






GEOCACHING

www.geocaching.com

Treasures

-  Who doesn't dream of winning the lottery or finding a hidden treasure map in an old trunk in the attic?
-  Our weeks get filled with things that need to be done – work, cleaning, shopping, running errands, paying bills ... and it's really easy to forget that we can also add a little FUN in our week.
-  Isn't there something out there that could make us feel like kids at least one time during a week?

YES, there is... and we're here to introduce you to the fun and rewards of Geocaching.



A composite image for a geocaching presentation. On the left, a hand-drawn treasure map on a scroll shows a treasure chest, a skull, palm trees, and a coastline. A decorative flourish is to its left. On the right, a photograph shows an open wooden treasure chest filled with gold coins and jewelry, with a map and a compass resting on top.

GEOCACHING

a real-world outdoor treasure hunting game
AND you PICK when you want to play!

What are geocaches?

- Geocaches are containers hidden all over the world.
- Often geocachers hide caches in places which are important to them, reflecting a special interest of the cache owner.
- These locations can be anywhere - your local park, the end of a long hike, underwater, or on the side of a city street.



What does a geocache look like?

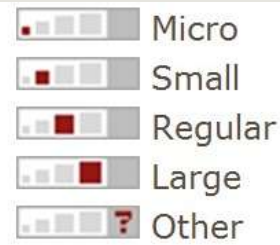
- ☞ Geocaches come in all sizes and shapes.
- ☞ You will see everything from large, clear plastic containers to film canisters to a fake rock with a secret compartment.
- ☞ Almost anything is possible!

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Size Descriptions

- ☞ **Micro** - <100ml.
 Examples: a 35 mm film canister or a tiny storage box typically contains just a log.
- ☞ A **nano** is a sub-type of a micro cache that is <10ml and can only hold a small logsheet.
- ☞ **Small** - >100ml, but <1L. Example: A sandwich-sized plastic container.
- ☞ **Regular** - >1L, but <20L. Example: a plastic container or ammo can or a shoebox.
- ☞ **Large** - 20L or larger. Example: A large bucket.
- ☞ **Other** - See the cache description for information.



What could a geocache look like?

- ☞ Ammo Box.



What could a geocache look like?

- ☞ A “lock ‘n lock” with some goodies in it.



What could a geocache look like?

- ☞ A waterproof match container.



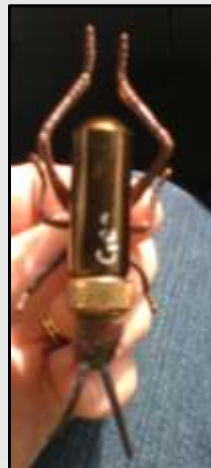
What could a geocache look like?

☞ Here's some small containers.



What could a geocache look like?

☞ A small "bison tube" wrapped with camouflaged tape or decorated to look like a bug.



What could a geocache look like?

- ☞ A large toothbrush



What could a geocache look like?

- ☞ A rock



- ☞ Just about anything!!!

What's usually in a cache?

- ☞ In its simplest form, a cache always contains a logbook or logsheet for you to log your visit ("find").



What else could we find?

- ☞ Small, regular, and large caches may contain a logbook and any number of small items. These small items turn the adventure into a true treasure hunt.
- ☞ There are 2 basic types of items:
 - ☞ Swag
 - ☞ Trackables



Swag? (Trading Items)

Cache owners and visitors leave/trade all kinds of small items – such as:

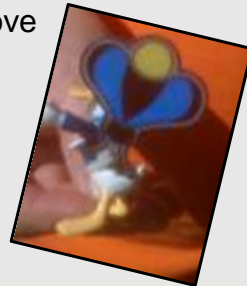
- ☞ Stickers & postcards
- ☞ plastic toys & balls
- ☞ refrigerator magnets
- ☞ play & real jewelry
- ☞ coins from other countries

Bring something to leave.
You'll always be surprised!



