

Pokémon Go: Quick-Start Guide

Getting Started

Pokémon Go is mobile game that combines video games with reality. Players are Pokémon trainers that explore the real world in search for Pokémons. Trainers also collect items at PokéStops and battle at Gyms.

Step 1 – Download the App for [iOS](#) or [Android](#)

Step 2 – Sign in with your Google Account

Step 3 – Create your avatar / character



Catch Your First Pokémon

After setting up your character, three Pokémons will appear next to you on the map: Squirtle, Charmander, and Bulbasaur. None of these are better than the other.

To catch one of these Pokémons:

- Click on the Pokémon on your map
- Tap the AR button to turn on or off the *augmented reality* mode that shows the Pokémon in your actual environment. In AR mode, move your camera around until the Pokémon is right in front of you.
- Fling the Poké Ball at the Pokémon, trying to get it as close as possible

Tip: Press and hold the Poké Ball and see the ring around the Pokémon shrink. Toss the Poké Ball when the ring is smallest to have the best chance to catch the Pokémon.

When catching a wild Pokémon, they will have different colored rings that represent how hard it is to catch them. Green is easiest. Yellow is intermediate. Red is the most difficult.

PRO TIP: Catch a Pikachu

If you don't want your first Pokémon to be Squirtle, Charmander, or Bulbasaur, there is another option – Pikachu! Instead of choosing any of these three, walk away (literally you have to get up and start walking away until the 3 Pokémons disappear). Do



this about 4 times, and on the 4th or 5th reappearance, Pikachu will also appear.

Finding and Catching Wild Pokémons



To find wild Pokémons, get up and start walking around. The Pokémons Go app has to be open while you move around for it to work. Pokémons will appear on the map when you are close. Get close enough, click on the Pokémons, and catch them with one of your Poké Balls.

On the bottom right side of the app is a tab with nearby Pokémons. These Pokémons will appear grayed out until you catch them. The number of steps underneath each Pokémon shows how far it is away. Click on one Pokémon and start walking around to see if you can get closer.

Your phone will vibrate when a Pokémons appears. As soon as it appears on your phone screen, you'll be able to tap it and try to catch it. Sometimes, a Pokémons will jump out of the Poké Ball, even after it appears caught. Just try again. Especially for lower level Pokémons, it usually works on the second try.

There are several types of Pokémons. Different Pokémons appear in different locations. For example, you should find more water-type Pokémons near lakes, rivers, and oceans.

As you gain more experience and points, more difficult Pokémons will appear. They will require more powerful Poké Balls to catch them. Higher level balls like Great and Ultra balls will help you catch Pokémons with red rings.

PRO TIP: Every time you catch a Pokémons, you get more Experience Points (XP). Gaining XP will increase your character's level. The better your Poké Ball toss, the more XP you gain. Throw a *Curve Ball* to catch a Pokémons get extra XP. To throw a curve ball, click on the Poké Ball and while holding, move it around in a circle until it starts to sparkle. Then aim and fling it towards the Pokémons.

Pokémons Stats



An important aspect of the game to understand is stats. Combat Power (CP) and Hit Points (HP) refer to how powerful a Pokémons is. CP is generally how powerful your Pokémons's attack is. HP is how healthy your Pokémons is, and how many hits they can withstand. This will come into play during battles.

Understanding the Map View

While walking around, you'll notice different points of interest:

1. **Compass** – toggles the direction of the map view, switching from a North-facing map to auto-rotation.
2. **Gyms** – where you train and battle PokéMon. You have to be at character level 5 to enter.
3. **PokéStops** – where you can collect items like Poké Balls, Potions, and Eggs.
4. **Avatar**
5. **Profile Icon** – shows your level, nickname, and how close you are to leveling up. Click this to view your trainer profile.
6. **Main Menu** – click to view PokéMon, Pokédex, items, shop, and settings.
7. **Nearby PokéMon** – displays the wild PokéMon that are nearby.

