Photo Trail Mapper Walk-Through

This page is a walk-through guide to using the Photo Trail Mapper.

You can downlad it from the download page.

Step 1. Installation.

First download the Photo Trail Mapper installer and the example set of pictures from the download page.

Install the application by running the **PhotoTrailMapper.msi** file and unzip the **PhotoTrailMapper_ExamplePics.zip** file somewhere convenient for use later on in this tutorial

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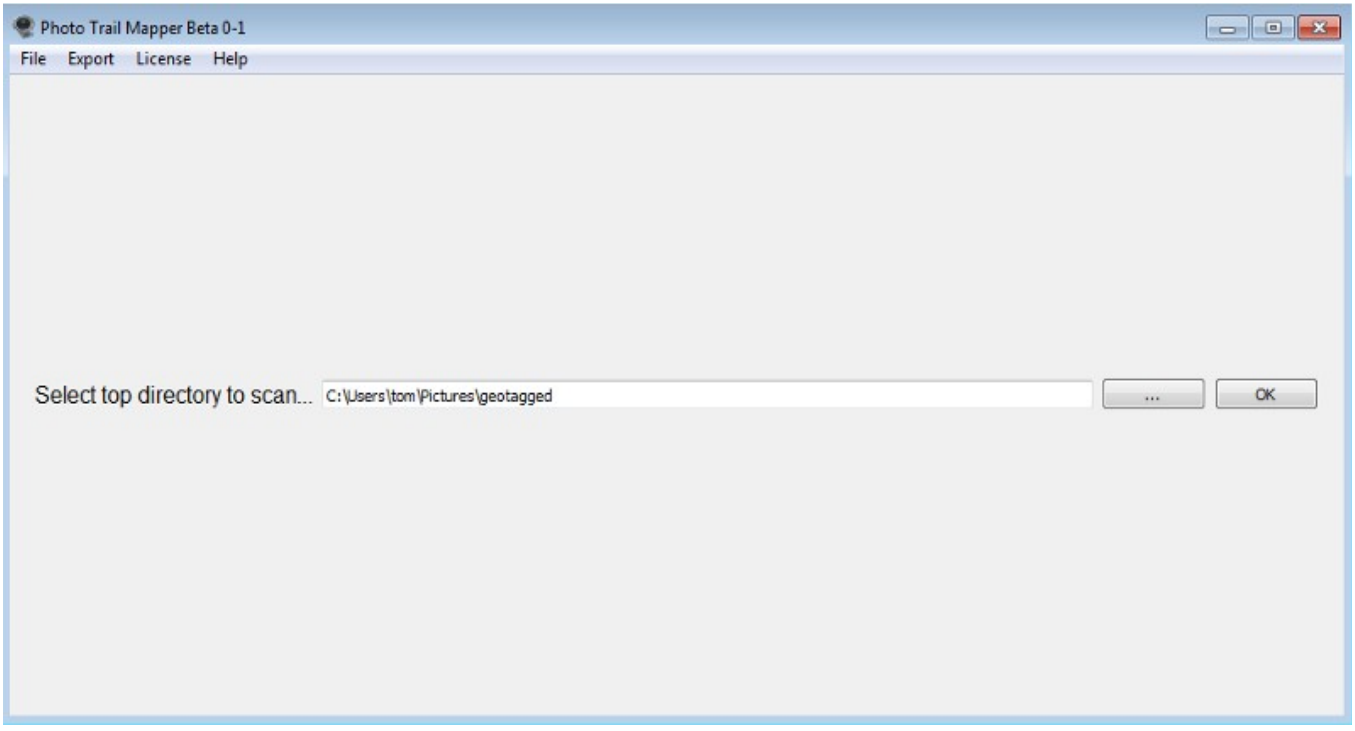
Step 2. Scanning Photos.

Now run the application by clicking the Photo Trail Mapper icon on the desktop

On the first screen you need to choose a target directory for the application to scan. You can either type the path to the directory or click the button "..." to open a folder choosing window.

