

User Guide

Geocache Navigator™ Software

Version 1.30
Revision A
November 2006



GeocacheNavigator™
by  **Trimble.**

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Release notice

This is the November 2006 release (Revision A) of the *Geocache Navigator Software User Guide*. It applies to version 1.30 of the Geocache Navigator software.

Support

Call the Trimble Outdoors tollfree number 1-800-773-5996 or email support@geocachenavigator.com.

For hints, FAQs, and access to helpful ideas from the Trimble Outdoor community forum, go to www.geocachenavigator.com.

Support is available during the following hours (Eastern Standard Time):

Monday to Friday: 7:00 am - 10:00 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

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The availability and accuracy of Java programs using GPS-derived location information will depend on the environment in which the GPS feature is used. Trimble has no control over the operation of GPS satellites or the availability of their signals. In situations where adequate signals cannot be obtained, the GPS system may not work at all.

Certain Trimble Outdoors software or cellular phone features may not be available throughout the cellular network coverage area, or their functionality may be limited. All features, functionality, and product specifications are subject to change without notice or obligation.

All talk and standby times are approximate. Battery performance depends on cellular network configuration, GPS satellite signal strength, and other conditions (for example, phone settings).

Data use

Actual data use depends on individual usage and cellular network coverage, and may be higher or lower than indicated in this guide.

Sprint phones

The GPS function on Sprint phones can be used only within the cellular network coverage area.

Geocaching.com data

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Geocaching, hiking, backpacking, and other outdoor activities involve risk to both persons and property. There are many variables including, but not limited to, weather, fitness level, terrain features and outdoor experience, that must be considered prior to seeking or placing a cache. Be prepared for your journey and be sure to check the current weather and conditions before heading outdoors. Always exercise common sense and caution.

In no way shall Groundspeak Inc. nor any agent, officer, employee or volunteer administrator of Groundspeak Inc., be liable for any direct, indirect, punitive, or consequential damages arising out of, or in any way connected with the use of geocaching.com data.

Cache seekers assume all risks involved in seeking a cache.

Use of the geocaching.com data is subject to the [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com/terms_of_use) terms of use, located at www.geocaching.com/about/termsfuse.aspx.

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What is Geocaching?

Geocaching, pronounced (GEE-oh-cash-ing), is a fun and challenging activity. Using modern GPS technology anyone, from children to adults, can enjoy a treasure hunt activity that combines outdoor navigation and search skills. See [Going Geocaching, page 7](#).

The *geocache* (or *cache*) location that you are looking for is defined as a set of latitude and longitude coordinates. Caches are found everywhere and there are a large number of cache types. For cache type definitions, see [Cache types, page 20](#).

When you use the Geocache Navigator software, you need only a GPS-enabled phone running the Geocache Navigator software. You do not need to buy a handheld GPS receiver, which is usually the biggest financial outlay for geocaching, and you do not need access to an office computer. When you have activated your free account at www.geocachenavigator.com, you can access cache data directly on your phone if you are within a network coverage area and outside with a clear view of the sky. See [Using GPS, page 6](#).

Getting Started with the Geocache Navigator Software

The Trimble® Geocache Navigator™ software turns your cell phone into a one-stop-shop for all your geocaching needs. It combines the GPS that is built into your phone with your phone's wireless data network to allow you to:

- Search for caches near to your current location with a single click. See [Quick Cache, page 7](#).
- Search for caches anywhere by entering an address, intersection, coordinates, or a cache code. See [Find Caches, page 8](#).
- Navigate to the geocache by following the direction in which the arrow on the built-in Compass points. See [Compass page, page 11](#).
- View your location, and the location of the geocache, on an aerial, topographic or street map, that you can pan or zoom. See [Maps page, page 13](#).
- Home-in to the exact location of the geocache, using the Radar screen. See [Radar page, page 12](#).
- Mark a cache as “Found”. See [Marking a cache as found or not found \(optional\), page 16](#).

This information is uploaded to www.geocachenavigator.com. On your office computer, you can log in to your free account at www.geocachenavigator.com to add information about your find.

For more information on GPS, see [What is GPS?](#), page 18.

For online tutorials and up-to-date documentation (including FAQs), see www.geocachenavigator.com.

For more information on Groundspeak and the geocaching website, see www.geocaching.com.

For more information on the Trimble Outdoors service and product family, see www.trimbleoutdoors.com.

For on-screen help, select *Getting Started* from the menu page.

