

User Guide

Ernie's Hikes records your hikes, dog walks, runs, bike rides and paddles with GPS. It tracks your route, distance, speed, elevation, steps and the weather while you're out. You can drop markers for wildlife, hazards and places you like, and take geotagged photos. Afterwards you can look back at every outing on a map and see your personal records. Hikes sync between your iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch through iCloud.

ON THIS PAGE

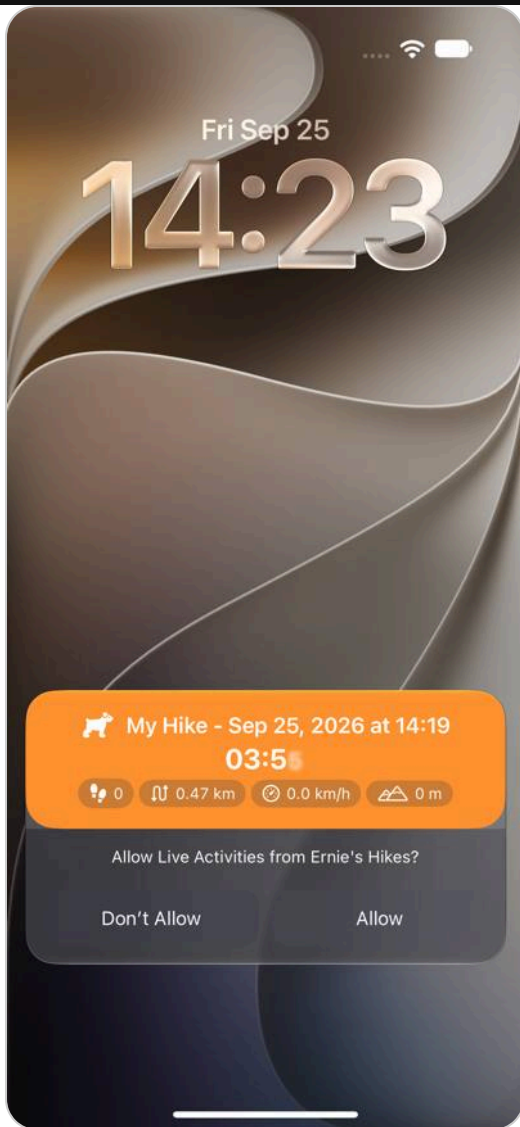
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1. Getting Started

Permissions

The first time you use each feature, Ernie's Hikes asks for permission. Grant these for the best experience:

PERMISSION	WHY IT'S NEEDED	WHEN YOU'RE ASKED
Location (While Using, or Always)	Records your route and shows you on the map. Choose Always so recording continues with the screen locked.	First time you open the New Hike tab
Motion & Fitness	Counts your steps and reads the barometer for accurate altitude	When you start your first hike
Camera	Takes photos during a hike	First time you tap the camera button
Photos (add only)	Saves a full-quality copy of each photo to your Photos library (if you've turned that on)	First photo you take
Live Activities	Shows your hike on the Lock Screen and in the Dynamic Island	When you start your first hike
Health (Apple Watch)	Heart rate, and saving the hike as a Hiking workout in Health	First launch of the watch app



Tip: You can change any of these later in the iPhone **Settings** app → **Ernie's Hikes**.

Your first hike in four taps

1. Open the app and tap the **New Hike** tab (second tab).
2. Tap the green ► **play** button.
3. Walk! The map follows you and draws your route.
4. When you're done, tap the red ■ **stop** button, then **END & SAVE**.

That's it. Your hike now appears in **History**, with its map and statistics.

2. The iPhone App at a Glance

The tab bar at the bottom of the screen has five tabs:

TAB	ICON	WHAT IT DOES
History	List	All your recorded hikes as tiles
New Hike / Active Hike	⊕ / hiker	Starts a hike. While you're recording, it's renamed Active Hike and shows a red LIVE badge.
Metrics	Clipboard chart	Personal records and totals across every hike
Weather	Sun and cloud	A detailed weather report for where you are
Near Me	Target	City of Ottawa parks near you, with dog rules

The ⚙ **gear** button at the top-left of History, Metrics and Near Me opens **Settings**.

You can choose which tab the app opens to in **Settings → Default Start Page**.

For example, pick **New Hike** so you can start recording as soon as the app opens.

3. Recording a Hike (New Hike Tab)

Before you start



The New Hike tab opens a full-screen 3D map centred on your position. Your location dot **pulses green when you're moving and red when you're standing still**.

The **Control Panel** at the top of the screen shows live readings even before you start:

READING	ICON	DETAILS
Altitude	Orange mountains	Your current elevation. It combines GPS with the iPhone's barometer for a steadier reading.
Heading	Arrow	Compass direction and degrees (e.g. NE · 42°). A small label shows where the heading comes from: compass or GPS (from your direction of travel).
Speed	Gauge	Your current speed
Distance	Route	Distance travelled so far. Appears once you've moved.
GPS ±	—	Accuracy of the altitude reading. Smaller is better.
Pressure	—	Barometric pressure in kPa
No barometer / No compass	Orange text	Shown if your device lacks that sensor, as in the Simulator used for these screenshots

You may also see one of these status messages in the panel:

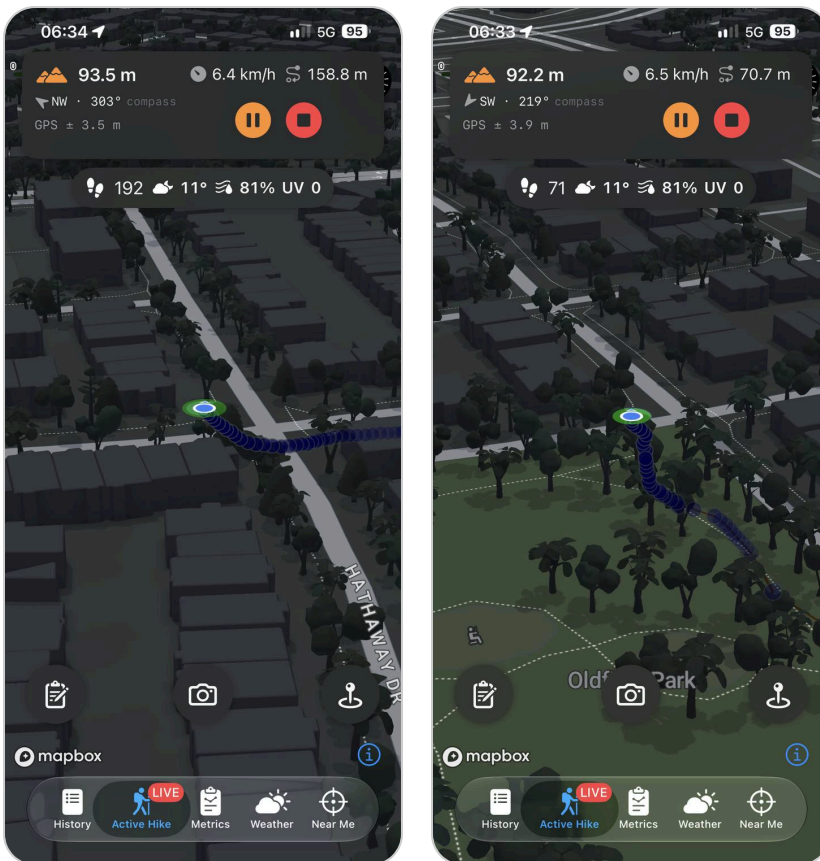
- **Waiting for location permission...** — respond to the location prompt.
- **Location access denied** — turn Location on in the iPhone Settings app.
- **Acquiring altitude...** — the app is waiting for its first good GPS fix. This usually takes a few seconds outdoors.

Starting a hike

Tap the green ► button. The app then:

- Creates a new hike named from your **Default Hike Title** plus the date and time (for example, *My Hike - Sep 25, 2026 at 14:19*).
- Uses your **Default Activity Type** and **Trail Companion** name from Settings. You can change all of these afterwards.

- Starts the step counter, the elapsed timer and the Live Activity.
- Records the weather conditions at the start of the hike.
- Switches the tab to **Active Hike** with a **LIVE** badge.



While you're hiking

- **Route line:** An orange line traces your path. Fading blue footprints show where you've just been.
- **Map orientation:** In **North** mode, north is always at the top. In **Heading** mode, the map turns to face your direction of travel, in 5° steps. You set this in Settings.
- **Conditions pill:** Below the Control Panel, a pill shows your **step count**, the **weather icon**, the **feels-like temperature**, the **humidity** and the **UV index**. Weather updates at most every 5 minutes.
- **Screen locked or app in the background:** Recording continues as long as Location is allowed. Your progress shows on the Lock Screen (see [Live Activity](#)).

The buttons along the bottom of the map:

POSITION	BUTTON	ACTION
Bottom-left	 Clipboard	Opens the detailed Add Marker form
Bottom-centre	 Camera	Takes a geotagged photo. Only shown while recording.
Bottom-right	 Map pin	Opens the Quick Markers panel

Pausing and resuming

Tap the orange **■ pause** button in the Control Panel to take a break without ending the hike. A large pulsing orange pause symbol appears over the map. GPS recording, the step counter and the timer all stop, and your progress so far is saved.

