



MELTING POT GRAND TOUR
March 1 through October 31, 2018

[Sign Up Here](#)

TeamStrange is proud to present the Melting Pot Grand Tour!

America is a country of immigrants. Outside of our Native American family, we have all come from somewhere else in the relatively recent past. Most of us are aware of the great immigrant migrations of past centuries but did you know that today, there are over 40 million American citizens who are immigrants? It's true.

The first part of this grand tour involves finding and documenting the names of foreign nations in, or within, the names of North American cities. For example, Indianapolis carries within it, the country of India. Malibu contains the name of the country of Mali. The city of Spiceland carries the name of the country of Iceland. Make sense? The letters spelling the name of a foreign country can appear anywhere within the name of a North America city. However, the letters must be in order and contiguous. That is, while Chadwick, Mo will work for the country Chad, Thomaston, GA *does not count* for the country of Oman since the letters in O-M-A-N are not contiguous or touching one after the next in the name of the city of Thomaston. Got it? Photo submission and documentation rules apply to all cities/towns.

You are thinking, "Oh my heck! That's hard!" Yep. It is easy to understand but hard to do without some research and creativity. TeamStrange's official list of nations can be found in the Q&A below. There are over 190 countries in the world, but have no fear. Many of the country names are not achievable and you will be able to sort out which ones will work with a little research. For example, we will let you know up front that Sao Tome and Principe, will not be achievable for this GT. You can claim each country a maximum of five (5) times in this GT.

The second part of the Melting Pot Grand Tour is a tribute to the iconic Liberty Bell. We all know about the famous Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. However, did you know that in 1950, the U.S. Department of the Treasury sponsored the casting of fifty-five full-size replicas of the American Liberty Bell? All forty-eight American states, the American territories, Washington, D.C. and Annecy-le-Vieux, France took ownership of their very own Liberty Bell replica shortly thereafter. You can document photos for up to ten (10) of the 1950 Liberty Bell replicas for points. To document a liberty bell, you need to have a receipt from the city in which the bell is located in addition to meeting the regular photo standards to document your visit. Why the receipt? They are replicas. Photo submission and documentation rules apply to all bells.

There are of course bonus locations as well. Each bonus location is worth 50 points. Photo submission and documentation rules apply to all bonuses.

Your entry includes a GT flag and a custom designed sticker. Entry fee is \$40 for one or two up.

GT flags and stickers will be mailed around February 15, and thereafter, upon sign up.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

QUESTIONS? Ask Jon J. at teamstrange@live.com

Melting Pot Grand Tour Scoring

Points and points alone decide your final finishing position in the Melting Pot Grand Tour. Scoring in this event is as follows:

- 1) Foreign Nations: 50 points each. (You may only claim each nation up to 5 times)
- 2) Liberty Bells: 50 points for each 1950 replica liberty bell you document. (Limit of 10 bells total)
- 3) Bonus Locations: These are all monuments, plaques or structures and they are worth 50 points each.

FINISHING THE GRAND TOUR

- 1) To complete this GT, you must have a finishing score of at least 200 points. Finishing will earn you bragging rights, an Official Melting Pot Grand Tour finisher pin and entries in the prize pool.
- 2) Finishers will receive one entry into the prize pool for each point they score.
- 3) The top finisher (based on point totals) will be declared the "Melting Pot Grand Tour Grand Champion" and will receive a commemorative plaque to document their amazing feat.

