

— THE MAP WITH A TIME AXIS

State of OpenHistoricalMap

Mapping the world's history, openly.

Speakers Minh Nguyễn · **1ec5** · Ruben Lopez Mendoza · **Rub21**

State of the Map 2026 · Friday, August 28 · Paris, France



Minh · lec5

Software & Community
OpenHistoricalMap



Ruben · Rub21

Infrastructure & Data
OpenHistoricalMap

— THE PROBLEM

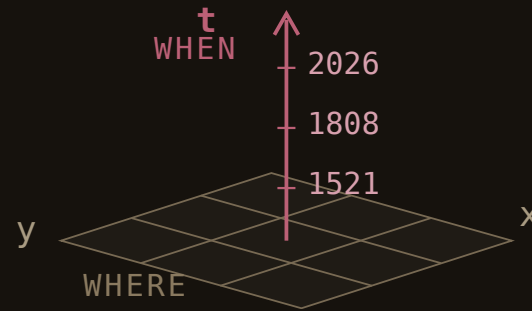
Almost every map shows only the world of *today*. A street, a border or a building took **centuries to get there**, and the map keeps none of it.

What if the map could remember?

OpenHistoricalMap = OpenStreetMap

+ start_date

[+ end_date]



Every street, building, or border carries
when it existed. The map gains a fourth
dimension: **time**.

What's in the map

192K



BOUNDARIES

Empires to city districts.

1.6M



ROADS & STREETS

Roman roads to
avenues.

760K



BUILDINGS

Built, rebuilt,
demolished.

341K



RAILWAYS

Lines opened and
closed.

1.8M



WATER & NATURE

Rivers, coastlines,
forests.

188K



PLACES

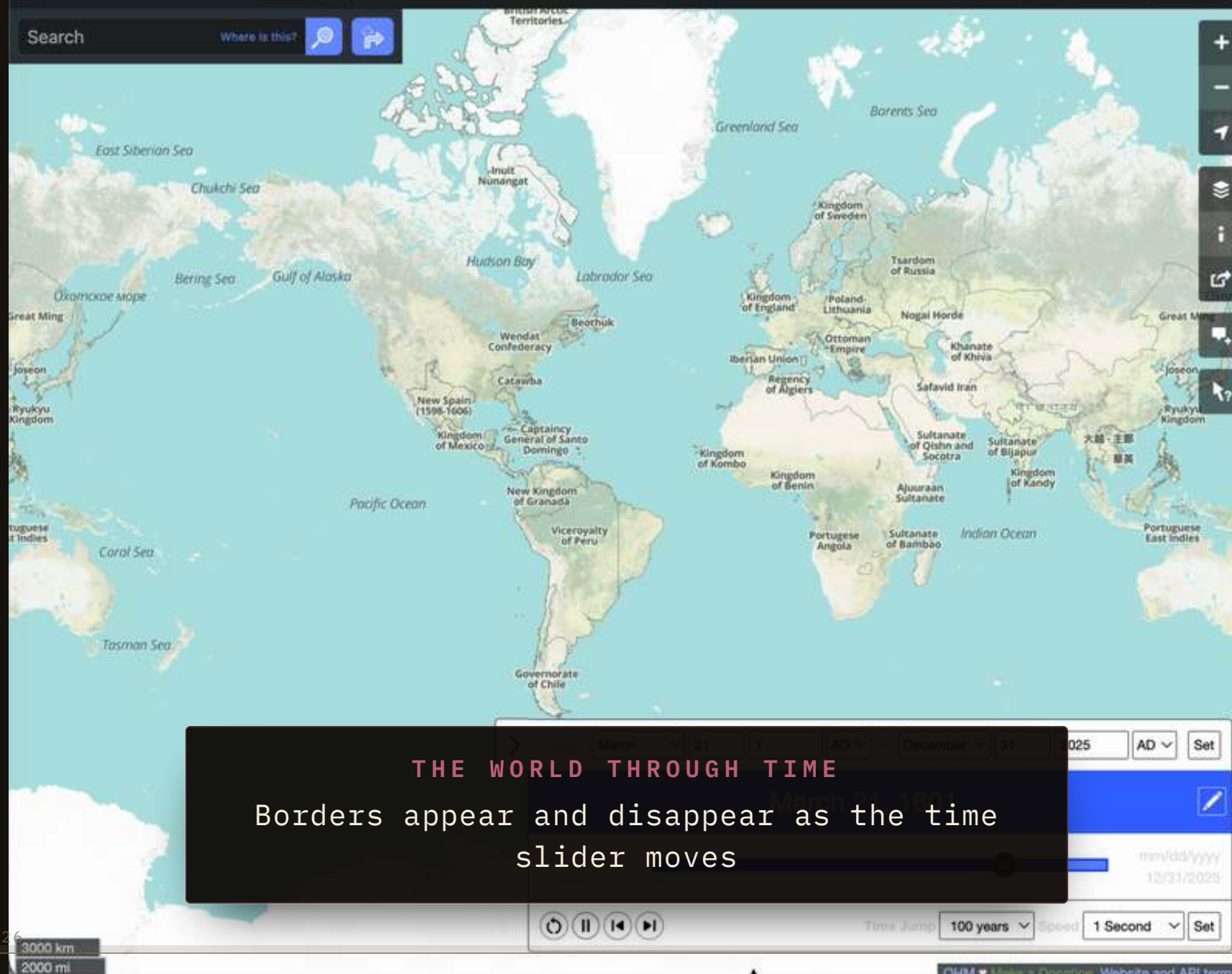
Renamed, moved, or
gone.