Installing the Geocache Navigator software on your phone

Follow the installation instructions provided by your service provider. If you have problems installing the Geocache Navigator software, contact support@geocachenavigator.com.

Starting the Geocache Navigator software for the first time

The first time that you launch the Geocache Navigator software, you will be prompted to choose a PIN number. After entering a PIN, go to www.geocachenavigator.com to connect your phone to a geocaching.com user account.

The software will remember your PIN number, and you should never need to enter the PIN again from the phone.



Creating an online account

An online account allows you to see the caches that you have found (or not found) from the website, and allows you to share your experience with other geocachers.

To create an online account, go to www.geocachenavigator.com and select *Getting Started / Instructions for new users*.

You will require the following information:

- The PIN number that you entered when you started the Geocache Navigator software for the first time
- The 9-digit ID of the phone (go to Settings / Show My ID)

Viewing phone logs

When you find a cache and mark it as found from the phone, the phone logs can be accessed on www.geocachenavigator.com. From here you can view and/or publish your phone logs.

Using GPS

The Geocache Navigator software uses the GPS antenna that is built into your phone to determine your location by obtaining signals from the satellites orbiting the earth. The cell phone network also provides an approximate location, time, and GPS satellite orbital information.

GPS works best when you are outside and when you have a clear view of the sky.



Obtain good signals with a clear view of the sky.



If you are indoors, you cannot obtain GPS signals.

The status of the GPS signals is indicated by the signal bar at the top right of the page. If more bars are colored, the signal is stronger.



If the signal bars are...	then the software...
Red	Is not receiving GPS signals and/or is trying to connect. Make sure that you have a clear view to the sky.
Yellow	Is receiving good GPS signals, but the signal is not strong. Consider moving to another location where you may receive a better signal.
Green	Is receiving the best possible signals.

See also [What is GPS?](#), page 18.

Going Geocaching



CAUTION – Geocaching, hiking, backpacking, and other outdoor activities involve risk to both persons and property. There are many variables including, but not limited to, weather, fitness level, terrain features, and outdoor experience, that must be considered prior to seeking or placing a cache. Be prepared for your journey and be sure to check the current weather and conditions before heading outdoors. Always exercise common sense and caution.

When you go geocaching:

- Select a cache to search for, see [page 7](#)
- Find the cache, see [page 10](#)
- Mark the cache as lost or found (optional), see [page 16](#)

Selecting a cache

You can select a cache to search for from a cache list, or you can enter coordinates:

- Use *Quick Cache* to generate a list of caches that are close to your current location. See [Quick Cache, page 7](#).
- Use *Find Caches* for an advanced search. See [Find Caches, page 8](#).
- Enter the exact coordinates. See [Enter Manually, page 10](#).



Quick Cache

Select this option to search for the cache(s) that are closest to your current location. You do not need to enter any data.

1. Walk outside to where the phone has a clear view of the sky and extend the antenna.
2. Start the Geocache Navigator software and wait for the phone to acquire GPS satellites. See [Using GPS, page 6](#).

3. Select *Quick Cache*. The software downloads a list of caches that are close to your current location. The list is sorted by distance, and will also show the general direction of the cache from your location.
4. Select a cache from the list, and press **OK**. You are now ready to find the cache. See [Navigating to a cache, page 10](#).

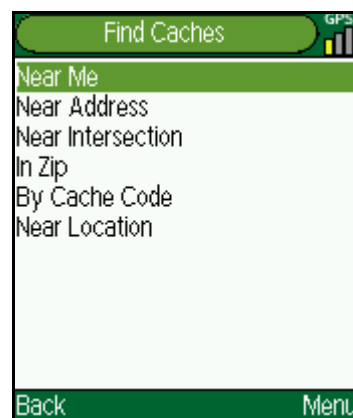


Find Caches

Select this option to generate a list of caches that are close to a specific location by entering search criteria to return exactly what you are looking for. To limit the number of caches returned, set the filter options.

1. Walk outside to where the phone has a clear view of the sky and extend the antenna.
2. Start the Geocache Navigator software and wait for the phone to acquire GPS satellites. See [Using GPS, page 6](#).
3. Select *Find Caches*.
4. Select an option and then press **OK**.