Photo Submission & Documentation Standards

- 1) When documenting any element of this GT, photos must include your GT flag, motorcycle and the subject foreign nation's name, bell or bonus stop.
- 2) When documenting cities, with foreign names in them, your photos must include your GT flag, motorcycle and a city welcome sign or city limit sign or post office. If you use a post office, the name of the city MUST be clearly visible in photo.
- 3) If you cannot get your flag, motorcycle and required subject, in a single photo, you may add no more than two additional photos for clarity and validation. Oftentimes this means including close up photos of a sign or subject and distance photos of your motorcycle and flag.
- 4) Some of the Melting Pot GT locations may not be readily accessible on your motorcycle and will be located indoors, down alleyways, or deep inside a park, etcetera and so forth. In these cases, where documenting your motorcycle is not possible, you must appear in the photo along with your GT flag and the city sign, bell or bonus subject. If you are riding two up, both riders must be in the photo.
- 5) Be safe and smart. If conditions or circumstances make capturing a photograph unsafe, a crime, or will result in a ticket or safety violation, do not take the risk. Find a safe alternative to capture your photo or skip the opportunity.
- 6) Our judges are simple folk. If your photo(s) is/are not clear or you do not document your photo(s) in a way that our scorers can understand, you will not score points.
- 7) If for any reason you make an error in your photo documentation, you may claim up to two alibis for the entire GT. What is an alibi? An alibi is a claim for full points when one element of your photo or other documentation is incomplete. For example, you decide to document the First Family statue in Fairbanks, Alaska. You take a photo of the monument with your GT flag but the photo does not include your motorcycle. For some reason (think up any reason you want) you are not in the photo as the rules require when your motorcycle is absent. Assuming every other element of the documentation is correct, you may use an alibi in this case. You may claim no more than two alibis for the entire GT.
- 8) You may submit your photos electronically/digitally or via the mail. All digital photos (or links to digital photo albums) must be submitted to teamstrange@live.com. If you would prefer to mail your photos, please contact **Jon J. at teamstrange@live.com** for the appropriate mailing address. Photos, disks, pen drive and anything else you mail will not be returned.
- 9) Submission must be submitted or postmarked on or before November 1, 2018.

QUESTIONS? Contact Jon J. at teamstrange@live.com

Q&A

- 1. I know the foreign country name needs to be in, or within the name of the town, but what if the name of the country IS the name of the town? For example, Finland, MN?**
Finland would count of course. If it is the name, it is in the name. In fact, these are the easiest kinds of names to document.
- 2. I know the letters of the foreign country we are spelling out must be contiguous. But what if there is a gap in a town with more than one word in the name. For example, suppose there was a town names "West Ogolthorpe?" West ends with a "T" and the next three letters are "OGO." Put them together and you get Togo. Would that work?**
Yes. The letter are contiguous and touching in the sense of one after the next. This would 100% meet the intent and spirit of the GT. And it is clever work. Here is an example from another rider: Dalton Gardens = Tonga. Make sense?
- 3. Alphabetizing question. I see on the list of countries things like "Bahamas, The" & "Gambia, The." Do we need to spell the names in that order, or is that just how the names are alphabetized?** That is just how the names are alphabetized. "Gambia, The" is actually "The Gambia." Do not let the way it is alphabetized in these few instances trip you up. In reality there are very few countries listed this way so hopefully it is not an issue in terms of what you can actually document.
- 4. Help! I cannot find any towns that match countries!** One tip is to be sure to include all of the unincorporated towns. If you search to include unincorporated towns and census designated places, you will likely find many more options.
- 5. Is it possible to document all of the countries listed?** No. Many of the countries listed will be very difficult, if not impossible. For example, the "Democratic Republic of the Congo" simply does not work for the format of this GT.
- 6. Why do you list countries that cannot be found in the USA or Canada?** We figured it would be wise not to exclude any of the countries. You never know what a rider may find, and we did not want to create any confusion.
- 7. Do we have to match the exact name of a country? For example, can we document Bahamas or must it be the proper name, "The Bahamas?"** It must be the full and proper name. So, in the case of The Bahamas, you must document a place called The Bahamas. Bahamas alone will not score. The exact full name and the exact spelling are required to earn points.