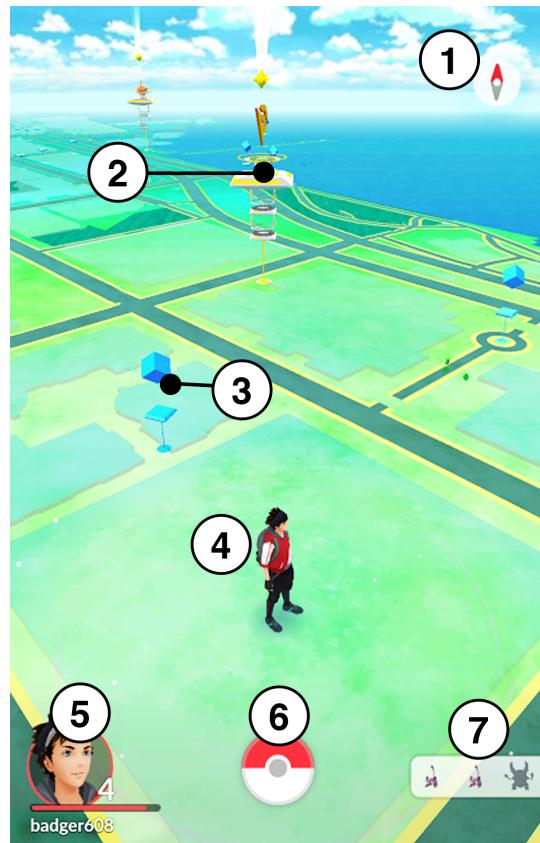


Image from Niantic Labs

Visiting PokéStops

PokéStops are located more frequently around the map than Gyms. They can be found near public art, unique architecture, and other public gathering places. So you'll find more of them in urban areas.



When close enough, the blue square will transform into a blue Poké Ball icon. Click on the icon to 'enter' the PokéStop. Spin the disc to the right or left, and items should fly out of it. Click on the items to collect them in your own bag.

PRO TIP: Once you spin the PokéStop disc and the items fly onto the screen, just click the X button to collect all of the items without having to do it individually. To quickly visit a bunch of PokéStops, hop on a bus, train, or Uber. Be ready to open the PokéStop and spin the disk as you approach to quickly gather a bunch of items.



Pokémon Go Items

There are many different types of items in Pokémon Go. Here is a list of the main ones:



- Poké Balls – comes in regular, Great, Ultra. The better the Poké Ball, the higher your chance of catching them.
- Potions
 - Regular - heals Pokémons by 20 HP
 - Super - heals Pokémons by 50 HP
 - Hyper - heals Pokémons by 200 HP
 - Max - completely heals Pokémons
- Revive
 - Regular – restores fainted Pokémons to half health
 - Max – restores a fainted Pokémons to full health
- Eggs & Egg Incubators
 - Eggs hatch into a Pokémons
 - Egg Incubators used to hatch Pokémons eggs
- Lucky Egg
 - Doubles the experience gained for 30 minutes



- Razz Berry
 - Makes it easier to catch Pokémons with your Poké Ball
- Stardust
 - Use it to Power Up a Pokémons
- Incense
 - Attracts more wild Pokémons to your area for 30 minutes
- Lure Module
 - Attracts wild Pokémons to a PokéStop for all players in the area for 30 minutes
- Bag Upgrade
 - Increases item-carrying capacity by 50
- Camera
 - Allows you to take photos of the Pokémons
- Pokémons Storage Upgrade
 - Increases Pokémons storage capacity by 50

To use any item, click on the main menu button, go to your Items, then select an item to use. Some items can only be used in specific instances. For example, you can only use Lure Modules when you're at a PokéStop. You can only use Revive when one of your Pokémons has fainted.

Eggs & Incubators

When you begin playing PokéMon Go, you automatically have an egg incubator in your item bag. You'll collect eggs at PokéStops. These eggs hatch into more rare PokéMon.