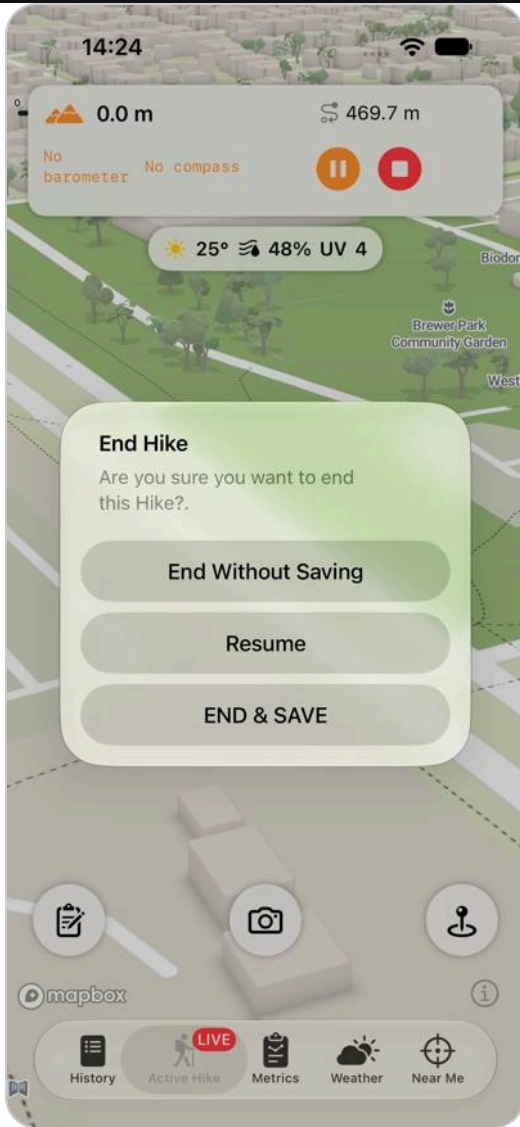
Tap the yellow **⏮ resume** button to carry on.



The stop button is hidden while you're paused. Resume first, then stop.

Ending a hike

Tap the red **stop** button. The **End Hike** alert offers three choices:



BUTTON	RESULT
End Without Saving	Stops recording and permanently deletes this hike
Resume	Closes the alert and keeps recording
END & SAVE	Stops recording, works out the final statistics (distance, ascent, descent, max elevation, average speed, average weather and steps) and saves the hike to History

Resume sits between the other two buttons so you're less likely to discard a hike by mistake.

4. Markers and Photos

Quick Markers

Tap the  **map pin** button (bottom-right) during a hike. Two columns of marker buttons slide out. Tap one to drop that marker at your current position. You'll feel a haptic tap, and a large confirmation appears in the middle of the screen for two seconds.



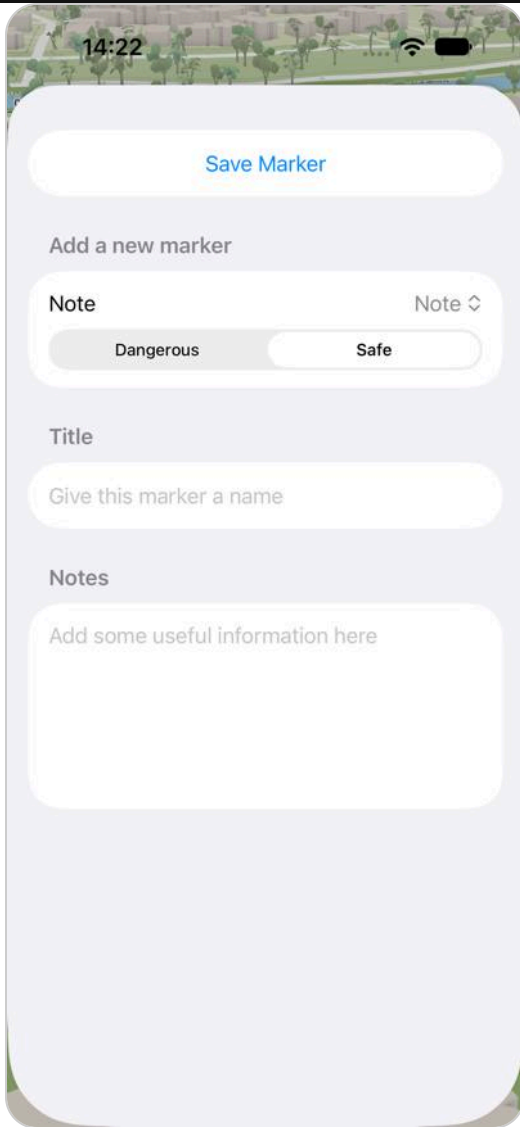
LEFT COLUMN: WARNINGS (RED)	RIGHT COLUMN: POINTS OF INTEREST (WHITE)
Hazard	Rabbit
Angry Dog	Happy Dog
Skunk	Favourite
Coyote	Point of Interest
Bear	Rest Stop

Each marker saves your **GPS location, altitude and time**. Warning markers have a **red background** on every map, so hazards stand out when you look back at a route. Tap × to close the columns.

The marker buttons are dimmed and disabled when no hike is being recorded.

Detailed markers (Add Marker form)

Tap the  **clipboard** button (bottom-left) when you want to add a title and notes, for example "Trail washed out — use the bridge 50 m north".



1. Choose the marker **type** from the picker. All 11 types are available, plus **Note**.
2. **Risk Level** is set automatically for most types. For a **Note**, you choose **Dangerous** or **Safe** yourself.
3. Enter a **Title** and any **Notes**.
4. Tap **Save Marker**. To close the form without saving, swipe it down.

Photos

Tap the  **camera** button (bottom-centre) during a hike. The camera opens full screen. Take the photo and it's saved straight away, with no caption to type. A **"Photo Saved"** confirmation appears for two seconds. Each photo is tagged with your GPS location, altitude and time.

Where your photos are stored depends on **Settings → Photo Storage**:

SETTING	BEHAVIOUR
App & Photos (default)	The app keeps a copy at 80% quality, and a full-quality copy goes to your Photos library
App Only	Photos are kept only in the app (80% quality), on the device that took them

Photos show up as orange camera pins on the hike map and in the hike's **Photos** grid (see [Hike Details](#)).

5. Live Activity, Lock Screen and Dynamic Island

While a hike is being recorded, a **Live Activity** keeps your progress visible without unlocking your phone.



WHERE

WHAT YOU SEE

Lock Screen / StandBy

An orange banner with the hike name and icon, the elapsed time in large type, and pills for **steps, distance, speed and altitude**

Dynamic Island (compact)

