

# OPEN MAPPING EDUCATION SERIES

OPENSTREETMAP MODULES 1-3

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# OPENSTREETMAP MODULE 1

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OSM BASICS I: ACCOUNT CREATION & INTERFACE



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this module, you will learn how to:

- Create an OpenStreetMap account. An account is necessary to identify your contributions and edits to OpenStreetMap.
- Master the OpenStreetMap interface
  - Search for places using Nominatim
  - Pan the map, zoom in, zoom out
  - Access help
  - Change map styles and background imagery
- Time Required: 15 - 25 minutes, with self-paced learning breaks

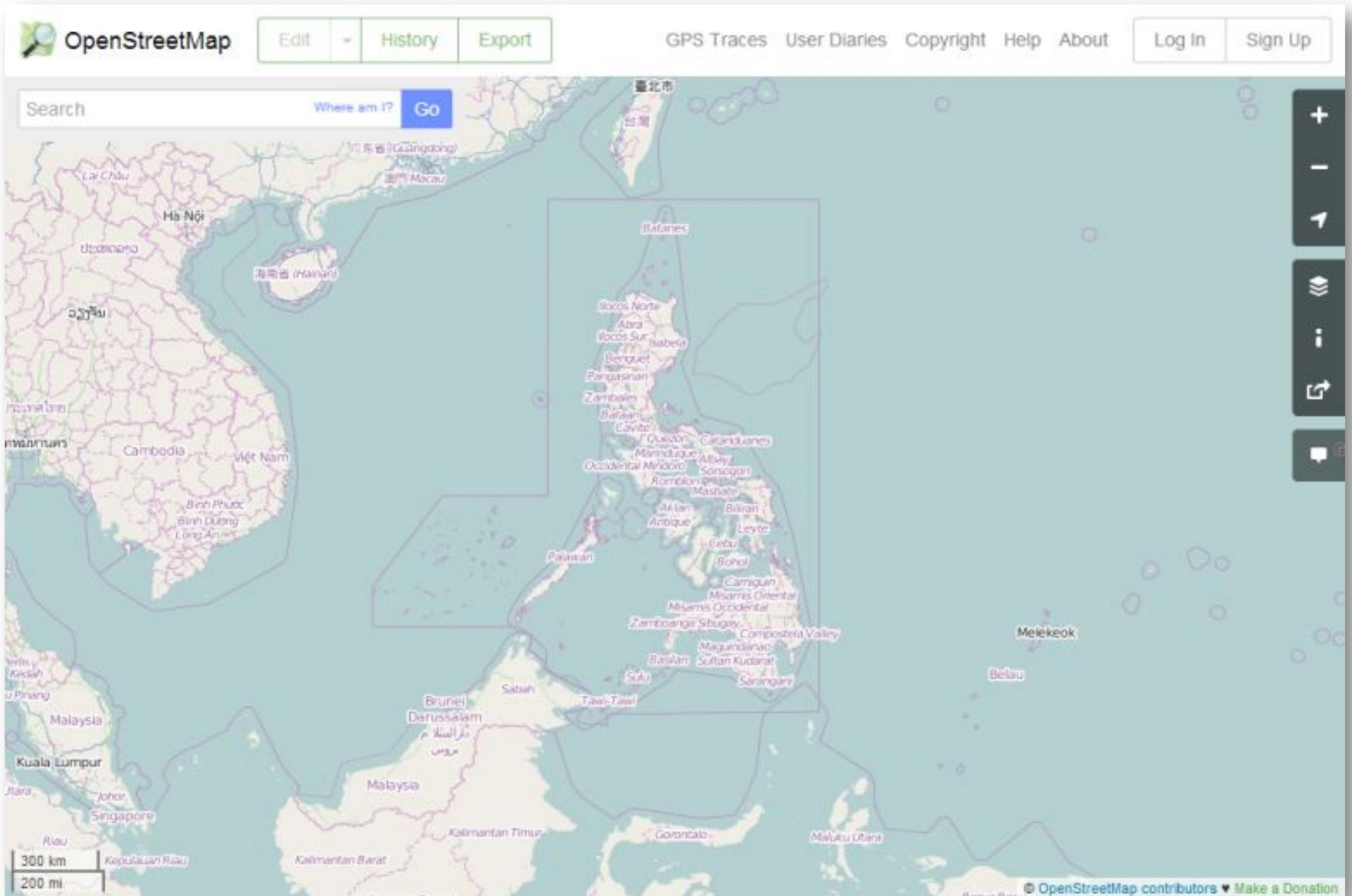


# PART ONE - ACCOUNT CREATION

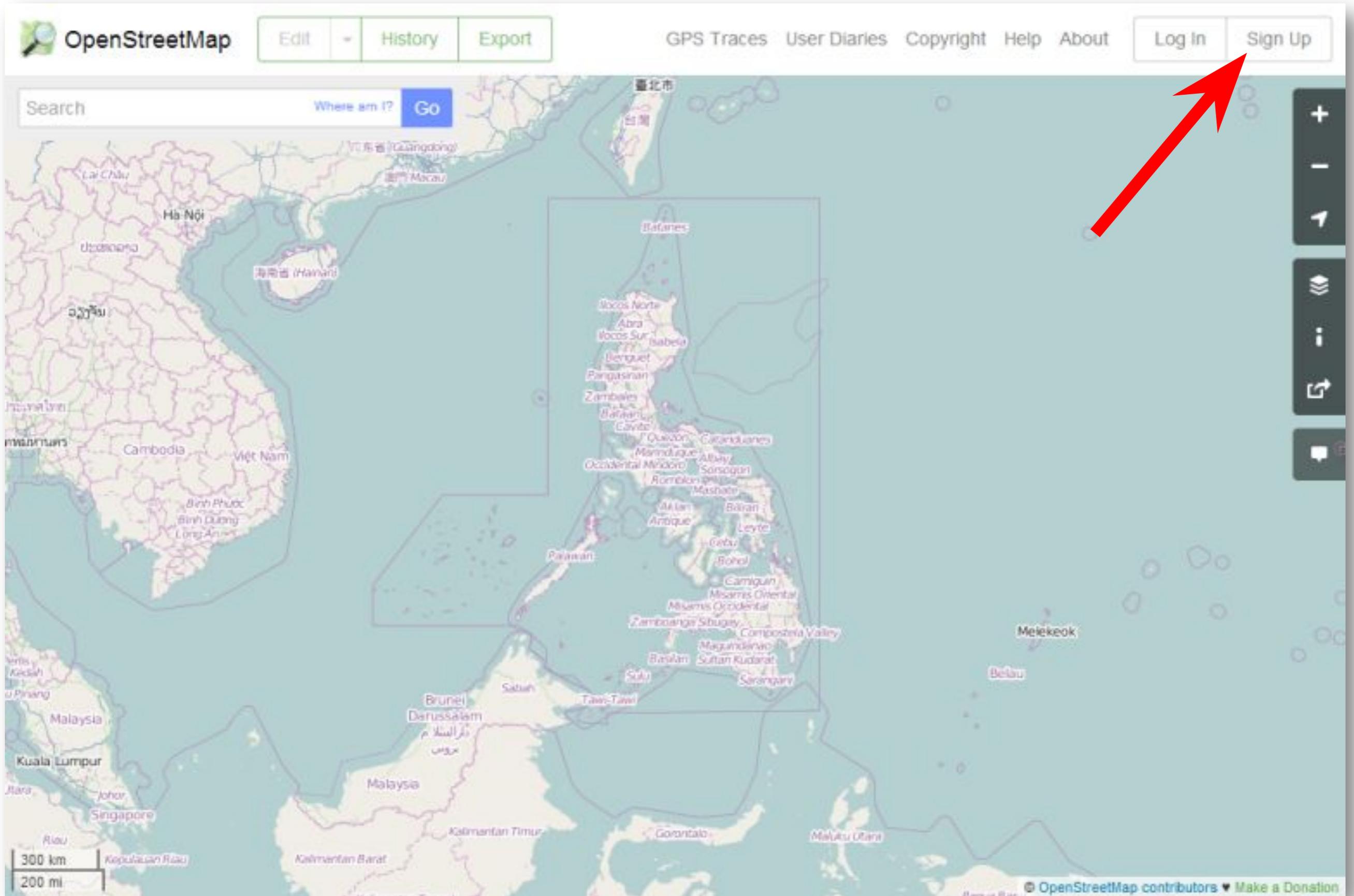
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# GO TO WWW.OPENSTREETMAP.ORG