For this walk-through **choose the folder where you unzipped the example photos in Step 1**.

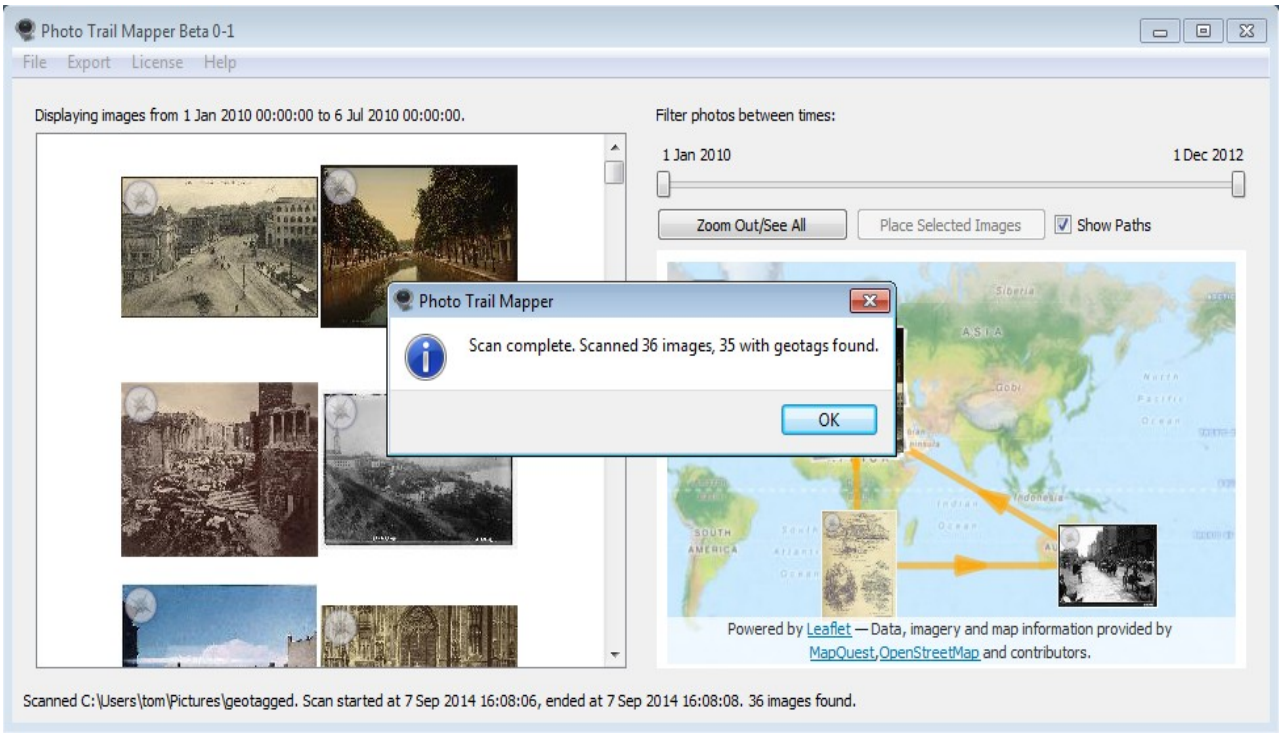
Once you have selected a path click on the OK button and the application will start scanning through all the files and folders underneath the target directory and display results as they are processed.



Step 3. Scan Complete.

Once the application finishes scanning all the sub-folders and files it will pop up a messages showing how many files were scanned and how many photos had geographic information encoded in them.

Click on the OK button to clear the window.



