

Configuring and Using an API in Postman

This article describes how to configure an API (the [OpenWeather API](#)) as a collection in [Postman](#)® and then use the collection to send requests to the API.

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Before You Start

Before following the steps outlined in this article, complete the following actions:

- [Sign up for a free OpenWeather account](#)
- [Sign up for a free Postman account](#)

Step 1: Obtain an OpenWeather API Key

Follow these steps to obtain the API key associated with your OpenWeather account:

1. Go to [openweathermap.org](#) and click **Sign in** to sign into your OpenWeather account.
2. Select the [API keys tab](#) on your OpenWeather account screen to view your API key (Figure 1). Make note of this key, as you will use it when you [configure the OpenWeather API in Postman as a collection](#).

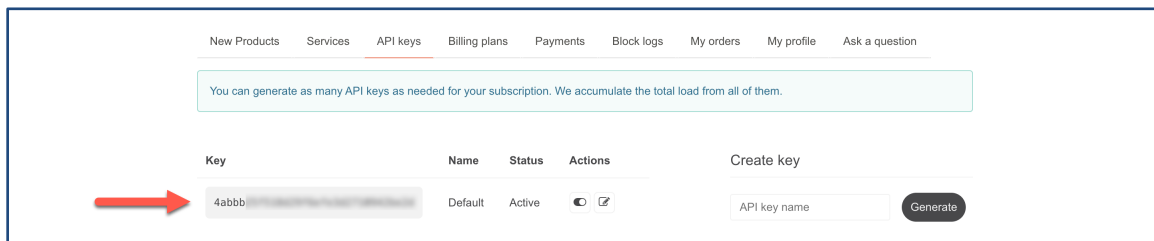


Figure 1

Step 2: Configure the OpenWeather API in Postman as a Collection

Follow these steps to create a collection for the OpenWeather API in Postman:

1. Go to postman.com and click **Sign In** at the upper-right corner of the screen to sign into your Postman account.
2. Click **Workspaces** at the upper-left corner of the screen, and then select the Postman workspace in which you want to configure the OpenWeather API.

Note: If no workspaces exist in your Postman account, or if you want to create a new workspace for the OpenWeather API, click **Create Workspace** to [create a new workspace](#).

3. Select **Collections** in the [sidebar](#) on the left side of the screen, and then click **New** at the upper-right corner of the sidebar (Figure 2).

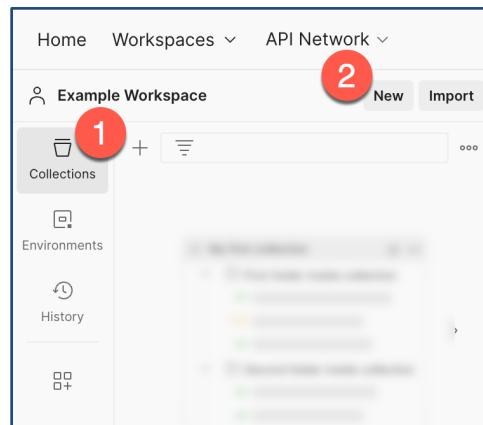


Figure 2

4. On the window that opens after clicking **New**, select **Collection**.
5. Update the name of the **New Collection** tab open in the Postman [workbench](#) (Figure 3) to **OpenWeather API**.

