



city iso2 iso3 admin_name admin_code capital population density

World Cities Database

We're proud to offer a simple, accurate and up-to-date database of the world's cities and towns. We've built it from the ground up using authoritative sources such as the NGIA, US Geological Survey, US Census Bureau, and NASA.



Our database is:

- ☒ **Up-to-date:** It was last refreshed in July 2021.
- ☒ **Comprehensive:** Over 4 million unique cities and towns from every country in the world.
- ☒ **Accurate:** Cleaned and aggregated from official sources. Includes latitude and longitude coordinates.
- ☒ **Simple:** A single CSV file, concise field names, only one entry per city.

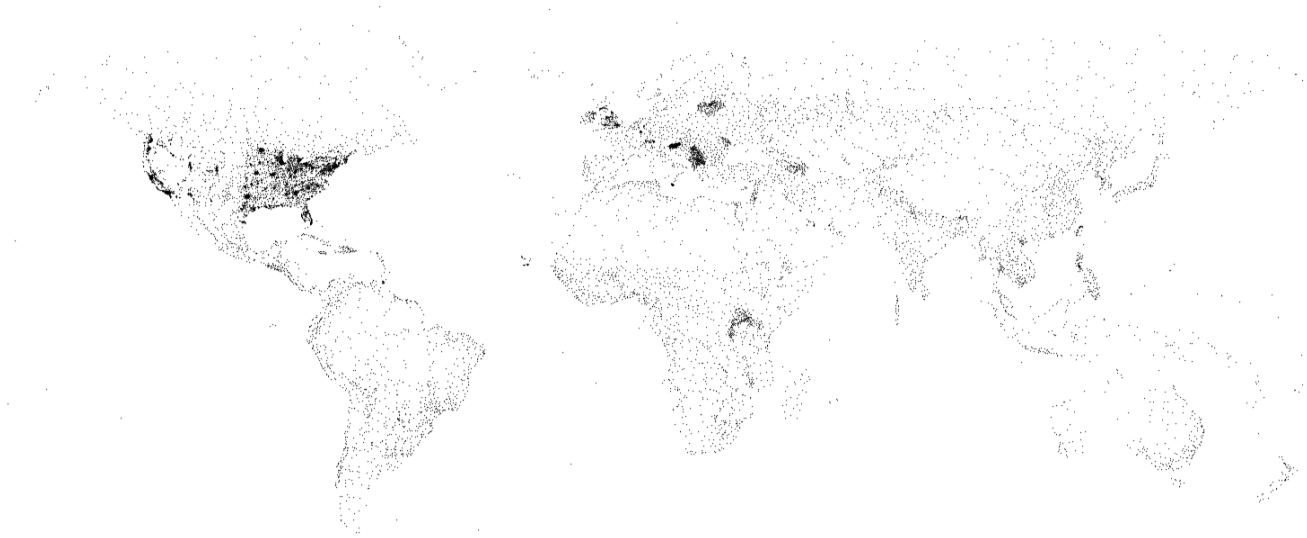
Databases

	Basic	Pro
Commercial use	Allowed	Allowed
File format	CSV, Excel	CSV, SQL (too large for Excel)
Type of cities	Prominent cities (large, capitals etc.)	Most cities and towns
Number of entries	About 41 thousand	About 1.7 million
Future updates	Not guaranteed	Included for 12 months
Data last updated	2021	2021
Attribution	Required	Not required
License	Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)	Permissive, no redistribution
Refund policy	N/A	30-day guarantee
One-time fee	Free	\$199