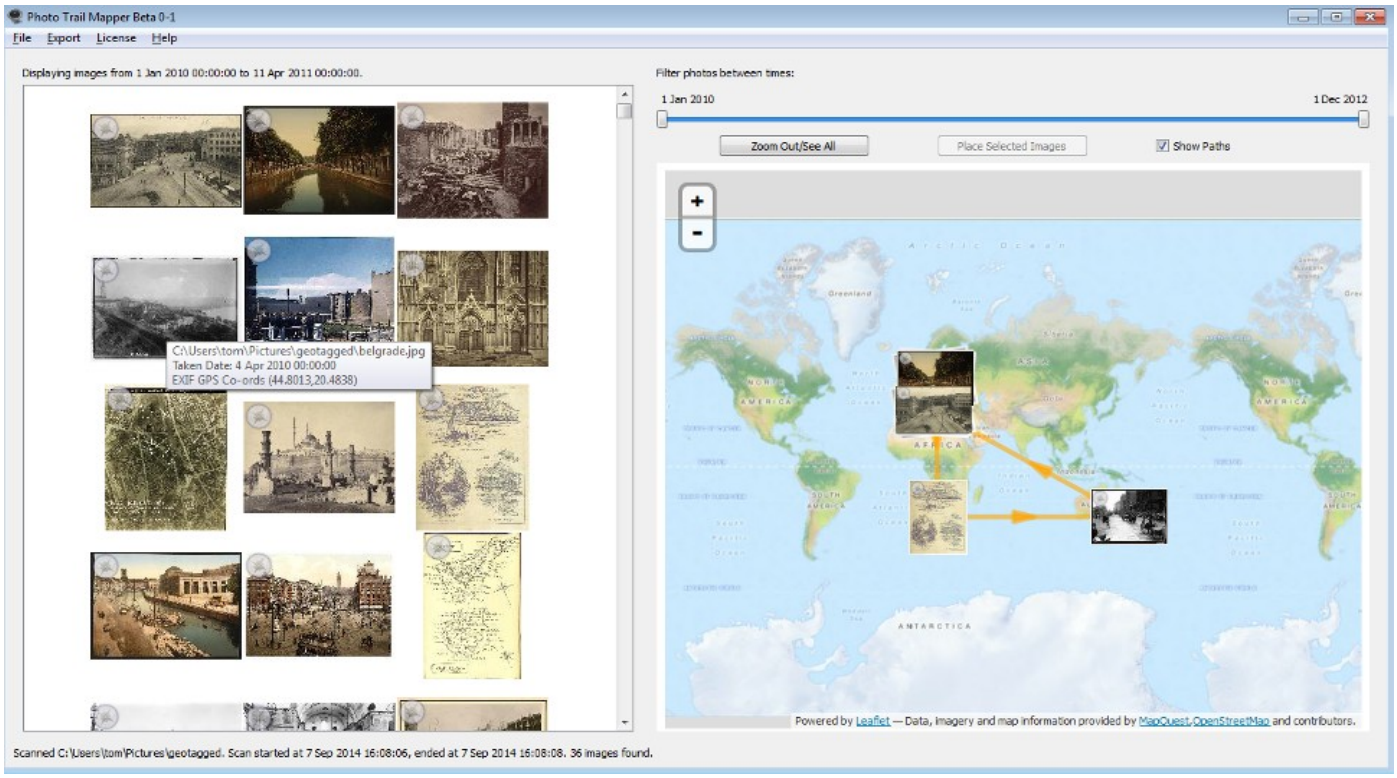
Step 4. The Photo Table.

The photos on the left hand side are ordered in chronological order, oldest at the top, most recent at the bottom.

Photos with a small compass icon in the top left have embedded geographical information within them. Photos without embedded geographical information can be manually placed on the map as we will see later in this walk-through. When this happens these manually placed photos show a red pin icon in the top left.

Hovering your mouse over one of the photos on the left will generate a tool tip with more details of that photo such as it's file location and, if available, the camera make and model.