Trackables

- ☞ A special sort of physical geocaching "game piece" which you might find in geocaches.
- ☞ Trackables are etched with a unique code that is used to log its movements on Geocaching.com as it travels in the world.
- ☞ Some items have traveled thousands of miles thanks to geocachers who move them from cache to cache!
- ☞ There are 3 main types of Trackables:
 - ☞ Travel Bugs®
 - ☞ Geocoins
 - ☞ other Trackables



Travel Bugs

- ❧ A Travel Bug is a trackable tag attached to an item that geocachers call a "hitchhiker."
- ❧ Each Travel Bug has a goal set by its owner. Goals are typically travel-related, such as to visit every country in Europe or travel from coast to coast.



Travel Bugs

- Travel Bugs move from cache to cache with the help of geocachers like you who log information about picking up and dropping off travel bugs.



Geocoins

- Geocoins are customizable coins created by individuals or groups of geocachers as a kind of signature item or calling card.
- They function exactly like Travel Bugs and should be moved to another cache, unless otherwise specified by their owners.



Rules of Geocaching

- ☞ If you take some “swag” from the “cache” leave something of equal or greater value.
- ☞ Write about your find in the cache logbook.
- ☞ Log your experience at www.Geocaching.com
- - - -
- ☞ Cache In Trash Out - is an ongoing environmental initiative supported by the worldwide geocaching community.



Come on Mateys!



Your mission (should you accept it) is three fold:

- ☞ **Browse**
- ☞ **Discover**
- ☞ **Share**

Steps in Geocaching

- ☞ **Browse** - look for interesting geocaches hidden near where you are
- ☞ **Discover** - Explore the world as you hunt for the cache using a GPS device or smartphone. Find the cache, sign the logbook and see what others have left behind.
- ☞ **Share** - Share your experience with other treasure seekers.

FREE Geocaching account

GEOCACHING

Play ▾ Your Profile ▾ Community ▾ Videos Resources ▾ Shop ▾

GEOCACHING is a real-world outdoor treasure hunting game. Players try to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, using GPS-enabled devices and then share their experiences online. ([Guide to the Game](#))

WATCH Geocaching in 2 Minutes

- 1 Browse**
Search for interesting geocaches:
N 45° 40 074 W 121° 32 442
- 2 Discover**
Explore the world as you search for the cache using a GPS device or smartphone. Find the cache, sign the logbook and see what others have left behind.
- 3 Share**
Share your experience with other treasure seekers.

Getting Started

- ☞ Computer with printer
- ☞ Smart Phones with GPS capabilities or a GPS unit
- ☞ Build your own personal geocaching kit:
 - ☞ Pen or pencils, and notepad for writing your “finds”
 - ☞ Spare batteries or charger for your GPS or phone
 - ☞ Hand sanitizer
 - ☞ Garden gloves
 - ☞ Some trading items of your own to leave
- ☞ And of course a car, truck, bike, motorcycle, anything to get you to the cache

Step 1: Browsing – Finding caches

- Go to Geocaching.com
- Play Menu – Hide & Seek
- Find caches by entering a nearby postal code or city/state near where you want to search
- Press the GO button

The screenshot shows the 'Seek a Cache...' search interface on Geocaching.com. The title is 'Seek a Cache...' and the subtitle is 'Locate the nearest geocaches in your area...'. There are four search options: 'by Address:', 'by Postal Code:', 'by State/Province:', and 'by Country:'. Each option has a text input field and a 'Go' button. The 'Postal Code' field is highlighted with a red circle and contains the value '97229'. Below the 'Postal Code' field, there is a 'Hide [x] Radius' link. The 'by State/Province:' dropdown is set to 'Alabama (US Only)'. The 'by Country:' dropdown is set to 'Afghanistan'.

Step 1: List of the nearby caches

- ☞ A long list of caches in the area will show up
- ☞ Click on “Map This Location” to view locations of the nearby caches.

