



*Bringing Generations Together*



**PAK PIONEERS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OF CANADA**

# Google Maps & Navigation

A step-by-step guide for beginners – find your way anywhere with confidence using your smartphone

DIGITAL LITERACY FOR SENIORS



# What Is Google Maps?

**Google Maps** is a free app on your smartphone that works like a GPS – it shows you a map of any place, gives you turn-by-turn directions, and helps you find nearby stores, doctors, restaurants, and more.

 See Maps

View streets, neighborhoods, and landmarks

 Get Directions


Drive, walk, or take the bus – step by step

 Find Places

Locate stores, pharmacies, hospitals, and more

 Call Businesses

Call a place directly from the map


 You do not need to pay anything to use Google Maps. It is completely free!



# How to Search for a Place



The **Search Bar** is the white box at the top of the screen. Tap it with your finger and type what you are looking for.

✓ Tip: You can also say it out loud! Tap the microphone icon  and speak the address.

01

Open Google Maps

Tap the colorful map icon on your phone

03

Type a Name or Address

Example: *"Walgreens near me"* or *"123 Oak Street"*

02

Tap the Search Bar

It says "Search here" at the top of the screen

04

Tap the Result

Choose the correct place from the list that appears

# Getting Directions

Once you find a place, getting directions is easy. Here is how:

- 1 Tap the place name  
A panel slides up from the bottom of the screen
- 2 Tap the blue "Directions" button  
It appears at the bottom of the place info panel
- 3 Choose your travel mode  
Car 🚗, Walk 🚶, or Bus 🚌
- 4 Tap "Start"  
Google Maps will guide you with spoken instructions

- 🔊 Your phone will speak the directions out loud so you don't need to look at the screen while driving or walking.



# Driving, Walking & Bus — Choose Your Mode

When you tap "Directions," Google Maps asks **how you want to travel**. Look for these icons at the top of the screen:



Driving 🚗

Best for going far away. Shows highway and road routes. Accounts for traffic.



Walking 🚶

Best for short distances nearby. Shows sidewalks and crosswalks. Great for parks.




Transit 🚌

Shows bus or subway routes. Tells you which bus to take and when to get off.



Cycling 🚲

Shows bike-friendly paths. Optional — most seniors use driving or walking.

 Tap each icon to see the time estimate for that travel method before you decide!

# Understanding Traffic Colors

Google Maps shows **colored lines on roads** to tell you how busy traffic is right now. Here is what each color means:

 Green

Traffic is moving smoothly. Good time to go!

 Yellow

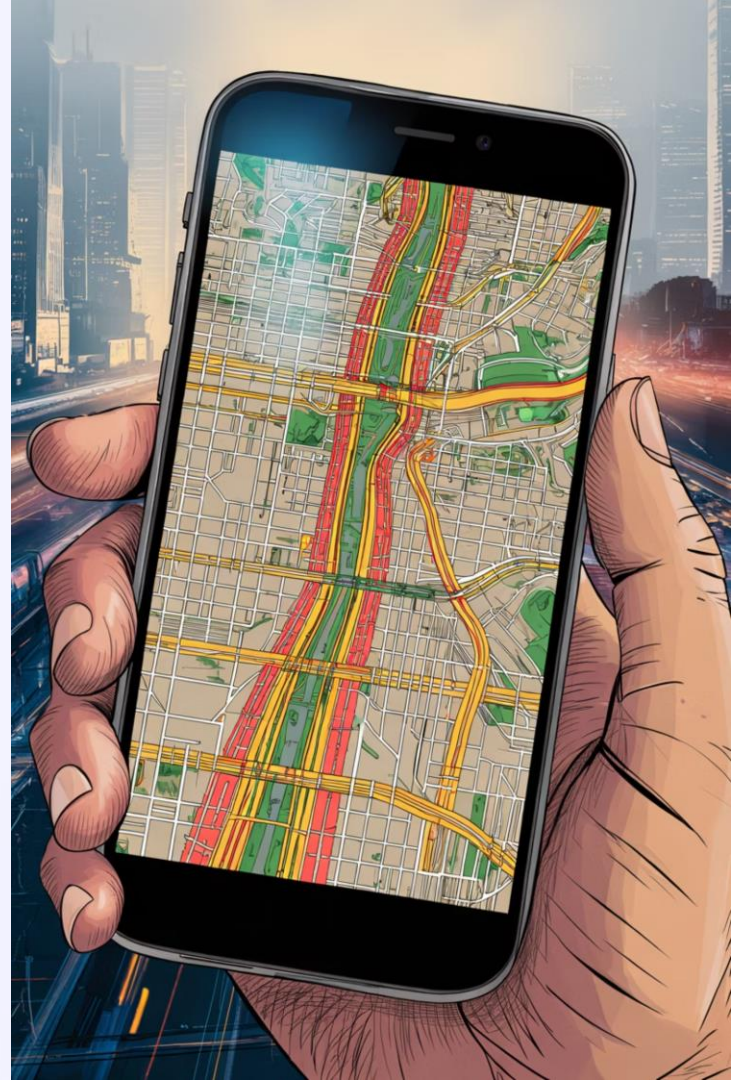
Traffic is a little slow. Expect some delay.