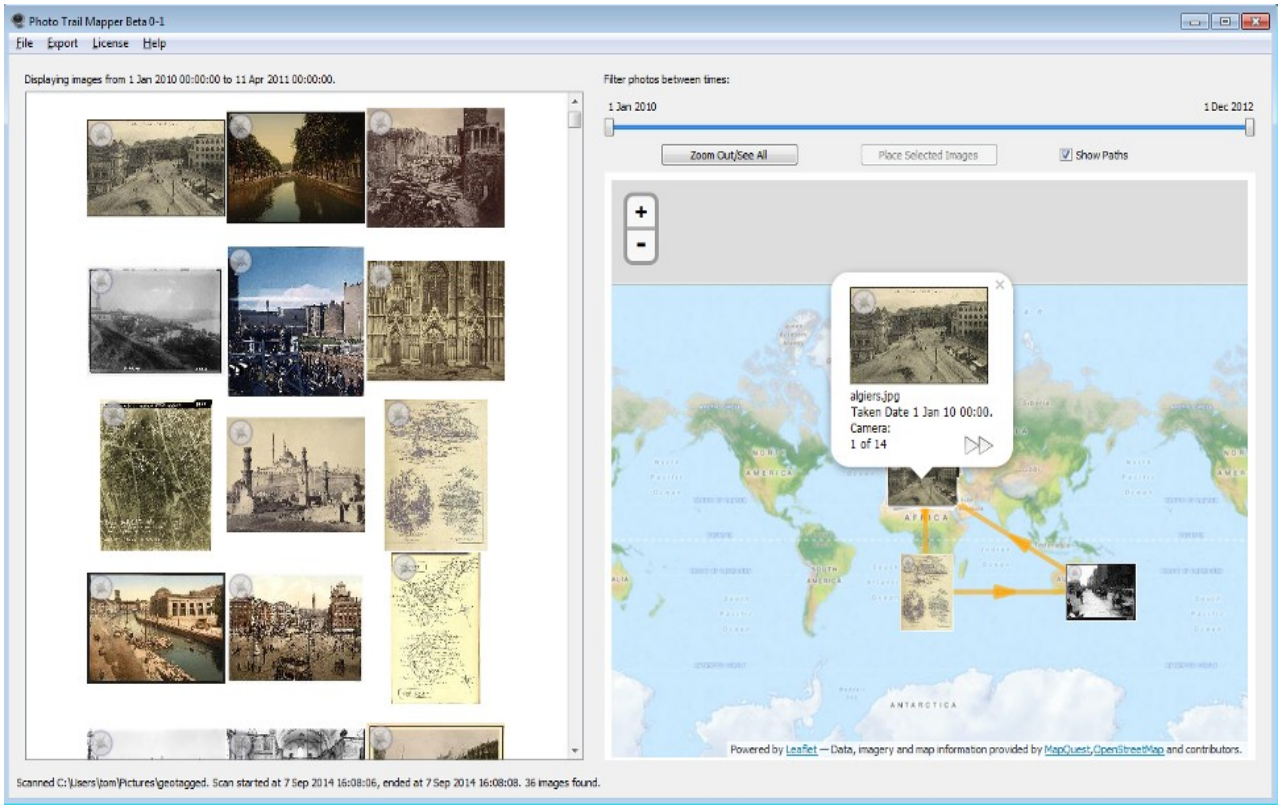
If you click on a photo on the left, the map display on the right will move to show it's geographical location if it has one.



Step 5. The Map.