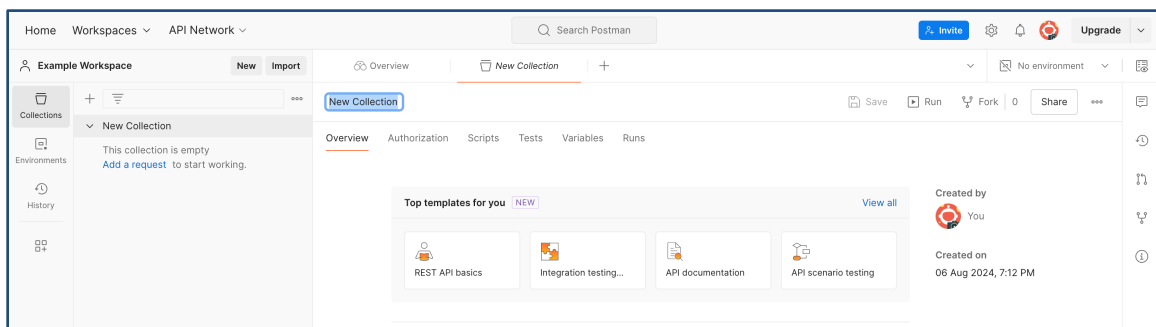


Figure 3

6. Select the **Authorization** subtab for the **OpenWeather API** collection and verify that **No Auth** is selected in the **Auth Type** dropdown.
7. Select the **Variables** subtab, and then create the following variables (Figure 4). Note that you must specify each variable's value in the **Initial Value** and **Current Value** columns.

Variable	Value
baseUrl	Enter <code>https://api.openweathermap.org</code> .
apiKey	Enter the API key associated with your OpenWeather account .

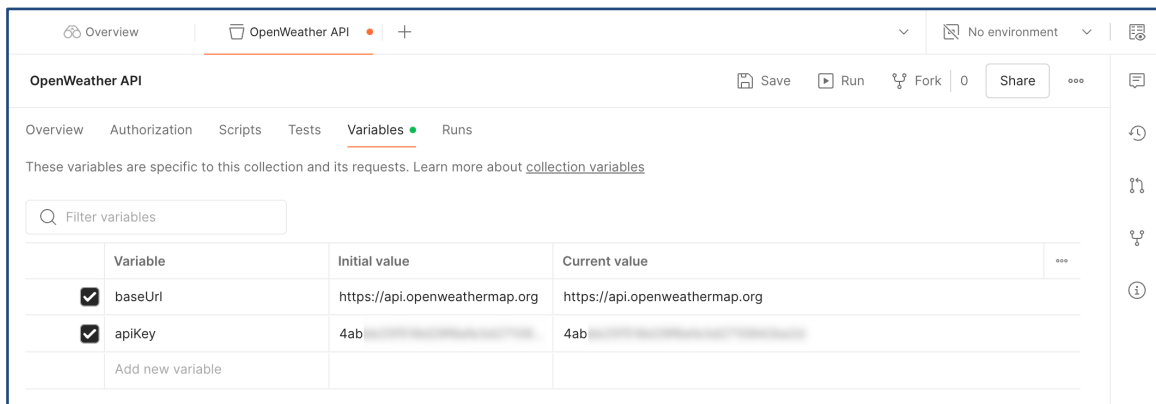


Figure 4

8. Click **Save** at the top right of the **OpenWeather API** collection.

Step 3: Configure and Send API Requests in Postman

This section demonstrates how to configure and send two API requests in Postman: the first request uses the OpenWeather [Geocoding API](#) to retrieve the latitude and longitude coordinates for a city (Pittsburgh, PA in this example), and the second request uses the OpenWeather [Current Weather Data API](#) to retrieve the current weather for a city.

Configure and Send a Geocoding API Request

Follow these steps to configure and send a request to the OpenWeather [Geocoding API](#):

1. Expand the **OpenWeather API** collection in the [sidebar](#) on the left side of the screen, and then click **Add a request**.
2. Configure the **GET New Request** tab open in the Postman [workbench](#) (Figure 5) as follows:

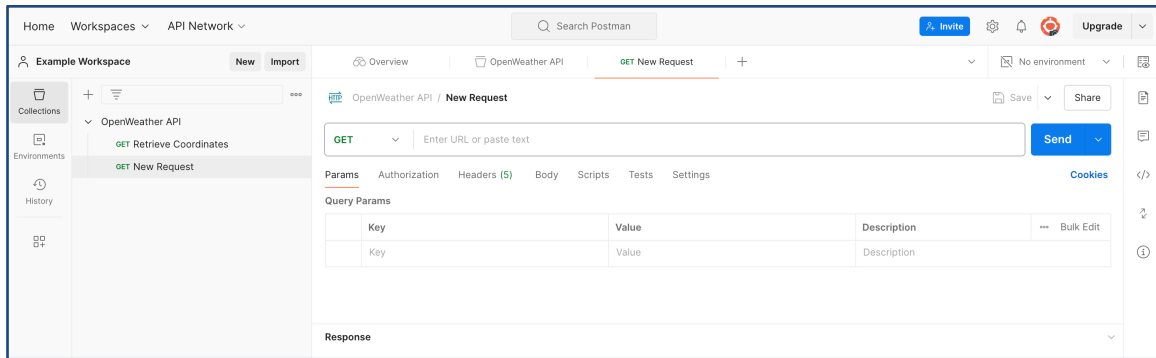


Figure 5

- **New Request:** Change the request's name to **Retrieve Coordinates**.
- **HTTP Method:** Keep the selection of **GET**.
- **Enter URL or paste text:** Enter `{{baseUrl}}/geo/1.0/direct`.
- **Query Params:** Configure the following query parameters as key-value pairs:

Key	Value
q	Enter the city name, state code (only for the US), or country code divided by a comma (for country codes, use ISO 3166).
appid	Enter <code>{{apiKey}}</code> .

Note: For a list of optional query parameters that you can use with the OpenWeather Geocoding API, see the [OpenWeather Geocoding API documentation](#).

3. Click **Save** at the top right of the **GET Retrieve Coordinates** tab.
4. Click **Send** to the right of the request URL. If your request to the OpenWeather Geocoding API was successful, the lower pane of the **GET Retrieve Coordinates** tab will show a **200 OK** status and accompanying response data (Figure 6). Make note of the latitude and longitude values for the desired location, as you will use them when you [configure and send an API request that retrieves the current weather for that location](#).

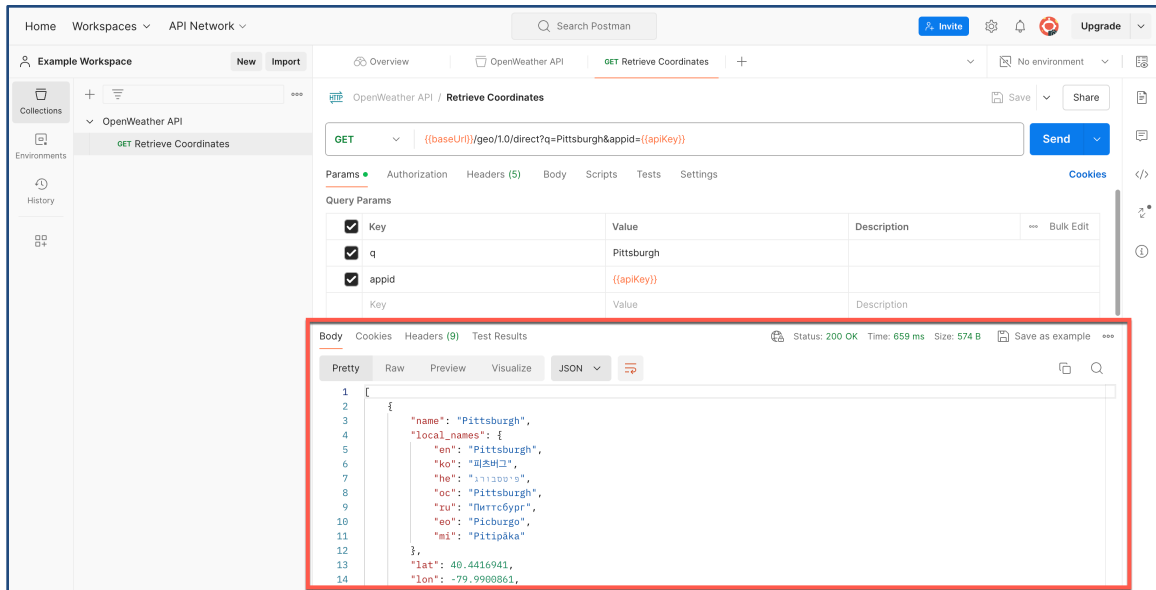


Figure 6

Configure and Send a Current Weather Data API Request

Follow these steps to configure and send a request to the OpenWeather [Current Weather Data API](#):