Your activity icon on the left and distance on the right

Dynamic Island (expanded) — touch and hold

Time and distance at the top; steps, speed and altitude below

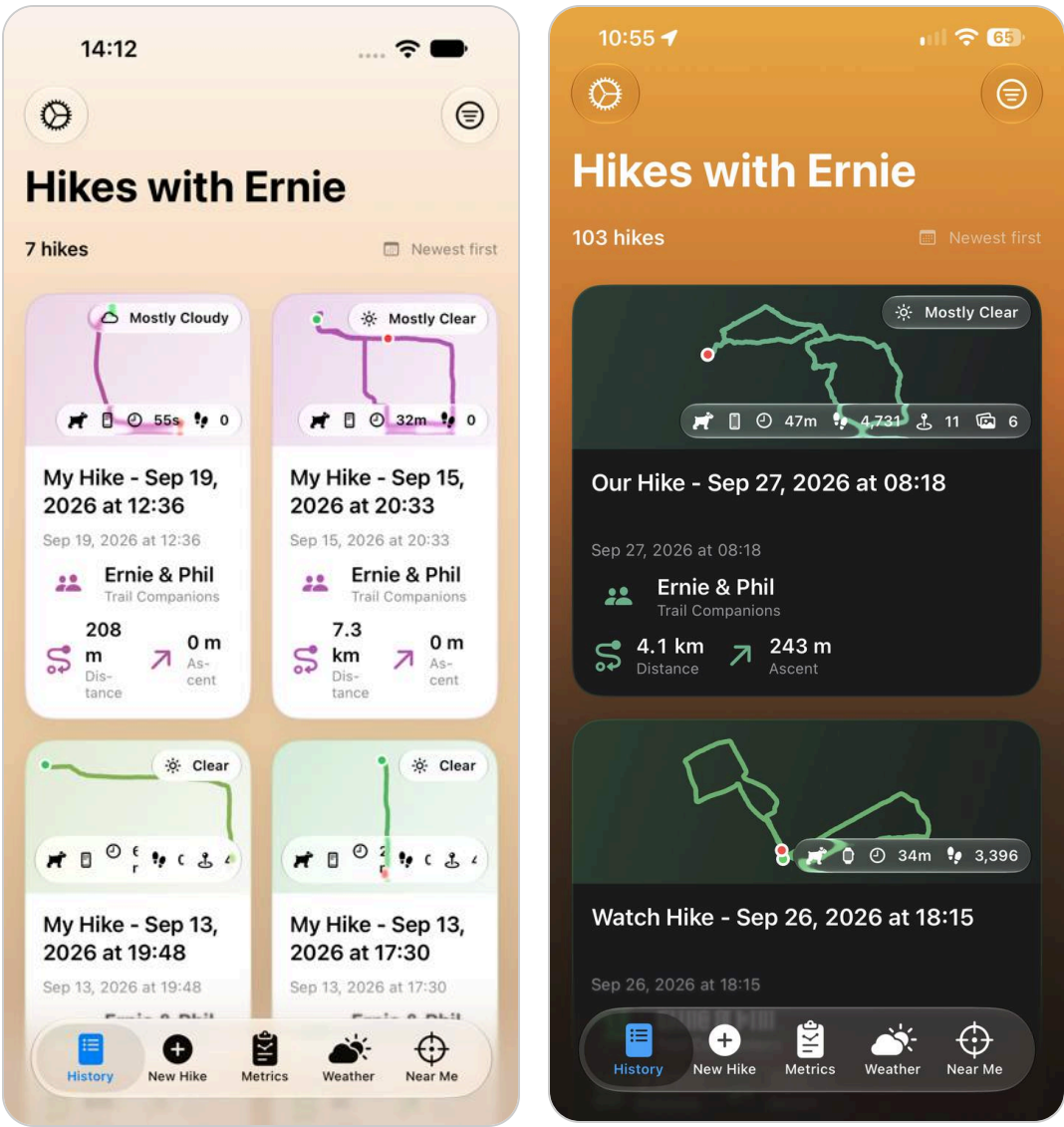
Apple Watch Smart Stack

A card with time, distance, steps, speed and altitude

Tap the Live Activity to jump straight back to the Active Hike screen. The Live Activity ends when you end the hike.

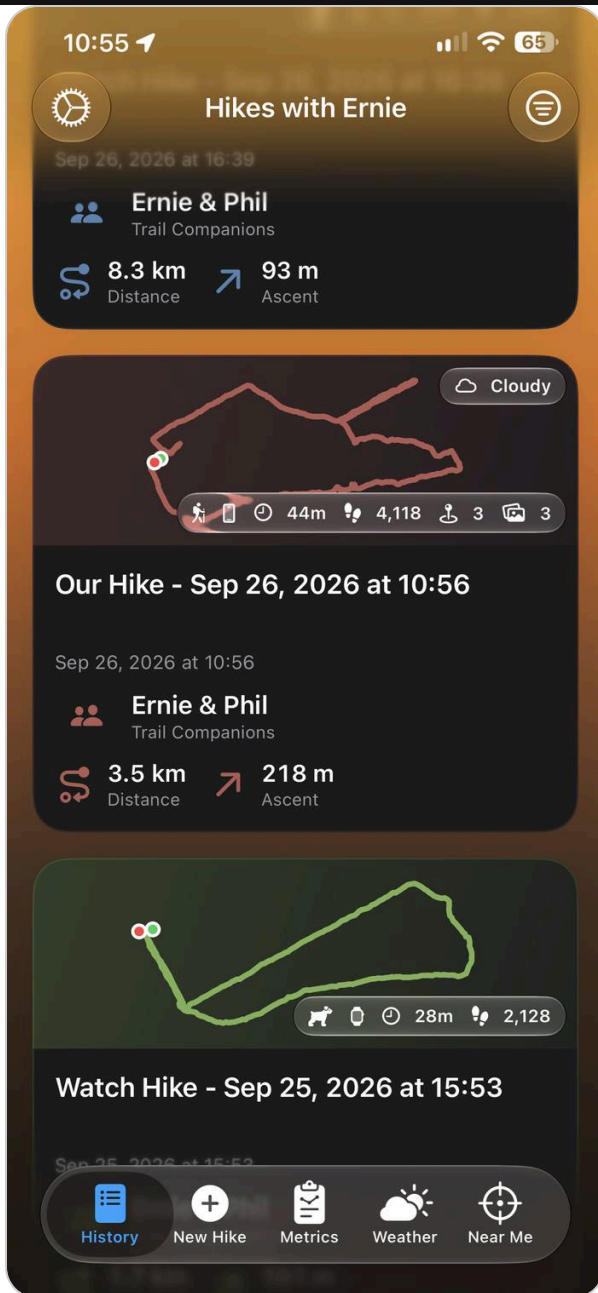
6. Hike History

The **History** tab shows every hike you've recorded on your iPhone, iPad or Apple Watch, as a grid of tiles. The title at the top is your **Default List Title** (*Hikes with Ernie* unless you change it).



Reading a hike tile

PART OF THE TILE	SHOWS
Route drawing	A small drawing of your route, with a green start dot and a red finish dot . A mountain placeholder appears if there's no route yet.
LIVE badge (top-left)	A pulsing green dot — this hike is still being recorded
Weather chip (top-right)	The conditions when the hike started, e.g. <i>Mostly Cloudy</i>
Info chips (bottom-right)	Activity icon, the device it was recorded on (iPhone or Apple Watch), duration, steps, marker count and photo count
Title and date	The hike's name and start date and time
Trail Companions	Who you hiked with
Distance / Ascent	Total distance and total climb

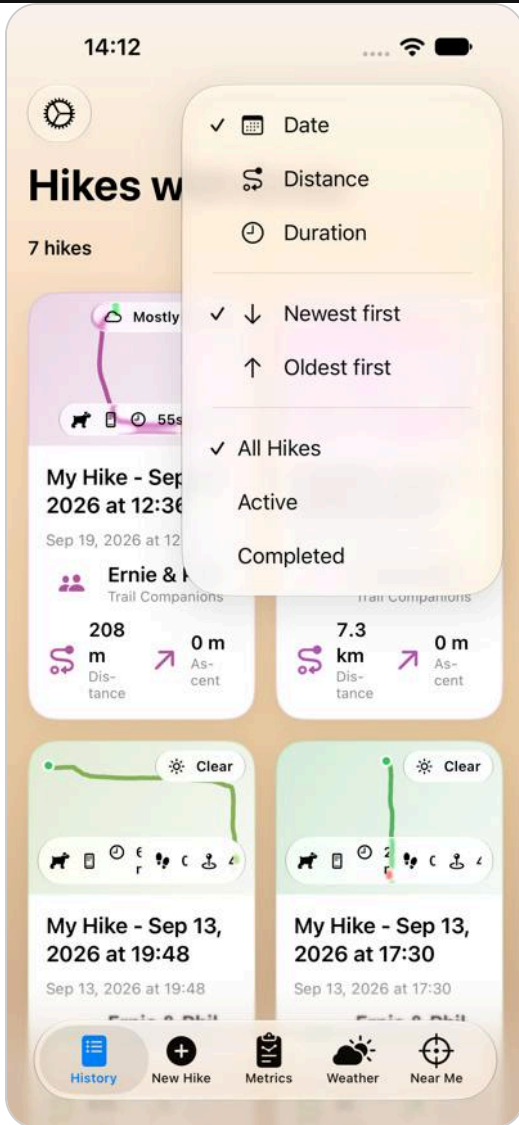


Each hike has its own accent colour, which stays the same every time.

On iPad and in landscape, the grid adds more columns to fill the screen.

Sort and filter

Tap the **filter** button (top-right) to open the sort and filter menu.