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Visual Comparison

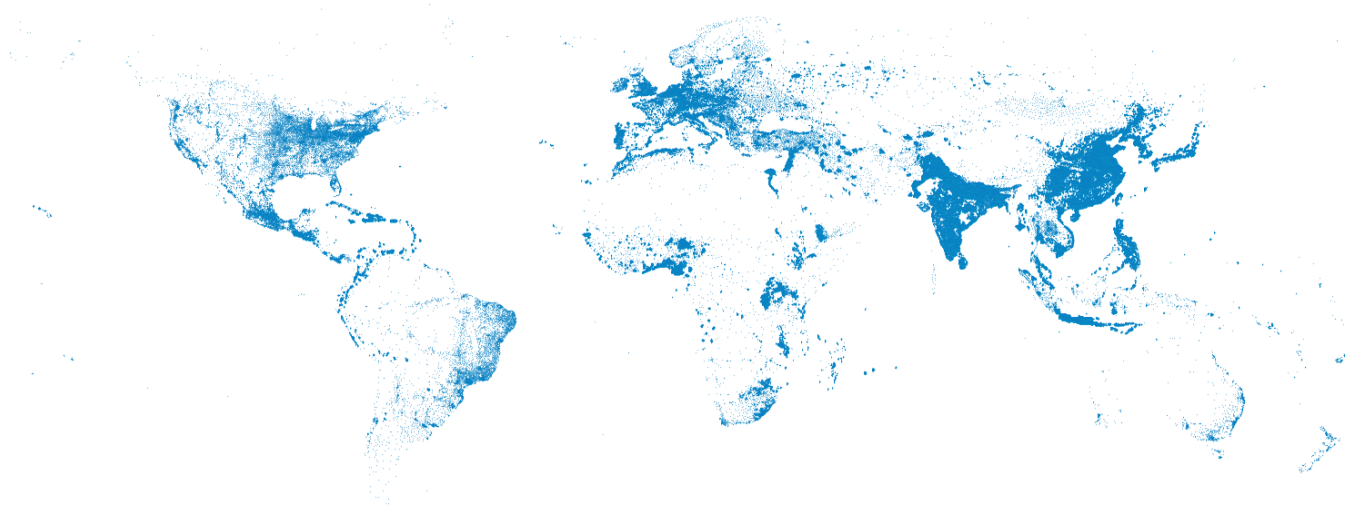
Basic Database
~41 thousand places



(/static/img/data/world-cities/viz/basic.png)

Pro Database

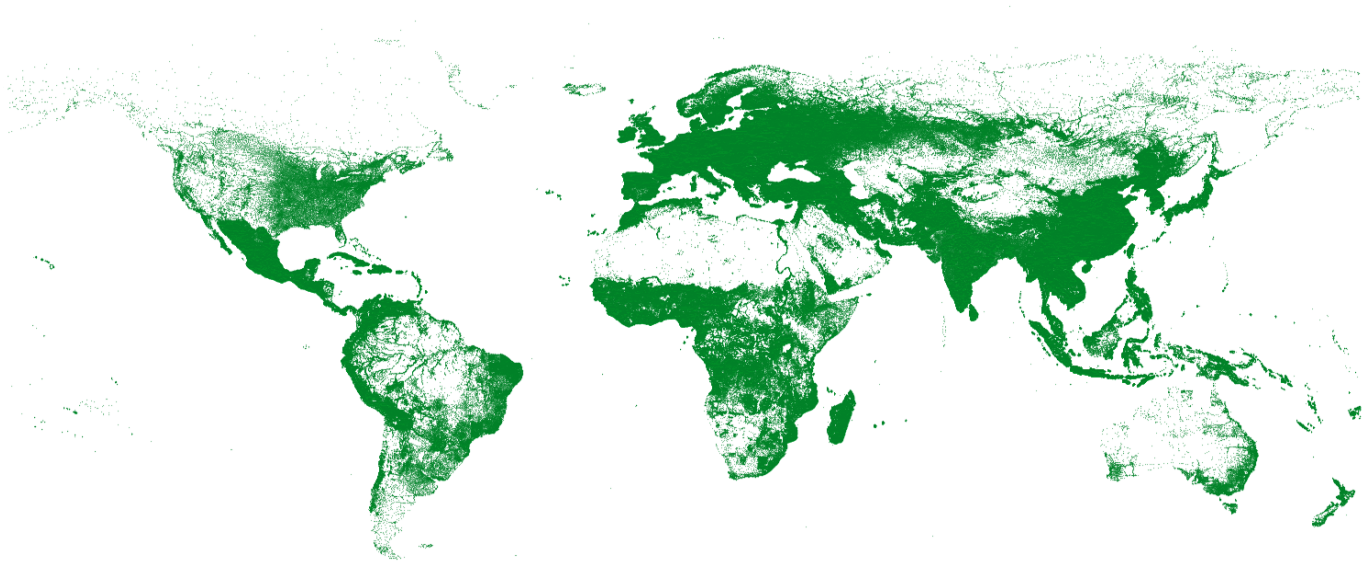
~1.7 million places



(/static/img/data/world-cities/viz/pro.png)

