

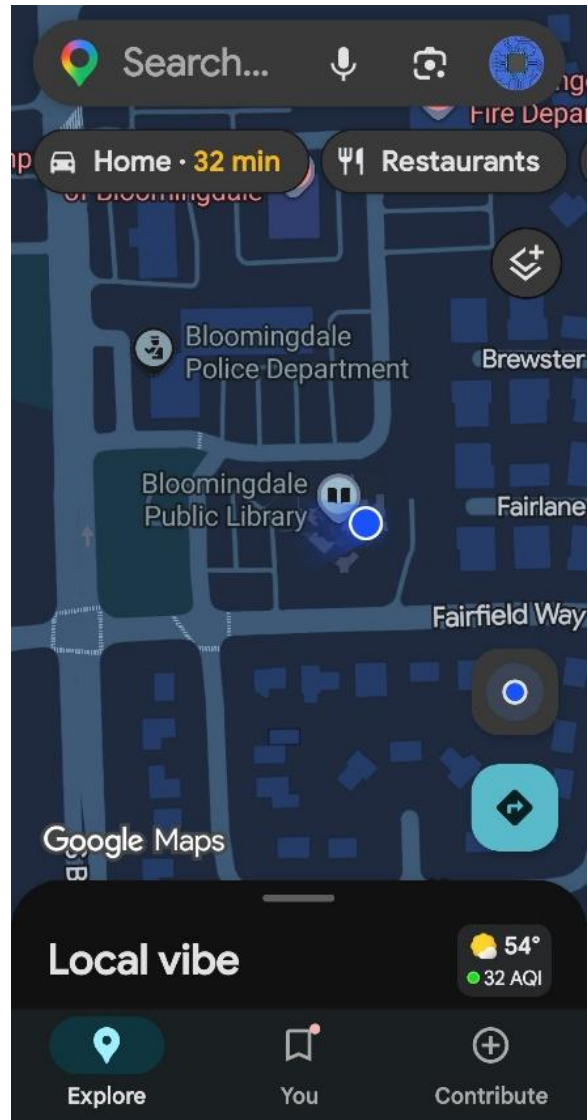
Google Maps is a GPS tool available on all mobile devices. This class will discuss how to use the app on its own and through Android Auto. Other GPS alternatives will be discussed as well.

## Getting Started

Google Maps has three main tabs: **Explore**, **You**, and **Contribute**.

### Explore

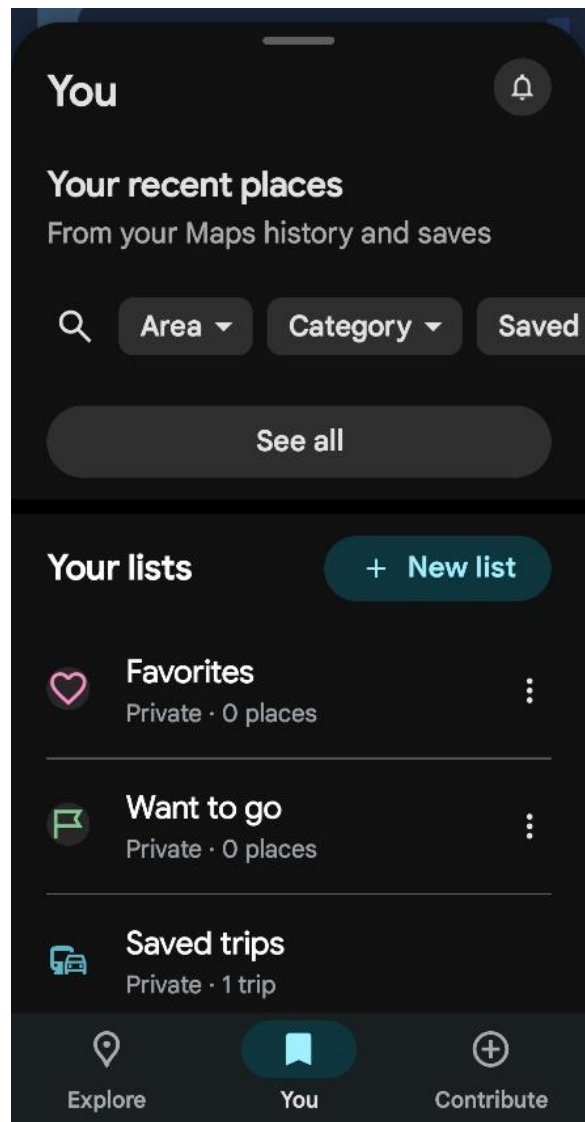
This is the main tab you will use for Google Maps. You can find detailed reviews and descriptions of local establishments and hotspots in your selected area. You can search for popular locations, local events, trendy restaurants, or things to do in the Explore tab.