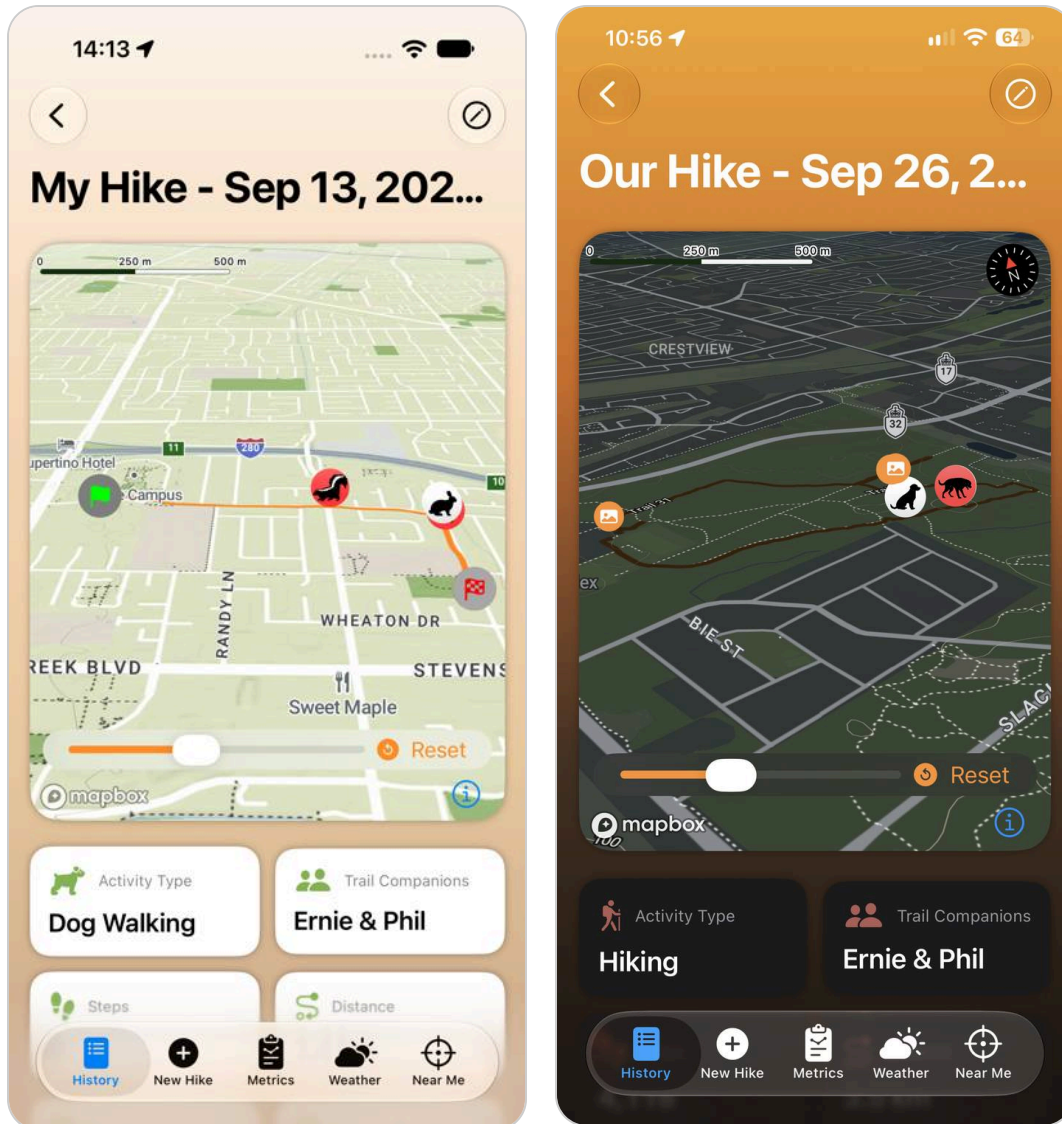
- **Sort by:** Date, Distance or Duration
- **Order:** *Newest first / Oldest first* for dates, *Longest first / Shortest first* for distance and duration
- **Show:** All Hikes, Active, or Completed

When anything other than the default (all hikes, newest first) is selected, the filter icon becomes **filled** as a reminder. The line above the grid shows how many hikes match and the current order. If nothing matches, tap **Show All Hikes**.

Tap any tile to open its **Hike Details**. The tile zooms smoothly into the detail screen.

7. Hike Details

The route map



When the screen opens, the map starts from a view of the whole globe and flies down to your route, tilted in 3D. On the map you'll find:

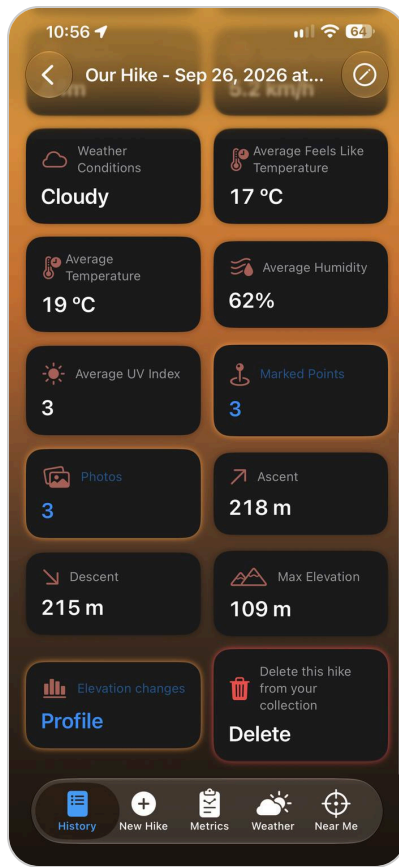
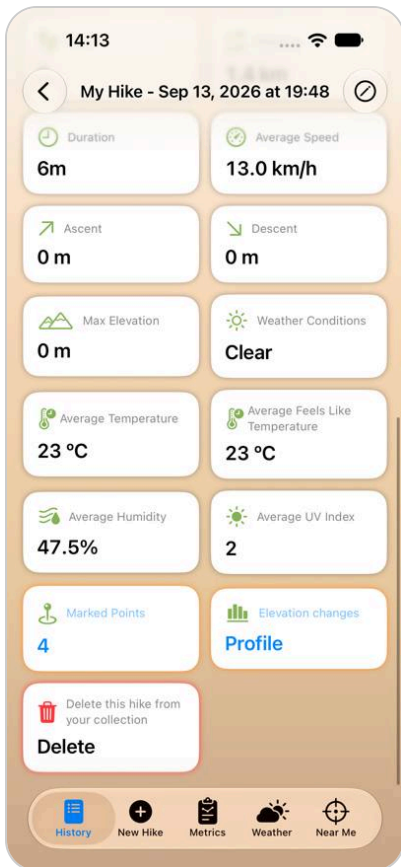
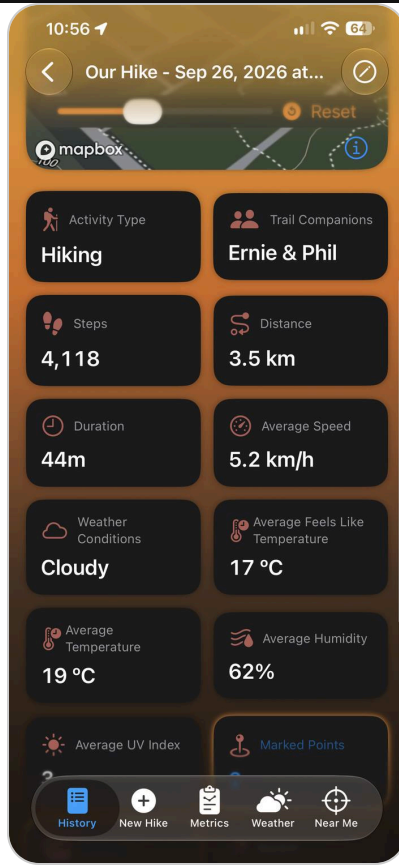
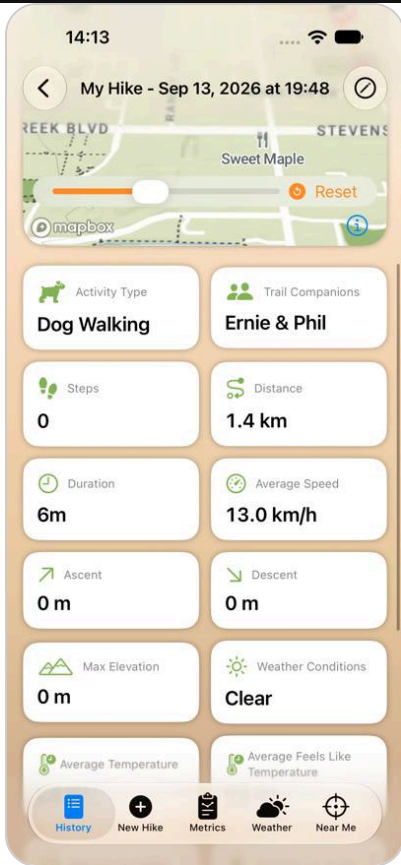
- The **orange route line**
- A **green flag** at the start and a **chequered flag** at the finish
- Every **marker** you dropped. Warning markers are red.
- **Orange camera pins** where you took photos

Things you can do on the map:

ACTION	RESULT
Tap a marker	A card pops up for two seconds with the marker's title, the time, how long ago it was, and any notes
Tap a photo pin	A thumbnail and the time it was taken appear for five seconds. Tap the thumbnail to close it sooner.
Zoom slider	Appears after the fly-in finishes. Drag it to zoom in and out.
Reset	Flies back to show the whole route
Pinch, drag, rotate	Normal map gestures work too

