

Geocaching.com Fact Sheet



Overview

Geocaching.com is the world's largest location-based gaming portal. Started in September, 2000, by GPS enthusiast and web developer Jeremy Irish, the site now hosts more than 4 million geocachers, and more than 1 million active caches.

Geocaching.com Features

Geocaching.com offers an array of features for both novice and avid geocachers. If someone is new to this world-wide activity, Geocaching.com will lead them through all the necessary steps for their first geocaching experience. The site provides an in-depth tutorial for getting started, as well as instructions on finding geocaches.

Geocaching.com also provides information about benchmark hunting, Trackables (Geocoins, Travel Bugs®, and other promotional items), membership, events, necessary gear, and more.

Geocaching.com Community

Becoming part of the Geocaching.com community is a simple task. To be part of this growing online community, individuals have two membership options – Basic or Premium.

A Basic Membership on Geocaching.com is free, and requires only a name and a valid email address to create an account. A Premium Membership is \$30 per year, or \$10 for 3 months, and provides access to additional website features and functionality that will help individuals get the most out of their geocaching experiences.

Premium Members can:

- Create custom searches based on cache size, location, attributes, and more with Pocket Queries
- Organize cache listings and create favorite lists with the bookmark feature
- Filter geocache types using the Groundspeak Enhanced Google Maps
- Download up to 1000 waypoints at a time using Pocket Queries – Premium Members receive 5 Pocket Queries a day
- Search for geocaches along a specific route
- Be the first to find a geocache by receiving “instant notifications” about newly published geocaches

Registration for both Basic and Premium Memberships is a simple process at

<http://www.geocaching.com/membership/comparison.aspx>.

How to Find a Geocache

Geocaches may be found all over the world. A geocacher can place their “hidden treasure” in a unique location and then share its existence and location online at www.geocaching.com. Afterward, anyone with a GPS device or GPS-enabled mobile phone can try to locate the geocache.

A geocacher simply has to follow these steps to seek a cache:

1. Register for a Basic or Premium Membership at Geocaching.com
2. Click “Hide & Seek a Cache”
3. Enter a postal code or address and click “Search”
4. Choose any geocache from the list and click on its name
5. Enter the coordinates of the geocache into a GPS device or GPS-enabled mobile phone
6. Use the GPS device to help you find the hidden geocache
7. Sign the logbook and return the geocache to its original location
8. Share geocaching stories and photos online

Geocaches can now be found using GPS-enabled mobile devices such as an iPhone or Blackberry. A geocacher needs to install the appropriate geocaching app onto their mobile device, and follow the simple steps to find caches in their area.



Geocaching Glossary

As with any popular activity in the world, there is always a multitude of acronyms or terms that are specific to that particular activity. The case is no different for Geocaching. Following are some popular terms that are associated with Geocaching.com. Additional terms can be found online at <http://www.geocaching.com/about/glossary.aspx>.

Archive

Archiving a cache removes the listing from public view on Geocaching.com. This action is usually taken when a cache owner does not intend to replace a cache after it has been removed. As an alternative to archiving, the cache owner can temporarily disable their cache if they plan to provide maintenance on the cache or replace the container within one month.

Charter Member

During the very early years of Geocaching.com when Premium Memberships were first offered, they were called Charter Memberships to thank those who supported the website.

GC Code

A unique identifier associated with every geocache listing. The GC Code starts with the letters "GC" and is followed by other alphanumeric characters.

Pocket Query (PQ)

Pocket Queries are custom geocache queries that can be downloaded from the website. They're in a format geocachers can bring along on cache hunts on their GPS and/or PDA. Geocachers can run a Pocket Query once, or set it to run automatically on a daily or weekly basis. Queries that contain 500 geocaches or fewer can be delivered as an e-mail attachment. Additionally, geocachers can run up to 5 pocket queries with up to 1,000 geocaches during every 24 hour period, but each individual search can run only once per day.

Reviewer

Volunteers from all over the world, who publish the cache listings on www.geocaching.com.

Travel Bugs®

A Groundspeak Travel Bug is a Trackable tag that attaches to an item. This allows geocachers to track their item on Geocaching.com. The item becomes a hitchhiker that's carried from cache to cache (or person to person) in the real world.

Virtual (cache)

This is one of several cache types which are no longer available for creation on Geocaching.com. A Virtual cache is a geocache that exists in a form of a location. Virtual caches have no cache container – the reward for these caches is the location itself and sharing information about your visit. Virtual caches are now considered waymarks on Waymarking.com.