

--- Day 16: Reindeer Maze ---

It's time again for the **Reindeer Olympics**! This year, the big event is the **Reindeer Maze**, where the Reindeer compete for the **lowest score**.

You and The Historians arrive to search for the Chief right as the event is about to start. It wouldn't hurt to watch a little, right?

The Reindeer start on the Start Tile (marked **S**) facing **East** and need to reach the End Tile (marked **E**). They can move forward one tile at a time (increasing their score by **1** point), but never into a wall (**#**). They can also rotate clockwise or counterclockwise 90 degrees at a time (increasing their score by **1000** points).

To figure out the best place to sit, you start by grabbing a map (your puzzle input) from a nearby kiosk. For example:

```
#####
#.....#....E#
#.#.###.#.###.#
#.....#.#...#.#
#.#.#.#####.#.#
#.#.#.....#.#
#.#.#####.###.#
#.....#.#.#
###.#.#####.#.#
#...#.....#.#.#
#.#.#.###.#.#.#
#.....#...#.#.#
#.#.#.#.#.#.#.#
#S..#.....#...#
#####
```

There are many paths through this maze, but taking any of the best paths would incur a score of only **7036**. This can be achieved by taking a total of **36** steps forward and turning 90 degrees a total of **7** times:

```
#####
#.....#....E#
#.#.###.#.###^#
#.....#.#...#^#
#.#.#.#####.#^#
#.#.#.....#^#
#.#.#####.###^#
#..>>>>>>>v#^#
###^#.#.###v#^#
#>>^#.....#v#^#
#^#.#.#.###.#v#^#
#^#...#...#v#^#
#^###.#.#.#v#^#
#S..#.....#>>^#
#####
```

Here's a second example:

```
#####
#...#...#...#..E#
#.#.#.#.#.#.#.#
#.#.#.#...#...#.#
#.#.#.#.###.#.#.#
#...#.#.#.....#.#
#.#.#.#.#.#####.#
#.#...#.#.#.....#
#.#.#####.#.###.#
#.#.#.....#...#
#.#.###.#####.###
#.#.#...#.....#.#
#.#.#.#####.###.#
#.#.#.....#.#
#.#.#.#####.###.#
#S#.....#
#####
```

In this maze, the best paths cost **11048** points; following one such path would look like this:

```
#####
#...#...#...#..E#
#.#.#.#.#.#.#.^#
#.#.#.#...#...#^#
#.#.#.#.###.#.^#
#>>v#.#.#.....#^#
#^#v#.#.#.#####^#
#^#v...#.#.#>>>>^#
#^#v#####.#^###.#
#^#v#..>>>>^#...#
#^#v###^#####.###
#^#v#>>^#.....#.#
#^#v#^#####.###.#
#^#v#^#.....#.#
#^#v#^#####.###.#
#S#>>^#.....#
#####
```

Note that the path shown above includes one 90 degree turn as the very first move, rotating the Reindeer from facing East to facing North.

Analyze your map carefully. **What is the lowest score a Reindeer could possibly get?**

To begin, **get your puzzle input**.

Answer: [\[Submit\]](#)

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