Comprehensive Database

~4.3 million places



(/static/img/data/world-cities/viz/comp.png)

Production Tested

“

I work for a company that provides technical solutions for travel agents. Recently, one particular project called for the inclusion of the latitude and longitude of over 1,000 worldwide cities. The thought of having to look up each one of these cities was overwhelming, to say the least. After doing a few internet searches, I came across Simplemaps.com, and within minutes, I had access to exactly what I needed. The savings in time (and migraine medicine) was enormous. Thank you again, Chris and team, for making this valuable information available!

Alan Winn - Dallas, Texas

Sample Preview

Here is a sample of rows from the comprehensive database:

city	city_ascii	lat	lng	country	iso2	iso3	admin_name	admin_code	capital	population	densit
Tokyo	Tokyo	35.6897	139.6922	Japan	JP	JPN	Tokyo	JP-13	primary	37977000	4381.5
New York	New York	40.6943	-73.9249	United States	US	USA	New York	US-NY		18713220	10934
Mexico City	Mexico City	19.4333	-99.1333	Mexico	MX	MEX	Ciudad de México	MX-DIF	primary	20996000	14584
Mumbai	Mumbai	18.9667	72.8333	India	IN	IND	Maharashtra	IN-MH	admin	23355000	41890
São Paulo	Sao Paulo	-23.5504	-46.6339	Brazil	BR	BRA	São Paulo Paulo	BR-SP	admin	22046000	20285

Due to space constraints, not all fields are shown. For an exact representation, download this sample (Excel (/static/data/world-cities/sample/fr.xlsx), CSV (/static/data/world-cities/sample/fr.csv)) of France.

All Fields

fieldname	description	Basic	Pro	Comp.
city	The name of the city/town as a Unicode (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTF-8) string (e.g. <i>Goîânia</i>).	✓	✓	✓
city_ascii	city as an ASCII (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASCII) string (e.g. <i>Goiania</i>). Left blank if ASCII representation is not possible.	✓	✓	✓

fieldname	description	Basic	Pro	Comp.
city_alt	Alternative city names, separated by a vertical bar (e.g. <i>Goyania Goianá</i>)	✗	✓	✓
lat	The latitude of the city/town.	✓	✓	✓
lng	The longitude of the city/town.	✓	✓	✓
country	The name of the city/town's country.	✓	✓	✓
iso2	The alpha-2 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-1_alpha-2) iso code of the country .	✓	✓	✓
iso3	The alpha-3 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-1_alpha-3) iso code of the country .	✓	✓	
admin_name	The name of the highest level administration region of the city town (e.g. a US state or Canadian province). Possibly blank.	✓	✓	✓
admin_name_ascii	admin_name as an ASCII (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASCII) string.	✗	✓	✓
admin_code	The iso code for the admin . Length varies by country.	✗	✓	✓
admin_type	A description of the admin . (e.g. <i>province, state, municipal district</i> etc.)	✗	✓	✓
capital	Blank string if not a capital, otherwise: <i>primary</i> - country's capital (e.g. Washington D.C.) <i>admin</i> - first-level admin capital (e.g. Little Rock, AR) <i>minor</i> - lower-level admin capital (e.g. Fayetteville, AR)	✗	✓	✓
density	An estimate of the population per square kilometer at the lat / lng . Derived from 2015 data.	✗	✓	✓
population	An estimate of the city's <i>urban</i> population. Only available for some (prominent) cities. If the urban population is not available, the municipal population is used.	✓	✓	✓
population_proper	An estimate of the city's <i>municipal</i> population. Only available for some (prominent) cities. We only count the municipal population that lies within the urban area so <code>population_proper</code> will always be smaller than or equal to <code>population</code> .	✗	✓	✓
timezone	The city's timezone in the tz database (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tz_database) format. (e.g. <i>America/Los_Angeles</i>)	✗	✓	✓
ranking	An integer from 1-5 that captures the importance of a city (1 is most important, 5 least important).	✗	✓	✓
same_name	TRUE if the place has the same exact name as a more important place in the same country , and admin_name . Many users choose to drop these relatively unimportant places with conflicting names.	✗	✓	✓
id	A 10-digit unique id generated by SimpleMaps. We make every effort to keep it consistent across releases and databases (e.g. U.S Cities Database (/data/us-cities)).	✓	✓	✓

