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What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is a game that reveals a world beyond the everyday, where the possibility of a new discovery hides under park benches, in the forest, and probably a short walk from where you are right now. The adventure begins by searching for cleverly hidden containers called geocaches. There are more than two million geocaches waiting to be found throughout the world, in more than 180 countries. It's easy for anyone from families to business travelers to top-tier athletes to begin the journey by downloading the Geocaching app or visiting Geocaching.com.

- Watch the [75-second What is Geocaching?](#) video to learn more.
- See the infographic celebrating [2 Million Active Geocaches](#) with country-specific data.
- Learn about the [History of Geocaching](#).

Geocaching Basics

1. A geocacher hides a geocache, lists it on Geocaching.com and challenges others to find it using our Geocaching app or a GPS device.
2. At minimum, geocaches contain a logbook for finders to sign. After signing, finders log their experience on Geocaching.com or with the Geocaching app and earn a reward in the form of a digital smiley.
3. Some geocaches contain small trinkets for trade. If a geocacher takes something from the geocache, they replace it with something of equal or greater value.
4. Geocaches are put back where they were found for the next geocacher.

Images and Video of Geocaching

Journalists may use unaltered images and video in context with “Geocaching.com” attribution:

[Geocaching Press Images and Logo](#)

[Geocaching YouTube Video Page](#)

Who are geocachers?

More than 6 million people call themselves geocachers. There are geocachers living in nearly every country on Earth. Geocachers are families with children, grandparents, tech-geeks, photographers, hikers—anyone can be a geocacher. Geocaching offers a broad appeal, in large part because it's bound only by a location and someone's imagination. Geocache listings include

difficulty and terrain ratings (Difficulty 1/Terrain 1 – the easiest and Difficulty 5/Terrain 5 – the most difficult) to help geocachers choose an adventure that is right for them.

What should not be placed in a geocache?

Food, sharp objects, ammunition, illicit or illegal items and alcohol should never be placed in a geocache. Everyone should respect the local laws. Geocaching offers [advice to geocache hidere](#) from law enforcement around the world and complimentary Geocaching Premium memberships to law enforcement agencies.

Where are geocaches found?

Geocaches can be in the forest, parks, urban locations—nearly anywhere you can think of. It is common for geocaches to be placed in story-worthy locations. Most people in North America and Europe live within a short walk of at least one geocache.

How do you hide a geocache?

A geocacher chooses a waterproof container and a location to hide it. Once a geocacher has accurate coordinates for their chosen location, they submit it for publication on Geocaching.com. Geocaching provides a set of guidelines for geocache placement. The guidelines include important rules that keep geocaching fun (and legal) for everyone involved. If a geocache clearly violates one of these rules, community members who review new geocaches may ask the hider to fix the issue.

Does Geocaching.com physically check the geocache before publishing it?

We rely on the geocaching community to abide by the guidelines, ensure that permission for geocache placement has been secured, provide an accurate location, use common sense and keep the contents family-friendly. If someone finds a problematic cache, they're encouraged to contact the owner directly.

How do you pronounce Geocaching?

You pronounce it Geo-cashing, like cashing a check.

What is the meaning of the word Geocaching?

The word Geocaching was written and said for the first time in 2000. The word was created by combining GEO for geography and CACHING for the process of storing or hiding materials. Merriam-Webster added "Geocaching" to its dictionary as an official new word in 2012.

Journalist Contact

Reporters working under deadline should email pr@geocaching.com for a prompt response

during regular business hours in Seattle, WA.

Community members with questions please email Geocaching HQ using this [contact link](#).