

Maps.me Instructions

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Install Maps.me

From your smartphone, go to <https://maps.me/download/> and select the download appropriate for your phone (Apple or Google). When prompted, open the app page in the store and download the app.

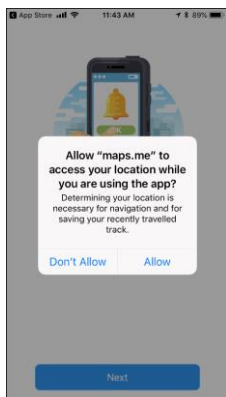
Note that the instructions on the following pages use screenshots from the iPhone version of the app. There may be slight variations in the availability of features (such as maps) and screen layouts between the two apps. In addition, the app will initially use roughly 135 MB of storage space, so you should be on WiFi. When the download is complete, open the app.

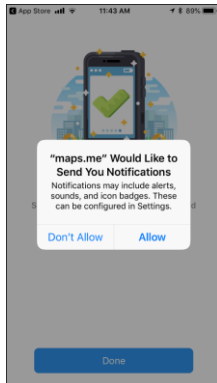
Free offline world maps


Find your way anywhere in the world!

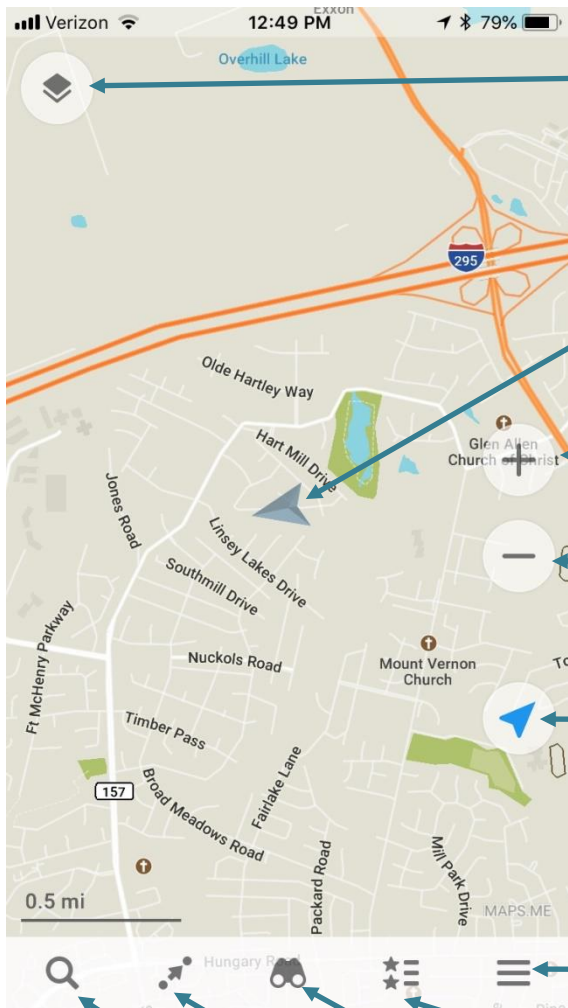


The first time you use the app, you must complete a few setup tasks. First, agree to the Privacy Policy and Terms of Use by checking the two boxes on the first screen. Then, select the Next button for the next two screens, which alert you to the fact that maps will be downloaded to your phone and that the app requires access to location services on your phone. Then “Allow” the app to access your location and send you notifications, as shown below.





Once you have finished these tasks, the app will open to the standard home screen and download an offline map for the area surrounding your current location. As shown in the screen shot below, there are a number of features available from this screen. A later section will detail how you can download one of our guided hikes and use it for your walk. One step you may want to perform now is to turn off ads within the app. To do so, press the menu icon  on the main screen. From the next screen select the option Settings. Scroll down on the list of settings to find Show Offers. Turn this off.