Stat cards

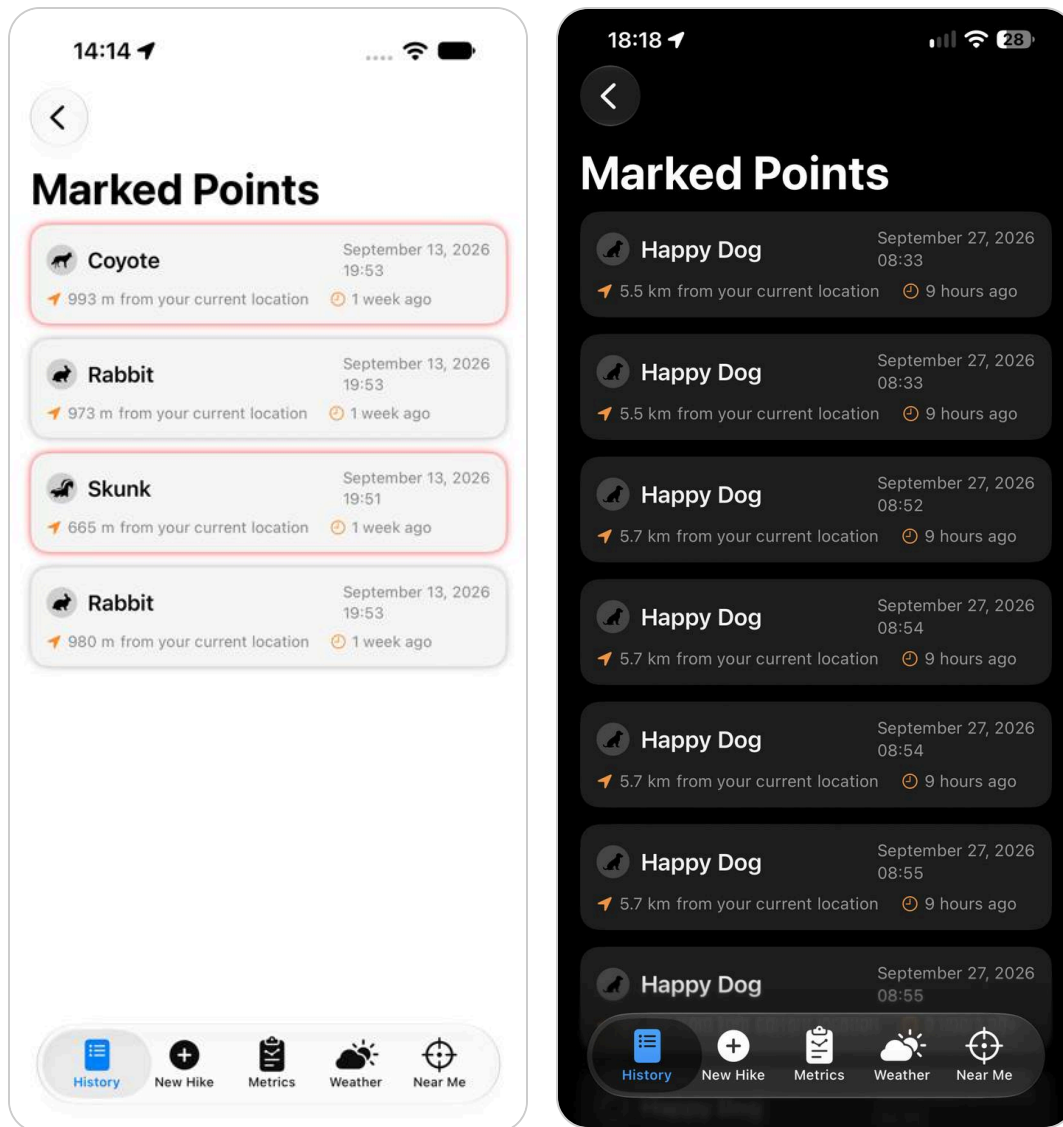
Below the map is a grid of cards. You can change their order in **Settings → Order of the Stat Cards**.



CARD	SHOWS	NOTES
Activity Type	e.g. Dog Walking	
Trail Companions	Who you were with	
Steps	Steps counted	
Distance	Total distance	Metric or imperial, per Settings
Duration	Total time	
Average Speed	Average moving speed	
Ascent / Descent	Total climb and total descent	
Max Elevation	Highest point reached	
Weather Conditions	Conditions at the start	Only if weather was recorded
Average Temperature / Feels Like	Averages over the hike	Only if weather was recorded
Average Humidity / UV Index	Averages over the hike	Only if weather was recorded
Marked Points	Number of markers — tap to open the list	Only if the hike has markers
Photos	Number of photos — tap to open the grid	Only if the hike has photos
Notes	Tap to read the hike's notes	Only if the hike has notes
Profile	Tap to open the Elevation Profile	
Delete	Tap to delete the hike	

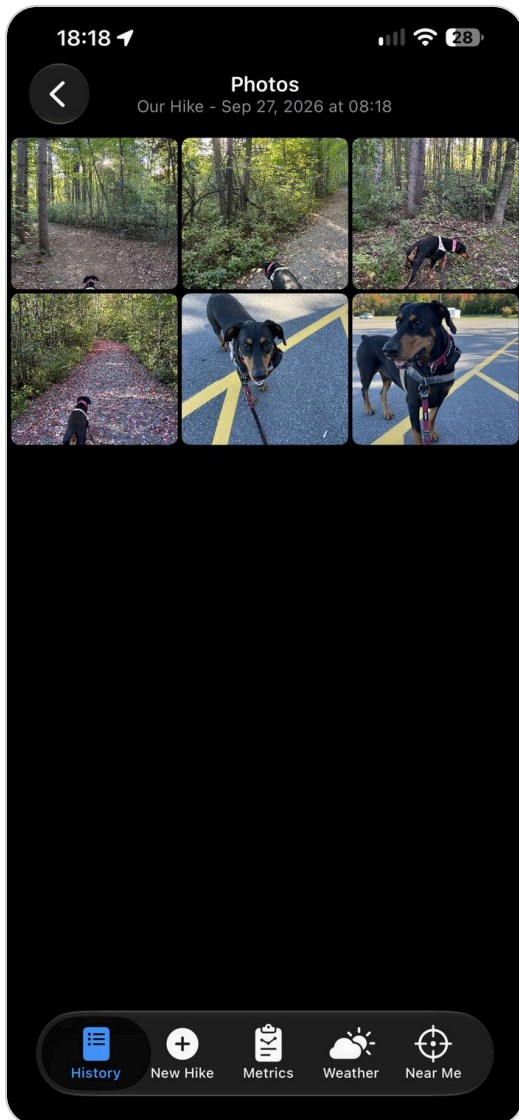
Cards with an orange glow can be tapped. The Delete card has a red glow.

Marked Points list



This is a card for every marker on the hike. Each card shows the marker's icon and title, the date and time, any notes, **how far it is from where you are now**, and how long ago it was added. Warning markers have a red glow.

Photos grid



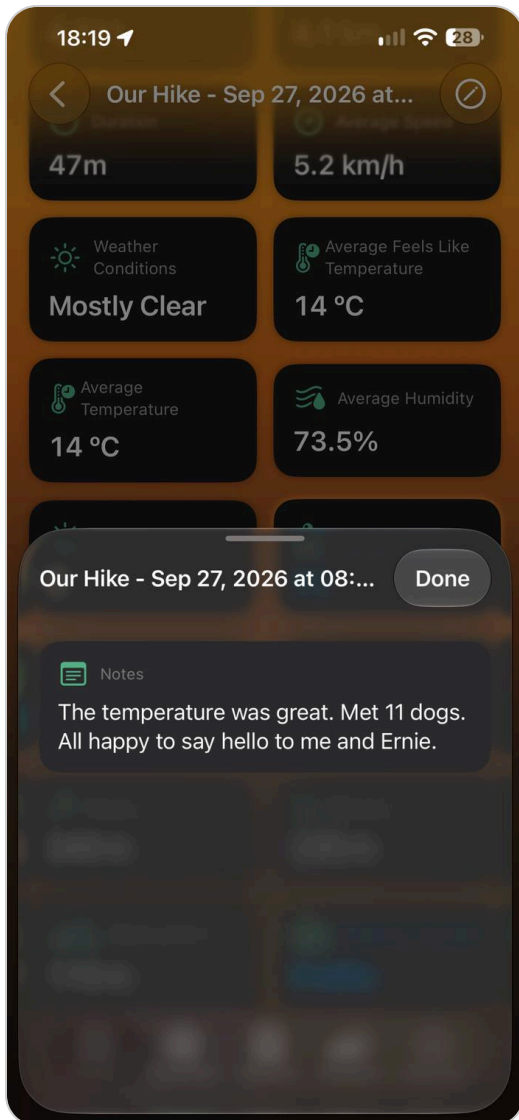
The **Photos** card opens every photo from the hike in a grid, in the order they were taken. **Tap a photo** to zoom it to full screen, with the date and time along the bottom. Tap again to shrink it back into the grid.

Elevation Profile



The **Profile** card opens a full-screen map of the route with an elevation chart at the bottom. **Drag your finger along the chart** to see the altitude and time at any point. A marker moves along the route on the map to show where you were at that moment.

Notes



The **Notes** card opens your notes in a half-height sheet. Swipe up to expand it to full screen, or tap **Done** to close it.

