Using Tour & Trail Custom Maps kmz files

basic guide, print for reference

Modern Garmin GPS units have a Custom Maps capability enabling you to load kmz map files into your Garmin gps. Custom Maps use the kmz file format used by Google Earth and can be loaded via My Collection into Garmin Basecamp software. DWG have produced Custom Map (CM) digital editions of our Tour &Trail Maps. These Custom Map digital editions can then be loaded into your Garmin GPS and activated to replace the unit's base map giving you real time Tour &Trail mapping on your gps.

Before downloading a Custom Map check that your Garmin gps has the Custom Maps capability.

Digital Maps go Free on 1 April 2020 From 1 April 2020, DWG are making Custom Map digital editions of Tour & Trail and Challenge Maps FREE for buyers of the printed map. New titles and editions of DWG maps have the download instructions printed on the map. If you have bought a Tour & Trail, or Challenge, Map without download instructions simply email David at ask.discovery@ntlworld.com giving details of your map purchase and David will then send you the download link.

Downloading your Custom Map from Discovery Walking Guides

Only Download, and Unzip, files on your PC/Mac, do not use your phone.

In your email from dwgwalking.co.uk you will see the file name of your purchase underlined; this is your download link

Click on the download link, a 'Download' box appears. Choose the 'Save' option and select where on your C (hard drive) you want to save your Custom map.

If your Custom Map is a zip file, then unzip the file into its seperate Custom Map kmz files using a zip file utility such as Winzip or 7zip .

Checking your Custom Map download

Locate your CM kmz file on your hard drive. Double click on the kmz filename, Google Earth will open and display your CM as a transparent overlay on the Google Earth 3D terrain model.

In Garmin Basecamp bring your CM kmz file (s) into My Collection, then select your kmz file and Basecamp will display your CM as a 2D solid map on top of the Basecamp base map.

Now you can be sure your CM is correctly downloaded and is working.

Loading Custom Map kmz files into your Garmin

With my Garmin switched on, and gps reception switched off, I connect the gps to my PC with a USB lead. In Windows Explorer I copy the CM kmz file from my hard drive. Then I open the Garmin folder in my gps, and then open the CustomMaps folder where I paste the CM kmz file.

Garmin suggest installing CustomMaps on an SD card, but I have found the pasting directly into the gps CustomMaps memory is easier and more reliable. If in doubt ask Garmin.

Using your Custom Map on your Garmin

After switching on your gps go into 'Setup' then 'Maps' then 'Configure Maps' then 'CustomMaps' where you will find the Custom Maps in your gps memory.

Select your Custom Map, and check that all other Custom Maps are switched off, and it will display on your gps screen instead of the units base map.

If you are doing this in a location away from the Custom Map area you will need to Pan and Zoom to find your Custom Map.

You can only have one Custom Map activated at any one time. If you have activated two or more Custom Maps then your gps will not recofnise any of the Custom Maps.

If in doubt consult Garmin 'Help' on their official Garmin website.

Using Custom Maps with your LocusMap app

LocusMap app can use kmz files but as all of our Tour & Trail Maps are now Free in the Locus Map Store, and these are in the sqlite.db file format preferred by Locus, we advise you to download your Tour & Trail Map direct to your app from the Locus Map Store.

Converting Custom Maps into other Map Formats - Mapc2Mapc

Custom Map kmz files can be converted into a number of other map formats using Mapc2Mapc software produced by John Thorn. You can download a Free unregistered version of Mapc2Mapc to try and then pay the £15 registration fee for the full version if it suits your needs.