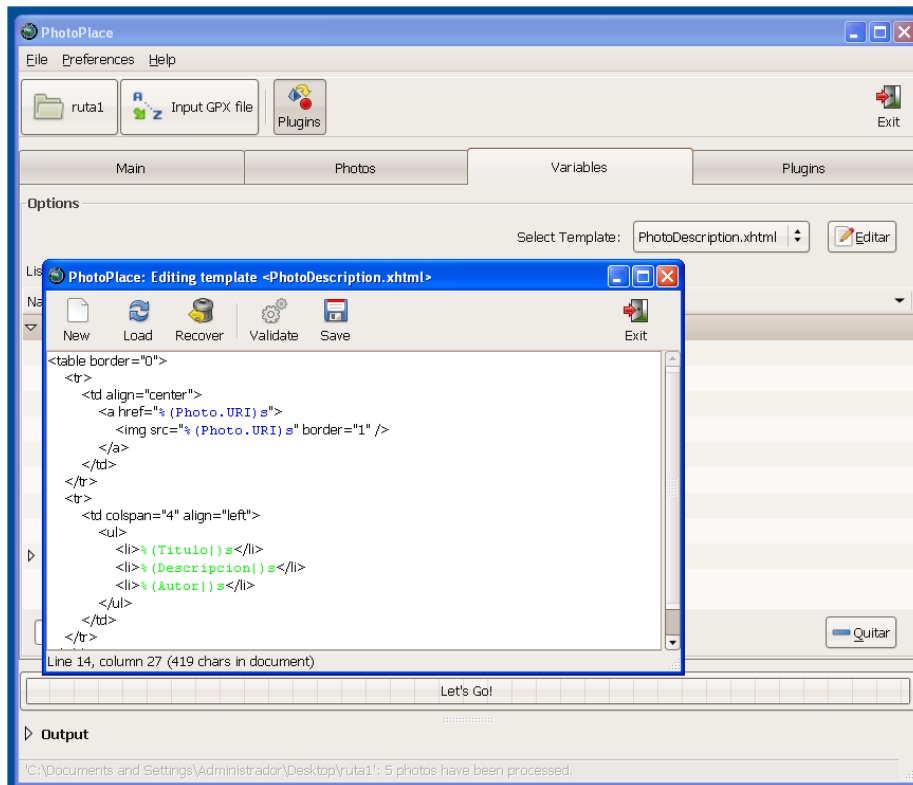


Figure 6: Editor Plantilla

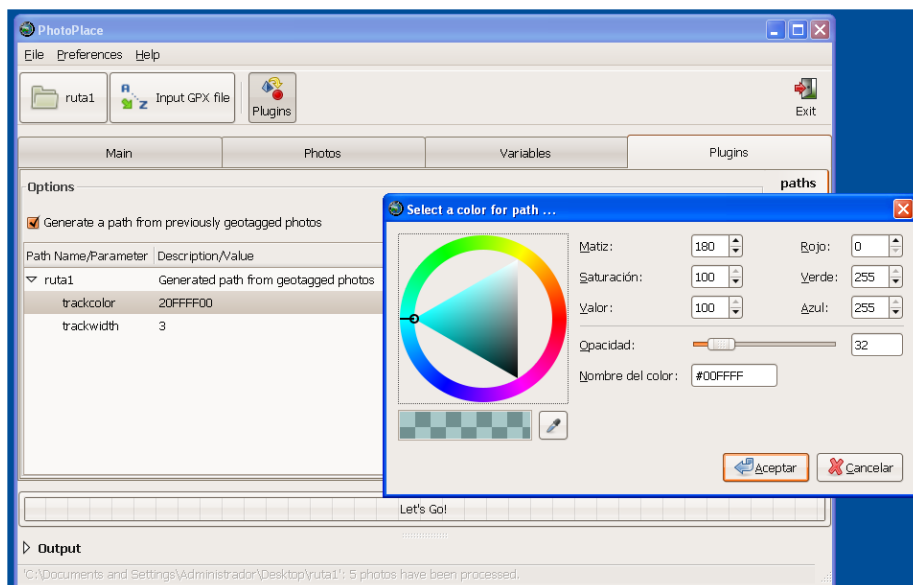


Figure 7: Plugging Camino

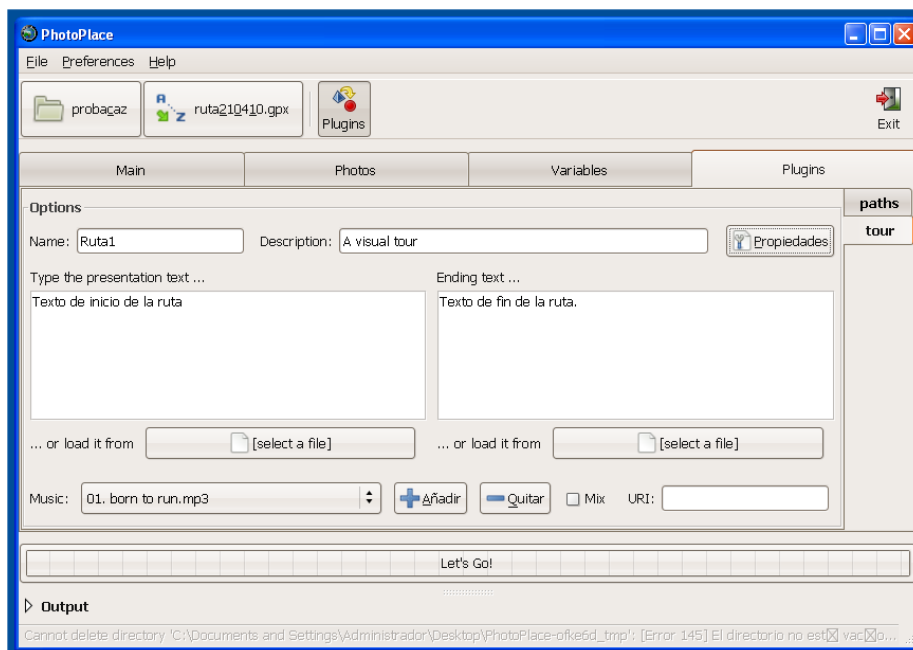


Figure 8: Plugging Ruta