Editing a hike

Tap the **pencil** button at the top-right of the detail screen to edit:

14:15

Cancel Edit Hike Save

Name

My Hike - Sep 13, 2026 at 19:48

Activity Type

Type  Dog Walking ↕

Trail Companions

Ernie & Phil

Notes

Add some notes about this hike

Start and End Times

Start Date & Time:

Sep 13, 2026 19:48

End Date & Time:

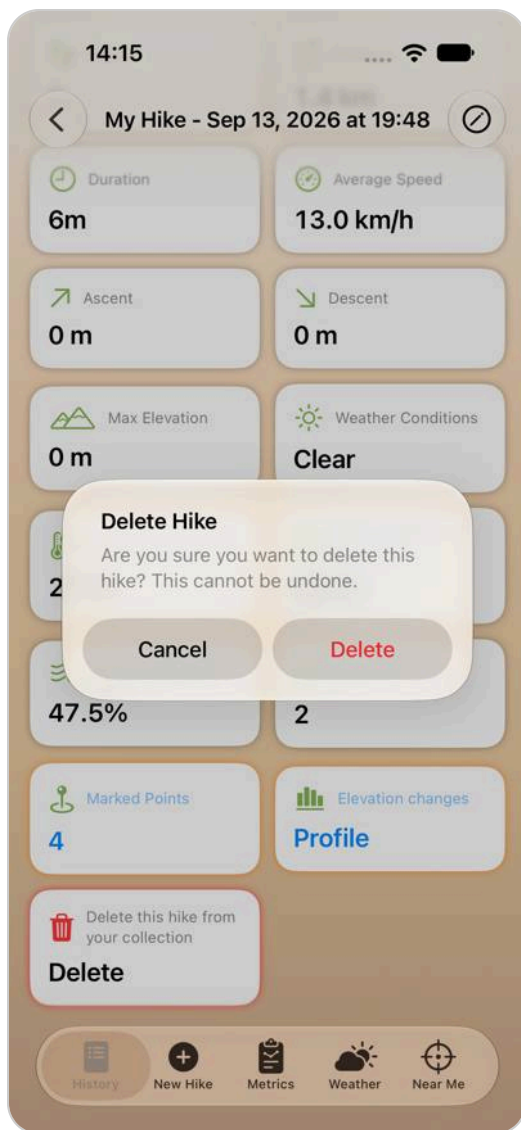
Sep 13, 2026 19:54

- **Name**
- **Activity Type** — Dog Walking, Hiking, Walking, Running, Biking, Driving or Canoeing
- **Trail Companions**
- **Notes**
- **Start and End Times** — useful if you forgot to stop recording

Tap **Save** to keep your changes or **Cancel** to discard them. Hikes recorded on the Apple Watch are named *Watch Hike - date*, and this is where you rename them.

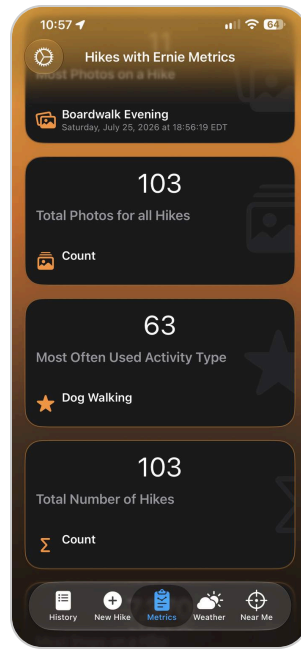
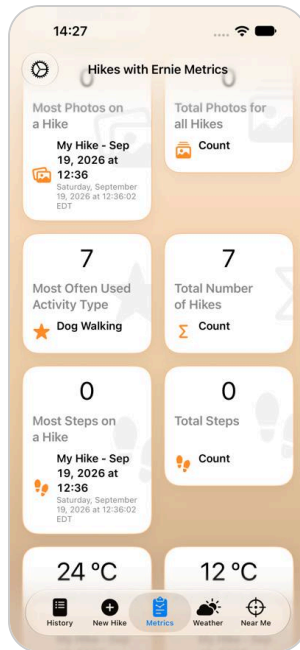
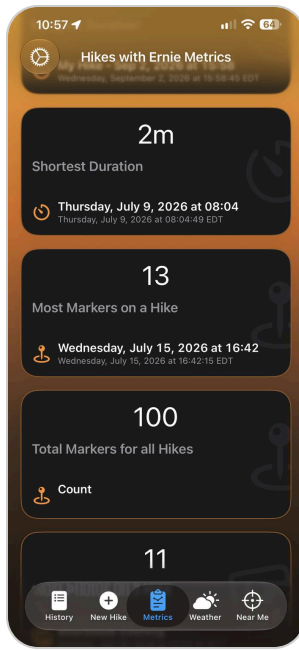
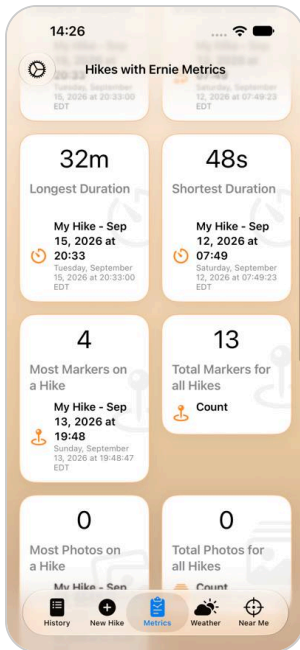
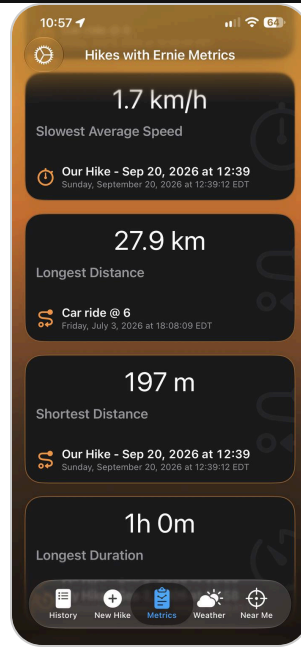
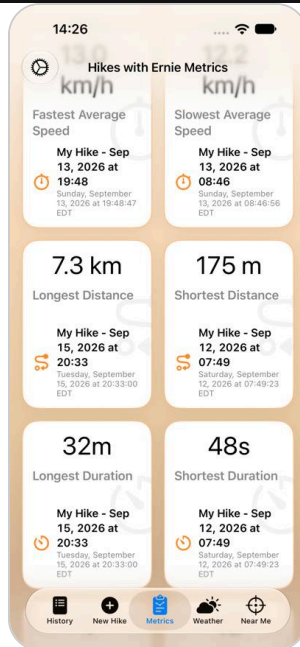
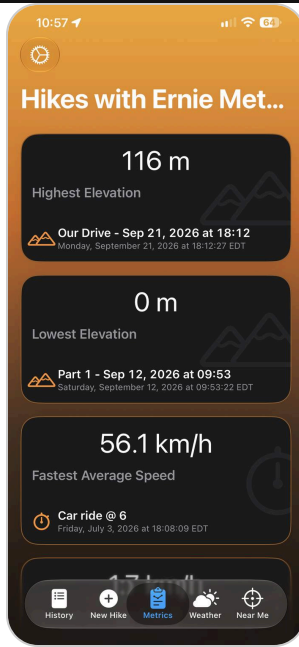
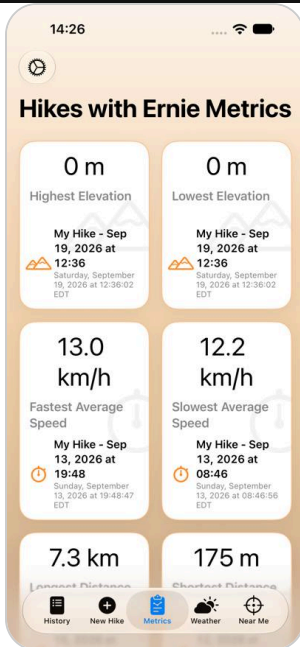
Deleting a hike

Tap the **Delete** card, then confirm. This permanently removes the hike, along with its markers and photos, from every device signed in to your iCloud account.



8. Metrics — Your Personal Records

The **Metrics** tab works out your records and totals from every hike you've saved. Each tile shows the value in large type. For a record, it also names the hike and the date it happened.





CATEGORY

TILES

Elevation

Highest Elevation, Lowest Elevation

Speed

Fastest Average Speed, Slowest Average Speed

Distance

Longest Distance, Shortest Distance

Time

Longest Duration, Shortest Duration

Markers

Most Markers on a Hike, Total Markers for all Hikes

Photos

Most Photos on a Hike, Total Photos for all Hikes

Activity

Most Often Used Activity Type, Total Number of Hikes

Steps

Most Steps on a Hike, Total Steps

Temperature

Hottest / Coldest Avg. Feels Like Temp, Hottest / Coldest Avg. Temperature

Humidity

Highest / Lowest Average Humidity on a Hike

Units follow your **Units** setting. Tiles show "—" until you've saved at least one hike.

9. Weather

The **Weather** tab shows a detailed report for your current location from Apple Weather. The background image changes to match the conditions.