The options are:

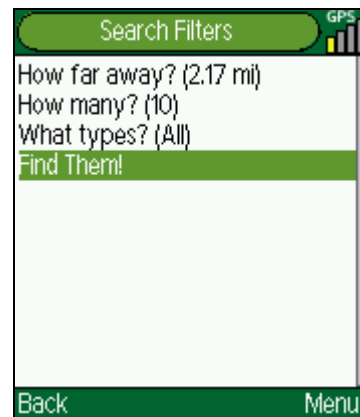


Select...	to search for a cache...
Near Me	Near to your current position.
Near Address	Near to or at a physical address.
Near Intersection	Near to or at the intersection of two roads.
In Zip	Within a Zip or postal code area.
By Cache Code	By a known geocache code.
Near Location	By its latitude and longitude.

5. Scroll down the screen and use the keypad to enter information into the appropriate fields (all options except *Near Me*).

- Press the **Select** option key. The *Search Filters* page appears: the *Find Them!* field is selected.

If required, you can change the search filters to find exactly what you are looking for. The filter options are:



Select...	to...
How far away?	Change the radius within which you want the system to search for the cache(s). Use the keypad to enter the distance and then press the OK option key. Only cache(s) within the radius are listed. The default is 2.17 miles (3.5 km or 1.88 nautical miles).
How many?	Select the number of caches that you want to display. Depending on the setting, the system will show that number of caches, starting with the caches that are closest to your current position. Use the keypad to enter the number and then press the OK option key. The default is 10.
What types?	Select the type of cache that you want to display. Scroll down the list and then press OK to select or clear the check box next to each cache type as required. Then press the OK option key. The default is All. See Cache types, page 20 .
Find Them!	Start the search.

NOTE – The *Search Filters* page is not available if you select *By Cache Code* as the code maps to one specific cache.

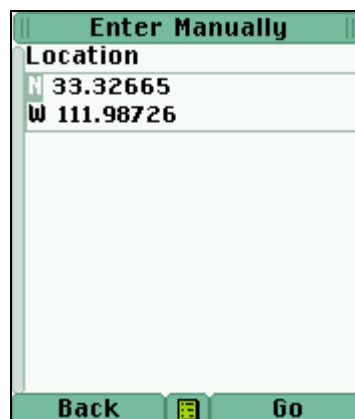
- With *Find Them!* highlighted, press **OK**.
- The software downloads a list of caches that match the search criteria. The list is sorted by distance, and will also show the general direction of the cache from your location.
- Select a cache from the list and then press **OK**. You are now ready to find the cache. See [Navigating to a cache, page 10](#).



Enter Manually

Select this option to manually enter the latitude and longitude coordinates of the cache you want to find. This is a good option if you are looking for a multi-part cache or if you want to minimize data usage.

1. Walk outside to where the phone has a clear view of the sky and extend the antenna.
2. Start the Geocache Navigator software and wait for the phone to acquire GPS satellites. See [Using GPS, page 6](#).
3. Select *Enter Manually*. The *Edit Cache* page appears. The latitude field (N) is highlighted.
4. Press the \Rightarrow key and then enter the latitude.
5. Press ∇ to go to the longitude field (W).
6. Press the \Rightarrow key and then enter the longitude.
7. Press the **Go** option key. You are now ready to find the cache. See [Navigating to a cache, page 10](#).



Navigating to a cache

Once you have selected a cache, the next step is to find it.

When you use the Geocache Navigator software to search for a cache, the location (the latitude and longitude) of that cache is automatically transferred to the GPS receiver that is built into your cell phone. The Geocache Navigator software will help you find the cache you've selected. The software also calculates your position (distance and direction) in relation to the cache. As you start to move towards the cache, the distance will change as you move closer to it.

The Geocache Navigator software has the following tools to help you find the cache:

- The *Compass* page has a digital compass with an arrow that points in the direction of the cache. See [Compass page, page 11](#).

NOTE – You must be moving in one direction for 5 seconds for this page to be effective.

- The *Maps* page shows your location, and the location of the cache against a map background (an aerial, topographic, or street map). See [Maps page, page 13](#).
- The *Radar* page shows your location and the location of the cache in a “radar” image that will help you home-in on the exact location of the cache. See [Radar page, page 12](#).
- The *Cache Details* page provides descriptions, hints, and other users' logs to help you find the cache if it is very well hidden. See [Cache Details page, page 15](#).

