

Solution:

1. ID — solve the clues, or identify the pictures, or do whatever first step needs to be done to collect a bunch of information

First, identify the QR code on any of the tickets, and scan it to see the flavor text and the context of the puzzle. Another clue that the solver should spot first is the fact that these tickets are presented to them in chronological order, and thus should be rearranged. Then, the solver should further identify the fact that the backside of the tickets each contain a written clue about the country from which the ticket was purchased. For the first train ticket (Binche. - Hasselt.), for example, the clue “center of European politics,” “chocolate-filled streets,” and “French and Dutch” should hint at the country being Belgium. The other five countries, in order, are France (pain au chocolat and the capital being famous tourist destination), Austria (alpine meadows and snowy peaks, “waltz,” and also “feeling not neutral” thus excluding the possibility of Switzerland), Denmark (fairytale, “hygge”), Egypt (sand, thousand-year dynasties, glyph), and finally Canada (pines, vast landscapes, “May Pulsing” sounding similar to “maple”).

2. Order — put the items in order

Ordering the puzzle takes place after the solver realizes that the six countries each start with A, B, C, D, E, F. Therefore, rearranging the tickets is the “ordering” part of the puzzle. The six tickets should be arranged in this order:

Eisenstadt - Innsbruck	Austria
Binche. - Hasselt.	Belgium
Halifax - Guelph	Canada
Jelling - Aarhus	Denmark
Alexandria - Cairo	Egypt
Fontainebleau - Istres	France

3. Extract — index or otherwise extract info from the answers

Two sets of information could then need to be extracted from the tickets after they are ordered: the barcodes to the left, and the starting letters of each of the cities in the ticket. The solver should also extract the dots and the dashes, as hinted in the flavor text. Also From the flavor text, the solver should notice that the journey “starts at zero instead of one.” This is the clue that when mapping these letters back to numbers, instead of starting from 1 = A, the solver would need to start from 0 = A, 1 = B, etc.

The barcodes, after being indexed into the alphabet following this rule, gives

FINA
LANS
WERI
SCOO
RDIN
ATES

It is not the final solution of the puzzle and thus solving it is not a necessary step, but it would point in the right direction that the solver needs to find a set of coordinates. This step also accustoms the solver to the alphabetical mapping rule and prepares them for the next step.

On the other hand, the first letters of the city names, along with the dots and dashes, gives

E	-I
B.	H.
H	G
J	A
A	C
F	I

This would give

4	-8
1.	7.
7	6
9	0
0	2
5	8

Which is 41.7905. -87.6028.

4. Solve — find the final answer

The final answer to this puzzle is the set of coordinates (41.7905. -87.6028). When using Google Maps, the solver should find that these coordinates are the exact ones of the John Crerar Library, which is also where the suspect's name, J.C., comes from.