All Geocaches

39.897 93.364 to 127° 46.447 [Map This Location](#) | [New Search](#) | [Search for Geocaches around this location](#)

Total Records: 8882 - Page: 1 of 103 - [Close](#) [OK](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [20](#) [30](#) [40](#) [50](#) [Next >](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Description	Info (R / F)	Placed	Last Found	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation Park Cache By Snowbird 02/20/76 Oregon	1 / 7 100%	02/20/1976	09/19/2011	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Figure Cache By Snowbird 02/20/76 Oregon	1 / 2 100%	02/20/1976	08/04/2011	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MapCache! By Snowbird 02/20/76 Oregon	1 / 1 100%	02/20/1976	09/19/2011	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geocaching Manual Cache By Snowbird 02/20/76 Oregon	4 / 25 16%	02/20/1976	09/19/2011	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	John and Patricia's - The Rabbit's Cache By Snowbird 02/20/76 Oregon	13 / 2 87%	02/20/1976	09/19/2011	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1981 Liberty Bells Cache - Arthur's Cache By Snowbird 02/20/76 Oregon	1 / 2 50%	02/20/1976	09/19/2011	<input type="checkbox"/>

Step 1: Zoom in to find a cache

- ☞ Wow! There are 2,069 caches hidden within 15 miles of zipcode 97229 – better zoom in!



Step 1: Check the map / pick a cache



Step 1: Zoom in for a closer look



Step 1: Find out as much as possible

- 🔗 Type of Cache
- 🔗 Name / GC code
- 🔗 Cache owner
- 🔗 Difficulty/ Terrain
- 🔗 Size
- 🔗 Last found

		Description	Info (Q / T)	Placed	Last Found
SE 452 ft	1	Bannister Park Cache by SnowDad GC2NPTR Oregon	1.5 / 2	02/12/2011	08/20/2011
SW 0.2 mi	1	Action Figure Cache by CrunchyFrog83 GC1TBB4 Oregon	1.5 / 2	06/06/2009	06/06/2011
S 0.4 mi	1	Stumped? by SnowDad GC2NPFB Oregon	3 / 1.5	02/12/2011	05/15/2011

Step 1: Common cache “types”



Traditional Cache consists of, at minimum, a container and a log book or logsheet. The coordinates listed on the traditional cache page provide the geocache’s exact location.



Multi-Cache ("multiple") involves two or more locations, often the first has a hint to find the second cache, and the second cache has a hint to the third, and so on.



Mystery or Puzzle Caches

The "catch-all" of cache types, this form of geocache may involve complicated puzzles that you will first need to solve to determine the coordinates for the cache.



Virtual Cache

A Virtual Cache is about discovering a location rather than a container. The requirements for logging a Virtual Cache may require you to answer a question about the location, take a picture, complete a task, etc. In any case, you must visit the coordinates before you can post your log.

Step 1: Consider Difficulty & Terrain



- ★ Easy (great for kids)
- ★ ★ Sort of Easy
- ★ ★ ★ Kind of Hard
- ★ ★ ★ ★ Pretty Hard
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Hard



1-2

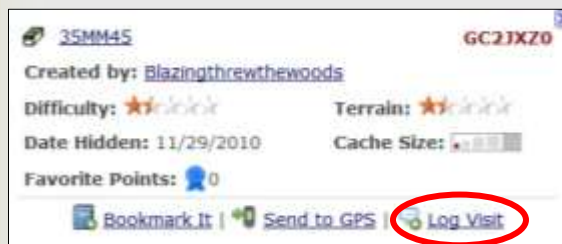


3



4-5

Step 1: Check out “Last Found”



Avoid a “wild goose chase” --caches can come up missing – so make sure someone has visited the cache recently.

