

Why a free world map?

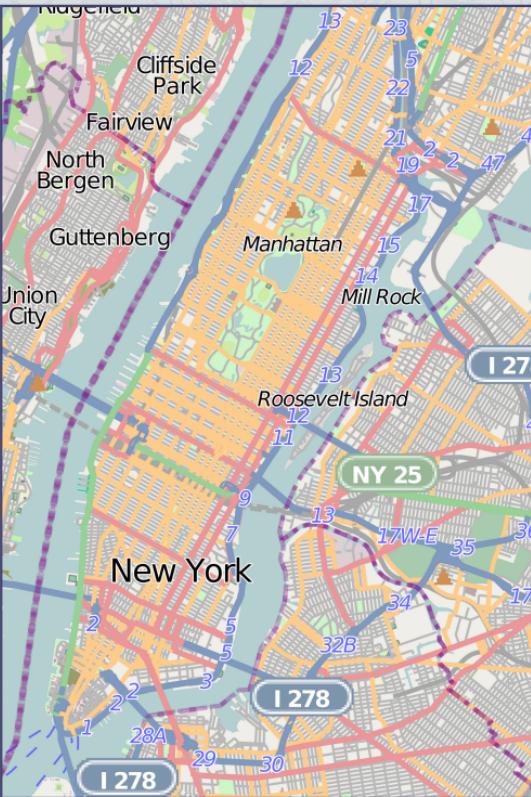
The OpenStreetMap project was started because many maps you think of as free are actually subject to legal or technical restrictions, holding back people from using them in creative or unexpected ways. In a flyer like this we would not be allowed to print them, for example. Plus, they are often neither current nor complete.



Unlike other map providers, OpenStreetMap gives you the map data, not just the map images that have been created from it.

Once you have the actual data, you can use it to create your own maps or copy it onto a variety of devices, for example in the form of cycling or hiking maps for Garmin GPS units or navigation applications for the iPhone. To provide that essential map data to OpenStreetMap, people like you and me are surveying the planet and sharing our results.

With our own data we become independent of commercial providers. Just like Wikipedia, everybody can take part. JOIN US TODAY!

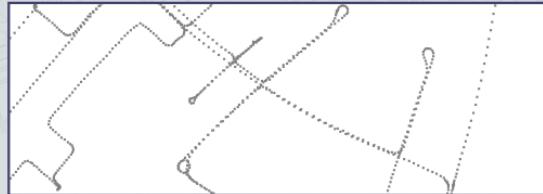


How does OpenStreetMap work?

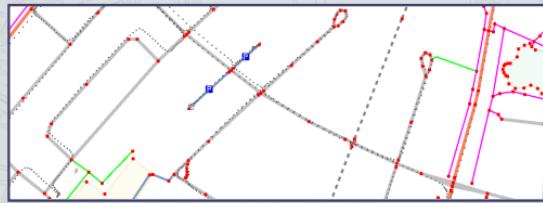
The map data for OpenStreetMap is collected in various ways. The most common method is recording tracks from journeys using a GPS device or perhaps a modern mobile phone. The GPS receiver stores the current position every second and produces a breadcrumb track of your route.



While the GPS logs the current position, the person doing the survey (the mapper) notes down relevant information like street names, important features, and other things they would like to see on the map. Mappers use a notepad, a dictaphone, or a digital camera to collect that information. Later at the computer, the mapper draws lines on top of the GPS tracks and augments the new data with the other information noted down. The results are then uploaded to the project database, and soon after, the new data is visible for anyone on the map.



The mapper draws lines on top of the GPS track and adds the collected data



The server accepts the new data and renders new map images.

