
Presented by:

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To help each mineral or rock collector find potential collecting localities by expanding their knowledge about research tools on the Internet.
1st Step To Collecting:

Decide what you want to collect, or an area that interests you for the purpose of collecting.
Bird Nest drift, Otto Mountain, Baker, San Bernardino Co., California, USA
Welcome to mindat.org

Mindat.org has been running since October 2000 with the aim of building and sharing information about minerals, their properties and where they are found.

It is now the world's largest public database of mineral information with an army of worldwide volunteers adding and verifying new information daily.

Mindat.org is free to use. Why not start by reading about some commonly encountered minerals:
- Quartz
- Calcite
- Pyrite
- Feldspar
- Tourmaline

Mindat News

11th January 2015
The new mindat.org!

25th December 2014
What's new on our 21st anniversary?

24th December 2014
3rd International Competition of Mineral...

10th December 2014
STOLEN - Major specimens stolen from the Desmo...

22nd November 2014
Mindat - SMLS - NHM Events November 2014

29th October 2014
The Munich Mineral Show 2014

Older News Articles
Click here to view all older mineral news articles

Photo of the Day

Chabazite (var: Phacolite)
Soutěský, Děčín, Ústí Region, Bohemia, Czech Republic
Posted by Petr Fuchs
• To help each mineral or rock collector find potential localities in Washington and other areas

• 1st Step to Collecting: Decide what you want to collect or an area that interests you

• Research Localities:

  HOW TO RESEARCH LOCALITIES ON WWW.MINDAT.ORG

  • Search by mineral/rock/gem, locality name or keyword(s)

  • Often gives latitude and longitude that are useful when entering geo targets into portable GPS units

  • Some localities have associated maps (Google Earth) that can show nearby roads for accessibility

  • Click on “Nearby Localities” link or expand district or county to see what other deposits are in the area.
MRDS OVERLAYS ONTO GOOGLE EARTH

Pyramid District, Washoe Co., Nevada, USA
MRDS OVERLAYS ONTO GOOGLE EARTH

- **MRDS** (Mineral Resource Data System) is a collection of reports describing metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources throughout the world, and is maintained by US Geological Service.

- Includes deposit name, location, commodity, deposit description, geologic characteristics, production, reserves, resources, and references.

- Currently the most powerful tool accessible on the Internet for researching potential mineral collecting localities.
Antelope Springs District, Pershing Co., Nevada, USA
Mapcarta is the only known (to date) website that lists the mining districts on Google Earth. This is very important when trying to find lesser known mining districts and mines found on www.mindat.org.

Some mines are highlighted on the website (gold diamond icons) which are a great cross reference during research.

Prominent terrain features represented by green leaf icons are good for associating with on other maps.

Water sources indicated by water drop icons are good to know in desert environments.
DECIDING ON AN AREA TO VISIT AND ITS ACCESSIBILITY

• USFS, DNR or BLM maps very helpful in determining land ownership (public or private)

• Must understand road conditions and if 4-wheel, walking or combination of both are needed before arriving to collecting area

• Double check target collecting site with at least two different sources because sometimes the on-line location is not posted correctly.
DECIDING ON AN AREA TO VISIT AND ITS ACCESSIBILITY
DECIDING ON AN AREA TO VISIT AND ITS TERRAIN

- Use www.mindat.org topographical feature to determine topography.

- If it looks steep on a topo map, it is twice as steep when you get there.

- View photographs posted on Google Earth to see what the terrain looks like.

- Collect on the west side of mountains in the morning, and on the east side in the late afternoon, to avoid direct sunlight.
DECIDING ON AN AREA TO VISIT AND ITS TERRAIN

Boss Mine, Goodsprings District, Spring Mts, Clark Co., Nevada, USA
WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

• Always look at 5 or 10 day forecasts before heading into collecting area.

• Flashfloods are common in desert environments.

• Higher elevations can be an advantage (cooler in hot weather) or disadvantage (snow).