3.6M dated features · average mapped year 1960



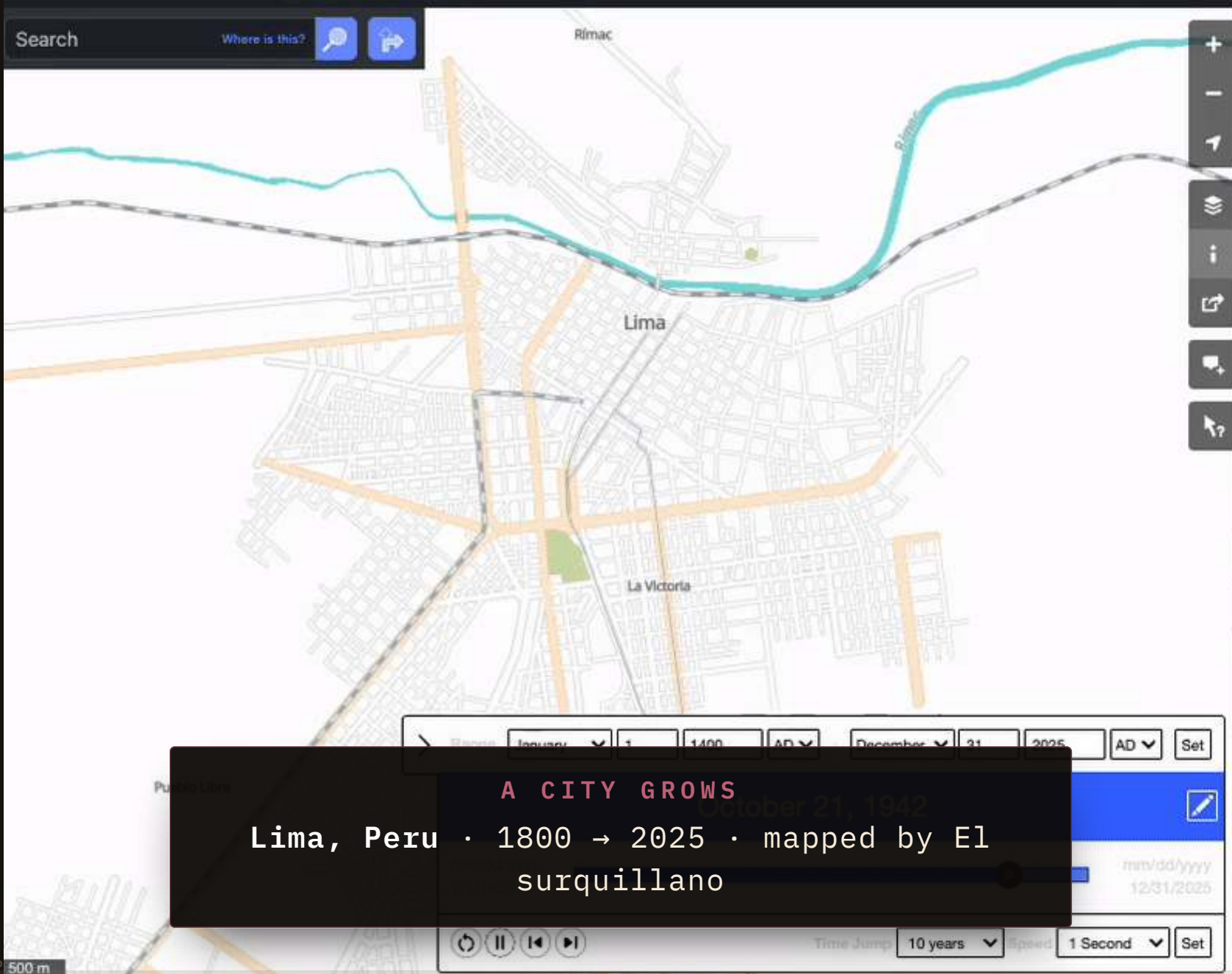
Search

Where is this?



