

Google Earth!

Google Earth is the coolest piece of software written by humankind, and is the perfect backdrop for telling the story of *Armageddon Pills*.

You must have Google Earth installed on your computer before you can see the *Armageddon Pills* travel path, stored in a file called a “.kmz” file. Google Earth is free, but it does require a broadband internet connection to run properly. To download Google Earth click [here](#). Now you are set.

As you read through the book or the stories on the *Armageddon Pills* website, if you find yourself wanting to see our campground in the Amazon Basin where Katrina and Jordan fed piranha to Plastico the pet alligator, you’ll be able to fire up Google Earth, spin the digital globe to Bolivia and drill down to the town of Rurrenebaque. You can click on an icon that will pull up additional information about Rurrenebaque, along with photos and video taken in the area.

If you are unfamiliar with Google Earth, here are a few basic steps that will help you get more out of it.

Google Earth comes with several “layers” that you can turn on and off. There is a layer for international borders, a layer for populated places, a layer for bus stops, one for ATMs, and so on. See Figure 1 below. If you turn on all the layers, the digital globe can quickly become overwhelmed, so explore the different layers and familiarize yourself with what is available so you can turn them on and off as you see fit.

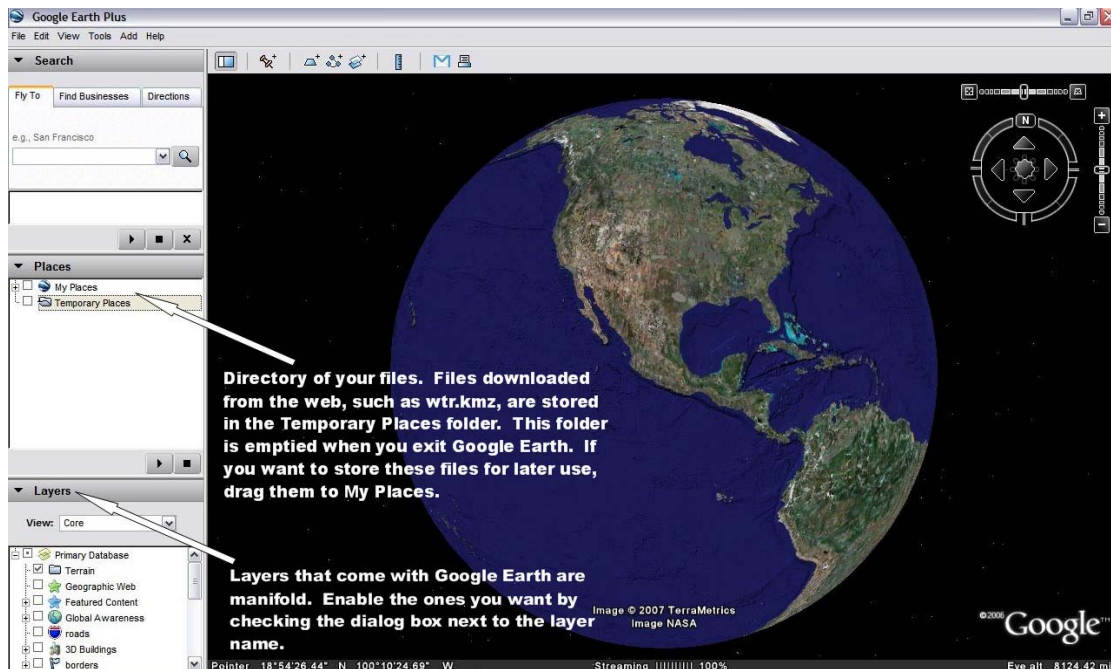


Figure 1. The Google Earth screen.

Once you have the feel for how Google Earth behaves, download the layer for Armageddon Pills (<http://www.armageddonpills.com/ge/wtr.kmz>). After the download is complete, Google Earth will automatically open and you should see something like Figure 2.