Add Map Overlays

Current Location

Zoom In

Zoom Out

Map Orientation

Settings

Bookmarks (Saved Places and Tracks)

Nearby Places

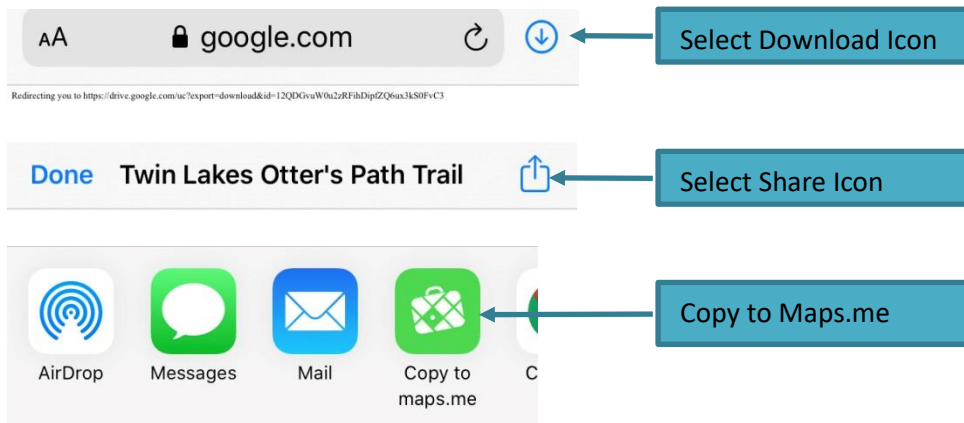
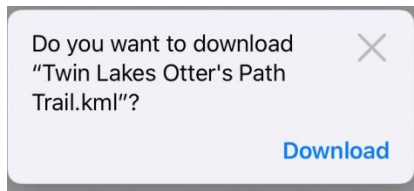
Get Directions

Search for Places

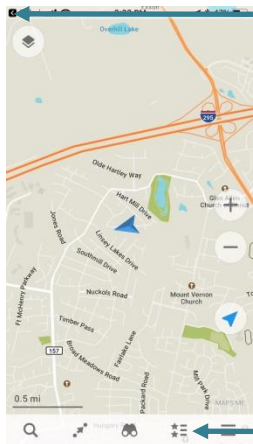
Instructions for Maps.me Downloads

If you select a Download to Phone link on our site while using your smartphone, a screen similar to the one below will appear. Note that this example comes from an iPhone – the process may be slightly different on an Android device. Press the Download button and the next screen will appear. From that screen, press the download icon. On the next screen, select the share icon. Then choose to copy the file to Maps.me.

Start Download



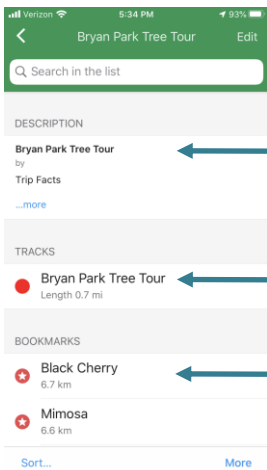
Once you have made your choice, Maps.me will open and begin importing the guided hike. Once it notifies you that the import is complete, select OK to close the alert. Next, return to your browser using "back" button at the top left of your screen (see below), and close it. This is necessary to clear the link between the two applications. Once you have closed the browser, reopen Maps.me and choose the Bookmarks button (see below).



Return to Browser and Close Window

Select Bookmarks After Return

You should now see an entry for the downloaded hike in your list of bookmarks. Select this entry, and a screen similar to the one below will appear. Select the track to see the entire hike on a map. You can zoom in and out on the map, and press anyone of the starred waypoints to get information about a particular point of interest. You can also select any one of the Waypoints in the list. When you open a waypoint, scroll down to see photos and text (where available), and press the "...more" button to see additional descriptive text. You can use this screen to begin to familiarize yourself with the features of our guided hikes. We will explain how to use a guide while hiking the trail in a later section.



Select Description for Trip Facts

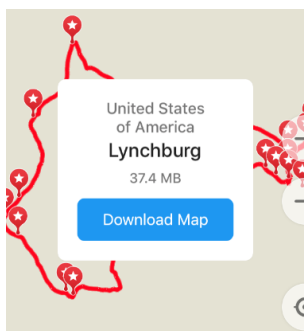
Select Track to See Entire Hike on a Map

Select Bookmark for a Point of Interest

Occasionally, you may receive an alert when you open a hike that you downloaded, stating that you need to also download a map before using the hike. This is a consequence of how Maps.me delivers maps to the app. During normal use, many GPS apps serve up maps for the app on-demand through the Internet, requiring a Wifi or cellular connection to deliver the maps. For these apps, downloading a map to your phone is optional, and is useful only when you are in a remote area where you cannot access the

Internet. Maps.me, on the other hand, always uses downloaded maps, so that you never have to worry about getting (or losing) your Internet connection.