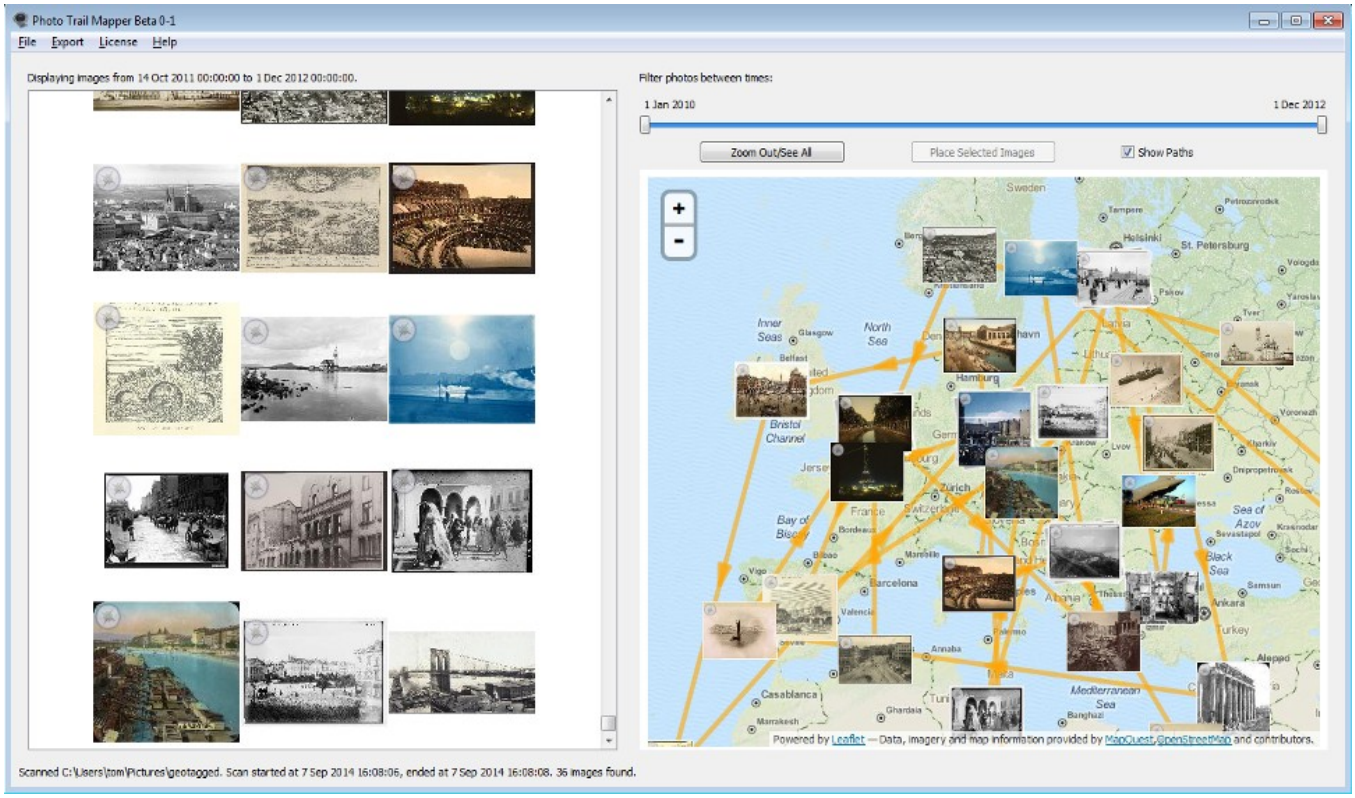
The map show the pictures in the locations where there were taken. Where more than one photo overlaps they are displayed as a pile of photos. Zooming into the map will often allow these piles of photos to separate.

If you click on one of these pictures a pop up will be displayed on the map with more information on that photo or photos and the left hand table of photos will scroll to the location of the that photo.



