QUICK-GUIDE TO SNAPCHAT
Location Sharing

What is Snap Map?
The Snap Map is a personalized map that shows you your accepted Snapchat friends who have chosen to share their location, as well as publicly submitted content from Snapchatters around the world.

It's an easy way to keep up with friends and experience other places through the vantage point of Snap's global community—note that all Snaps submitted to the Map by private users are anonymized to protect their privacy. Now, Snapchatters can also explore and discover places on Snap Map, such as parks, restaurants, and notable sights, with recommendations based on what's popular nearby. Snap Map can also be used as a safety tool, helping friends and family stay in touch while on the move.

Who can see my location?
Location sharing is OFF by default, so you'll have to turn on the feature and decide who can view your location. You can only ever share your location with your Snapchat friends, and you always have complete control over who can see you on Snap Map. To share your location with specific friends or hide your location with “Ghost Mode,” tap the settings gear in the top right corner of the Map. You’ll disappear from Snap Map if you do not open Snapchat for more than 8 hours, and you can turn off location sharing at any time without prompting a notification.

Can I turn off location sharing?
Yes, you can turn it off at any time. Update your location sharing preferences by tapping the settings gear at the top of Snap Map. If you decide to share your location on the Map, it will only be visible to the friends you’ve selected. No one has the option to share their location publicly with people they have not added as a friend. Your location on Snap Map only updates when you have Snapchat open—your location won’t update if you do not have the app open on your phone.

Help Close Friends Stay Safe with Snap Map

Snapchat has introduced a new safety feature that allows Snapchatters to activate a buddy system-like feature to share their real-time location for a set duration (15 minutes, 1 hour, etc.) with a friend to help make sure they get home safely. To find your Friendship Profile with a Snapchat friend, tap their Bitmoji in the top left corner of your conversation in Chat.

Remember: Only share your location with close friends and family.

It's important to remember that sharing your location with people you've never met in real life is risky, so be sure to carefully manage who can see your location. We recommend everyone—but especially teens under 18—only share their location with close friends and family members.
Additional Advice About Safe Location Sharing on Snapchat

Check sharing settings regularly. Snapchat will send you occasional reminders to check your sharing settings to make sure you’re OK with who can view your location. If you decide to stop sharing your location with a particular person, that friend won’t be notified. If a relationship ends or turns negative, be sure to rethink your location sharing settings on Snapchat or any other app.

Public Snaps. If you decide to share a Snap publicly on Snap Map, your profile information will be hidden from everyone but your friends. You can delete a Snap that you’ve shared publicly to the Map but remember someone can capture or save it before you delete it, so always be thoughtful about what you post publicly. Go to Settings > Spotlight & Snap Map to delete a Snap from the Map.

Friends aren’t notified when you look at their location. When you tap on a friend’s Bitmoji on Snap Map, that friend won’t be notified.

Additional privacy safeguards. Only content submitted to Snap Map appears publicly on the platform; Snaps between friends are always private.

About ConnectSafely

ConnectSafely is a Silicon Valley, California-based nonprofit organization dedicated to educating users of connected technology about safety, privacy and security. We publish research-based safety tips, parents’ guidebooks, advice, news and commentary on all aspects of tech use and policy.