When you first install Maps.me, it downloads a map for the region in which you are located when performing the install. This typically is a fairly large map set, covering one or more metropolitan areas and the surrounding areas. For example, there are 5 map sets for the state of Virginia, ranging in size from 17MB to 60MB. If the hikes you download are within close proximity of your “home base”, they will fall within the range of the original map set. If you choose a hike outside the range of that map, Maps.me will require you to download an additional map set covering that area. The message will be similar to the one shown below. You should download these files while connected to Wifi, since they tend to be large files. Once downloaded, the new map set will be available for other hikes in that area. Return here to delete the map if you need the space.



Once the maps are downloaded, you will be able to follow your hike on the map, even if you are walking in an area without any Wifi or cell coverage. However, photos that are associated with a waypoint (such as a picture of a wildflower in a specific location), will **not** appear, because they are stored on the Internet. If you know that the hike you are taking will be in a remote location lacking coverage, you can take one additional step to prepare for your trip. Within Maps.me, open each waypoint with a photo while connected to the Internet (e.g., from home). The photo will appear and will be cached on your phone. This means that you can now view it without an Internet connection, because it has been stored locally. Choose the waypoint photos you would like to see on your hike, and open each in turn.

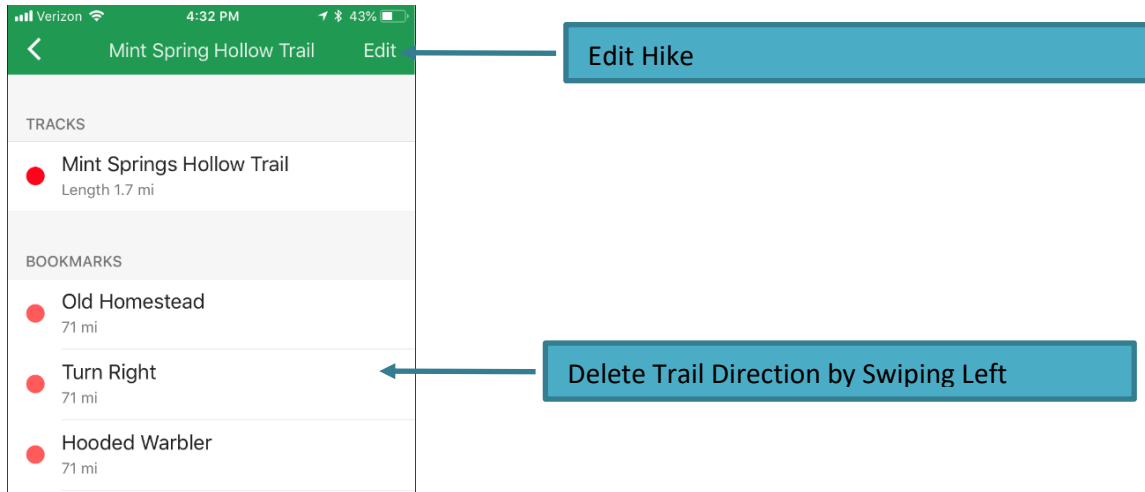
Using a Trip Guide on the Trail

Once you have downloaded a hike, it will automatically appear on your map. You can immediately begin using it as a guide for your hike. This involves following the trip track during your hike and opening any media markers that appear as you go along. There are, however, a few optional steps you can take while preparing for the hike. We will discuss each of these below.

Editing the Hike

Maps.me allows you to edit the hike by deleting one or more bookmarks. For example, you may decide that you are not interested in the trail directions and would prefer not to see them as you follow the

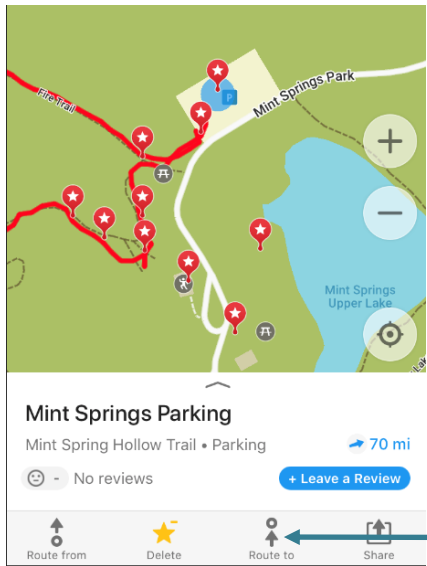
hike. To eliminate these bookmarks, open the hike download. You can delete any bookmark by swiping left on its entry in the list. You can also delete bookmarks using the Edit button.



