

BACKPACKER

THE OUTDOORS AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Quick Sheet

How to edit trips on Backpacker.com

You've mapped your hike and taken pictures. Here's how to put it all together online.

TRIP EDITING

Go to www.backpacker.com and log into the site or create a new account by clicking the login button on the top right corner. Once you're logged in, go to www.backpacker.com/postatrip.

IF YOU HAVE A GPS-ENABLED PHONE

- When you exited AllSport GPS, your phone automatically sent your trip to the web.
- If you were out of cell phone range when you ended the trip, the phone will save the data in its memory. Once you're back in the cell grid, launch the software, go to More Options > Adv. Settings, and press Unsent Sessions. The trip is now online.
- Next, back on the website, click the pencil (Edit) icon next to the desired trip to open the Trip Information page.

IF YOU HAVE A GPS UNIT

- Garmin users can upload their files straight onto our site by selecting [Option C](#).
- Magellan owners or other GPS units need to upload a .GPX file to the website using [Option B](#). (See below for details about GPX files).

GPX FILES AND CONVERSION TOOLS

GPX stands for GPS Exchange Format, which is a file type for the interchange of GPS data (waypoints, routes, and tracks) between applications and web services. Backpacker, Trimble Outdoors, Garmin, and others now support GPX files as the universal format to exchange and store GPS data. Sounds complicated? Think .doc files for word processing files.

GPSBabel is the best tool we've found for converting the various data formats found in commercial mapping software. GPSBabel runs on PCs and MACs. To download, go to www.gpsbabel.org.

AFTER UPLOADING, THE EDITING BEGINS

If you would like to view your trip before making any changes, click the magnifying glass (View) icon on the My Trips page to open your trip. Clicking on the pencil (Edit) icon to the right of the trip's name will take you directly to the Trip Information edit page.

WRITE UP YOUR TRIP

On the **Trip Information** page add information and descriptive text to your trip:

- Name: Give your trip a name using this formula: nearest city, state abbreviation: Trail name, destination or park/area name. For example: "Moab, UT: Slickrock Trail" or "New York City, NY: Central Park Loop"
- Click box marked *Shared* to allow other users to find your trip online.
- Activity: Use the drop-down menu to designate your trip as "Hiking" or "Backpacking"
- State: Use the drop-down menu to set the state where the trip is located.
- Difficulty: Use the drop-down menu to set the difficulty level on a scale of 1-10.
 - 1-3: Family friendly terrain, minimal climbing, paved surfaces and signed routes.
 - 4-6: Easy-to follow trails with short, challenging or technical sections that require average

Questions?

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- or below-average fitness levels, but not advanced skills.
 - 7-8: Challenging or long routes that require higher levels of physical fitness and hiking ability.
 - 9-10: Route-finding skills, highly-developed fitness, and backcountry skills are required for difficult and long trails.
- Mileage: If you collected a GPS track, the site will automatically determine the mileage. If not, type in the estimated mileage.
- USGS Topo Map: Leave this field blank, or enter the name of the USGS Topographic Quads covering the trip area.
- Summary: Write a short summary that tells readers what the trip is all about, summing up its rewards, best features, and highlights in a sentence or two. For example, “*A popular dayhike, this 10.9-miler traces the banks of Holly Brook, skirts the edge of a scenic pond, and reveals panoramic views from the top of Pleasant Pond Mountain.*”
- Description: Add more details about the trip and give a bit of a play-by-play. What is unique about the trip? What is the terrain like? What was the scenery like along the way? How difficult is the trail? Are there any hazards or technical sections? Think about the advice you’d want if you’d never hiked it before.
- To Trailhead: Add directions from the nearest town to the trailhead.
- Tags: You can add tags, or keywords, that increase your trip’s searchability in search engines. Keep your keywords general. Enter the state, city, and special landmarks like parks. Please add one keyword at a time.
- Click *Save and Continue to Map Editor*.

UPLOAD PHOTOS AND VIDEO

Add photos and videos of hikers en route, scenic views, road conditions, landmarks, and other navigational aids.

- On the **Map Editor** page, click on the camera icon in the map toolbox.
- Choose *Local File* to upload a photo, or *Link to YouTube Video* to upload a video.
- Click *Browse* and select your photo file to upload. After selecting the correct photo file, select *Open*. The file name will appear in the Upload box. Click *Upload*.
- The newly uploaded photo will be highlighted under “Media & Points of Interest” in the Options Pane. Next, place the photo by hovering the mouse cursor on the map and clicking to “drop” the photo where it belongs. A pop-up window will appear, allowing you to name the photo or video and add a description. Click *OK* to save the photo’s name, caption and location.
- You can fine-tune the placement of your photos by zooming into the map, selecting individual camera icons, and dragging them to exact track locations.
- After loading and placing your photos select *Save and Preview*.

ADD POINTS OF INTEREST

Use Points of Interest (POIs) to mark and provide notes about hazards, scenic viewpoints, rest stops, technical sections, and any other highlights of the trip.

- On the **Map Editor** page, click the yellow flag (POI) icon on the map’s toolbox.
- To place a POI, hover the mouse cursor on the GPS track and click to “drop” the POI where it belongs. A pop-up window will appear where you can name the POI and add a description. For example, Name: Longs Peak, Description: This broad, 14,255-foot summit showcases views into Rocky Mountain National Park. Click *OK* to save the POI’s name, details, and location.
- To edit or delete an existing POI, highlight the POI’s name in the Options Pane. A pop-up window will appear where you can make changes to the text or choose to delete the POI by selecting *Delete* below the “Desc.” field.
- You can fine-tune the placement of your POIs by zooming into the map, selecting individual flag icons, and dragging them to exact track locations.
- After adding, placing, and editing your POIs, select *Save and Preview*.

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EDIT YOUR TRACK

Editing track allows you to correct GPS hiccups or to identify alternative start locations.

- On the **Map Editor** page, click the track (in the options menu to the left of the map, scroll down to Tracks and select). A pop-up window will appear on the map where you can name the track and add details. Click *OK* to save the track info. Move the mouse over the track.
- Small, white squares will appear along the track. Click on the desired square to drag and drop it to the desired location, or use the commands in the dropdown menu to edit the track:
 1. **Delete Point:** The point will disappear and track points before and after the deleted point will connect directly to one another.
 2. **Insert Point Before:** This function only works to add points to the beginning of the track.
 3. **Insert Point After:** This function allows you to extend the track from its endpoint.
 4. **Point Properties:** Use the Point Properties menu to add turn-by-turn directions or to activate resting or GPS dropout points.
- When you are finished, hit *Save and Preview*.

ARE YOU DONE YET?

Before you complete your trip, make sure to double-check the changes you made during the editing process. If you're happy with this trip, click *Save and Preview*. To make more changes, click the Edit Info or Edit Map link.

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