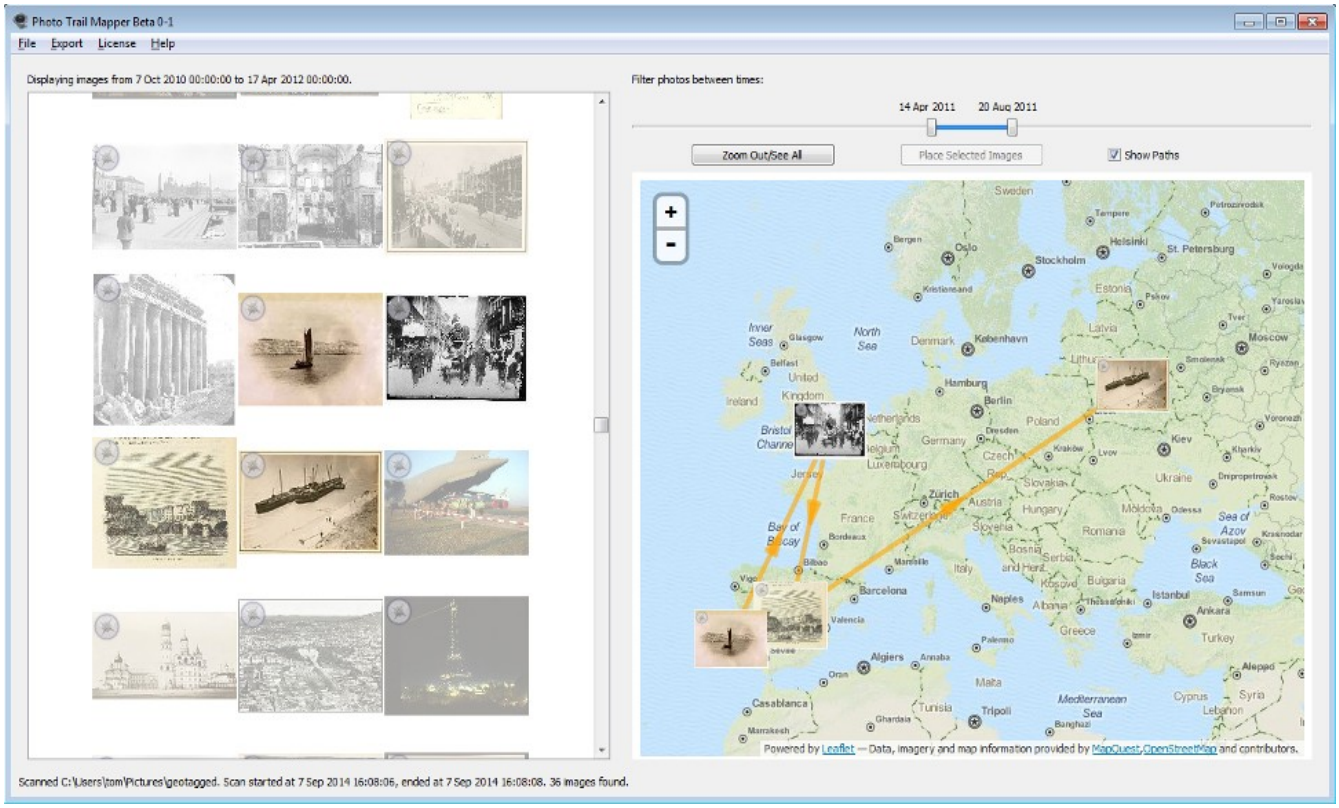
Step 6. Zooming In.

Now zoom in towards Europe using the plus and minus buttons in the top left of the map or the mouse wheel if you have one. As you zoom in you will see more exact details of the photo's positions and the path taken between them. With many photos this path can be quite complex, but in the next section we will see how this can be simplified.



Step 7. Using the map time filters.

To simplify the map display you can use the time slider above the map to only show photos taken in a certain time range. The image below show what happens if you filter the example photo set to show photos between the 14th April 2011 and the 20th August 2011. This give a much clearer idea of the possible path taken between photos