Getting Directions to Trailhead

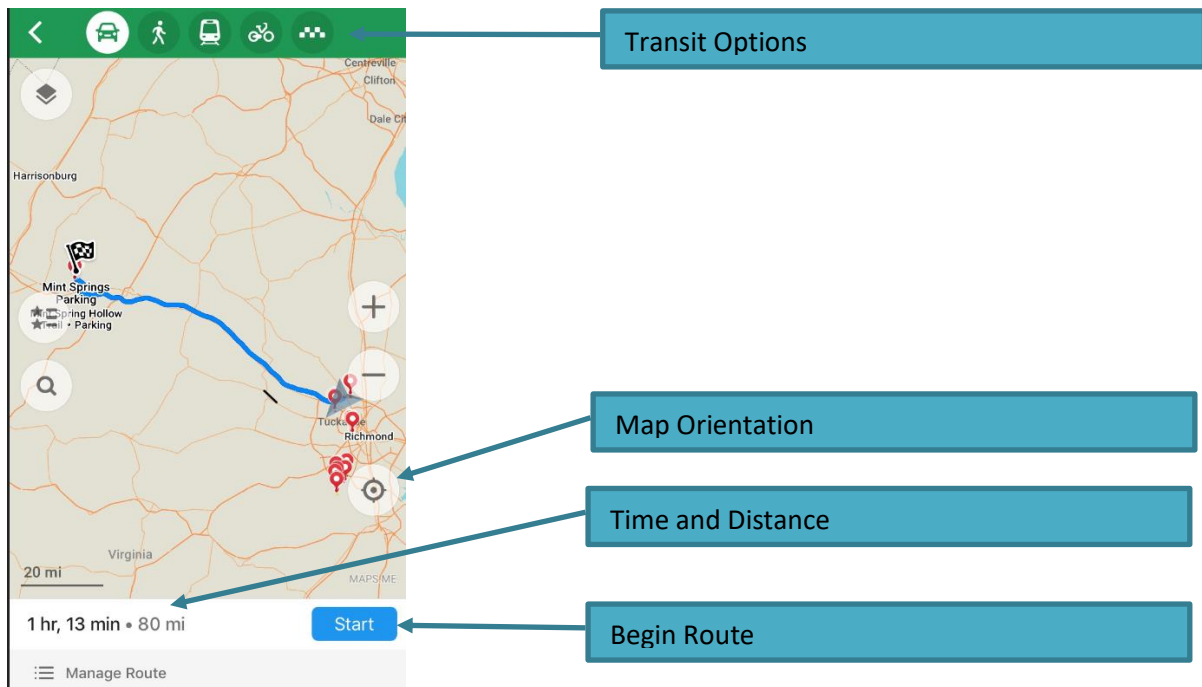
Once you are ready to take the trip, you may need directions to the trailhead. Open the downloaded hike and find a waypoint for the trailhead or parking. Press that entry to open it. Press the Route To button at the bottom (see below). Maps.me will calculate a route from your current location to the trail (next snippet). By default, it will offer driving directions, but you can also see walking and transit routes. Press Start to begin the route. Since you are probably already familiar with driving navigation tools, we will not go into any detail as to its use. Simply follow the routing instructions to get to your hike.

Waypoint for Hike Parking



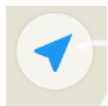
Get Directions to Parking or Trailhead

Directions to Trailhead



Change Map Orientation

The Map Orientation function plays a role in helping you to navigate and orient yourself with Maps.me maps. Ordinarily, paper maps are oriented with north at the top, south at the bottom, east on the right, and west on the left. This North Up orientation is the default mode for Maps.me when displaying a map. However, you can change the map orientation by pressing the Map Orientation button shown above. This button is a toggle switch which cycles through 3 different modes – each time you press it, the icon changes and the mode changes. The three different positions are:



North Up on Your Current Location – When you open Maps.me, it shows your current location in the center of the map screen by default. The map screen will then maintain this focus on your current position as you move across the landscape. This means that the map screen will appear to follow you to keep your current position in the center of the screen. It will also maintain the North Up orientation regardless of the direction in which you are travelling.