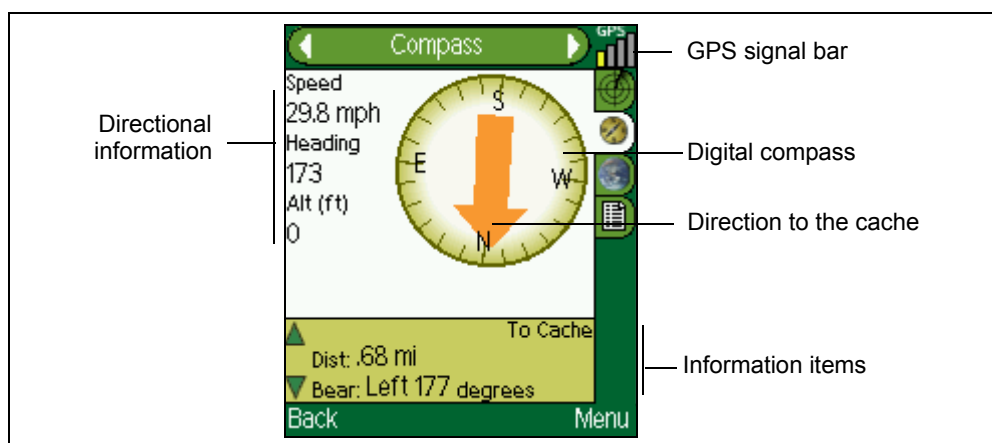
If you find a cache, or if you cannot find it, you can mark the cache as lost or found and send that information to geocaching.com. See [Marking a cache as found or not found \(optional\)](#), page 16.

Compass page

This page appears once you have selected a cache. In addition to the digital compass, you can also see information such as the speed at which you are moving, the heading, altitude, and coordinates (latitude/longitude).

Use the *Compass* page to navigate until you are close to the cache location.

TIP – When you are close to the cache, the Compass arrow starts to behave erratically, swinging from one side to the other. This is because you are now so close to the cache that you may pass it. As soon as this happens, change to the Radar page, see page 12.

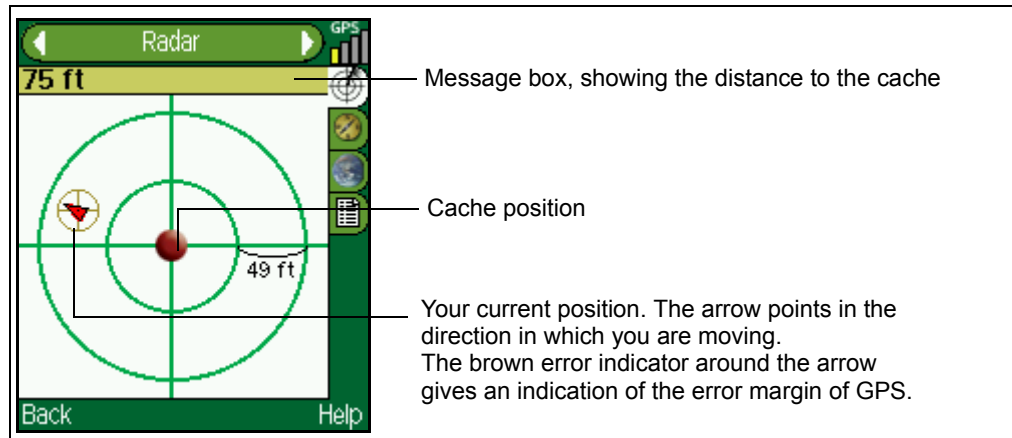


- Press \uparrow or \downarrow to scroll through the information items at the bottom of the screen (distance and bearing, latitude and longitude, location, and altitude).
- Press \leftarrow or \rightarrow to switch between the *Compass*, *Radar*, *Maps*, and *Cache Details* pages.
- Press the **Menu** option key to access the menu, make a selection and then press **OK**.

Select...	to...
Mark as Found	Report that you have found the cache. See Marking a cache as found or not found (optional) , page 16.
Mark as Lost	Report that you have not found the cache.
Help	Access on-screen help.

Radar page

You can use the Radar page to navigate to the cache at any time, but it is most useful when you are close to the cache.



TIP – The error indicator becomes larger as your GPS location is affected by foliage, buildings, or even your body. This means that your actual position could be anywhere in the error ring.

