

GPX Desktop User Manual

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A practical guide to loading, inspecting, editing, creating, styling, combining, exporting and sharing GPX data in GPX Desktop.

Covers tracks, waypoints, polygons, elevation and speed profiles, route creation, distance measurement, basemaps, custom map tiles, the GPX Library and export/share workflows.

Quick Start

For most jobs, the workflow is: Open GPX -> inspect the Workspace -> choose the active track -> edit or create data -> choose what should be exported -> Export Selected GPX.

1	Open	Click Open GPX and select one or more .gpx files.
2	Inspect	Use Fit to show all visible tracks and review tracks, waypoints and polygons.
3	Select	Set the track you want to analyse/edit as the active track.
4	Edit	Trim, split, merge, rename, style, create waypoints/routes/polygons, or measure distance.
5	Export	Check export selections, then click Export Selected GPX.

1. What GPX Desktop Does

Overview

GPX Desktop is a browser-based GPX editor and route-planning application. It can load one or more GPX files, display their contents on an interactive map, modify tracks and waypoints, create routes and polygons, measure distance, inspect track profiles, and save selected data back to GPX.

Main capabilities

The application includes track trimming, splitting and merging; waypoint creation and styling; Garmin-oriented waypoint symbols; polygon drawing; route building; distance measurement; elevation filling; speed-based track styling; multiple basemaps; custom raster tiles; GPX export; temporary sharing; and a folder-based GPX Library in compatible browsers.

2. Main Screen and Toolbar

Open GPX

Loads one or more GPX files. Multiple files can coexist in the current Workspace.

Fit

Adjusts the map so that all currently visible track points fit in the map view.

New Project

Clears the current Workspace. Export or save anything you want to keep before starting a new project.

Export Selected GPX

Builds a GPX file from the tracks, waypoints and polygons currently marked for export.

Create Share Link

Uploads the selected GPX data temporarily and presents a private sharing link.

Theme and Settings

The theme button switches between dark and light presentation. Settings include waypoint-label visibility and metric/imperial units.

Library

On compatible Chrome or Edge browsers, the Library control can connect a folder on your computer for direct GPX browsing and saving.

3. Workspace: Visible, Export and Active

Visible

Visibility controls determine whether an object is drawn on the map.

Export

Export controls determine whether an object will be included when you save or share GPX data. Visibility and export selection are separate.

Active track

The active-track radio control identifies the track used by the status/profile area and several track-editing operations.

Map selection

Tracks, waypoints and polygons can also be selected directly from the map for object-specific actions.

4. Track Information and Profiles

Status information

For the active track, GPX Desktop can show track name, total distance, elevation gain, duration, average speed and number of points. Average speed requires timestamps.

Units

Metric mode uses kilometres, metres and km/h. Imperial mode uses miles, feet and mph.

Profiles

Elevation and speed profiles provide an analytical view of the active track and are also used to choose points or ranges for editing.

5. Editing Tracks

Selecting a range

Click the elevation or speed profile to define an editing selection. A two-point range is used for range-based operations.

Trim Before

Removes track data before the chosen location/selection.

Trim After

Removes track data after the chosen location/selection.

Keep Selection

Keeps the selected portion and removes the rest of the track.

Delete Selection

Removes the selected portion from the track.

Clear Selection

Cancels the current profile selection without modifying the track.

Split at Point

Select one single point on either profile, not a range, then use Split at Point to divide the track into two tracks.

Rename

Set the required track active, enter the new track name and apply the rename control.

6. Merging Tracks

Selecting tracks

Use the track export-selection controls to identify the tracks that should be merged. At least two tracks are required.

Ordering

The automatic ordering option attempts to arrange tracks by start timestamp. Tracks without usable timestamps retain their Workspace ordering.

After merging

Inspect the merged track, trim or split if necessary, rename it, and then choose whether it should be exported.

7. Track Styling and Elevation

Speed Gradient

When timestamps are available, the application can colour track sections according to calculated speed.

Speed Width

Track width can also vary with calculated speed, making faster and slower sections visually distinct.

Fill Missing Elevation

Missing elevation values can be retrieved using an online elevation service. This requires an internet connection.

8. Waypoints

Create from coordinates

Enter decimal coordinates as latitude, longitude, optionally enter a waypoint name, and create the waypoint at that coordinate.

