

All about GPS Data

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Introduction

What is GPS Data? It's data that is often found within a Photo or JPG that contains the location where the photo was taken. It's referred to as GPS data, Location data, metadata or Geotagging. iPhones or iPads have an option to record this data and there are also ways to remove or add this data after the photo was taken.

Why would you want to remove this data? When posting photos to Social Media, it's safer to remove location data first to protect your privacy. Why would you want to keep this data? When viewing photos on your mobile device, it's nice to know where you were when the photos were taken.

Setting up your iPhone or iPad Camera

Go to Settings, Privacy, Location Services. Tap Camera and choose Never or While Using the App. This setting determines whether location data is stored in your photos and videos.

Viewing GPS data

Open the Photos app and open any photo. Scroll to the bottom to see Places. This will reveal where the photo was taken. If you don't see Places, there is no location stored in the photo.

Removing GPS data

- ViewExif for \$.99 as seen [here](#) allows you to Save or Share photos without metadata. See basic instructions below and more info [here](#).

- Open the Photos App and Select desired photo (s) and tap on Share button and Select ViewExif app extension
- ViewExif App extension with all EXIF details will open
- Tap the Share button to share photo with or without EXIF metadata
- Note – this app only works with one photo at a time. OneEdit Pro discussed next works with one or more photos.
- OneEdit Pro for \$2.99 as seen [here](#) allows you remove metadata from one or more photos at the same time. It also allows you to save the results in an album. I recommend that you create an album beforehand labeled No GPS or something similar. Tutorials can be seen [here](#).
 - Note - start by opening the app rather than in the Photos app.

Adding GPS data

- OneEdit Pro can add location data on a mobile device.
- On a PC, the best way to add GPS data is to use ACDSee Photo Studio Standard as seen [here](#) for \$39.95. The program has a Map function where you can search for a location and add it to your photo.
- If you have photos without the Data Taken in the EXIF data, you can add it with a program called EXIF Data Changer as seen [here](#). It costs \$14.95 and is well worth it. You can also add this field with ACDSee Photo but only one photo at a time. EXIF Date Changer can do a folder at a time.

Adding location with a digital camera

1. Some digital cameras have a built-in GPS. If this feature is enabled, the location data will be recorded in each photo.
2. Some digital cameras such as a Sony RX100 VI work in conjunction with an iPhone app called Imaging Edge Mobile. The app syncs with the camera and every photo has the location data embedded, even RAW photos. You must carry the phone with the app open to save location data to your shots. This happens over Bluetooth.
3. You can get an app on your iPhone such as Open GPX Tracker for free as seen [here](#). When traveling and shooting photos, open this app and tap Start Tracking and the app will create a GPX log file which you can share to yourself via email when done. Then you can open a program such as Lightroom and go to the Map Module. Then click Map, Tracklog, Load Tracklog.

Raw files and location data

- Raw files on an iPhone are in the DNG format and can store the location data

- Raw files from a digital camera such as ARW files cannot be altered once they're taken. Instead, a Sidecar file with an XMP extension is created to contain the location data when the data is added afterwards by software such as Lightroom or ACDSee Photo Studio. However, when a Sony RX100 VI syncs with an iPhone running Image Editing Mobile, the GPS data is embedded in the RAW file and JPG file.

Reverse Geocoding

This is a process whereby the GPS data can be converted to actual street addresses and embedded into the JPG metadata. It does not show in the EXIF data but in the IPTC data. ACDSee and Photo Mechanic can perform this function.

Example

Here's what I did to add Location Data and Date Taken to old photos that were scanned from slides.

1. Added location data with ACDSee Photo
2. Added date taken with EXIF Date Changer
3. I right-clicked a few JPGs, selected Properties and selected the Details tab. The Date Taken and GPS data were added.