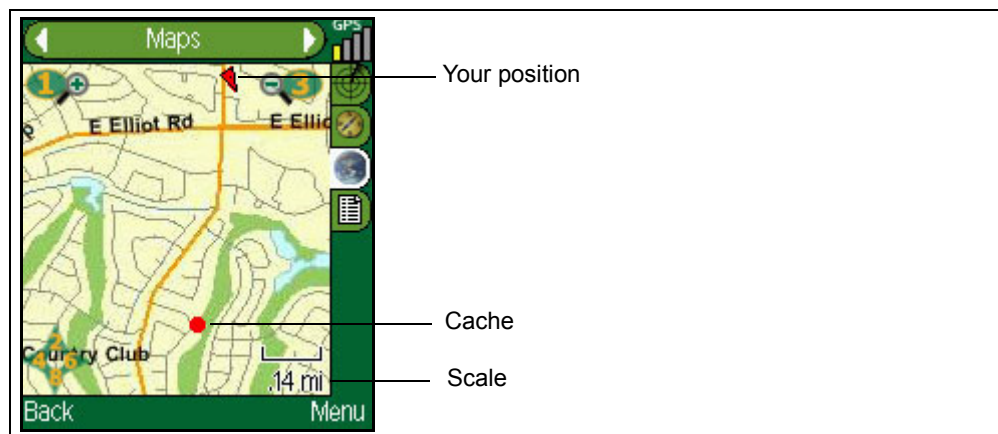
TIP – When the arrow is on top of the cache, GPS will not help any more. You need to use your skill of observation to find the cache.

- Press or to switch between the *Compass*, *Radar*, *Maps*, and *Cache Details* pages.
- Press the **Menu** option key to access the menu, make a selection and then press **OK**.

Select...	to...
Mark as Found	Report that you have found the cache. See Marking a cache as found or not found (optional) , page 16.
Mark as Lost	Report that you have not found the cache.
Help	Access on-screen help.

Maps page

The Map is used to view your location, and the location of the selected cache against a map background. You can download aerial photos, topographic maps, or street maps. To reduce data usage, Trimble recommends that you use the map only when you are close to a cache (this does not apply if you have an unlimited data allowance from your wireless carrier).



- Press \leftarrow or \rightarrow to switch between the *Compass*, *Radar*, *Maps*, and *Cache Details* pages.
- Press the **Menu** option key to access the menu, make a selection and then press **OK**.

Select...	to...
Mark as Found	Report that you have found the cache. See Marking a cache as found or not found (optional) , page 16.
Mark as Lost	Report that you have not found the cache.
Map Background	Select or change a map background. See Downloading a map to the phone , page 13
Help	Access on-screen help.

Downloading a map to the phone

With the Geocache Navigator software you can now download maps “wirelessly”. You must be in the cellular network coverage area before you can do this.

Once a map of the area is loaded on the phone, the Maps page shows your current position on that map.

NOTE – Maps are not stored on the phone

To download a map while you are navigating to a cache:

1. From the *Maps* page, press the **Menu** option key and then select *Map Background*. The *Map Background* page appears.
2. Select the required map type to download.

Select...	to display...
No Background	No map (default).
Street Maps	A street-level map of the area.
Topo Maps	A topographic map of the area.
Aerial Photos	An aerial map of the area.

The map shows the area you were looking at before you downloaded it. When you pan or zoom, the software automatically downloads a new map.

Panning the Maps page

When you pan the screen, there is only a small margin that you can view before you reach the edge of the downloaded map. When this happens, wait 1.5 seconds before downloading new data. If you go back into the map before 1.5 seconds has elapsed, the system will not download any map. Also, if you continue panning, the system will wait until you stop panning for more than a second before it will download a map of that area.

- Press **2** to pan up
- Press **4** to pan left
- Press **6** to pan right
- Press **8** to pan down

The same applies for zooming. See [Zooming the Maps page, page 14](#).