8. **Where did you get the list of countries?** From the State Department's list of countries. <https://www.state.gov/misc/list/> We recognized early on that there is conflicting information as to the number of countries in the world. We also realized that many of us think some places, like England and Scotland, are countries, when in fact, they are not countries. We could have picked the United Nations list or the list on CountriesoftheWorld.com or a list from a variety of other sources. At the end of the day, we had to pick one to keep things consistent so we picked the State Department's list. There was nothing fancy about it. That list is the official list, so please use it as your official list.
9. **Why is the United States not on the list? Why is Canada on the List?** Good questions. We have a sensible but wonky answer. For the purposes of this GT, neither The United States of America nor Canada is foreign to our group of riders. Therefore, we could have eliminated both from the list. However, we chose to eliminate The United States of America because there is no town by that name in the USA or Canada. Plus, the State Department list does not include The United States of America....and that is the official list. On the other hand, while Canada is part of the "home country" for this GT, Canada is on the State Department list and there are at least two towns named Canada that can be documented. We did not want to lose those two opportunities and we did not want to change the list. If you find this confusing, keep it simple, don't fret about our decision making, and use the list of countries provided.
10. **Can I use more than one motorcycle during this GT?** Yes
11. **What do you consider a town or city?** A town, township, hamlet, village, city, all mean the same thing to TeamStrange. A Census Designated Place (CDP) also counts and those are usually the small unincorporated towns you find throughout the country. Just be sure it has a sign you can use for documentation. Don't over think this. We aren't.
12. **In Southern California, there's a town officially named La Cañada Flintridge, where the second word of the city's name uses an ñ instead of the English letter 'n'. Does this alternate spelling affect its use as a city containing the country name 'Canada'?** We will accept this spelling. An n is an n in English and you clearly meet the lettered spelling otherwise.
13. **What about town names with dashes, apostrophes or other grammatical marks?** Ignore the dashes, apostrophes and grammatical marks. Just look at the letters, in the order that they appear. If you find a town called, Chi-Nagata, it would count as China as those are five letters, in order from left to right.

14. Hollywood & Manhattan are just two examples of neighborhoods that people think are town. Can we use these types of locations that are actually neighborhoods? How specific are you getting on the definition of towns? Most people have no idea that Hollywood and Van Nuys and Brooklyn are not actual cities or towns. They are so engrained in our thought process as unique places that the actual governmental designation is never considered. We would definitely accept Hollywood or Van Nuys or Brooklyn as legitimate submissions assuming they would have otherwise met the criteria for this or any other Grand Tour (Sign, motorcycle, flag). If you run into any of these tricky situations, ask yourself the simple question, "can I mail a letter to this 'town' using the 'town' name". For example, you can mail a letter addressed to Chinatown, New York. You can also mail a letter to Manhattan, New York. Both of them have their own ZIP code and the post office recognizes these as places even though they are both in New York City. That is how we do the tiebreaker when all else fails or there's a controversy. Again, the idea is to keep things as simple as possible and let folks enjoy The Grand Tour itself without getting overly specific on technical definitions. We are still sticklers for signs or post offices as documentation however. So, make sure the place has a sign or post office with the "town" name.

15. If I find a Census Designated Places or an Unincorporated Town but there is no city welcome sign or post office, can I use a firehouse or a church or something like that? No. Sorry. You may not, with the exception of using an "alibi." The reason is that churches, firehouses, VFWs, schools and city center building do not always follow a naming convention. You could have, "The Church of Egypt" in Cincinnati or the "Germany Flowers Middle School" in Maricopa. It is too hard to evaluate for consistent and fair scoring. This makes the GT challenging in that there are thousands upon thousands of Census Designated Places and Unincorporated Towns. You have to find one that matches a country name from the list AND figure out if they have a city sign or post office. It is a challenge. See the Photo Submission & Documentation Standards for more on the two alibis you may use during this GT.

16. So tell me more about alibis. What can they be used for? An alibi is used to fix one of the three mandatory elements of each GT stop. That is, your flag, the subject location (town or bonus location) and your motorcycle (or you, if the bonus location is not accessible by motorcycle). In using an alibi, we still need to be able to determine where you were. So, keep in mind if you use the alibi to overcome the lack of a city welcome sign or post office, you need to have something in the background we can confirm such as church, firehouse, school, government building. To add a little more, if we see the city name and your motorcycle but you forgot your flag, you can claim an alibi. If you have the correct subject and your flag but forget your motorcycle, you can use an alibi. It is a little "get out of jail free card" and we are pretty easy about allowing them.

17. There are many different kinds of townships in the USA and Canada. Which ones will you accept? To keep it simple, if you document a sign or a post office that includes the word township we will accept it. For example, Cuba Township is acceptable no matter how it may be defined politically or administratively. Conversely, we would not accept Cuba County. Make sense? If it says township in the name it still counts because we generically think of a township as fitting our broad definition of a town or census designated area. This one is a little wonky and we realize some folks will chafe at the lack of purity in definition, but our goal is to allow maximum flexibility in claiming towns.