*Explore page*

## You

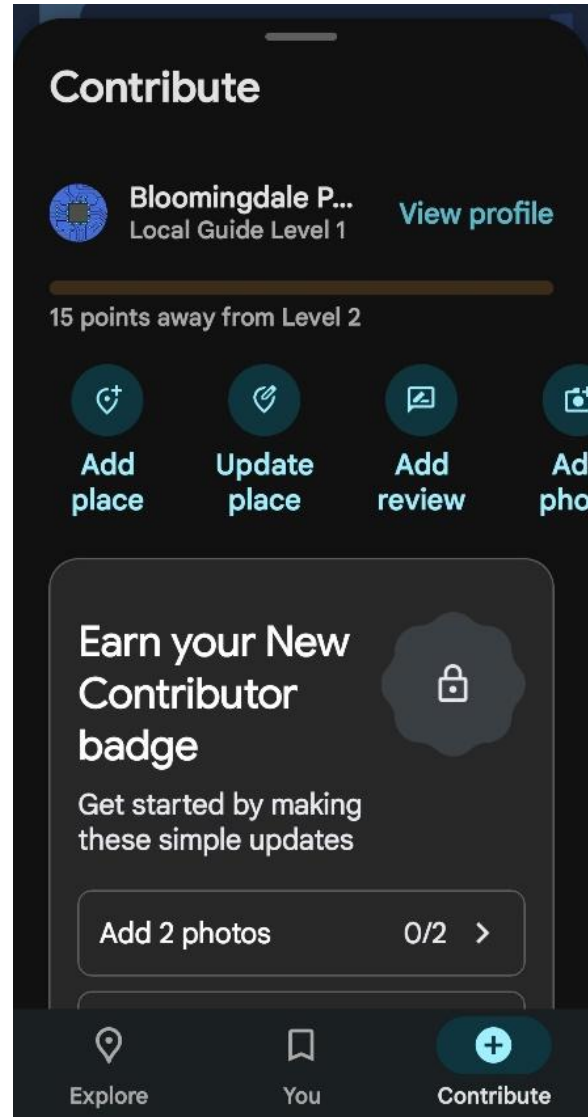
In this tab, you can find all of your Maps search history and personalized lists. The *Timeline* feature lets you see where you have traveled in the past. This is especially handy if you are trying to remember the last time you drove to an area or what route you took on a road trip in the past. This feature is disabled by default, but you can activate it in your Google account's *Activity Controls* page.



*You page*

## Contribute

This tab allows you to add places, write reviews, upload photos, and suggest edits to Google Maps data. This is a great way to update Google about local things like road construction, business closures, and more. These contributions can be done for existing businesses when you are looking at them on the map. Answering questions about local businesses can help others who may have Yes/No questions about wheelchair accessibility, drive-thru capacity, and more that businesses may not have told Google.



*Contribute page*

## The Search Bar

Across the top of Google Maps is a search bar with a few buttons next to it. The **Microphone** button allows you to speak your search to Google. The camera-like **Lens** button allows you to use your camera to select a building and ask Google questions about the business. The profile picture button allows you to access your account, Timeline data, location sharing, offline maps, and more.