		Description	Info	(D / T)	Placed	Last Found
SE	1	Bannister Park Cache by SnowDad GC2RPT8 Oregon	1.5 / 2		02/12/2011	08/20/2011
SW	1	Action Figure Cache by CrunchyFrog83 GC1T8B4 Oregon	1.5 / 2		06/06/2009	06/06/2011
S	1	Stumped? by SnowDad GC2RPT8 Oregon	3 / 1.5		02/12/2011	08/18/2011

Step 2: Go Find the Cache

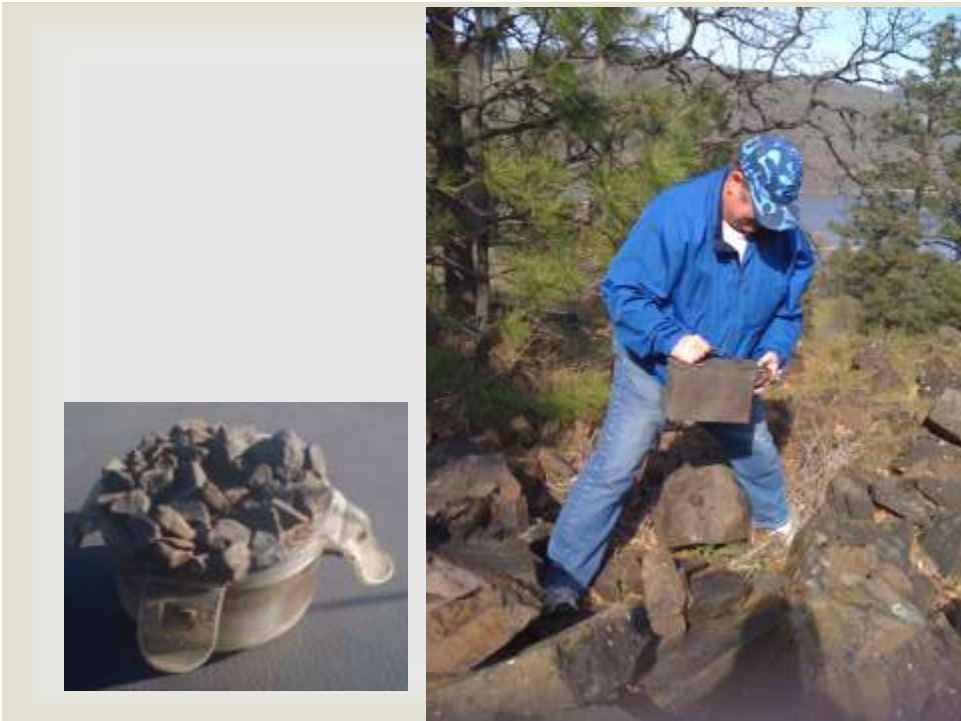
- ☞ Take what you've learned about this cache – and now go find it!
- ☞ If you have a GPS unit or smart phone, you can actually use either to guide you right to the cache location using the latitude/longitude coordinates from the Geocache description that the cache owner originally supplied.
- ☞ If you do not have a GPS unit or smart phone, you can still hunt for Geocaches using your computer by doing your research and then printing out maps showing the cache location for each cache that you want to search for.

Step 2: Look for what? where?



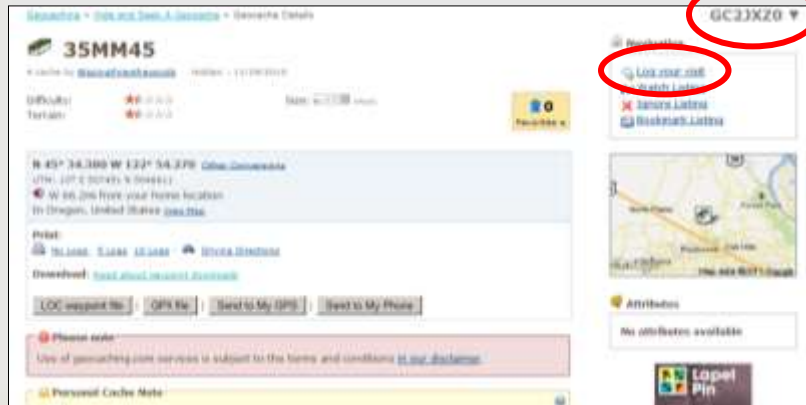






Step 2: Log Your Visit

1. Go to www.geocaching.com
2. Sign in using your Code Name and Password
3. Use the GC Code to find the cache on Hide/Seek Cache



Step 2: Log Your Visit, cont.

