



Pokemon GO



Pokemon GO; Take Care & Triumph

What is Pokemon GO and how do you play it?

Pokemon GO is a truly exhilarating game, that sets players up as Pokemon (Pocket Monster) Trainers. Each player is tasked with finding wild Pokemon, capturing them, and recording data about their height, weight, type, and habits. You can then train them, and with the help of special items, make them develop, or even evolve in to a new form. There are a whopping 151 different Pokemon to capture and research!

So where are these Pokemon?

Well, pretty much everywhere. When you access the Pokemon GO app, it shows you a map, and your current location. As you walk around, the map moves to reflect your new surroundings. The map is actually based on a real world map, and even includes roads, paths, buildings and landmarks.

As you walk, an icon in the bottom right hand side of the screen shows you which Pokemon are in the area at the moment, and rustle of leaves on the map is all you have to help you find these elusive critters. The feeling of tracking down and finding a 'new' Pokemon to add to your PokeDex (data capturing device), is one of pure adrenaline!

How do I capture one?

On encountering a Pokemon, the screen switches view. You hold your iPhone up, and, using the camera, the app shows you a Pokemon in real world surroundings. This augmented reality trick further adds to the excitement. Now however, you must try to capture the Pokemon before it escapes. A Pokeball is a pretty effective device for this. When you throw a Pokeball at a Pokemon, and it hits it, the Pokemon is sucked inside. The Pokemon will flail around inside the ball, trying to escape but once it stops struggling, it's all yours.

What is a Pokestop?

Pokeballs are an extremely handy tools to have in your backpack... the only problem is, they are not in infinite supply, and if you are serious about catching all 151 Pokemon, you will have to top up. Thankfully, the game has a mechanism to supply you with all sorts of goodies, in the form of Pokestops. Pokestops are located in real life places, often public buildings, churches, and at landmark sites. As a player, you have to physically go to one of these places and get close enough to the physical location to access the Pokestop.

What is a Pokemon Gym?

Once you have played the game for a little while, a new element will become available to you, in the form of 'gyms'. A Pokemon gym is where you train your Pokemon and fight with other trainers. Like Pokestops, these are located in real life places and one must attend the real life location to access the gym.

Pokemon Eggs...?

Players can collect Pokemon eggs during the game. When placed in an incubator, the user can start to hatch an egg. You will be shown a travel target which must be hit in order for the egg to hatch, this could be two

kilometres, five kilometres, or more! You have to walk, cycle, take the bus or drive for the given distance, with the app open, in order to hatch your Pokemon eggs and get new Pokemon.

How to Stay Safe Playing Pokemon GO

Searching for Pokemon is an incredibly addictive task. For best results, you need to walk around covering a good amount of ground, whilst using your Pokemon GO app, following the rustling leaves that appear on your display. You will also find that Pokemon are territorial, and that the Pokemon you find near your house, will be different to those that live in your local town or city.

Planning your search

If you are thinking about going searching for Pokemon, it's always a great idea to plan your search. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Family activity

We have found that playing Pokemon GO can be a lovely opportunity for a family activity. As so many Pokestops and Gyms are located in places of public interest, we have often found that public footpaths and walks in the park are a great opportunity for the whole family to get some exercise and capture Pokemon together.

Assemble your team

For anyone planning to search for Pokemon, why not assemble a group and explore together? Pokemon GO is a really sociable activity - when working together, you can combine your efforts and take over gyms for your team more easily and really help take your game to new levels.

Choose a search area

Plan out the search area in advance and let parents/guardians know - also make sure you keep them in the loop if anything changes for any reason.

Find my friends app

For those parents/children using the iPhone platform, parents can also utilise the free Apple Service 'Find my friends' to track their child's phone, which can help you monitor their activity whilst out and about.

Batteries, batteries, batteries

Pokemon GO uses your phones location to position you in the app. This means that your device is always connected to the internet and communicating your location - thus leading to your battery draining more quickly than usual. Make sure that you take a battery/charging pack with you as a precaution but also make sure you stop and close the app when your phone battery start to run low.

Choosing Gyms and Pokestops

Finding and using Pokemon locations is an integral part of the Pokemon GO experience. Whilst many of these locations are in nice public areas, it is worth noting that not all are. Some Pokestops and Gyms are located far off the beaten track, down dark ally-ways, and in areas with restricted access.



Not all locations are safe to access. Use your better judgement and look at the physical location before wondering in. There are so many gyms and Pokestops available, that it is simply not worth going to one that doesn't seem safe or is located in an 'unknown' location - make sure you stay in familiar places and areas you know to be safe.

If you find a Gym or Pokestop that is potentially dangerous, you can report it here:

pokemongo.com/en-uk/