List of Foreign Countries

<p>Afghanistan Albania Algeria Andorra Angola Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Armenia Aruba Australia Austria Azerbaijan</p>	<p>Bahamas, The Bahrain Bangladesh Barbados Belarus Belgium Belize Benin Bhutan Bolivia Bosnia and Herzegovina Botswana Brazil Brunei Bulgaria Burkina Faso Burma Burundi</p>	<p>Cambodia Cameroon Canada Cabo Verde Central African Republic Chad Chile China Colombia Comoros Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Costa Rica Cote d'Ivoire Croatia Cuba Curacao Cyprus Czechia</p>
<p>Denmark Djibouti Dominica Dominican Republic</p>	<p>East Timor Ecuador Egypt El Salvador Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia</p>	<p>Fiji Finland France</p>
<p>Gabon Gambia, The Georgia Germany Ghana Greece Grenada Guatemala Guinea Guinea-Bissau Guyana</p>	<p>Haiti Holy See Honduras Hong Kong Hungary</p>	<p>Iceland India Indonesia Iran Iraq Ireland Israel Italy</p>

Jamaica Japan Jordan	Kazakhstan Kenya Kiribati Korea, North Korea, South Kosovo Kuwait Kyrgyzstan	Laos Latvia Lebanon Lesotho Liberia Libya Liechtenstein Lithuania Luxembourg
Macau Macedonia Madagascar Malawi Malaysia Maldives Mali Malta Marshall Islands Mauritania Mauritius Mexico Micronesia Moldova Monaco Mongolia Montenegro Morocco Mozambique	Namibia Nauru Nepal Netherlands New Zealand Nicaragua Niger Nigeria North Korea Norway	Oman
Pakistan Palau Palestinian Territories Panama Papua New Guinea Paraguay Peru Philippines Poland Portugal	Qatar	Romania Russia Rwanda

Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Samoa San Marino Sao Tome and Principe Saudi Arabia Senegal Serbia Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Sint Maarten Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea South Sudan Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria	Taiwan Tajikistan Tanzania Thailand Timor-Leste Togo Tonga Trinidad and Tobago Tunisia Turkey Turkmenistan Tuvalu	Uganda Ukraine United Arab Emirates United Kingdom Uruguay Uzbekistan
Vanuatu Venezuela Vietnam	Yemen	Zambia Zimbabwe

BONUS LOCATIONS: 50 Points Each –

These locations were created without bias for, or against, any group of immigrating or migrating people. If you do not see your heritage represented, it is not personal. We looked for a good geographic mix of locations that also represented interesting back stories.

1) The First Family statue in Fairbanks, Alaska. Last, we checked, you can find this statue in Golden Heart Plaza.	2) Dai Ky Niem Viet Nam statue in Ottawa, Ontario. Check the corner of Preston and Somerset. N 45° 24.491 W 075° 42.859	3) Polish Settlers - White Deer, TX N 35° 26.399 W 101° 10.593 N. Main St. (FM-294)
4) Chinese Memorial - Sierra City CA N 39° 34.370 W 120° 37.313	5) Northern Bruce Peninsula Pioneer Memorial - Dunk's Bay (Tobermory), Ontario, Canada N 45° 14.935 W 081° 38.691	6) Tribute to Immigrants Memorial Statue Ybor City, Tampa, Florida N 27° 57.695 W 082° 26.316
7) The Emigrant - Halifax, NS, Canada N 44° 38.486 W 063° 34.008	8) New Scandinavia - Scandia, KS, USA N 39° 47.900 W 097° 47.178	9) Doukhobor Migration to Canada - Grand Forks, British Columbia, Canada N 49° 02.443 W 118° 29.015
10) Monument to Immigrants - Ilasco, MO, USA N 39° 40.280 W 091° 18.569	11) New Bordeaux Worship Site - McCormick County, SC, USA N 33° 55.613 W 082° 23.476	12) Boston Irish Famine Memorial - Boston, MA, USA N 42° 21.440 W 071° 03.518
13) 1872 Marker – Esko, MN, USA N 46° 42.411 W 092° 21.931	14) Children - Lakewood, CO, USA N 39° 44.510 W 105° 09.644	15) The Gateway to Freedom, Detroit, Michigan, USA. N 42° 19.588 W 083° 02.637
16) Monument to the Immigrant, New Orleans 1 Canal St, New Orleans, LA	17) HRVATSKA NADA (Croatian Hope) - Gallup, New Mexico N 35° 32.048 W 108° 43.732	18) The Immigrants, 1973, Battery Park, NY