Draggable waypoint

Place a draggable pin at the current map centre, drag it to the required position, enter a name and save it.

Bulk visibility/export

Waypoint controls provide Show all, Hide all, Export all and Export none operations.

Name filter

A wildcard name filter can select waypoints for export. For example, *fuel* matches names containing the word fuel.

Styling

Generic waypoints can be assigned shapes and colours. The application also supports Garmin-oriented waypoint symbols.

9. Measure Distance

Measuring

Click Start Measuring and then click points on the map. The application calculates distance along the temporary sequence.

Undo and clear

Undo Point removes the most recent measurement point. Clear removes the entire measurement.

Important

Measurement points are temporary. They do not create GPX waypoints.

10. Creating Routes

Start

Choose a routing mode, click Start Adding Points, and click locations on the map.

Road routing

Road mode uses the public OSRM demonstration server, so it requires internet access and depends on that service being available.

Editing route points

Undo Point removes the most recent point; Clear Route Points starts the route definition over.

Create

When the control points are ready, click Create Route to add the route to the Workspace.

11. Polygons

Purpose

Polygons represent areas/zones rather than ordinary linear tracks.

Drawing

Use the polygon drawing controls to add map points, finish the polygon, undo points or clear the in-progress drawing.

Management

Created polygons can be shown/hidden, selected/excluded for export, renamed and styled.

Export filtering

Polygon export selection can use wildcard name matching in the same general manner as waypoint filtering.

12. Maps and Location

Basemaps

The application provides selectable basemaps including OpenStreetMap and Esri map layers.

Custom raster tiles

Advanced users can enter a raster tile URL containing {x}, {y} and {z}. The custom layer can be blended with the selected basemap.

Current location

The location control asks the browser for your position. If permission is granted, the map centres on the reported location and displays a location marker.

13. Exporting GPX

Before export

Check the Workspace carefully. Only objects marked for export are written to the output.

Contents

The exporter writes GPX 1.1 and retains available coordinates, elevation and timestamps. GPX Desktop extensions are used for application-specific information such as colours, route identification, waypoint appearance and polygons.

Nothing selected

If no tracks, waypoints or polygons are selected for export, the application reports that there is nothing to export.

14. GPX Library

Supported browsers

The V1.2 folder-library feature is intended for compatible Chrome or Edge browsers.

Using a folder

Connect a folder through Library. The application can then browse GPX files in that folder and save new files back into it.

Overwrite

Where permitted, an existing source GPX can be overwritten directly instead of creating a conventional browser download.

15. Sharing

Create Share Link

The sharing function prepares the currently selected GPX data and provides a temporary private link.

Share window

The share interface includes URL copying, WhatsApp sharing and a QR-code display.

Storage

Treat sharing as a convenience feature rather than long-term storage. Keep your own exported copy of important GPX data.

16. Troubleshooting

Export says nothing is selected

Mark at least one track, waypoint or polygon for export.

Cannot edit the intended track

Check that the correct track is the active track.

Split is unavailable

Select one single point on an elevation or speed profile rather than a range.

No average speed

The source track does not contain sufficient timestamps.

Speed styling unavailable

Speed-based styling requires timestamps.

Road route fails

Confirm internet access; road routing relies on the public OSRM demo service.

Elevation fill fails

Confirm internet access; elevation filling relies on an external elevation service.

Library unavailable

Use a compatible Chrome/Edge environment or use normal Open GPX and Export Selected GPX instead.

Custom map fails

Confirm the tile URL contains all three placeholders: {x}, {y} and {z}.

Quick Reference

Task	Control
Open file(s)	Open GPX
Show all visible tracks	Fit
Clear workspace	New Project
Choose track for analysis/editing	Active-track radio control
Remove track beginning/end	Trim Before / Trim After
Keep/delete a selected section	Keep Selection / Delete Selection
Divide a track	Split at Point
Combine tracks	Merge Export-Selected Tracks
Create waypoint	Coordinate or draggable-pin waypoint controls
Measure	Start Measuring
Build route	Start Adding Points -> Create Route
Save	Export Selected GPX
Folder-based workflow	Library
Temporary sharing	Create Share Link

Core rule: what is visible on the map is not necessarily what will be exported. Always check export selections before saving or sharing.