

GeoNav How To

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Quick field guide for maps, GPS, features, measuring, and precision points.

Quick summary

Open a map

Use Open PDF Map or View PDF Maps.
Georeferenced PDFs unlock the GPS blue-dot.

Move the map

Drag to pan. Pinch to zoom. Twist with two fingers to rotate.

GPS recenter

Pan away to show crosshairs + arrow. Tap the arrow to return to GPS and north-up.

Place features

Aim with the crosshair (or stay GPS-centered), then tap to place. Use Finish to complete lines/polygons.

Timed precision

Turn on in Settings. While GPS-centered, Feature points average GPS samples before saving.

Measure

Draw Line/Polygon with the crosshair, or inspect an Existing Feature to see distance/area.

1. Getting started

- Allow location access when prompted so GPS can show your position on the map.
- Open a USGS GeoPDF or other ISO 32000 georeferenced PDF.
- After the first successful open, the map is saved for offline use.
- Use **Settings** on the home screen for units and Timed Precision Points.

2. Map navigation

- **Pan:** one-finger drag.
- **Zoom:** pinch or mouse wheel.
- **Rotate:** two-finger twist.
- When you move the map off GPS, **crosshairs** appear at the center and a **recenter arrow** appears near the top-right.
- Tap the recenter arrow to snap back to your GPS location and restore north-up orientation.

3. Feature tool

Points

- Feature → Point.
- If Timed Precision is **off**, or the map is **not** GPS-centered: pan to aim the crosshair, then tap to place the point on the crosshair.
- If Timed Precision is **on** and the map **is** GPS-centered: tap to start GPS averaging, watch the compass settle, then Use Average.

Lines and polygons

- Feature → Line or Polygon.
- Place each vertex the same way as points (crosshair tap, or Timed Precision when GPS-centered).
- Tap the green **Finish** button when done, or double-tap near the last vertex.

4. Measure tool

- **Draw Line / Draw Polygon:** aim with the crosshair (or map center / GPS), tap to add vertices, then Finish.
- **Existing Feature:** tap a saved line or polygon to show distance and area.
- Units come from Settings (feet/miles/etc. and acres/hectares/etc.).

5. Timed Precision Points

- Enable in home **Settings** → **Timed Precision Points** → **On**.
- Only applies while the map is GPS-centered (following GPS).
- The compass view shows the running average at the center and each GPS sample connected in order.
- Stop when the average settles and the sample cloud looks tight, then Use Average.
- If you pan away, Feature/Measure placement returns to crosshair tapping until you recenter.

6. Select, Clear, Undo

- **Select:** tap a point or vertex to edit name, comment, color, navigate, or delete.
- **Clear:** Clear Vertex, Clear Feature, or Clear Map.
- **Undo:** top-bar Undo reverses the last add/delete action when available.

7. Tips

- GPS and Timed Precision need HTTPS (or an installed app) and a georeferenced map.
- Stay still during Timed Precision collection for a tighter average.
- Use Finish instead of double-tap if completing a shape on a phone feels finicky.
- Import/export KML from the Maps menu when you need to move features between tools.