

# **How to measure distances with Google Maps**

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Google maps (not Google Earth) is a free webpage you can use to print up maps or get directions anywhere in the world. I use this all the time to look up directions to a new client's home. However, there is a hidden feature I just discovered recently that's kind of neat. With a map on the screen, you can click in a special way to measure distances. This is handy if you need to figure out how long it will take to get somewhere, or if you need to record mileage. You can measure a long distance from start to end, or measure shorter distances to compensate for the curves in the road. Here's how to do it.

1. First you need to open your browser and bring up the Google Maps webpage. Open Google.com, then click the gray square menu button in the upper right. If you mouse over it you'll see "Google Apps". Once the menu shows, click on "Maps".
2. Next bring up a map you want to work with. You can do this by panning with your mouse, zooming in and out, or by typing something to search for in the upper left.
3. Now for the fun part. To start measuring, right click on a starting point on the map. A small menu will show, now choose "Measure distance" from that menu.
4. Next left click anywhere on the map as many times as you like. Each time you left click a black line will show with a miles measurement. The number of miles shown is the TOTAL from the starting point to the last place you clicked.
5. When done measuring just right click anywhere on the map and choose "Clear measurement", or you can just close down the webpage.