The report has these sections, from top to bottom:

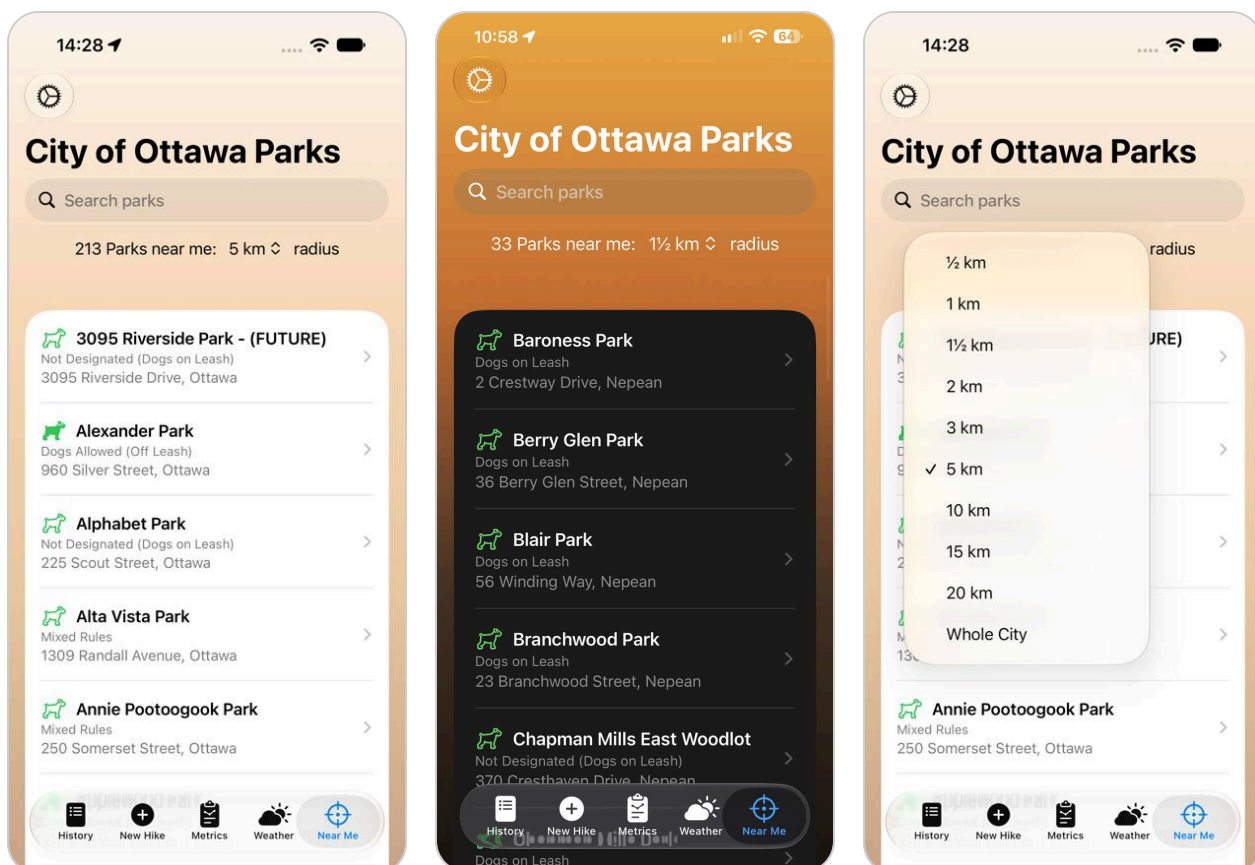
1. **Current conditions** — the weather icon, the **feels-like** temperature, a description such as *Partly Cloudy*, and the actual temperature.
2. **Conditions** — Humidity, Dew Point, UV Index and category, Pressure and trend (Rising, Falling or Steady), Visibility, Precipitation Intensity, and whether it's

currently daylight.

3. **Wind** — Speed, Direction and Gusts. The direction arrow spins round to point the way the wind is coming from.
4. **Cloud Cover** — the total, broken down into high, mid and low altitude.
5. **Hourly Forecast** — swipe sideways through the coming hours. Each hour shows the conditions icon, chance of precipitation, temperature, feels-like temperature, visibility, wind direction, wind speed and gusts.
6. **Apple Weather attribution** and the time of the report.

10. Near Me — City of Ottawa Parks

Near Me lists City of Ottawa parks close to where you are, so you can find somewhere new to walk. It's especially useful for finding places where your dog is welcome.

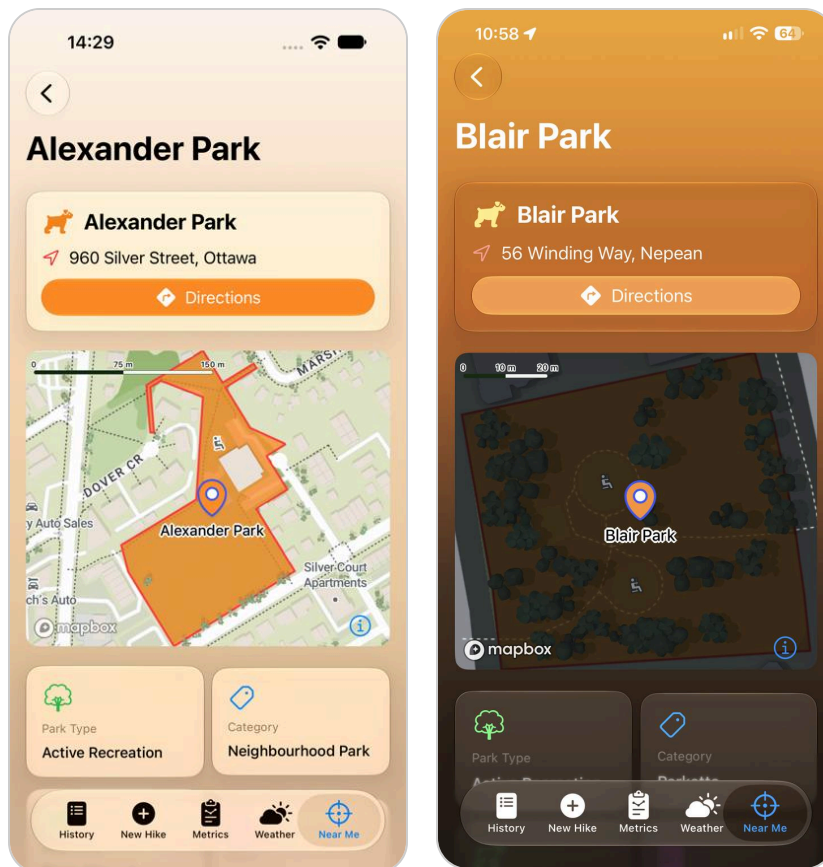


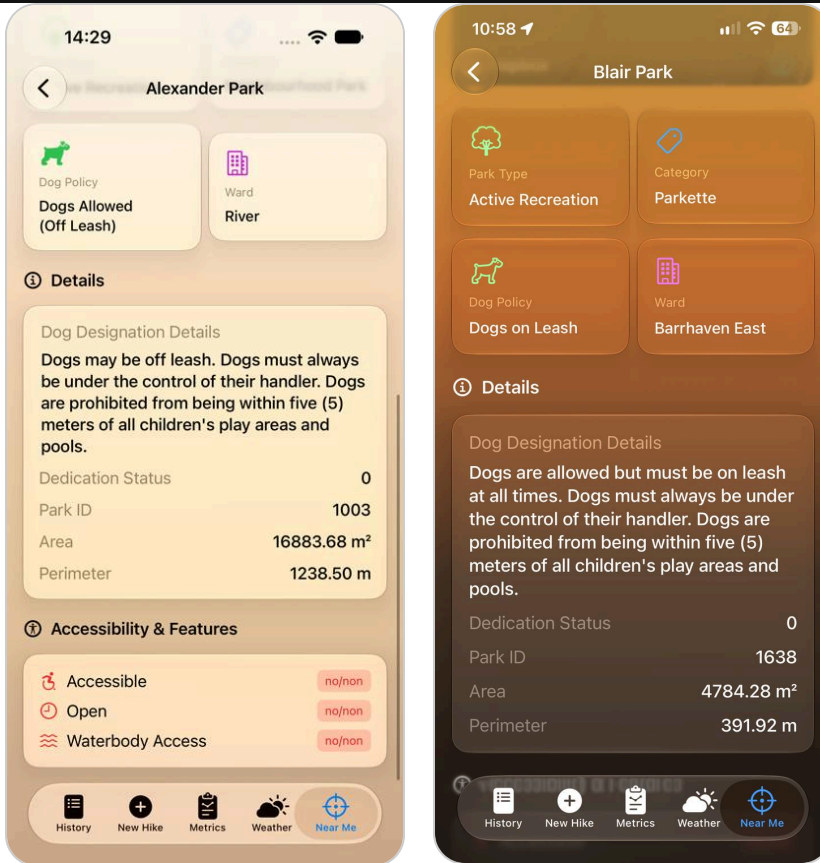
- The line at the top reads "**N Parks near me: [radius] radius**". Tap the radius to choose $\frac{1}{2}$ km up to **20 km**, or **Whole City**. The starting radius comes from **Settings → Near Me Radius**.
- **Search parks** filters the list by name.
- Each row shows the park name, its **dog rule** with an icon (for example *Dogs Allowed (Off Leash)*, *Dogs on Leash*, or *No Dogs allowed* in red), and its address.

Park data comes from the City of Ottawa's open data service. It's downloaded when the app launches and kept on your phone for up to a week, so the list opens instantly. If no parks have loaded, you'll see **No Parks Loaded**. Check your internet connection and relaunch the app.