To hatch an egg:

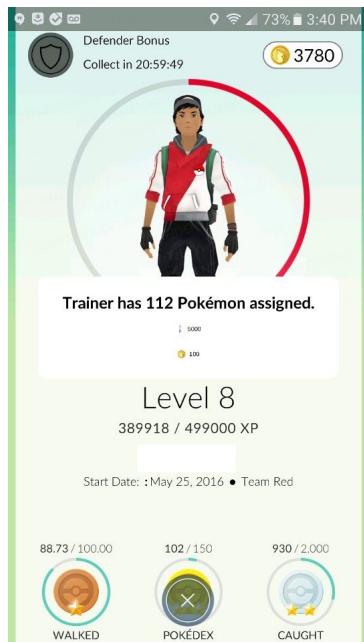
- Click on the main menu
- Go to your PokéMon
- Swipe to the right or click on the Eggs tab
- Click on the egg you want to incubate
- Select the incubator you want to use
 - The incubator you already have in your bag has unlimited uses
 - You can purchase 3-use incubators from the Shop with Poké Coins
 - **Poké Coins cost real money or can be received in exchange for leaving a PokéMon at a Gym (more on this later)**



Each egg has a different distance marker. This is the distance you need to move to hatch the egg. The longer the distance, the more rare the PokéMon will be.

PRO TIP: Remember, the app needs to be open to complete this distance. Try hopping on a bike or going for a jog to quickly complete the incubation distance.

Leveling Up Your Character



An important part of PokéMon Go is increasing your character level. The higher your level, the more things available for you to do. For example, you need to be at level 5 to enter a Gym and battle. You also get more advanced items as you increase your level.

To level up a character, you need to get more experience points (XP). You get experience points by catching PokéMon, visiting Poké Stops, battling at gyms, etc.

Your character level is shown next to your profile icon in the bottom left of the app. Just below that is a bar that shows how many experience points you need to get to

the next level. Click on your profile button to see the exact number of XP you need.

Powering Up and Evolving Pokémons

Powering Up your Pokémons is also a key to success. Powering Up increases your Pokémons' combat points (CP) and hit points (HP), making you a more fierce and tough competitor.



To level up a Pokémon, you need Stardust and Candy. Stardust is a general item you receive whenever you catch a Pokémon. Candy is specific to that type of Pokémon. For example, when you catch a Pidgey, you get Pidgey Candy. You'll need this Pidgey Candy to evolve.

- Click on the main menu
- Click on Pokémon
- Select a Pokémon you want to Power Up
- Click 'Power Up' to increase your Pokémon's CP & HP
- When you have enough Candy for that Pokémon, you can click 'Evolve' to evolve your Pokémon to the next evolution – for example, Pidgey to Pidgeotto

PRO TIPS:

Wait to evolve your Pokémon until your character is at level 10 or higher. The higher your character level, the more of a boost your Pokémon will get when evolved. Your Pokémon's moves will also change when it evolves.

Catch as many Pokémons as you can, even if it is the same type. This gives you more candy for that Pokémon type so you can evolve. Seeing a lot of Zubats? Catch them all!

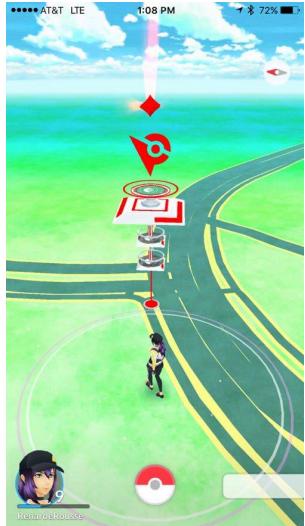
Not all Pokémons are equal. Some have a higher CP limit than others.

Power Up your champion Pokémon. Pick one (or just a handful) of Pokémons to Power Up instead of trying to do so with all of your Pokémons. Having just one really strong Pokémon will be better in battle than many average ones.



Understanding Gyms

It wouldn't be Pokémon without gym battles. Upon reaching level 5 and visiting a gym, you will need to swear allegiance to a Pokémon team (Yellow, Blue, or Red). This allows you to battle opponent gyms, train at friendly gyms, and defend your team gyms.