# CLICK 'SIGN UP'



# SIGN UP

- Enter your email address
- Choose a unique username
- Choose a password
- Click 'Sign Up'
- Check your email

*Congratulations!*

You are now a part of the global OpenStreetMap community!

## Sign Up



**Email Address:**

**Confirm Email Address:**

Your address is not displayed publicly, see our [privacy policy](#) for more information

**Display Name:**

Your publicly displayed username. You can change this later in the preferences.

**Password:**

**Confirm Password:**

[Alternatively, use a third party to login](#)

Free and editable  
Unlike other maps, OpenStreetMap is completely created by people like you, and it's free for anyone to fix, update, download and use.

Sign up to get started contributing. We'll send an email to confirm your account.

# PART TWO - THE INTERFACE

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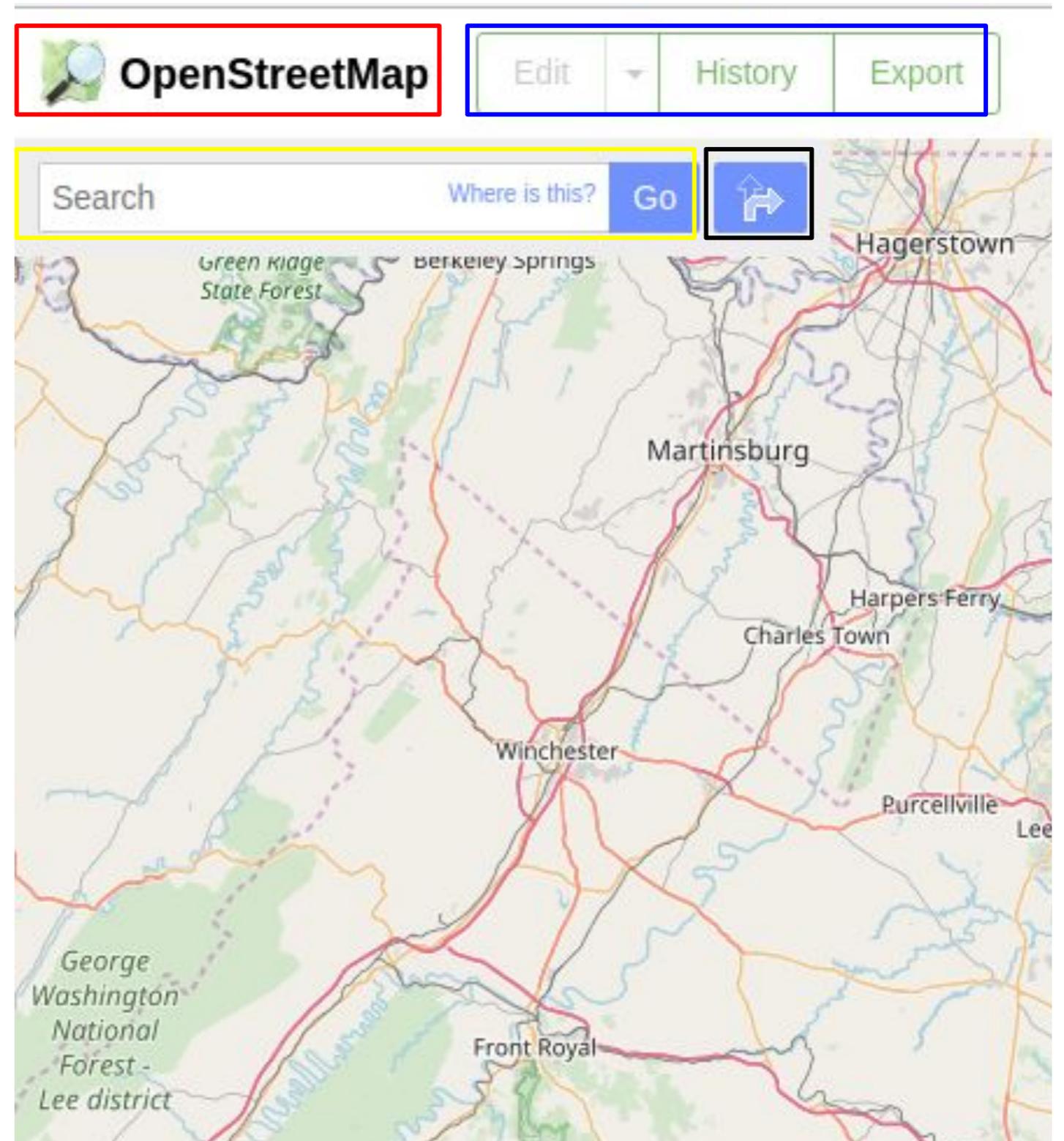


