

Save it before you roll.

How to download maps and keep useful information when the signal disappears. This guide contains instructions; download your actual map area separately.

1 / Download your area before you lose signal

Google Maps: Open the app, tap your profile, then Offline maps and Select your own map. Include your destination and the whole route, then download. Offline walking, cycling and transit directions are unavailable; driving navigation has no live traffic. Downloads need updating.

<https://support.google.com/maps/answer/6291838?hl=en>

2 / On an iPhone

Apple Maps (iOS 17 or later): Search for a place, open its details, and choose Download or More > Download Map. Adjust the area and download. Offline directions include walking where supported. Availability varies by area; check what is saved on your phone.

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/105084>

3 / Save a real topographic map

USGS topoView: Search the town or area, select a map sheet, check its date, and download a PDF or another available format. USGS offers free current and historical maps. Save a recent sheet for planning; older maps can show features that no longer exist.

<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/>

4 / Keep a useful backup

Save the PDF to Files or Downloads. Open it once, then turn off Wi-Fi and mobile data briefly to check that it still opens. Save the address, phone number and hours of your next stop as well. A screenshot is a backup, not a whole navigable map.

5 / Know what a map cannot promise

A shelter pin does not mean an open bed. A marked spring does not establish safe drinking water, public access or a reliable flow. A trail on a map does not establish current conditions or permission to enter. Check locally before traveling.

6 / Save the guides, too

Keep the DKCSC pocket help guide alongside your maps. Downloaded guides remain readable offline; calls need a working phone connection, and external websites, current weather and live service searches need internet.

<https://dkcsc.com/#downloads>