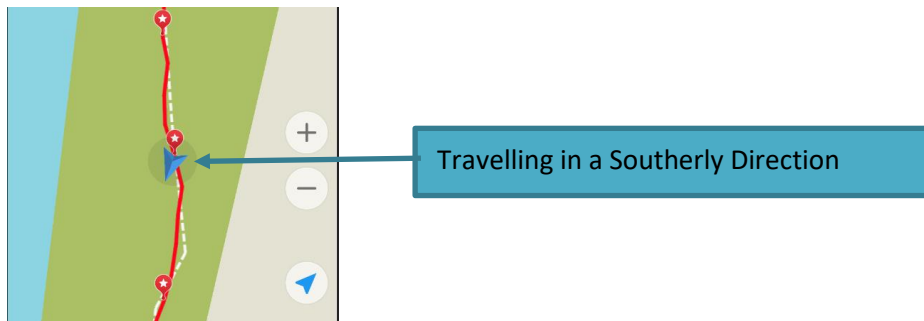
North Up in a Different Location – This mode indicates that the map no longer shows the current location. You can zoom in or out on your current location on the map, but scrolling on the map will cause the button to revert to this mode, because the position arrow will no longer be in the center of the screen. It will also appear when you open a hike in a different location. In this mode, you can scroll in any direction on the map screen to explore different areas of the map. Maps.me maintains the North Up orientation described above as you scroll around on the map. However, it is easy to lose track of

your current position if you scroll to another portion of the map or begin moving away from your starting point. Press this icon and the map will jump back to your current position in North Up mode (see above).

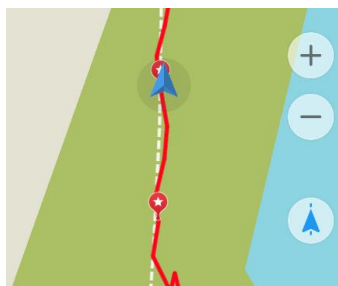


Track Up – In addition to maintaining a center focus on your current position, this mode changes the map orientation from North Up to Track Up. This means that Maps.me continuously adjusts the map orientation to place the direction in which you are heading at the top of the screen, instead of always showing North there. For example, if you are heading east, the eastern portion of the map display will be at the top. As you change direction, the map orientation will shift. This mode can be very helpful when you are following a track, since the North Up mode can be confusing in these activities. For example, if you are heading south, your position arrow in North Up mode will point towards the bottom of the screen, because your direction of travel is into that portion of the map (first snippet below). This will make a left turn look like a right turn based on a quick glance at the map display, since the map display is “upside down” in terms of what you see in front of you. By shifting to Track Up orientation, the map display will always show what is ahead of you at the top of the screen, which will match the orientation of your perspective (second snippet). Of course, some users still prefer the North Up view, particularly those with long experience with reading paper maps (since they use North Up). Experiment with the two modes to determine which works best for you.

Heading South on a North Up Map Screen



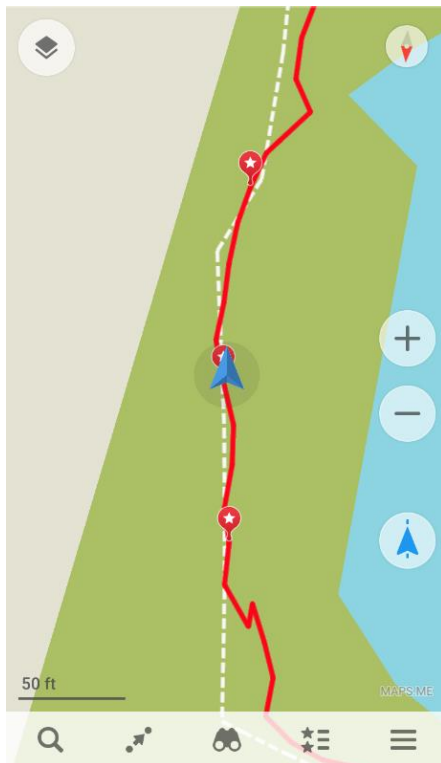
Track Up Orientation



Zoom in on the Map

You will usually want to zoom in closer on the map. Otherwise, your markers may overlap one another and be difficult to see and use. At the same time, a closer level of detail makes it easier to follow the trail and have advance notice of an upcoming marker. Double-tap the screen to a zoom level with which you are comfortable. The snippet below shows the added clarity of a closer level of detail as compared to the initial map screen.