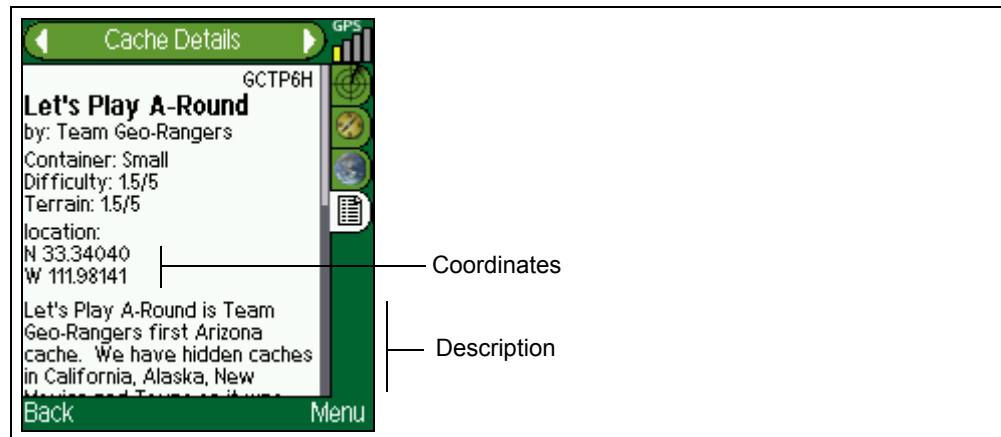
Zooming the Maps page

To switch between preloaded zoom levels, press the keypad buttons on the phone. You will notice that the zoom level at the bottom of the Maps page changes.

- Press **1** to zoom in
- Press **3** to zoom out

Cache Details page

Select the *Cache Details* page to access descriptions, hints, and other users' logs to help you find the cache if it is very well hidden.



- Press or to switch between the *Compass*, *Radar*, *Maps*, and *Cache Details* pages.
- Press the **Menu** option key to access the menu, make a selection and then press **OK**.

Select...	to...
Mark as Found	Report that you have found the cache. See Marking a cache as found or not found (optional), page 16 .
Mark as Lost	Report that you have not found the cache. See Marking a cache as found or not found (optional), page 16 .
Show Hint	Show a hint to help you find the cache.
Show Logs	Download five logs at a time. Once you have viewed the last log, the system automatically downloads 5 more logs. See Viewing logs, page 16 .
Help	Access on-screen help.

Viewing logs

1. Select *Show Logs* from the *Cache Details* menu.
2. Press the **Menu** option key to access the menu, make a selection and then press **OK**. The options are:

Select...	to...
Next Log	View the next log. Alternatively, press the \rightarrow key.
Last Log	Page through the available logs. Alternatively, press \leftarrow or \rightarrow to scroll through the logs. When you reach the final log, the system automatically downloads 5 more logs.

The *Cache Logs* page appears.



Marking a cache as found or not found (optional)

When you have finished your search, select “Mark as Found” or “Mark as Not Found”. Either selection creates a log that you can access from www.geocachenavigator.com.

From any of the navigation pages, press the **Menu** option key. Do the following:

- If you have found a cache, select *Mark as Found* and press the **OK** option key.
- If you could not find the cache, select *Mark as Not Found* and press the **OK** option key.

The information is transferred to www.geocachenavigator.com.

Publishing logs online

After you have marked a cache as found or not found, you can add more information about your experience and share it with your fellow geocachers. To do this, go to www.geocachenavigator.com.

Logging your finds requires that you have an online account. If you do not have an online account, see [Creating an online account, page 5](#).

Changing the Software Settings

This page controls the settings for the software features.

1. From the *Geocacher* page, select *Settings*. The *Settings* page appears.



2. Select and then configure any of the following:

Select...	to...	Options / Fields
Show My ID	Show your 9-digit user ID.	
Units	Choose the units of measurement	Metric, English (default)
Location Format	Choose the format in which coordinates are displayed.	Deg (degrees) (default), Deg Minutes Seconds, Deg Minutes
Change PIN	Reset your pin number if you forget it.	
About	View information on the Geocache Navigator software.	
Terms of Use	View a copy of the terms of use.	
Geocaching Etiquette	View a copy of the geocaching etiquette that you agreed to.	

Additional Information

What is GPS?

The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a worldwide navigation system consisting of a constellation of 24 satellites and their ground stations. GPS uses these satellites to calculate positions accurate to a few meters. In a sense, it gives every square meter on the planet a unique address.

When you use the Geocache Navigator software to search for a cache, the “address” (the latitude and longitude) of that cache is automatically transferred to the GPS receiver that is built into your cell phone and it appears on the *Compass* page (see [page 10](#)). The software also calculates your position (distance and bearing) in relation to the cache. As you start to move towards the cache, the distance will change as you move closer to it.

The GPS technology in GPS phones represents the latest advance in GPS: **Assisted GPS** or A-GPS. This technology enables the GPS receiver in the phone to perform even better than a recreational GPS receiver as the cell phone network provides an approximate location and time, as well as key GPS satellite orbital information.

For more information on GPS visit: <http://www.trimble.com/gps>.