# THE OPENSTREETMAP INTERFACE

- Navigate to [www.openstreetmap.org](http://www.openstreetmap.org)

## CONTROLS

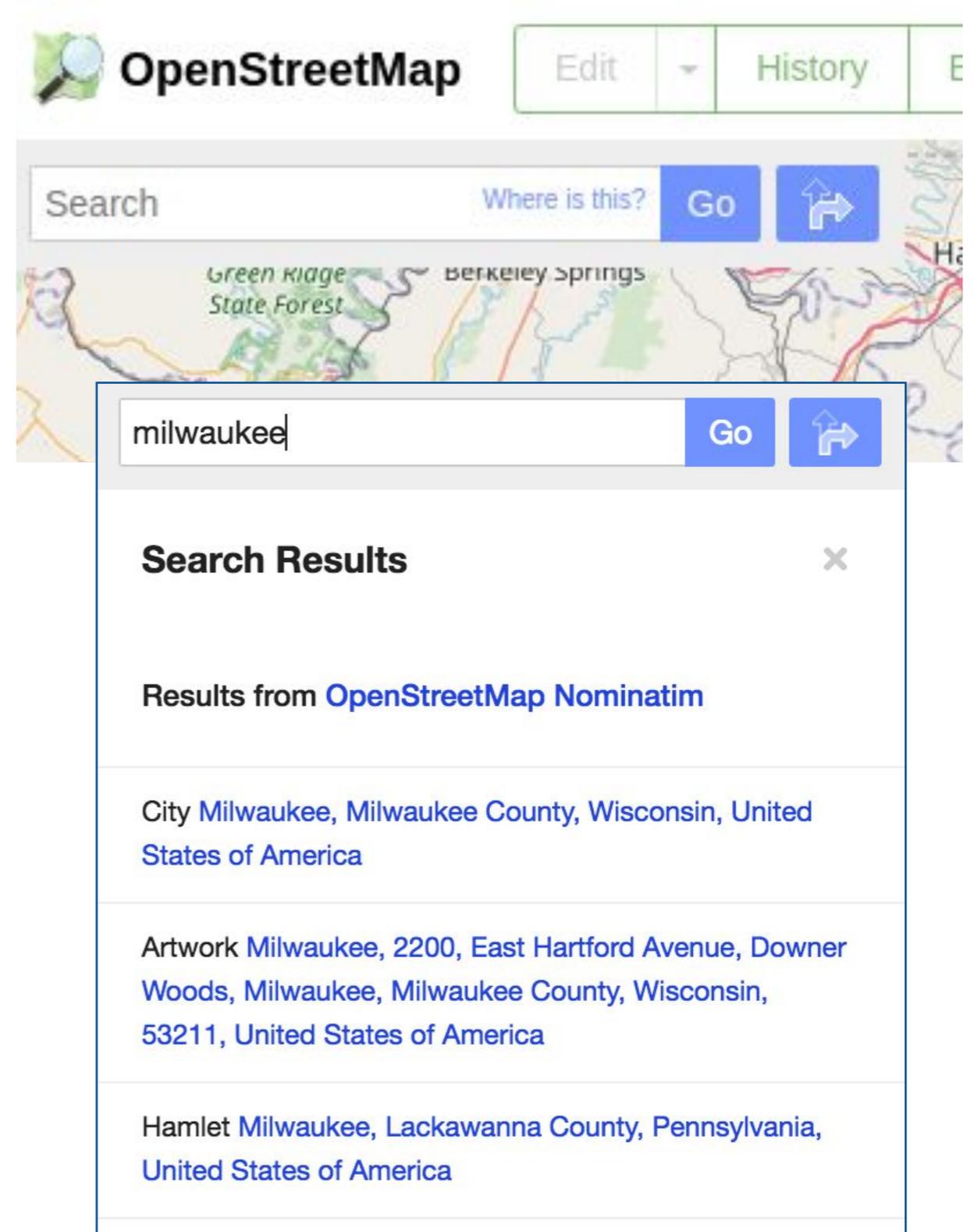
- OSM logo / Home button
- Edit / History / Export
- Search Box
- Directions button



# SEARCH BOX

## FIND A PLACE ON THE MAP

- Locate the search box near the upper left corner
- Use the search box to enter a placename, then hit 'return'.
- For example, the figure below shows result for places named 'Milwaukee'.
- Try searching for places near you or places you've visited.