Zooming in on A Guide Track



Adjust Brightness of Display

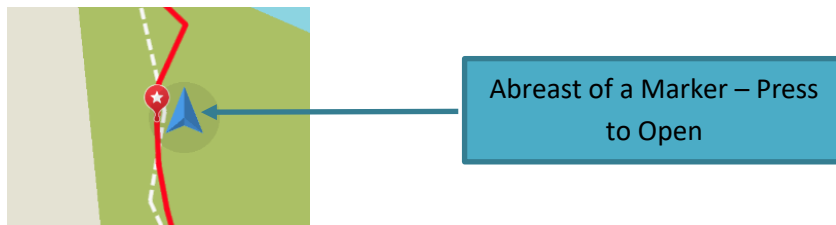
If your guide trip has markers with text descriptions, this text may be difficult to read in the bright sunshine. You may want to increase the brightness of the display on your smartphone to make the text more legible. On an iPhone, adjustments to display brightness are made in Settings, Display & Brightness. Note that turning up the display brightness will increase battery drain, so try to limit your use of the display where possible and turn the display off when not in use.

Walking a Trail with a Trip Guide

Once you have taken care of these initial steps, you can begin hiking. At the outset, your focus is to ensure that your current position as denoted by the position arrow has not strayed too far from the guide track. Remember that these tracks are only rough guides – they may be 30 feet or more off the trail you are actually on. Since you typically are using an established trail for your hike, you usually only need to head in the right direction on the trail, stay on that trail as you move along, and make the correct turns at trail intersections.

You should only need to glance at your smartphone occasionally to make sure you are still on track, while staying alert for obvious changes in direction on the track. The best advice is to **stay on the trail whenever you are in doubt**. While checking your position relative to the track, you also should notice whether any markers are coming up. Once you are abreast of the marker (snippet below), press the marker icon (starred pin) to open it. Remember that marker locations on your map are not precise. If you are looking for a specific object, such as a special kind of tree, start keeping a lookout for it a number of feet ahead of the marker – it may actually be closer than the marker indicates. Be aware that there may also be a slight lag in Maps.me's update of your current position. If you cannot find the object you are looking for, circle around and have another look.

