



How to...



WOW!
There are more than 3 million geocaches hidden around the world for people to find.

Search for geocaches

Geocaching is a fun outdoor hobby that can feel like a real treasure hunt.

If you love to be outdoors, solve riddles, and search for interesting things, you might want to try geocaching. This is an activity that people participate in all over the world. People hide small containers, called geocaches or caches (cache is pronounced like “cash”), with prizes inside, and then other people try to find them using maps on their mobile devices. Here’s how to get started.

Understand the basics

A geocache is created when a player hides a waterproof container somewhere and then logs its exact location on the Geocaching app. Inside the container, the hider will put a logbook (a notebook that players can sign) and sometimes small prizes. Then other players try to find what has been hidden using the navigating system on the Geocaching app. Sometimes finding a geocache will be straightforward, but other times they are well hidden in their spot and you really have to search.

Get started

The first step is to ask a parent to download the Geocaching app on their smartphone. (Learn more at geocaching.com.) When you click on the app, it will show you a map of nearby geocaches. You can also search for geocaches in different locations. For example, if you know you are spending the weekend with a

grandparent, you could search to see if there are geocaches near them. When you click on a geocache, you can see a description of it, as well as other information about it, such as how long it might take to find. Next, you can click “navigate” to open up directions to the spot. You may need to ask an adult to drive you to a park that you walk around together. Some geocaches in your area may be hidden in other public spots, like a walking path in your town.

Find the container

Once you get there, look at the recent activity and description in the app for any clues that might help you find it. Remember, geocaches come in all shapes and sizes. Often, they’re a small tube or a medium-sized box that looks like a heavy-duty plastic container. The container could also be stored inside an object, like the ones in the box at right.

Enjoy what’s inside the container

There should always be a logbook so you can write down that you found the geocache with the date. You’ll also often find small prizes called tradeables (such as small toys, pins, or crafts). You can take one of them as long as you replace it with an item of similar value. When you’re done, put the geocache back exactly where you found it so other people can find it.



Navigate to the spot.

5 fun containers hiding geocaches

Sometimes people store geocaches in creative ways. Check out these hiding spots from around the world.

Tricky birdhouse

Hidden in the woods in Germany, one geocache is housed in a wooden birdhouse covered in puzzles for finders to solve.



Supersize strawberry

Found in Spain, this plastic geocache container looks

like a big piece of fruit.

Classic telephone

Your next geocache is calling!

This one in Massachusetts has its logbook hidden within a telephone.



Plastic pigeon

A tiny tube is screwed into the back of a plastic pigeon to

hold a geocache’s logbook in California.

Hen and eggs

A container in Holland features a hen with plastic eggs, one of which contains the logbook.