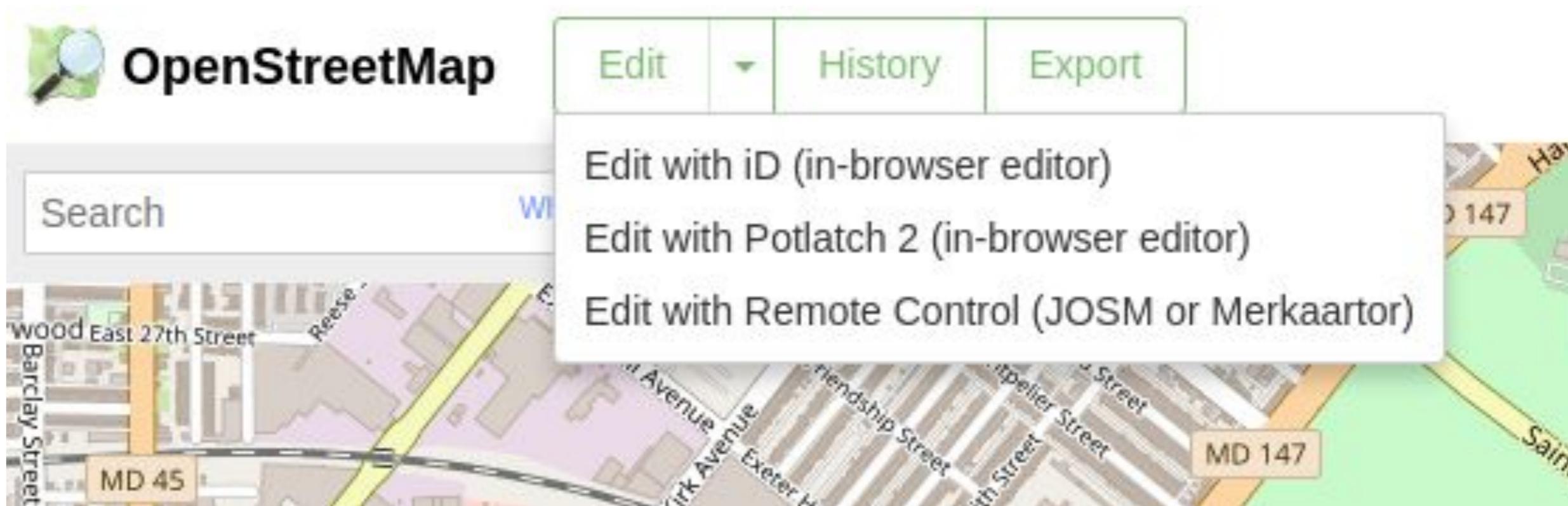


# EDIT BUTTON

Clicking on the Edit dropdown arrow presents 3 editing options:

- Edit with iD
- Edit with Potlatch
- Edit with Remote Control

You will learn to edit with iD in the following module. Stay tuned!



# HISTORY BUTTON

- Click History to reveal additions and changes to the map in the area shown in your map window
- Click a changeset to reveal additional information about the edit.

**Changeset: 55817019** ✕

waterways

Closed about 19 hours ago by [Gumeg](#)

Tags

<a href="#">created_by</a>	JOSM/1.5 (13265 ru)
<a href="#">source</a>	Bing

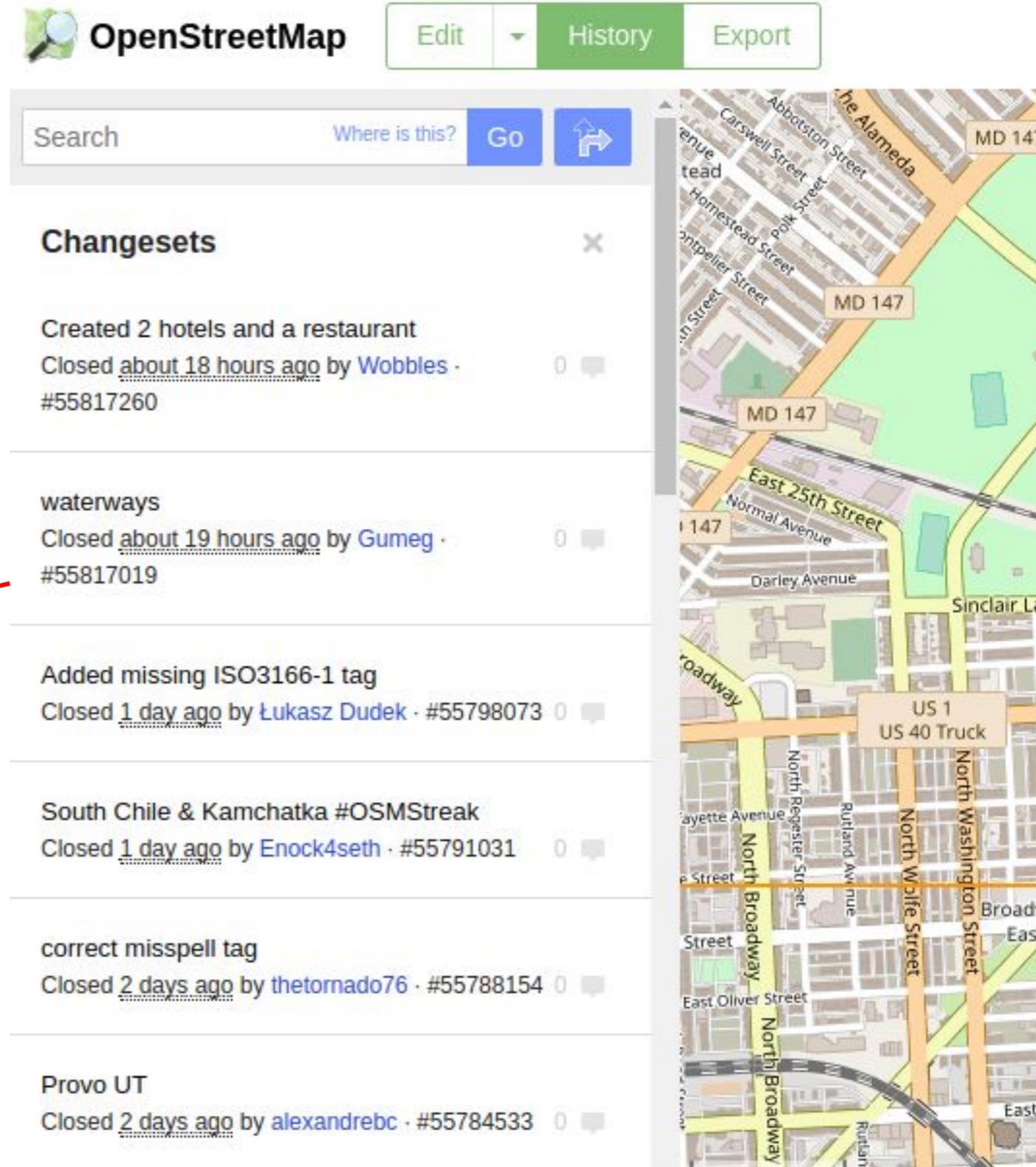
Discussion

[Log in to join the discussion](#)

Ways (2)

- [152477492, v6](#)
- [556365150, v1](#)