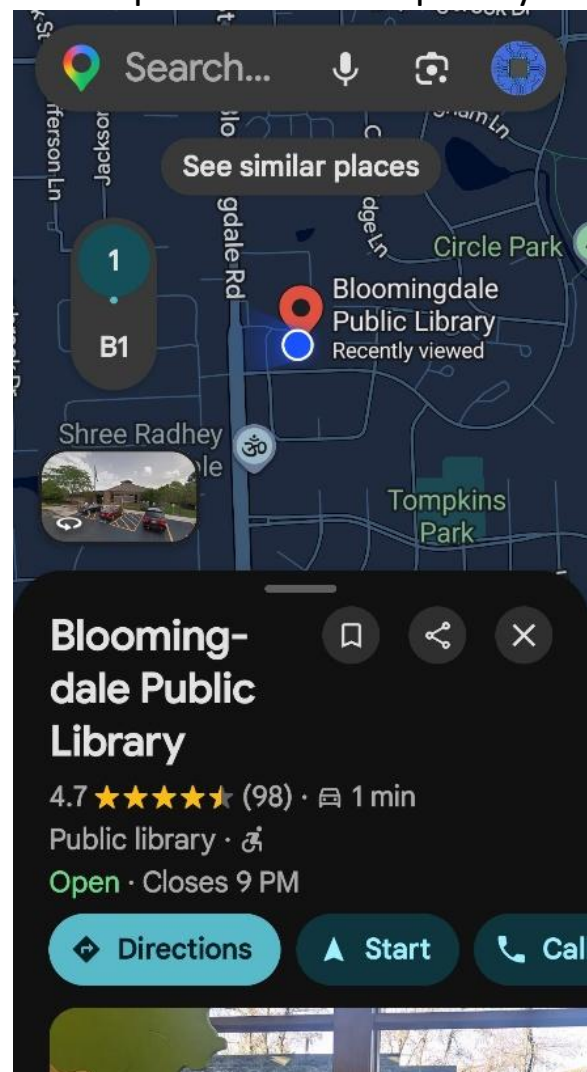
Below the search bar will be a dynamic series of buttons for quick access. Home, Work, Gas Stations, and more will typically show here if the app notices that you search for particular places more frequently.

When you click on types of places like Restaurants, the bottom half of the screen will give you a list of popular options in your area. You can filter by things like distance, food type, price, and more.

## Going Places

Search for your destination or tap it on the map. The bottom half of the screen will pop up with an info card that displays the business name, ratings, distance, and hours of operation. You can swipe up here for more detailed information about a location, including pictures, menus, reviews, etc.

If you want to see directions, simply press on the **Directions** button. This



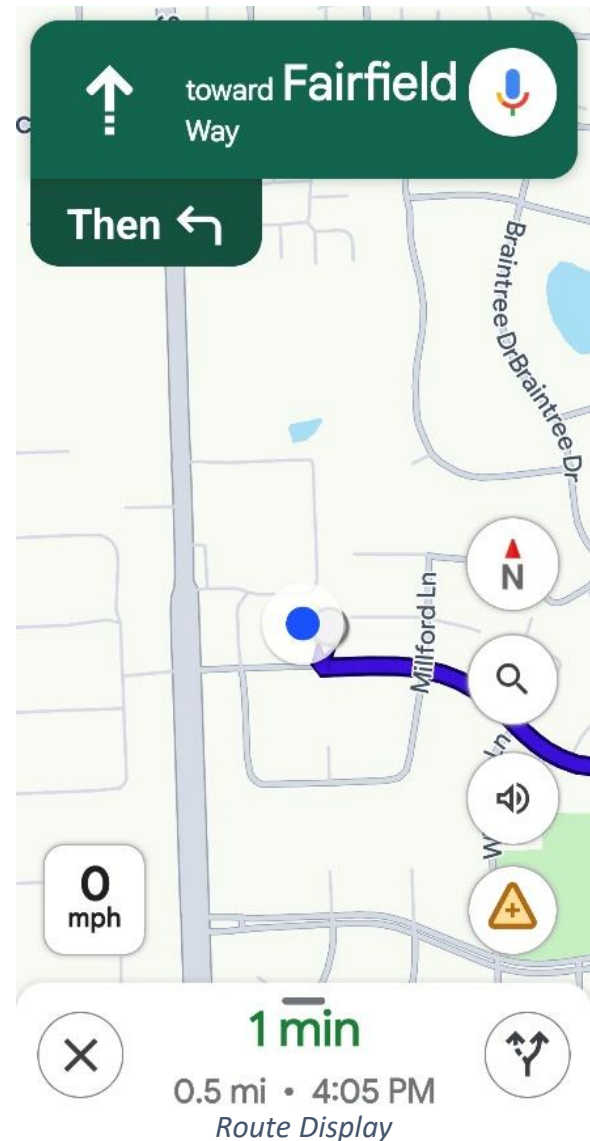
Information Card

will open a preview screen that shows your optimal route depending on transportation method, ETA, distance, and the ability to start your journey or add additional stops. You can also change the starting location if you are trying to get an ETA for a future trip. The three buttons to the right of the *Drive* text are for changing Trip Options, sharing a route, and closing the route preview. Trip Options allow you to change route options like tolls, highways, ferries, and more.

*If you are having issues getting a GPS signal, check that your phone has the **Location** option on and is not in **Airplane** mode.*

If you want to start the route without previewing directions, simply press the **Start** button. The app will calculate your directions and begin the route when you start moving.

