Find Your Way with Maps

Mapping on your iPod touch is very convenient and pretty amazing. As we explore the power of the Maps app in this chapter, you’ll see how to find your location on the map and get directions to just about anywhere. You’ll learn how to change views between classic Map, Satellite, and Hybrid. You’ll also see how, if you need to find the best route, you can check the Traffic and Construction view using Maps. If you want to find the closest pizza restaurant, golf course, or hotel to your destination, that’s easy, too. And you can use Google’s Street View right from your iPod touch to help you get to your destination. It is easy to add an address you have mapped to your contacts. There’s also a digital compass feature that is fun to play with.

Getting Started with Maps

The beauty of the iPod touch is that the programs are designed to work with one another. You’ve already seen how your contacts are linked to the Maps app; just look back at Chapter 15: “Working with Contacts” for more information on this topic.

The Maps app is powered by Google Maps – the leader in mobile mapping technology. With Maps you can locate your position, get directions, search for things nearby, see traffic, and much more.

Simply touch the Maps icon to get started.

Determining Your Location (the Blue Dot)

When you start the Maps program, you can have it begin at your current location. Follow these steps to determine your
location:

1. Tap the small Blue Arrow icon at the lower-left corner.

2. Maps will ask to use your current location—touch OK or Don’t Allow.
   We suggest choosing OK, which makes it much easier to find directions from or to your current location.

NOTE: You might wonder how Maps knows where you are since your iPod is not connected to a cell network. The iPod uses Wi-Fi location (every Wi-Fi connection broadcasts a location) to show your spot on the map. If you are not connected to Wi-Fi (see Chapter 5: “Wi-Fi Connectivity,” for more information on using the iPod touch’s built-in Wi-Fi), then you won’t see a location.

Changing Your Map Views

The default view for Maps is Map view, a basic map that shows a generic background overlaid with streets and their names. Maps can also show you a Satellite view or a combination of Satellite and Map views called Hybrid view. Finally, it includes another view called List view; this view appears only when you perform a search that generates a list of turn-by-turn directions. You can switch among all the views using the following steps:

1. Touch the turned-up edge of the map in the lower-right corner.

2. The corner of the map turns up to reveal buttons for views, traffic, pins, and more (see Figure 27–1).