THE WORLD THROUGH TIME

Borders appear and disappear as the time slider moves



Search

Where is this?



48.8395°N · 2.5876°E



RIO JANEIRO

Rio de Janeiro

A NETWORK DISAPPEARS

Historical railways · Rio de Janeiro · 1970

1800 → 2025

1800

AD

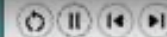
December

31

2025

AD

Set



Time Jump

10 years

Speed

1 Second

Set

10 km

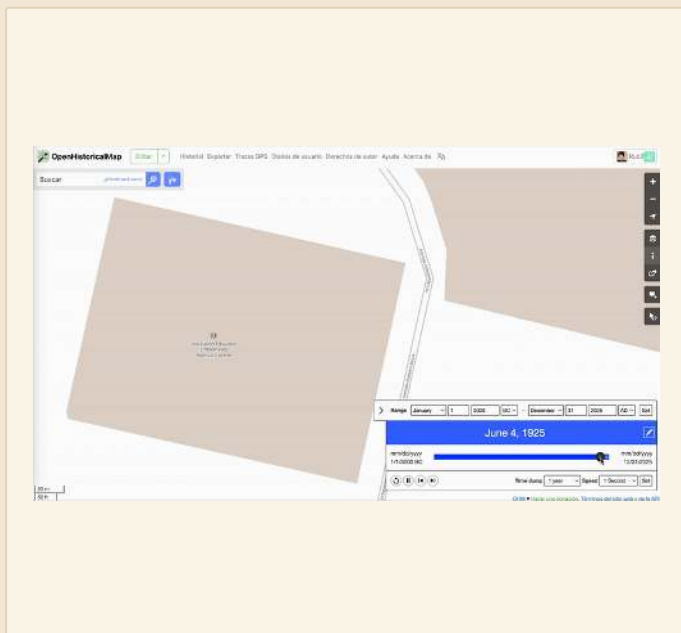
5 mi

STATE OF THE MAP · 2026

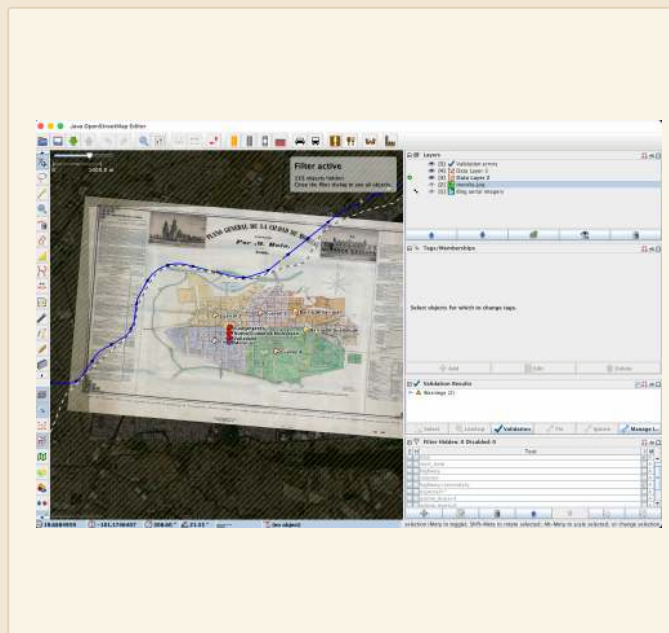
PARIS · AUG 2026

How people map

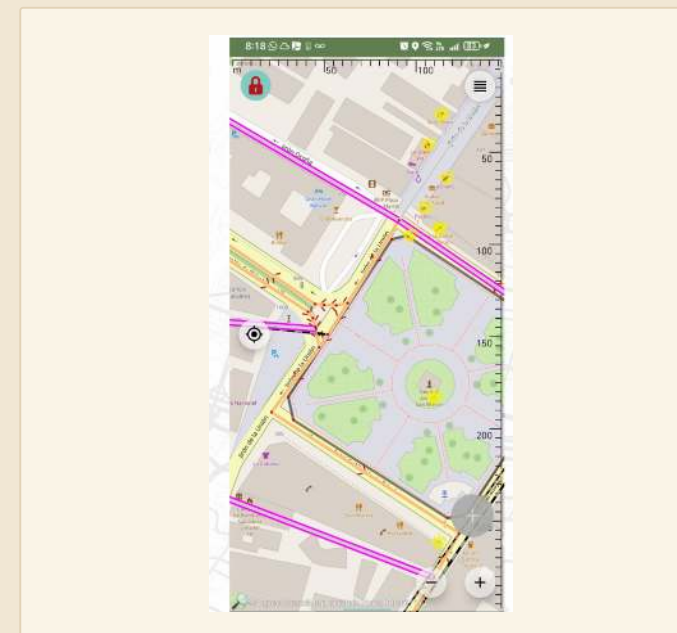
One open dataset, **three editors**. Log in with your OHM account.



