

# Media FAQ



## What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is a worldwide game of seeking treasure. A geocacher can locate a geocache anywhere in the world with the help of a GPS or GPS-enabled mobile device and GPS coordinates that are listed online. It's one of the world's fastest growing live, recreational social media activities.

The history of geocaching can be found at [www.geocaching.com/about/history.aspx](http://www.geocaching.com/about/history.aspx).

## How do you pronounce Geocaching?

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

## What is the meaning of the word Geocaching?

The word Geocaching refers to GEO for geography, and to CACHING, the process of hiding a cache. A cache in computer terms is information usually stored in memory to make it faster to retrieve, but the term also is used in hiking/camping, as a hiding place for concealing and preserving provisions.

## What are the rules of Geocaching?

1. If you take something from the cache, leave something of equal or greater value.
2. Write about your find in the cache logbook.
3. Log your experience at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

## Who are geocachers?

More than 4 million people geocache in nearly every country on Earth. Geocachers are families with children, retired individuals and grandparents, hikers, explorers, and outdoors-people.

Geocaching appeals to such a diverse range of people because it's adaptable, depending on what sort of adventure a participant is seeking. Cache listings on Geocaching.com include difficulty and terrain ratings (1/1 – the easiest and 5/5 – the most difficult) to help geocachers choose a cache that is right for them.

## What typically is in a cache?

In its simplest form, a cache always contains a logbook or logsheet. The logbook contains information from the owner of the cache and notes from visitors. When geocachers return from an adventure, they can log their finds on an online cache page, creating a dynamic community and social network.

Larger geocaches may also contain any number of more or less valuable items. These items turn the cache into a true treasure hunt. A geocacher never knows what the owner or other visitors of the cache may have left there to enjoy.

Quite often, geocachers may also find a Trackable. The most common types of Groundspeak Trackables are Travel Bugs® and Geocoins. A Groundspeak Travel Bug is a trackable tag that attaches to an item, and which geocachers move from geocache to geocache. Each tag is etched with a unique code, which the finder can use to log its travels on the website.

Geocoins are trackable coins created by geocachers to commemorate special events, or as a signature item to leave in geocaches. They function like Travel Bugs, and should be moved from cache to cache unless otherwise specified by their owners.

### **What should not be placed in a cache?**

People of all ages seek caches, so geocachers should think carefully before placing an item into a cache. Explosives, ammunition, knives, drugs and alcohol should never be placed in a cache, and everyone should respect the local laws.



Food items are always a bad idea. Animals have better noses than humans, and in some cases, caches have been chewed through and destroyed because of food items or other scented items in a cache.

### **Where are caches found?**

It is common for geocachers to hide caches in locations of great natural beauty or personal importance. Geocache locations can be quite diverse – from beaches to mountaintops to urban areas. Before heading out on an adventure, geocachers should make sure to read the cache descriptions carefully, especially the difficulty and terrain ratings, as some cache finds can be technical and physically challenging.

For example, a geocache may be located on the side of a cliff and require rock climbing equipment, or may be underwater and accessible only by SCUBA. Geocaches located in cities are often incredibly small, so that people walking by don't notice them. The cache page helps geocachers understand any special equipment or skills they might need to find a geocache and will often specify the cache size.

### **Can a geocache be moved once it's found?**

Geocachers should not move a cache from its original location. If a geocacher feels that the cache is not located in the correct location, he can e-mail the cache owner directly or post a log on the cache detail page, notifying the owner of the concern. It's the owner's responsibility to maintain cache placement.

### **How do you hide a geocache?**

Before considering where to hide their first geocache, geocachers should find a variety of caches in their area to familiarize themselves with the activity. Then, they should review the Guide to Hiding a Cache and the Geocache Listing Guidelines before submitting a cache for review.

### **Once a new cache is submitted for publication, how long will it take to be listed?**

Each cache that's submitted to Geocaching.com is reviewed by a volunteer, ensuring that the cache meets the Geocaching Listing Guidelines. It generally takes up to 72 hours for the cache to be posted to the website.

### **Does Geocaching.com or a volunteer physically check the cache before publishing it?**

We rely on the geocaching community to abide by the geocaching guidelines, to ensure that permission for cache placement has been sought, to provide accurate coordinates, and to keep the contents appropriate for a family-friendly audience. If someone finds a problematic cache, they can either contact the owner directly or contact Geocaching.com.