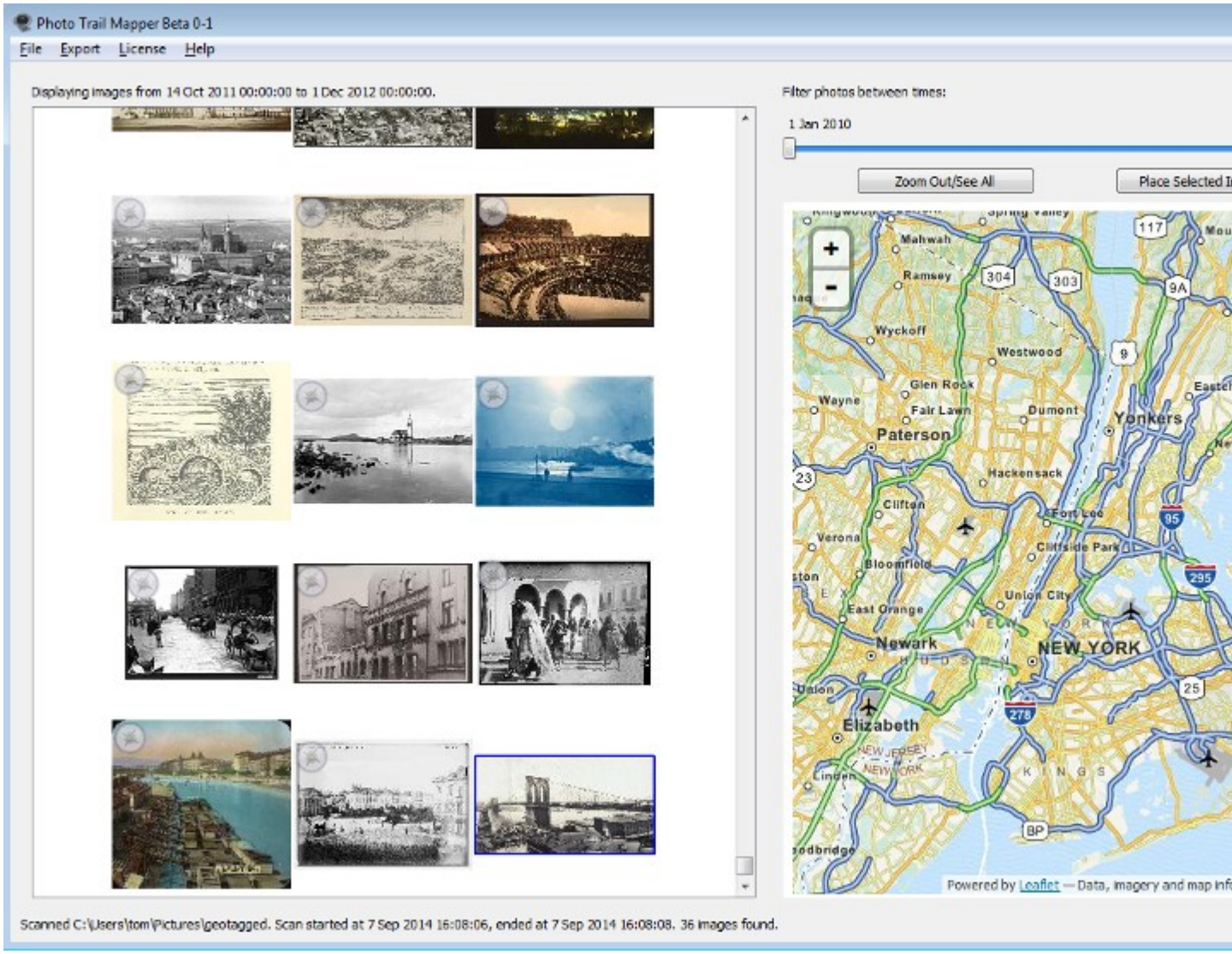
Step 8. Manually placing a photo on the map.