Nodes (1-20 of 144) 1 2 3 4



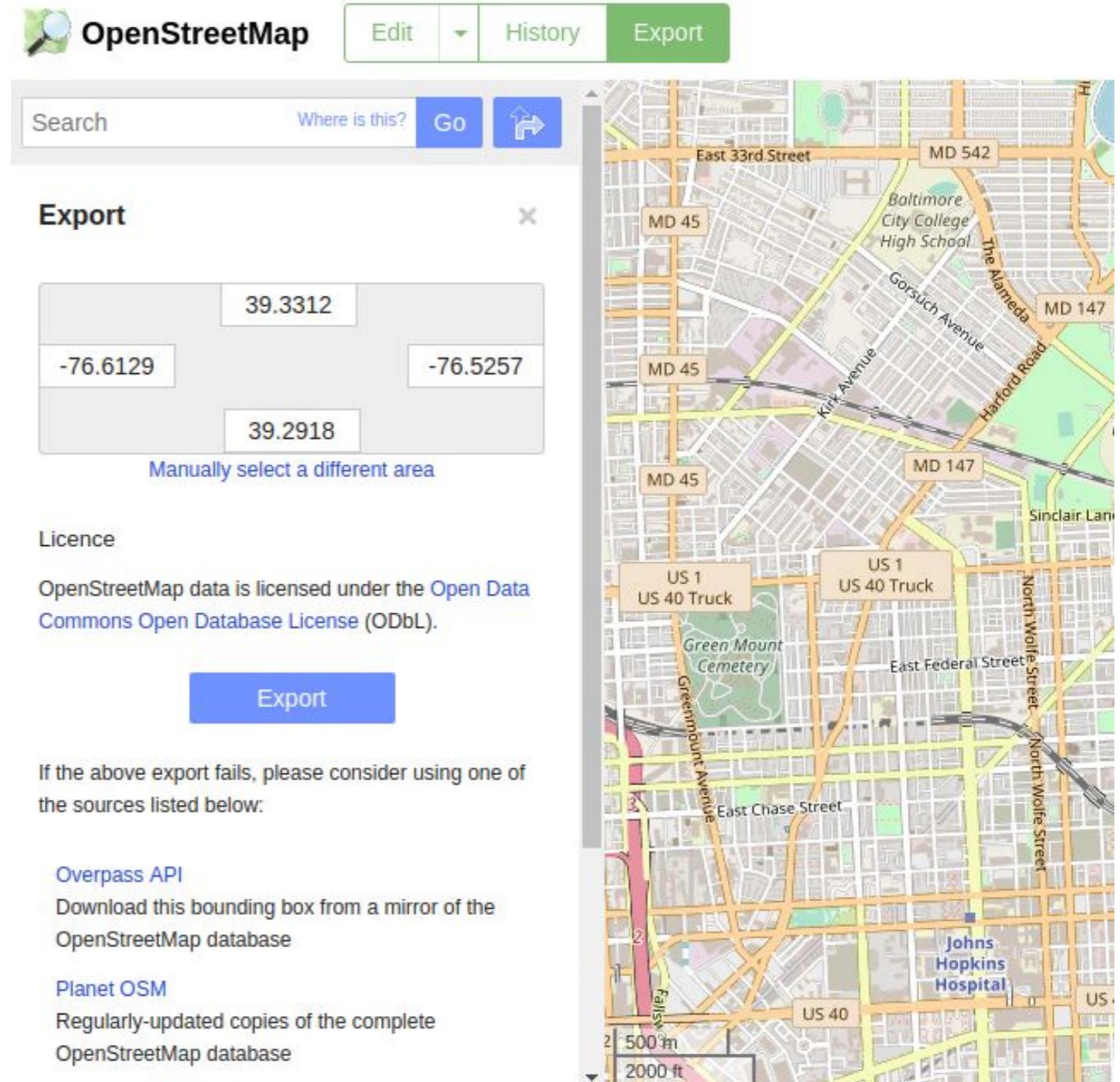
The screenshot shows the OpenStreetMap interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the OpenStreetMap logo, an "Edit" button, a "History" button (highlighted in green), and an "Export" button. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the text "Search" and "Where is this?" followed by a "Go" button and a location pin icon. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column displays a list of "Changesets" with the following entries:

- Changesets** ✕
- Created 2 hotels and a restaurant  
Closed about 18 hours ago by [Wobbles](#) · #55817260
- waterways  
Closed about 19 hours ago by [Gumeg](#) · #55817019
- Added missing ISO3166-1 tag  
Closed 1 day ago by [Łukasz Dudek](#) · #55798073
- South Chile & Kamchatka #OSMStreak  
Closed 1 day ago by [Enock4seth](#) · #55791031
- correct misspell tag  
Closed 2 days ago by [thetornado76](#) · #55788154
- Provo UT  
Closed 2 days ago by [alexandrebc](#) · #55784533

The right column shows a map view of the area, with a red arrow pointing from the "Changeset: 55817019" entry in the left column to the map. The map displays a street grid with labels such as "East 25th Street", "Normal Avenue", "Darley Avenue", "Sinclair Lane", "US 1", "US 40 Truck", "North Broadway", "North Regester Street", "Rutland Avenue", "North Wolfe Street", "North Washington Street", "Broadway", "East Oliver Street", and "East".

# EXPORT BUTTON

Allows you to carry out basic exports of map images or raw OpenStreetMap data in a particular area.



The screenshot shows the OpenStreetMap interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the OpenStreetMap logo, an 'Edit' button, a dropdown menu, a 'History' button, and a green 'Export' button. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the text 'Where is this?' and a 'Go' button. The main content area is titled 'Export' and contains a bounding box input form with the following coordinates: 39.3312, -76.6129, -76.5257, and 39.2918. Below the form is a link that says 'Manually select a different area'. Underneath is a 'Licence' section stating that OpenStreetMap data is licensed under the Open Data Commons Open Database License (ODbL), with a blue 'Export' button. At the bottom, there is a section for alternative data sources: 'Overpass API' (with a link to download a bounding box from a mirror) and 'Planet OSM' (with a link to regularly-updated copies of the complete database). On the right side of the interface is a map of Baltimore, Maryland, showing streets like East 33rd Street, Kirk Avenue, and US 1, along with landmarks like Baltimore City College High School and Johns Hopkins Hospital. A scale bar at the bottom left of the map indicates 500m and 2000ft.

# DIRECTIONS

Route directions from one point to another. Use the dropdown to select mode of transport (car, bicycle, pedestrian).

Type two places and press 'Go!'

