

Geocaching is a lot of fun! It can be done spontaneously while you're out and about—you pull up the app on your phone and see what's nearby (they're everywhere)—but the best geocaching experiences are when you take the time to do some research ahead of time to identify a geocache in an interesting place.

For the last 20 years, there's one website that hosts all the geocaching information, Geocaching.com. (There are other, smaller companies who've tried to do the same thing but Geocaching.com is by far the better experience).

Geocaching.com has a free, official app for [Android](#) and [iOS \(Apple\)](#) devices. There are other apps who draw from Geocaching.com's database with varying degrees of success. For instance, on iOS phones I adore [Cachly](#) and use it over the official app, finding it to be more intuitive. A friend who caches on an Android says [c:geo](#) is the best over there. Your opinion will vary.

Geocaching.com offers a "premium" membership for \$30 a year. Geocaches are put out by players and those caches can be marked as "premium only". Being a premium member lets you see all available caches and gives you a host of filtering options as well. Filters are useful especially when caching with kids as it lets you better identify caches that might be more fun for them.

I'd recommend trying to find a geocache first to see how the experience goes, and only then pay for the premium membership. It's a good price if you have any fun with it.

There are multiple types of geocaches. For now, stick with the "Traditional", the one with the green icon. That's just a plain 'ole container hidden somewhere and the coordinates lead straight there.

Every geocache has a size rating. You want a "regular" or bigger if you're starting out, especially if you have kids in tow. For kids (and frankly, for adults too) bigger geocaches are more fun to find. Some geocaches can be super tiny and therefore won't contain trinkets which is what kids love most (the "rule" is that you must trade out items for something of equal value).

Pay attention to the "difficulty" and "terrain" ratings of geocaches as well. Until you and/or your kids get adventurous, you want to stick with "2.5" or less for both values.

There's a little bit more of a learning curve to it but that's the very basics, which should be enough. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to me at austinauclair@patientrock.com.