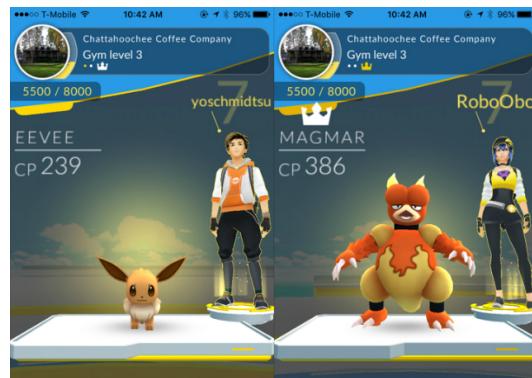


Gym Prestige: Each gym has a certain level of prestige, which correlates with how tough it is. The higher the prestige, the more Pokémons from a team can defend it.

Claiming an Open Gym: By now, most Pokémon Gyms will be claimed. If you see an open gym (one that is gray and not yellow, blue, or red) enter the gym by tapping on it when you get close to it. Leave a Pokémon at the gym to claim it and defend it for your team. Not only is this a noble thing to do for the sake of your team, but you also get stardust and poké coins for every 24 hours that you leave Pokémon at a gym.

Note: You can't retrieve a Pokémon that is left at a gym until it has been defeated by an opposing team. So choose the Pokémon that you leave wisely.

Friendly Battles: When you approach a gym controlled by your team, you can do friendly battles. This increases the gym's prestige and the stardust/pokécoin bonuses that can be earned. Increasing a gym's prestige also increases the amount of Pokémons that can be left there to defend it. For example, a gym at level 5 can have 5 defending Pokémons.



Battling Enemy Gyms: If a gym is held by a rival team, you need to battle for it. Defeat all of the Gym Leader's Pokémons. Once the prestige is set to 0, you can then leave a Pokémon there and claim it for your own.

Battling

In a Pokémon Battle, two Pokémon face off one-on-one. You defeat the enemy Pokémon by decreasing their HP to 0.

Types of battle moves:

- Fast Attack – tap on the enemy Pokémon to do quick light attacks. The Fast Attack is great for beating enemy's with lower CP and HP.
- Special Attack – tap and hold to do a special attack once your meter has filled. This attack is more powerful than a Fast Attack, but takes more time and leaves you vulnerable to getting hit yourself.
- Dodge – swiping left or right can make your Pokémon dodge the enemy's attack. Dodging is important when battling enemies with higher CP and HP.



PRO TIPS:

In battles where you are fighting powerful enemies, start by dodging. As soon as the screen flashes yellow, swipe to the left or right. Then follow up with 1-2 fast attacks. Then dodge and repeat.

Know your Pokémon's type. Each Pokémon has a different type (water, fire, grass, rock, etc.). Some types are more powerful and vulnerable against other types. For example, fire-type Pokémon are very strong against grass-type but weak against water-type. When entering a battle, use Pokémon that have a good type matchup.

Team up! You can join other members of your team when battling an enemy gym. You can attack the same Pokémon, making it easier to defeat it.



Healing and Reviving Pokémon

After battling, your Pokémon will probably be hurt or have fainted (if the enemy decreased your Pokémon's HP to 0). To wake up a fainted Pokémon, use a Revive item

on that Pokémon. To heal the HP, use a Potion. Different potions and revives have different strengths.

Pokémon Go Plus Wearable

Ready to take it to the next level?

The Pokémon Go Plus wearable allows you to play the game without having your phone open, by connecting to your phone via bluetooth. It acts as a notification device. When there is a Pokémon or PokéStop nearby, it will vibrate. You can even use the device to catch a Pokémon without using your phone by pressing the button when it vibrates and the LED light blinks.

It will save a lot of battery, but is not necessary for playing the game.

The Pokémon Go Plus wearable will soon be available for purchase for \$34.99