4. Click on “Log Your Visit”
5. Select which type of log
6. Select correct date
7. Write a comment to the owner and any cache finders in the future
8. Click on “SUBMIT LOG ENTRY” to post your log.



Step 3: Share Your Adventures

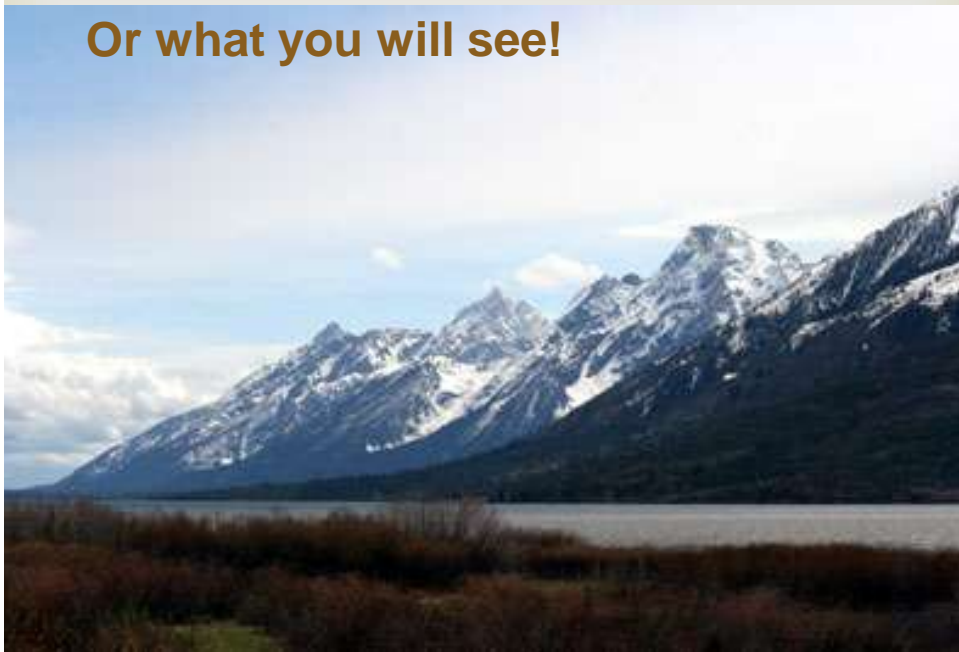
- ☞ Take friends and family members on short geocache hunts.
- ☞ Take photos of what you discover along the way and share with everyone!
- ☞ Plan “Adventure Days” and invite others to join you.
- ☞ As of 9/24/11, there are 1,528,519 active geocaches and over 5 million geocachers worldwide.



You never know who you'll meet!



Or what you will see!





Geocaching History

addendum

Geocaching's One-Week History

- May 2, 2000, twenty-four satellites around the globe processed their new orders, making it possible for anyone to use their GPS units to "precisely pinpoint their location or the location of items (caches) left behind for later recovery."



Geocaching's One-Week History

- ☞ May 3, 2000, Dave Ulmer placed his first “stash” container, a black bucket, in the woods near Beaver Creek, Oregon. (Coordinates: N 45° 17.460 W 122° 24.800) It included a logbook, pencil and various prize items.
- ☞ By May 6th, 3 people read about his stash on the internet, used their own GPS units to find the container, and shared their experiences online!

History: Letterboxing

- ☞ Letterboxing is said to have started in England in 1854 when a Dartmoor National Park guide, James Perrott of Chagford, left a bottle by Cranmere Pool with his calling card in it as an invitation to those who found the bottle to add theirs.
- ☞ Eventually, visitors began leaving a self-addressed post card or note in the jar, hoping for them to be returned by mail by the next visitor (thus the origin of the term “letterboxing;” “letterbox” is a British term for a mailbox).
- ☞ This practice ended in time, however, and the current custom of using rubber stamps and visitor’s log books came into use. It caught on in the US in 1998 after an article in *Smithsonian* magazine.