• Even when you check the weather relentlessly, unexpected things can happen.
4:15 AM on June 17, 2014 near the Sullivan Mine, Stillwater Mountains, Pershing County, Nevada USA. Elevation: 6,400 feet.
DECIDING ON AN AREA TO VISIT AND WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

Bird Nest E3, Otto Mountain, Baker, San Bernardino Co., California, USA
If you are not the outdoor types, or do not feel comfortable going too far into the wilderness, get familiar with nearby towns and what services (fuel, food, lodging, emergency services) they may provide.

Active mining operations nearby are also good to know about in case of medical or other emergencies.
LOCALITIES VISITED - 2014

Mohawk Mine, Adams Peak, Last Chance District, Diamond Mts, Plumas Co., California, USA

Bird Nest E3, Otto Mountain, Baker, San Bernardino Co., California, USA
LOCALITIES VISITED - 2014

Stope 189, Boss Mine, Goodsprings District, Spring Mts, Clark Co., Nevada, USA

SW cut, Otto Mountain, Baker, San Bernardino Co., California, USA
Pay dirt!

A mineralized zone of phosphates (FOV approximately 18 inches)

Silver Coin Mine,
Valmy, Iron Point District, Humboldt Co., Nevada, USA
Nissonite
Boss Mine, Goodsprings District, Spring Mts, Clark Co., Nevada, USA

Boltwoodite & Hemimorphite
Green Monster Mine, Goodsprings District, Spring Mts, Clark Co., Nevada, USA

Turquoise
Silver Coin Mine, Valmy, Iron Point District, Humboldt Co., Nevada, USA
Hemimorphite & Kidwellite
Silver Coin Mine, Valmy, Iron Point District, Humboldt Co., Nevada, USA

Fornacite (?) & Unknown Phosphate
Silver Coin Mine, Valmy, Iron Point District, Humboldt Co., Nevada, USA

Dioptase, Kinoite & Hydroxyapophyllite
Christmas Mine, Christmas area, Banner District, Dripping Spring Mts, Gila Co., Arizona, USA
MICRO SPECIMENS FROM NEVADA TRIPS
(MINERAL PHOTOS COPYRIGHT 2014-2015, BRUCE KELLEY)

Chrsyocolla pseudomorph
Bird Nest E3,
Otto Mountain,
Baker, San Bernardino Co., California, USA

Mimetite, Cuprian Adamite, Fluorite & Quartz
Silver Coin Mine,
Valmy, Iron Point District, Humboldt Co., Nevada, USA

Heyite, Turquoise & Chlorargyrite
Silver Coin Mine,
Valmy, Iron Point District, Humboldt Co., Nevada, USA
CONCLUSION

With the information provided in this presentation, each participant should have the knowledge to find what interests them, be it rocks or minerals.
In order to properly execute these steps, it is recommended that you have Google Earth on your computer first.

2. You will want to go to the “Download” section (below the maps) and look for: **Download data for geographic areas you choose.** Click on this link.
3. Choose a state that you would like the information on and click either on the state of your choice on the map, or the name of the state below the map.
4. Choose a county that you are interested in by clicking either on the county of your choice on the map, or the name of the county below the map.
5. Using the “Download” option, go to the pull down menu and choose the “Google Earth” option, then click on the “Get Data” button.
6. Open the first .kml file listed by clicking on the file name.
7. Open the .kml file
Recommendations & Comments to New Users:

1. Only download by county. Downloading by State is counterproductive as there are so many icons that you will not see the state of choice on Google Earth.

2. The latitude and longitude of MRDS listed mining locations on Google Earth are not always accurate. During the creation of the MRDS database, mine information was sometime based on Range, Township and Section, which had to be converted or estimated into latitude and longitude. This process put some mine icons on the Google Earth plus or minus a half mile from their actual location.

3. Not all mines are listed on MRDS. You will often find mines doing a map recon that are not listed at all.