 Red

Heavy traffic. Consider waiting or taking another route.

 Dark Red

Traffic is at a standstill. Best to avoid this road now.



# Street View — See a Place Before You Go



**Street View** lets you see a real photo of the street – like standing there in person. It is very helpful before visiting a new place.

- ✔ Use Street View to find parking lots, building entrances, or confirm you're at the right place before arriving.

01

Find the location on the map  
Search for an address or place name

03

Tap the photo preview  
The view opens – showing the real street!

02

Tap and hold on the map  
A small photo preview appears at the bottom

04

Swipe left or right  
Look around in any direction, just like being there

# Saving Favorite Locations

You can **save places you visit often** – like your doctor's office, your grandchild's home, or your grocery store – so you never have to type the address again.

01

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Find the place on the map

Search for it using the search bar

02

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Tap the place name

The info panel opens at the bottom

03

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Tap "Save" (bookmark icon )

Choose a list: Favorites, Want to Go, or Starred Places

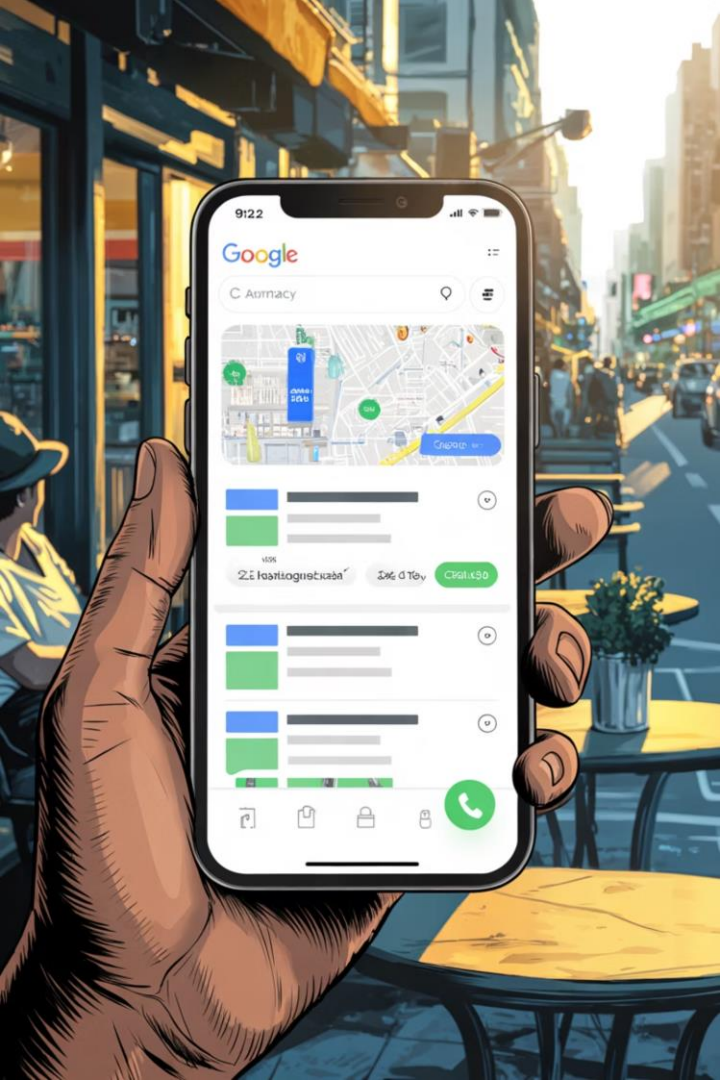
04

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Access it anytime

Tap "Saved" at the bottom of the Maps screen





# Finding Nearby Businesses & Calling Them

Need a pharmacy, gas station, or urgent care nearby? Google Maps makes it easy to **find and call businesses** without searching the web.

## Search "Nearby"


Type: *"pharmacy near me"* or *"urgent care near me"* – results appear instantly with star ratings and distance

## Read the Details

Tap any result to see hours, address, reviews, and photos – all in one place

## Tap to Call

Tap the **phone number** or the blue "Call" button – your phone dials automatically

 Always verify a business is open before driving there – check the hours shown in Google Maps first!

# Share Your Location With Family



Google Maps lets you **share your real-time location** with a family member so they always know you arrived safely.

- ✔ Your family member will see your moving dot on their map – great for peace of mind!
- ✘ Only share your location with people you trust – like family or close friends.

01

Tap your profile picture

It's in the top-right corner of the Maps screen

03

Choose how long to share

Pick 1 hour, until you turn it off, or all day

02

Tap "Location Sharing"

Then tap the blue "Share location" button

04

Select a contact

Choose a family member from your contacts list and tap "Share"