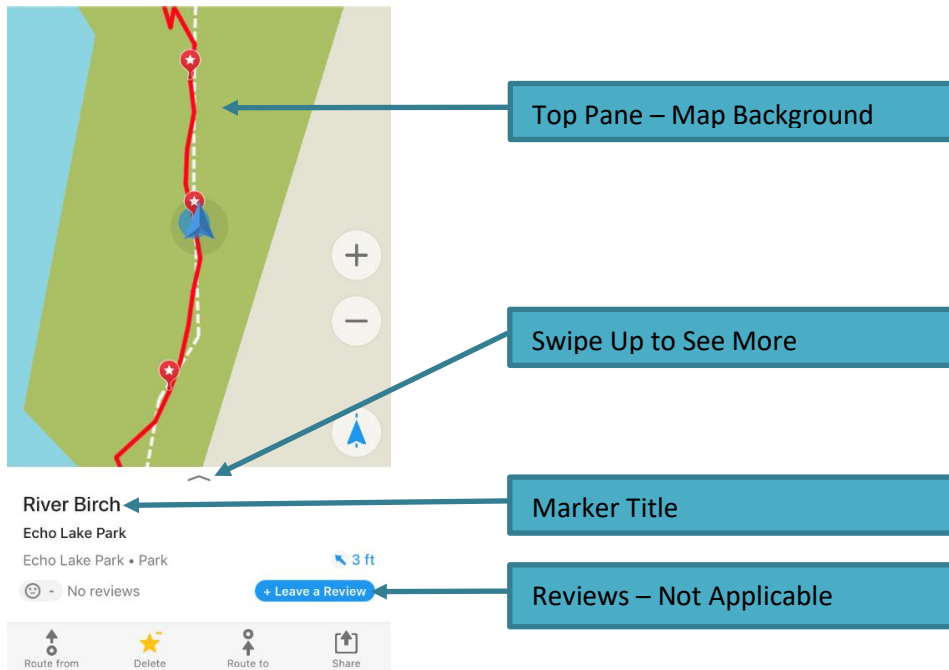
Approaching a Guide Marker



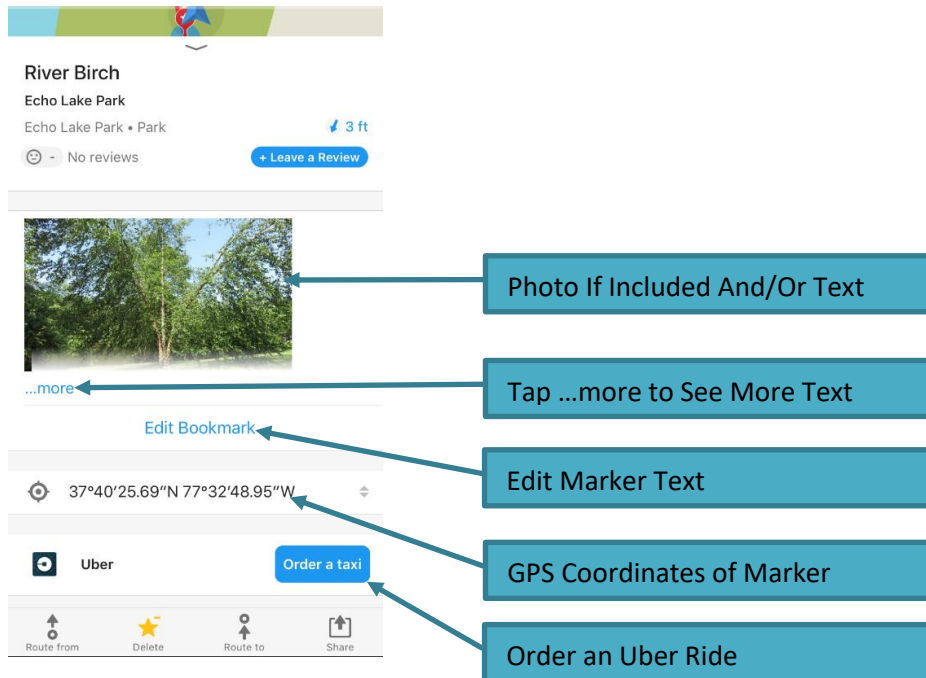
Viewing Markers

When you press the marker icon, a small popup screen will appear. It will show you the title of the marker and its location and distance from your current location. **Swipe up anywhere within the popup to see more information (see next snippet)**. Note that you can rate and review every marker within Maps.me, but this requires you to sign up and login to Maps.me's rating platform. Since our markers are not in Maps.me's database, this will not be useful.

Marker Screen



When you swipe up on a marker popup, more descriptive information will be revealed (see below). If the marker has a photo attached to it, this will appear (as a partial image). Otherwise, a few lines of informative text will be presented. **Only a limited amount of information can be displayed in this initial description area, and many of our markers contain much more data. In these circumstances, Maps.me will display “...more” at the bottom of the description area.** Tap that area, and you will be able to scroll through the entire text for the marker. Note also that you can edit the text for the bookmark if you want to add your own notes. You can also order an Uber ride directly from this marker, but this requires that you install an Uber app and may not be very useful in remote locations.



From the added information screen, you can scroll up and down through the marker text (see below). In some instances, there may be multiple pages of information. While reading the text, be alert for any text outlined in blue. This indicates an active Web link. When you press these links, your Web browser will open and jump to the Web page specified. After you have reviewed the additional information, press the “Maps.me” link at the top left of the Web page. This will close your Web browser and return you to the Maps.me app. After you have reviewed the marker information, scroll down until the marker screen disappears – you will be back to your map and ready to resume your hike. Note that these Web links will **not** work in remote areas without coverage, since they require an Internet connection.

Scientific Name: Betula Nigra

This tree does not have a plaque, but is easily recognizable by its peeling bark. Look on the left side of the trail, as shown in the photo.

The most beautiful of American trees-that's what Prince Maximilian thought of river birch (Betula nigra) when he toured North America before he became the short-lived Emperor of Mexico. Also known as red birch, water birch, or black birch, it is the only birch whose range includes the southeastern coastal plain and is also the only spring-fruiting birch. Although the wood has limited usefulness, the tree's beauty makes it an important ornamental, especially at the northern and western extremes of its natural range. Native Americans used the boiled sap as a sweetener similar to maple syrup, and the inner bark as a survival food.

WEB LINKS - INTERNET CONNECTION
REQUIRED and DATA RATES APPLY
Press Highlighted Link - If link not active in
your app, copy link to Web browser

To see a photo gallery, go here:
[http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/syllabus/
factsheet.cfm?ID=13](http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=13)



Touch to Open Web Page