

Google Earth Additional Information

New Users

Installation

To Install Google Earth, go to <http://www.google.com/earth/> and select “Download Google Earth” at the top right. **Uncheck the two boxes soliciting the installation and use of Google Chrome unless you would like a new web browser.** Continue with the remaining download steps.

Basics

Features

Upon opening Google Earth, you’ll see an internal window for “Start-up Tips” in the main portion of the screen. It may be useful to read, or you may close it, allowing access to the virtual Earth. In the upper right there are three navigation tools, explained below.

You will see a toolbar along the left edge that includes expandable sections for “Search,” “Places” and “Layers.” Use the Search section to find places or objects in Google’s database. The Places section will be mostly empty, but when you download the supplemental files, they will show up in the “Temporary Places” folder. The Layers section allows you to choose which data to display. Uncheck boxes to unclutter your view and to allow for faster rendering. As a rule, I leave the following layers unchecked: photos, 3D Buildings, Ocean, Weather, Gallery, Global Awareness, More. There’s a lot of great information in these layers, but having many checked at once tends to cause the program to lag.

Navigation

There are three main ways of navigating:

1. **Fly-to:** Double click on a Search result, an object in the Places toolbar, or a location on the Earth and Google Earth will automatically take you to the proper location. Fine-tuning your view requires one of the following methods.
2. **Navigation Tools** (in upper right of screen): Look, Pan, Zoom
 - a. Use the **Look** tool (the one with the eye) to change the angle of your view from a fixed vantage point. The ring around the edge can be rotated to change your directional orientation. Click on the N to automatically reorient with North at the top of the screen.
 - b. Use the **Pan** tool (the one with the hand) to make lateral movements across the surface of the Earth.
 - c. Use the **Zoom** tool to move closer or farther from the Earth’s surface; you zoom toward the center of the screen.
3. **Mouse:** left button, right button, scroll wheel
 - a. Left click and drag the Earth’s surface in the direction you want to travel (equivalent to the Pan tool)
 - b. Right click and drag up to zoom out, drag down to zoom in (equivalent to the Zoom tool); you zoom toward the position of your cursor.
 - c. Scroll up and down to zoom in and out (equivalent to Zoom tool and right click); you zoom toward the position of your cursor; depress the scroll wheel and rotate the cursor

in an arc around the selected point to change your directional orientation. Depress the scroll wheel and move the cursor up or down through the selected point to change your viewing angle (equivalent to the Look tool).

With a bit of practice, navigation can be done most efficiently using only the left button and the scroll wheel.

- More on navigating Google Earth can be found at https://support.google.com/earth/answer/148186?hl=en&ref_topic=4380575.
- The full Google Earth User guide is here: https://support.google.com/earth/?page=guide_toc.cs#navigating/.

Details Specific to the Nepal Files

As with the Layers, the Nepal files are organized in expandable/collapsible folders. Click the small white triangle to the left of the file to expand it and access the contents. Check the box at a given level to display all contents nested within it, or check individual objects at the lowest levels.

The files may contain routes, places and photos. Right click on a route and select “Show Elevation Profile” to see the route’s min/max elevation, total gain/loss, distance and other data. Hover over the elevation profile to see data at a specific point on the route and watch the pointer arrow indicate the physical location. Click the X in the upper right corner of the elevation profile to return to the full screen view. Double-click on a photo either in the toolbar or on the map to fly to the location of the photo and see it overlaid on the landscape. The image overlay feature is more relevant when viewing the trekking routes.