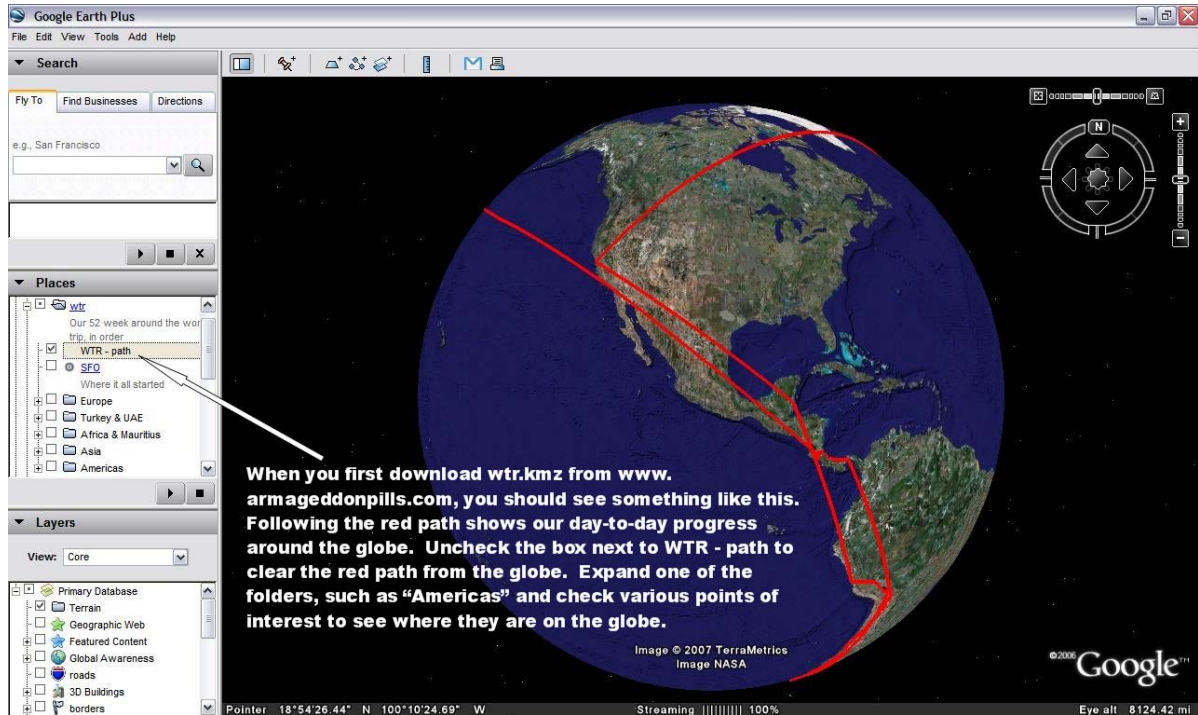


Figure 2. The daily progression of our year on the road is marked in red.

Like every software project, the World-the-Round Trip Google Earth layer will never be complete. I'll just keep adding more features.

Now drill down to some place interesting. Figure 3 describes how to make Google Earth "fly" over the path that makes up the Inca Trail. This was made possible because P hiked with us and he recorded the precise path on his GPS device. When you play this path back with the "Terrain" layer enabled, it will give you an idea of how rugged the Andes Mountains are.