1. Hover over the **OpenWeather API** collection in the [sidebar](#) on the left side of the screen, click **View more actions** `...`, and select **Add request**.
2. Configure the **GET New Request** tab open in the Postman [workbench](#) (Figure 5) as follows:
 - **New Request:** Change the request's name to **Retrieve Weather**.
 - **HTTP Method:** Keep the selection of **GET**.
 - **Enter URL or paste text :** Enter `{{baseUrl}}/data/2.5/weather`.
 - **Query Params:** Configure the following query parameters as key-value pairs:

Key	Value
lat	Enter the latitude for the city. In this example, the latitude for Pittsburgh is <code>40.4416941</code> .
lon	Enter the longitude for the city. In this example, the longitude for Pittsburgh is <code>-79.9900861</code> .
appid	Enter <code>{{apiKey}}</code> .

Note: For a list of optional query parameters that you can use with the OpenWeather Current Weather Data API, see the [OpenWeather Current Weather Data API documentation](#).

3. Click **Save** at the top right of the **GET Retrieve Weather** tab.
4. Click **Send** to the right of the request URL. If your request to the OpenWeather Current Weather API was successful, the lower pane of the **GET Retrieve Weather** tab will show a **200 OK** status and accompanying response data (Figure 7).

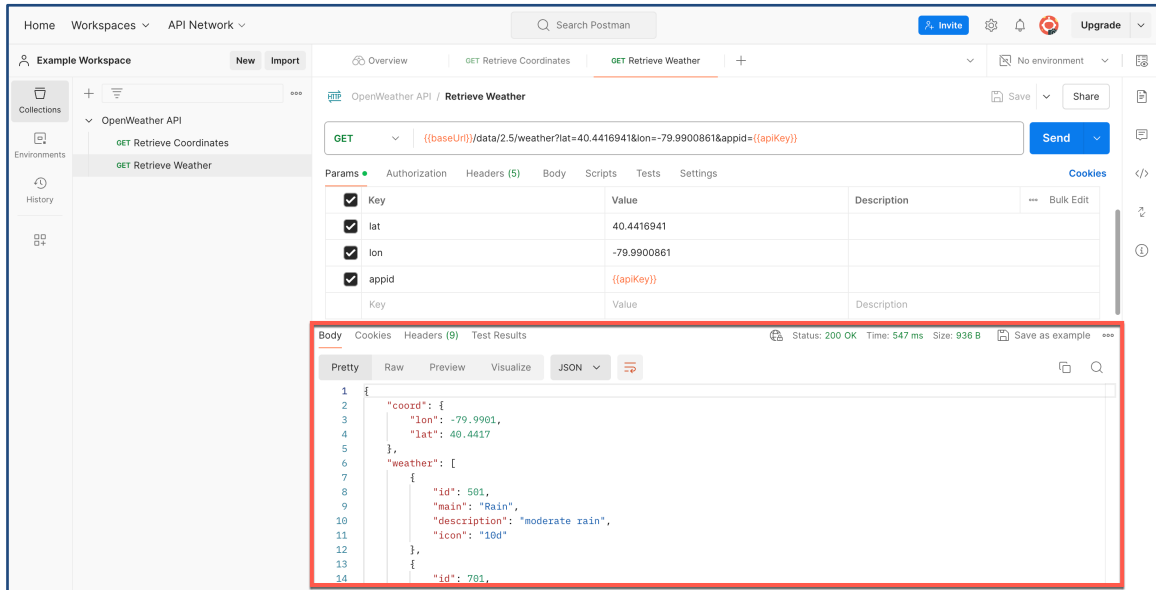


Figure 7

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