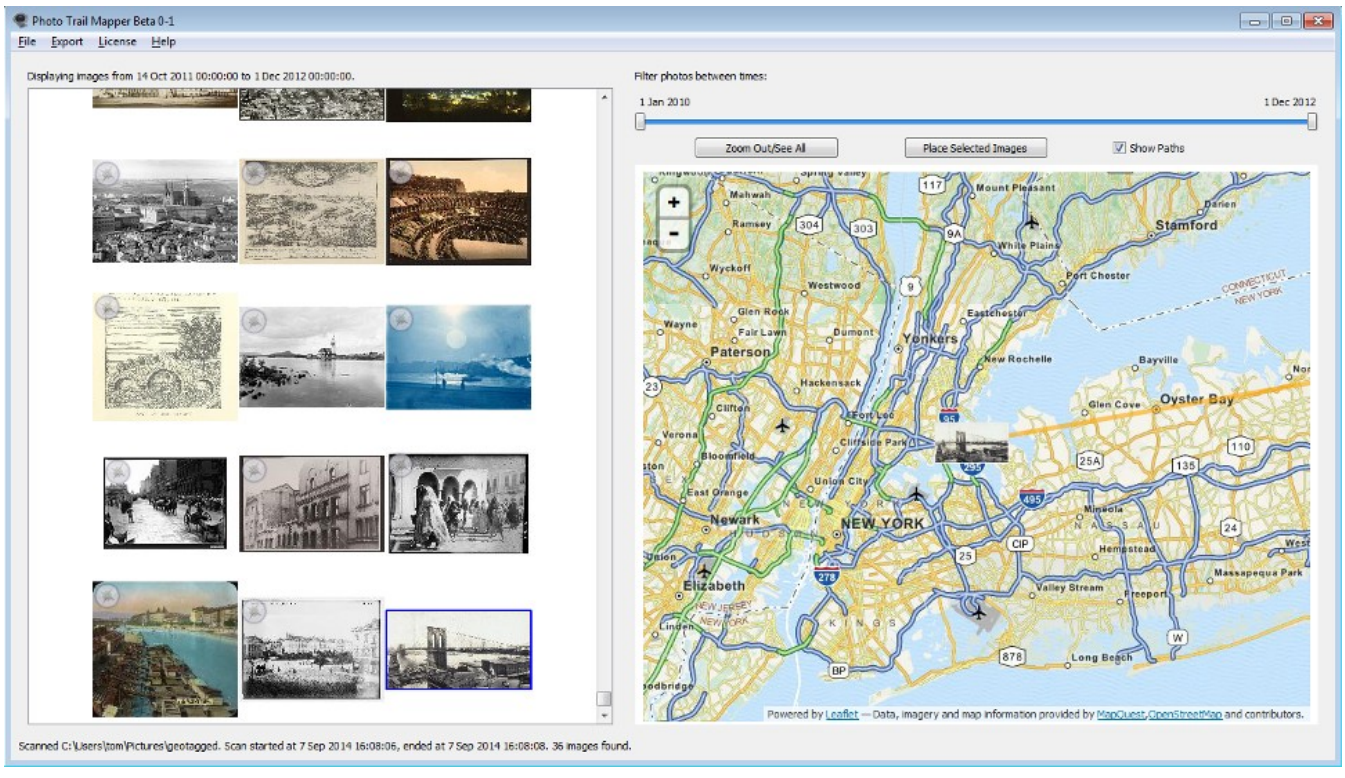
Not all photos have embedded geographical information. So it possible to place these photos on the map manually, as follows.

First scroll down the the bottom of the photo table on the left. The very last photo does not have any geographical information embedded in it, but it is of New York sometime around 1911.

- First we need to click on this photo so that it's border becomes blue. This selects the photo (note you can select multiple photos using Ctrl+Click).
- Now the *Place Select Images* button above the map should become enabled. Zoom and scroll the map until you can see New York clearly.
- Now click the *Place Select Images* button, this will place the photo on the centre of the map.
- You can now manually drag the photo on the map to a more accurate position as required.

Notice that the manually placed photos are displayed with a red pin icon in the top left to clearly differentiate them from photos containing embedded geographical information.





The End.

And that is the end of the quick walk-through. I hope you found it useful.