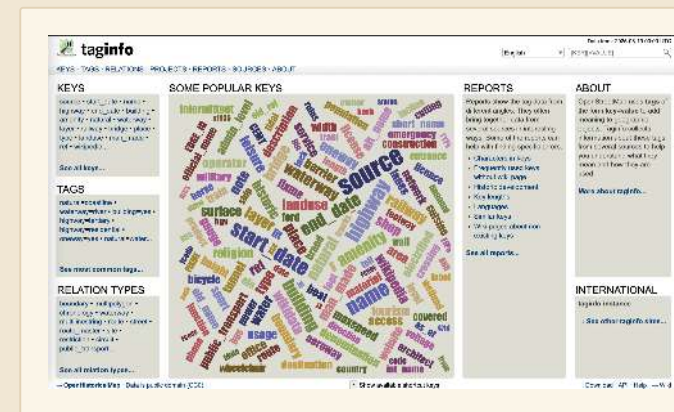
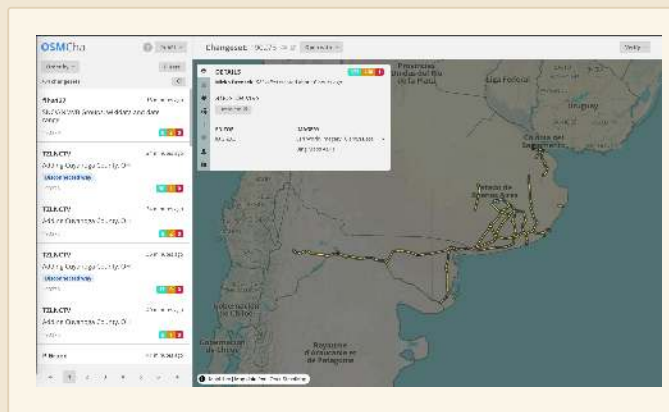
iD · browser



JOSM · desktop



Vespucci · Android

taginfo · planet · data and
downloads

overpass-turbo · osmcha · planet · taginfo. The same OSM tools, running on historical data.

How the OHM ecosystem is built



WEBSITE & API

OSM website, forked.



ID EDITOR

Forked, with date fields.



OVERPASS & SEARCH

Same tools, answering *when*.



RENDERING

Our own vector tiles.



MORE TOOLS

taginfo, OSMCha, tasks, planet.



THE RECIPE

Fork it. Add dates.

Take the data with you



OVERPASS API

Any place, any date.



PLANET DUMPS

The whole database.



VECTOR TILES

Style your own map.



EMBEDS

A live map, anywhere.

Everything is CC0. You never need our permission.

*“A time machine, brought to you by the
community.”*

OPENHISTORICALMAP AT THE NORTH AMERICAN CARTOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION SOCIETY (NACIS) · 2024

How the project runs today

2,177

🙌 ACTIVE MAPPERS

Zero paid staff.



NO DEDICATED FUNDING

We run on donations.



MAINTAINERS

A few volunteers.



SUSTAINABILITY

Fragile but alive.

TODO Minh

Who we work with



OLDINSURANCEMAPS.NET

Sanborn maps, traced.



NEWBERRY LIBRARY

US county boundaries.



WIKIMEDIA

Linked to Wikidata.



SOCIETIES & CLASSROOMS

Universities and hack-a-thons.

TODO: confirm the final picks with Minh.

What's next, and what we need

Where we want to go

- **TODO** · upcoming development #1
- **TODO** · upcoming development #2
- **TODO** · upcoming development #3

What we need to get there

 **Funding** · ~\$**TODO**/year runs the platform

 **Maintainers** · for the tools, not only the map

 **Partners** · universities, archives, museums

TODO: roadmap items with Minh + real annual infra cost.

History needs mappers, and supporters

Mappers: map what already happened.

Organizations: partner with us, or fund us.

your local history

your code

your archive

your funding

Let's keep history alive



The map
openhistoricalmap.org



Donate · via OSM US
we run on donations



These slides
TODO: deck URL

Minh Nguyễn · **1ec5** · Ruben Lopez Mendoza · **Rub21**