The screen will now give you a few new options. This is typically how your Android Auto version of Google Maps will also appear. The app will display your current speed and direction whenever you are in a route. A number of other buttons you can use to search for places along your route and a speaker button where you can change the Navigation volume or mute it will also appear. If you do not need a route to continue going, you can just press the X button in the bottom-



left corner. If you need to see alternate routes for any reason, press the split roads button in the bottom-right corner.

## Exploring New Areas

Any time you are in Google Maps but not on a route, you can swipe up from the bottom of the Explore tab where it says your current city to see local events, sights, and food recommendations. Clicking on these recommendations will take you to the info card where you can see distance, hours of operation, and more for the place you clicked. If you want to go there, simply press the **Directions** or **Start** buttons to begin your route.

To find yourself on the map, tap the compass button. If you want to see the map with terrain or satellite imagery instead, click the layers button above the compass. You can also adjust different details here like traffic coloring, 3D buildings, and public transit info.

If a business like a mall has an updated entry on Google Maps, you will have extra buttons show up on the map that allow you to browse between floors and see main entrances.

While in a route, you can swipe up from the bottom of the app to select a few different route options:

### **Add a report**

This option will let you report crashes, police cars, traffic slowdowns, construction, and more. Any other drivers using Google Maps that go on a similar route will get an alert and the option to confirm if the report is still accurate.

## **Share Trip Progress**

You can share your live location until you arrive at a destination. Choosing this option will generate a link that others can use to see where you are on a trip.

## **Search Along Route**

Find a place along your route like a restaurant or gas station. Android Auto requires you to speak for searches made while driving. Make sure to speak clearly and enunciate, or you can have a passenger use your phone to do a manual search.

## **Directions**

This option will let you see the full directions to your destination.

The rest of the options will allow you to show traffic delays, satellite imagery, 3D buildings, and more. You can also adjust the voice directions and audio configurations in the Settings option.

## **Waze**

Waze, acquired by Google in 2013, is a popular alternative to Google Maps. Both apps are available for Android, Android Auto, iOS, and Apple CarPlay. It provides many similar services but is not as heavily integrated into showing local business options like Google Maps. Waze is considered better for users that do a lot of highway driving.

The app will re-route you automatically if upcoming traffic is detected, including side streets and unexpected routes. This can be a bit confusing if multiple users are reporting crashes, police alerts, or speed traps, as the route change does not give a lot of time to prepare for a detour.

The app does not have transit options available beyond cars and motorcycles, so Google Maps is still favorable for walking, biking, and public transit.

Waze requires an active data connection at all times, so if you hit a long stretch while driving with signal loss, the app may not be able to give you updates on your trip. Google Maps and Apple Maps offer the ability to download regional maps ahead of time. Waze does not offer this feature.

## Apple Maps

Apple Maps, exclusive to Apple products until 2018, is the default alternative to Google Maps on Apple devices. Apple Maps focuses on design over functionality, so there are fewer things like search boxes and settings menus taking up screen space.

Apple designs their products to work seamlessly with each other, which can be beneficial in ways people do not often consider. An Apple Watch worn by the driver will vibrate ahead of turns as an early reminder and can display the directions on the watch while driving.

Apple does not default their data storage to the iCloud, so map and travel data can be restricted to your devices only instead of accessible to a cloud service that would recommend restaurant suggestions based on your current area.

Because GPS data is typically crowdsourced to determine traffic intensity, an Apple user may get a better or worse travel time ETA depending on how many other Apple users are also driving in the area, and vice-versa for Android users. For this reason, having Apple and Google Maps both on your phone is a great way to ensure you are getting accurate travel time data when it matters most.

## Useful Tips and Links

<b>Google Maps is best for...</b>	<b>Waze is best for...</b>	<b>Apple Maps is best for...</b>
When you take public transit, walk, or bike.  When you want detailed business info and reviews in most countries.  When you want to use stronger AI voice navigation assistance.	When you need to fastest route possible and need to see road alerts as they happen.  When you do not need walking, biking, or transit directions.	When you want a simpler navigation interface.  When you are already using other Apple products

<https://qz.com/google-maps-lists-guide-travel-1851304887>

<https://www.tomsguide.com/computing/mobile-apps/i-use-google-maps-every-day-heres-11-underrated-features-you-should-try-now>

<https://www.tomsguide.com/how-to/best-waze-tips-and-tricks>

<https://www.tomsguide.com/how-to/apple-maps-15-essential-tips-and-tricks>