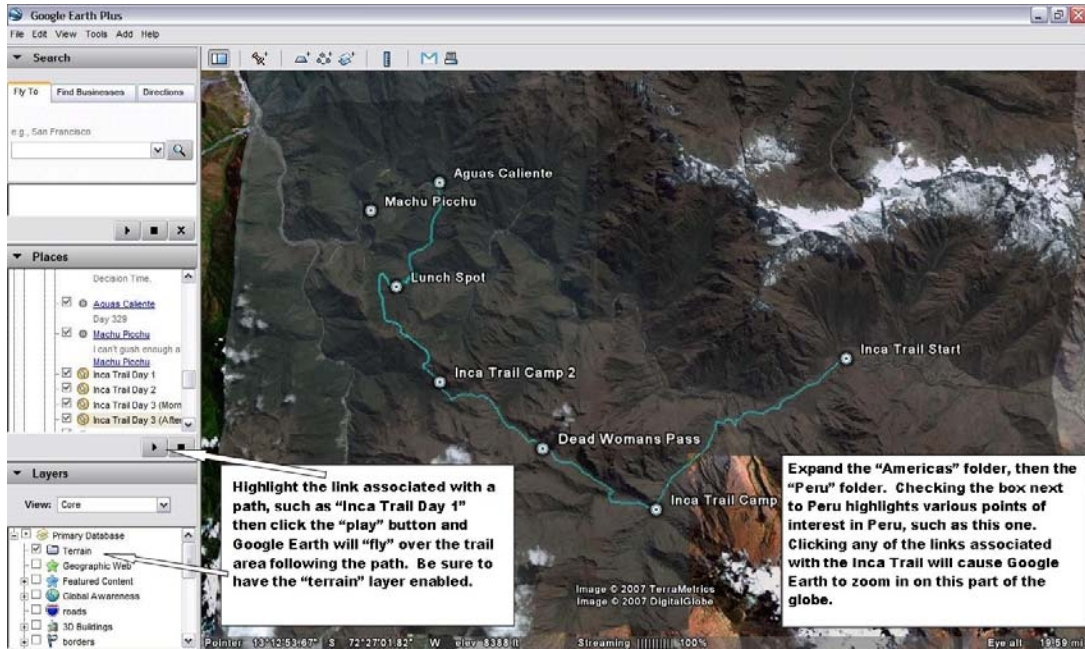


Figure 3. The Inca Trail according to Google Earth with the *wtr* layer enabled.

Double clicking a link will open up a dialog box associated with something that happened to us in that part of the world. Figure 4 shows the dialog box associated with the Bolivian Amazon. Within that dialog box are more links, such as photos, stories, Wikipedia entries and video. If there you have a question about an area that isn't covered in the links in the *wtr.kmz* file, send me an e-mail at john@armageddonpills.com and I'll update it. Enjoy!

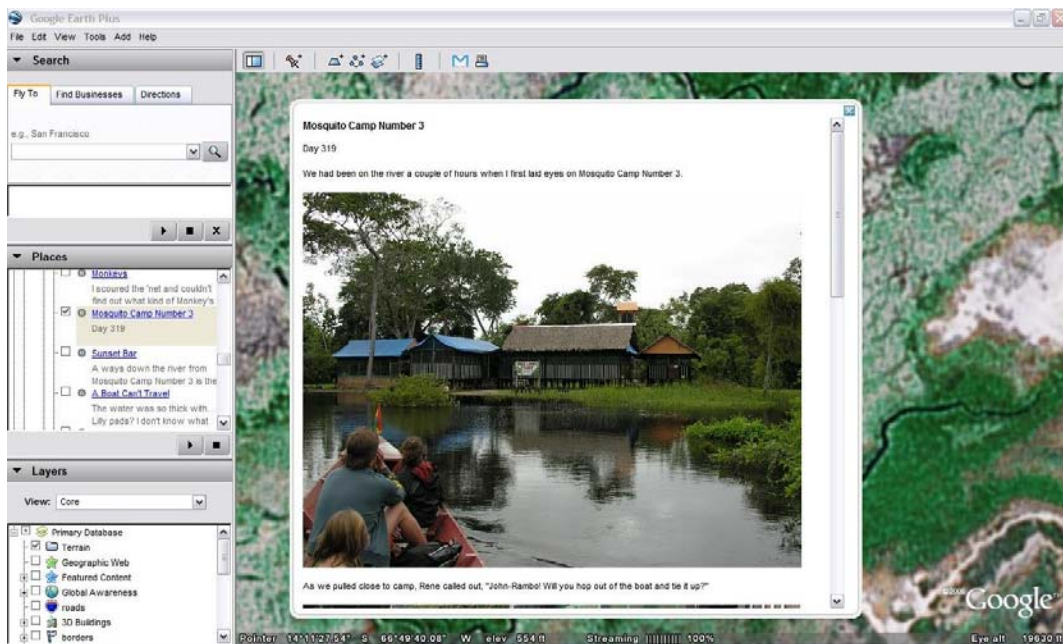


Figure 4. Google Earth dialog box for Mosquito Camp Number 3.