GPS reception

NOTE – Some phones fully support GPS in and out of network, but some phones will only work correctly in network.

The GPS antenna in the phone is part of the cell phone antenna. For best reception, extend the cell phone antenna before you start the Geocache Navigator software. Do not cover the antenna with your hand during use.

TIP – To acquire satellites more quickly, place the phone on its side or lie it face down. Make sure that the back of the phone, where the phone antenna is located, is visible to the sky.

Make sure that you are outside and that the phone has an unobstructed view of the sky before you start the Geocache Navigator software. GPS satellites are often low on the horizon, so you will achieve the best GPS satellite reception in wide-open spaces.

You cannot use GPS in an enclosed area, for example, in the office or on the subway.

When you use a GPS-enabled phone for outdoor navigation, you will notice an improvement in functionality when compared to recreational GPS receivers:

- The time taken to acquire GPS signals. When you start the Geocache Navigator software, you will often acquire good GPS signals in 5-10 seconds. On your phone the GPS signal bar should be either yellow (good signals) or green (signals are the best possible). This is 10 times faster than many recreational GPS receivers.

Rapid GPS satellite acquisition is successful even when you are driving down a road or when GPS satellite visibility conditions are restricted (for example, around buildings that block some views to the sky).



CAUTION – Do not use a GPS phone while operating a moving vehicle.

- Reacquisition time. When you emerge from an area where your view to the sky and to some GPS satellites was obstructed, or when you suspend or exit the software, good GPS signals are reacquired faster.

If you close the flip top of the phone, the Geocache Navigator software will continue to track your position.

GPS availability and accuracy









The availability and accuracy of Java programs that use GPS-derived location information varies according to the environment in which the GPS feature is used. Where adequate signals cannot be obtained, GPS functions may not work at all.

Data usage

You use the Geocache Navigator software and the cellular network to download data from the geocaching website. The files can be very large. If you do not have much capacity, you can do the following to minimize data usage:

- Turn off the map background. See [Maps page, page 13](#).
- Limit the number of searches.
- When you use the *Find Caches* option, set the filters so that you don't get undesired results.

Cache types

Cache type	Description
 Cache in Trash Out Event	While out on a cache hunt, geocachers often collect litter along the trails and properly dispose of it. Cache In Trash Out Events are much larger clean-up events that involve and benefit the larger community. For more information, see http://www.cacheintrashout.org/
 Earthcache	An Earthcache is a place that people can visit to learn about a unique geoscience feature or aspect of our Earth. Earthcaches include a set of educational notes and the details about where to find the location (latitude and longitude). Visitors to Earthcaches can see how the planet has been shaped by geological processes, how resources are managed, and how scientists gather evidence to learn about the Earth. For more information about Earthcaches, see http://www.earthcache.org/ .
 Letterbox Hybrid	A letterbox is another form of treasure hunting using clues instead of coordinates. In some cases, however, a letterbox has coordinates, and the owner has made it a letterbox and a geocache. To read more about letterboxing, visit the Letterboxing North America web site.
 Multi-cache	A multi-cache ("multiple") involves two or more locations, the final location being a physical container. There are many variations, but most multi-caches have a hint to find the second cache, and the second cache has hints to the third, and so on. An offset cache (where you go to a location and get hints to the actual cache) is considered a multi-cache.
Project APE Cache	This cache type was originally a promotion for the 20th Century Fox release of Tim Burton's "The Planet of the Apes". The cache locations still exist worldwide, and are actively pursued.
 Traditional Cache	A physical location. The cache usually contains a container with a logbook and small items that can be traded.
 Unknown Cache	The "catch-all" of cache types, this form of cache can involve complicated puzzles you will first need to solve to determine the coordinates. The only commonality of this cache type is that the coordinates listed are not of the actual cache location but a general reference point, such as a nearby parking location. Due to the increasing creativity of geocaching, this becomes the staging ground for new and unique challenges.
 Virtual cache	A landmark, such as a tombstone or statue. To prove to the cache owner that you have found the cache, you have to answer a question relating to the landmark.
 Webcam Cache	<p>These are caches that use existing web cameras placed by individuals or agencies that monitor various areas like parks or road conditions. The idea is to get yourself in front of the camera to log a visit. The challenging part is that you need to save the picture to log the cache. You can either contact a friend to look up the web site that displays the camera shot, or use a wireless modem and save the image on a laptop.</p> <p>Webcam caches are now in the Web Camera category on Waymarking.com.</p>