The image shows a screenshot of the OpenStreetMap interface. At the top, the OpenStreetMap logo is visible, along with 'Edit' and 'History' buttons. Below the logo, there are two input fields for 'From' and 'To', a dropdown menu set to 'Car (OSRM)', and a blue 'Go' button. The 'From' field contains the address '831, William Street, Federal Hill, Baltimore, M' and the 'To' field contains '702, Gladstone Avenue, Wyndhurst, Baltimor'. Below the input fields, a 'Directions' panel is open, showing the route details: 'Distance: 12km. Time: 0:16.' and a list of seven steps with icons indicating the direction of travel. The map view shows a route from the starting point in Federal Hill to the destination in Wyndhurst, passing through areas like Pikesville and Lochearn. The route is highlighted in blue on the map.

**OpenStreetMap** Edit History

From: 831, William Street, Federal Hill, Baltimore, M

To: 702, Gladstone Avenue, Wyndhurst, Baltimor

Car (OSRM) Go

**Directions**

Distance: 12km. Time: 0:16.

1. Start at end of **William Street** 170m
2. At the end of the road turn left onto **Key Highway** 150m
3. Continue on **Light Street** 600m
4. Continue on unnamed road 110m
5. Continue on **East Pratt Street** 200m
6. Turn left onto **South Gay Street** 700m
7. Turn left on the ramp onto unnamed road 500m

# CONTROL YOUR VIEW - PAN & ZOOM

Once you locate your area of interest, you may want to change the view.

- PAN: Click and hold the mouse/touchpad and (simultaneously) drag.
- ZOOM: Change the scope of the view. For example, zoom out to gain a wider view, or zoom in to see more local detail. Try each control by clicking:



- + Zoom In
- - Zoom Out

- ZOOM TO YOUR LOCATION

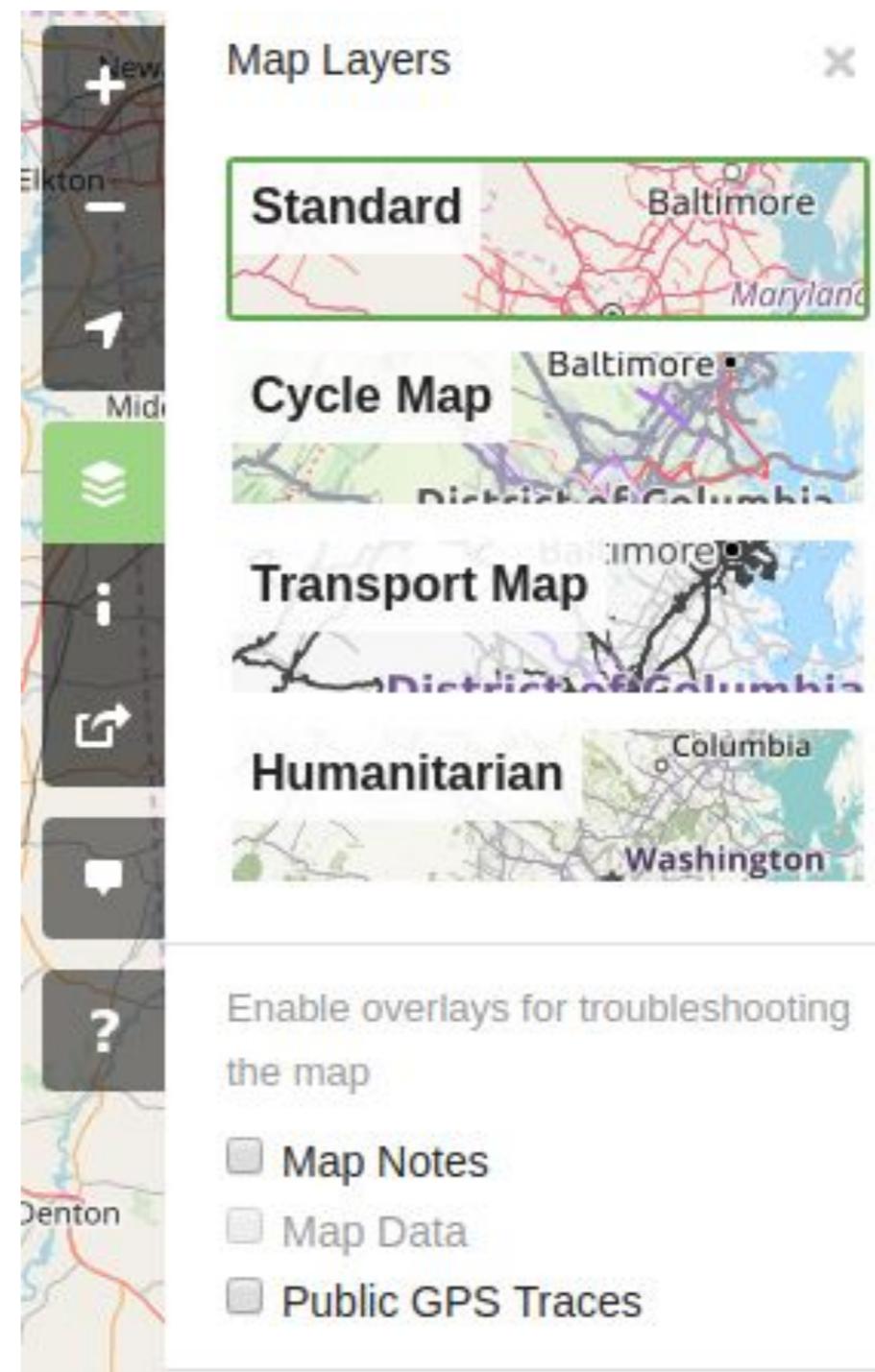


# CONTROL YOUR VIEW - LAYERS



Click to reveal the Map Layers control box. Existing layers:

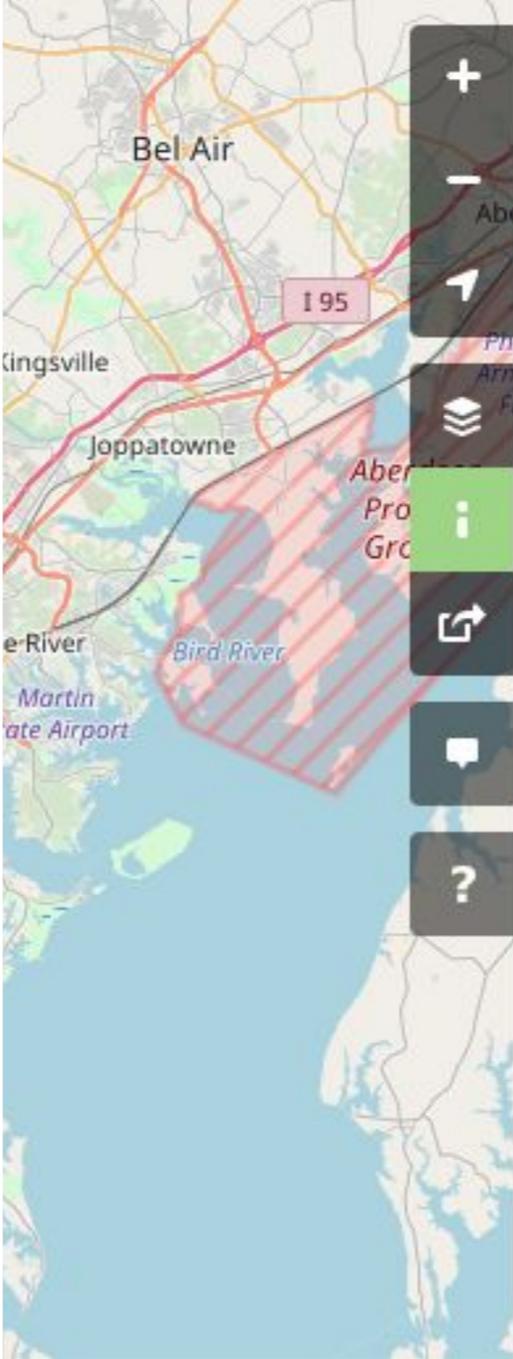
- Standard: shows the default view
- Cycle Map: Shows National Cycle Network routes, regional and local routes, and cycling-specific features
- Transport Map: shows public transport lanes like railways, buses and trams
- Humanitarian: focused on resources useful for humanitarian organizations and citizens in general in emergency situations,
- Map Notes: Show notes added by other community members. Click the marker to read and comment on notes.
- Map Data: Loads raw map data for the visible area of the map. Elements (nodes and ways) can be selected, by clicking on the map itself, or on the object list show in the left side panel.
- Public GPS Traces: tracks uploaded by other OSM users.



# CONTROL YOUR VIEW - MAP KEY



- Click to reveal a map legend. You will see roads, land use, and other features depending on your current location on the map.
- Zoom or pan the map to change contents of the key.
- Click the 'x' in the corner to close.



Map Key

- Motorway
- Main road
- Railway
- Administrative boundary
- Forest
- Wood
- Golf course
- Park
- Residential area
- Common and meadow
- Retail area
- Industrial area
- Commercial area
- Heathland
- Lake and reservoir
- Farm
- Brownfield site

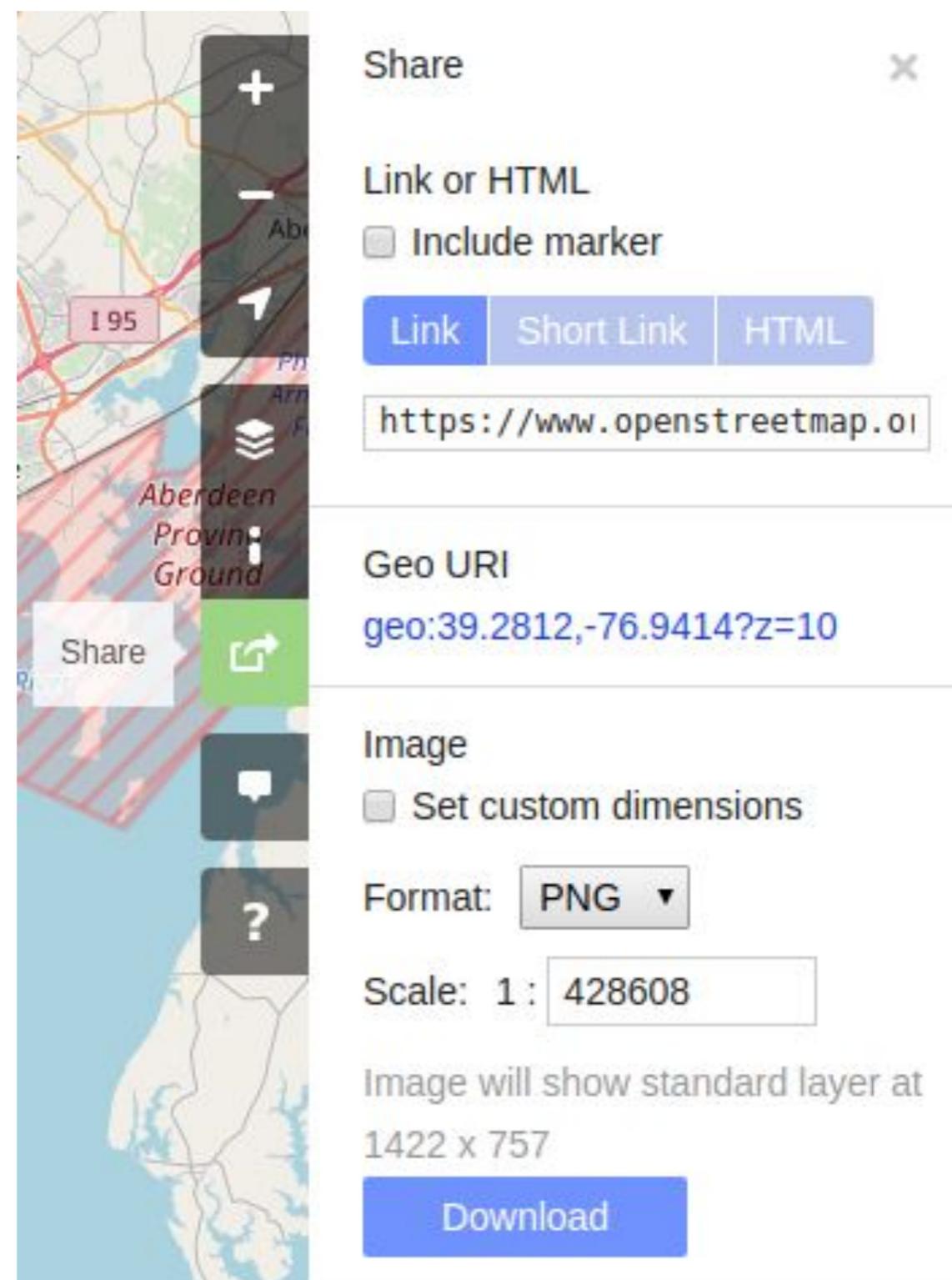


# CONTROL YOUR VIEW - SHARE



Share your map with others with a few options:

- Link
- Short Link
- HTML
- Geo URI
- Download an Image File (PNG, JPG, SVG, PDF)
- Add a pin to the map by clicking “include marker”



The screenshot shows a map interface on the left and a share menu on the right. The map shows a street view of Aberdeen, Scotland, with a red rectangle highlighting a specific area. The share menu is titled 'Share' and has a close button (X) in the top right. It offers three options: 'Link or HTML', 'Geo URI', and 'Image'. Under 'Link or HTML', there is a checkbox for 'Include marker' and three buttons: 'Link', 'Short Link', and 'HTML'. A text input field contains the URL 'https://www.openstreetmap.org'. Under 'Geo URI', the text 'geo:39.2812,-76.9414?z=10' is displayed. Under 'Image', there is a checkbox for 'Set custom dimensions', a 'Format' dropdown menu set to 'PNG', and a 'Scale' input field set to '1 : 428608'. At the bottom, it says 'Image will show standard layer at 1422 x 757' and a blue 'Download' button.

# CONTROL YOUR VIEW - ADD A NOTE

- Zoom into the place you would like to add a note.
- Click the Note icon.
- A pin will appear on the map and a box will open beneath the search bar.

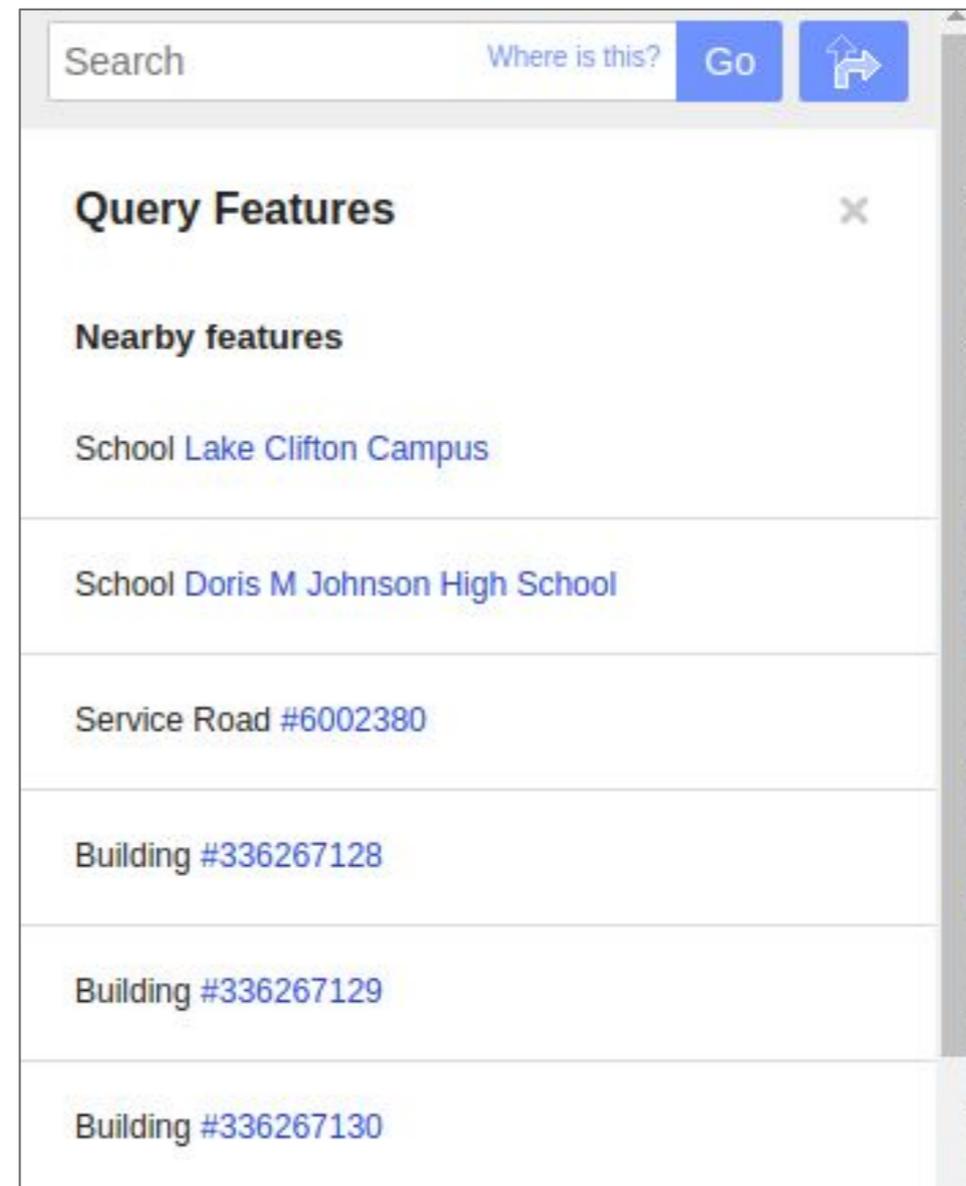


The screenshot shows the OpenStreetMap interface. At the top left is a search bar with the text "Search" and "Where is this?" followed by a "Go" button and a location pin icon. Below the search bar is a "New Note" dialog box with a close button (X). The dialog box contains the following text: "Spotted a mistake or something missing? Let other mappers know so we can fix it. Move the marker to the correct position and type a note to explain the problem." Below this is a large text input area with a warning: "Your note is public and may be used to update the map, so don't enter personal information, or information from copyrighted maps or directory listings." At the bottom left of the dialog box is an "Add Note" button. The map on the right shows a street grid in East Baltimore, Maryland, with major roads like MD 45, MD 147, US 1, and US 40 Truck. A blue location pin with a white crosshair is placed on the map, and a red location pin is also visible. The "Green Mount Cemetery" is labeled in the bottom left of the map area.



# CONTROL YOUR VIEW - QUERY THE MAP

- Click the ?
- Click a spot in the map to see which data elements are at this spot.
- A description of the feature will show on the left-hand side of the screen.
- Close by clicking the 'x'



# NEXT IN THE SERIES - OSM MODULE 2

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OPENSTREETMAP BASICS II