Frequently Asked Questions

What counts as a city/town?

Any populated place in the world as determined by U.S. government agencies. Neighborhoods within listed cities are not included.

Where does your data come from?

Cities for all non-U.S. countries comes from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. US cities data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Geological Survey. The basic database and population data comes from Natural Earth Data. Population density data comes from the Center for International Earth Science Information Network at Columbia University in partnership with NASA's Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center. We've made a concerted effort to source our data from public domain and permissively-licensed sources that will not restrict the rights of our customers.

How do you address border conflicts and territorial disputes?

We simply use the determination of our sources: U.S. government agencies.

Since most of this data is in the public-domain, what value are you adding?

We've spent countless hours: downloading, merging, cleaning, formatting, and aggregating this data into an accurate and concise product.

What am I allowed to do if I purchase the Comprehensive Database license?

A license allows you to use the database internally or to query the database for public-facing applications that you or your organization owns or develops. Attribution is not required. You are not allowed to publicly redistribute the database without prior permission. You can make copies of the database for internal and backup purposes. To learn more, read the full license terms (/data/license).

Why should I trust this data?

This database was aggregated from authoritative sources and carefully processed by SimpleMaps. We've been developing and selling interactive maps to Fortune 500 companies and prominent international organizations for over 10 years. Over this time, we've learned a lot about geographic data. Our data products have been used in production by well-regarded organizations such as *The Guardian*. To get a sense of the expertise, check out some of the testimonials from our happy customers (/testimonials).

How do I calculate the distance between two cities?

We've published free formulas in popular programming languages (/resources/location-distance). Check them out.

Can I get the Pro or Comprehensive Database in Excel or SQL server?

The Comprehensive Database can be downloaded in CSV or SQL (MySQL) format upon purchase. The database has too many rows to fit in a single Excel worksheet, but we can provide the data in Excel format, broken out by country, upon request. We can also provide the data as a .bak file for SQL server. Please contact us (/data/contact) to receive the data in one of these formats.

What's the fastest way to import the comprehensive database into MySQL?

We recommend using the CSV file and following our tutorial on importing a CSV into MySQL (/resources/import-csv-mysql).

Can I purchase additional updates?

Yes. After updates expire, you can purchase 12 more months of updates for \$99 (Pro) or \$199 (Comprehensive).

What is the difference between the Pro and Comprehensive databases?

The main difference between the two is that the Pro database generally only includes cities and towns that either have a ranking of 1, 2, or 3 while the Comprehensive database includes all cities and towns for which we have data. For most users, the Pro database is sufficient and will be faster to query.

Included Countries

The database includes data on 248 countries. The included countries are as follows.

```
{
  "AD": "Andorra",
  "AE": "United Arab Emirates",
  "AF": "Afghanistan",
  "AG": "Antigua And Barbuda",
  "AI": "Anguilla",
  "AL": "Albania",
  "AM": "Armenia",
  "AO": "Angola",
  "AR": "Argentina",
  "AS": "American Samoa",
  "AT": "Austria",
  "AU": "Australia",
  "AW": "Aruba",
  "AZ": "Azerbaijan",
  "BA": "Bosnia And Herzegovina",
  "BB": "Barbados",
  "BD": "Bangladesh",
  "BE": "Belgium",
  "BF": "Burkina Faso",
  "BG": "Bulgaria"
```

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