Park details

Tap a park to see its details:

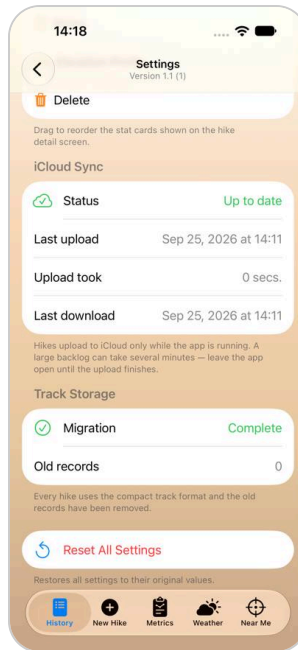
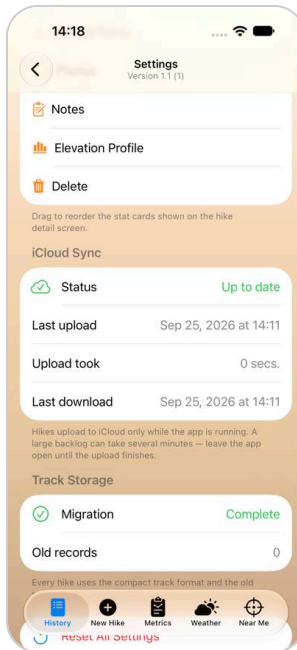
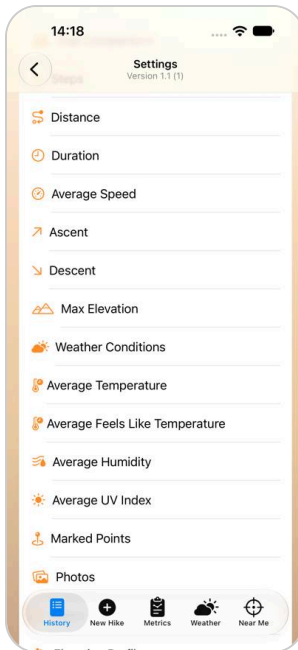
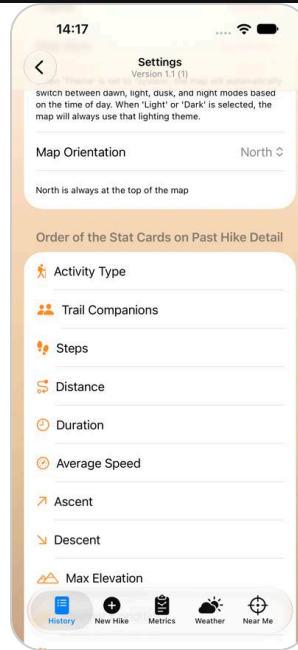
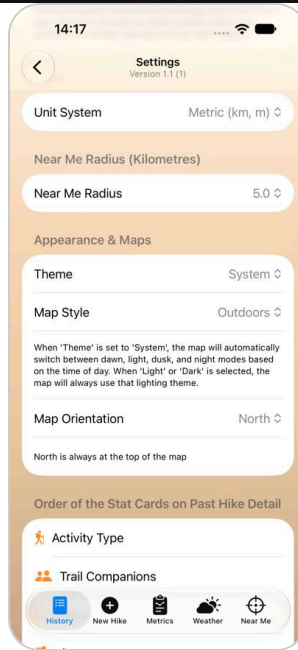
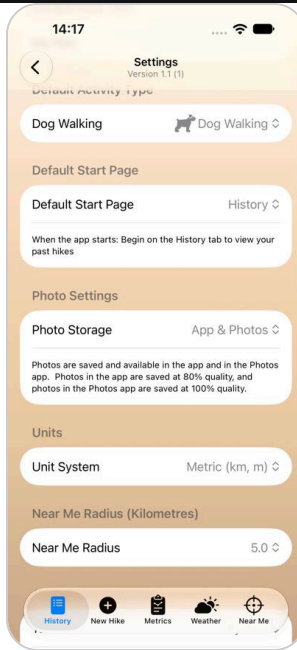
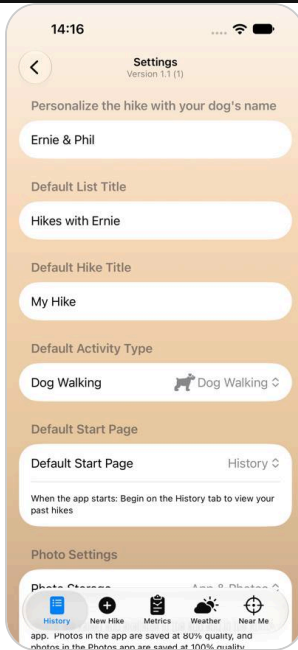




- **Header** — the name and address, with a **Directions** button that opens Apple Maps with directions from where you are.
- **Map** — the park's boundary, outlined and shaded in orange, with a pin.
- **Info cards** — Park Type, Category, **Dog Policy** and Ward.
- **Details** — Dog Designation Details (when available), Dedication Status, Park ID, Area and Perimeter.
- **Accessibility & Features** — whether the park is Accessible and Open, and whether it has Waterbody Access. Each shows a green or red badge.

11. Settings

Open Settings with the ⚙ **gear** button on History, Metrics or Near Me. The app version appears under the title. Changes take effect immediately, and there's no Save button.



SECTION	SETTING	DEFAULT	WHAT IT DOES
Personalize	Trail companion name	<i>Ernie & Phil</i>	Filled in as the companions for every new hike
Default List Title		<i>Hikes with Ernie</i>	The title of the History screen. It's also used for the Metrics title.
Default Hike Title		<i>My Hike</i>	The start of each new hike's name. The date and time are added automatically.
Default Activity Type		Dog Walking	The activity new hikes start with, on both iPhone and Watch
Default Start Page		History	The tab the app opens to: History, New Hike, Metrics, Weather or Near Me
Photo Settings	Photo Storage	App & Photos	See Photos
Units	Unit System	Metric (km, m)	Switches the whole app, including the Watch, between metric and imperial (mi, ft, mph)
Near Me Radius		3.0 km (after Reset)	The starting search radius on the Near Me tab. Choose 0.5–20 km or No Limit.
Appearance & Maps	Theme	System	Light, Dark, or follow the system setting
	Map Style	Outdoors	Outdoors, Satellite, Standard or Winter . With Theme set to System , the non-satellite styles change automatically through the day: dawn (3:00–5:30), day (5:30–20:30), dusk (20:30–23:00) and night.

SECTION	SETTING	DEFAULT	WHAT IT DOES
	Map Orientation	North	North: north is always at the top. Heading: the map turns to face your direction of travel.
Order of the Stat Cards		Standard order	Touch and hold a row, then drag it to reorder the cards on the Hike Details screen
iCloud Sync	Status	—	See iCloud Sync
Track Storage	Migration / Old records	—	See below
Reset All Settings		—	Puts every setting above back to its default. Your hikes are not affected. You're asked to confirm first.

Track Storage

This version stores each route in a compact format that syncs much faster. The **Track Storage** section shows how the conversion is going:

- **Migration: *N* hike(s) pending** — older hikes are still being converted. This finishes on its own.
- **Migration: Complete** — every hike uses the new format.
- **Old records** — how many old-format route points are still stored.

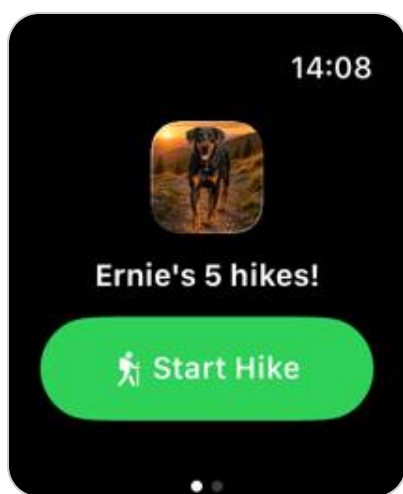
Once migration is complete, a **Clean Up Old Track Data** button appears if any old records remain. It permanently deletes those records. Your hikes and maps aren't affected, and iCloud sync gets much faster.

 Before you tap Clean Up, make sure **every** device — iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch — has this version of the app installed. An older version will put the old records back. Keep the app open until the clean-up finishes.

12. The Apple Watch App

The Apple Watch app records hikes from your wrist, **with or without your iPhone**. Swipe left and right to move between its pages. The dots at the bottom show which page you're on.

Page 1 — Start

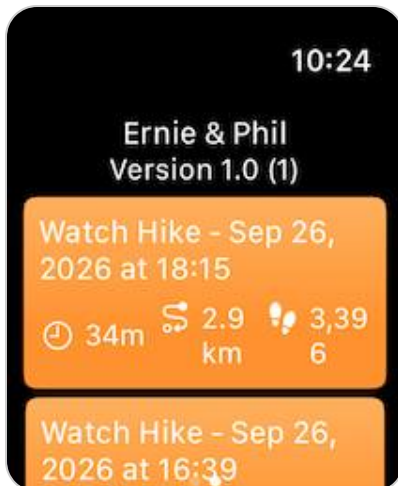


This page shows the Ernie's Hikes logo and your total number of hikes ("*Ernie's 5 hikes!*"). The count includes hikes from all your devices.

Tap the green **Start Hike** button to begin. The button changes to **Hike in Progress** and the app jumps to the Metrics page.

Watch hikes are named **Watch Hike - date and time**. They use your **Default Activity Type** and **Trail Companion** from the iPhone's Settings. You can rename them later on the iPhone (see [Editing a hike](#)).

Page 2 — Recent Hikes



This page shows your companion name, the app version, and your **15 most recent hikes**. Each one shows its name, duration, distance and steps.

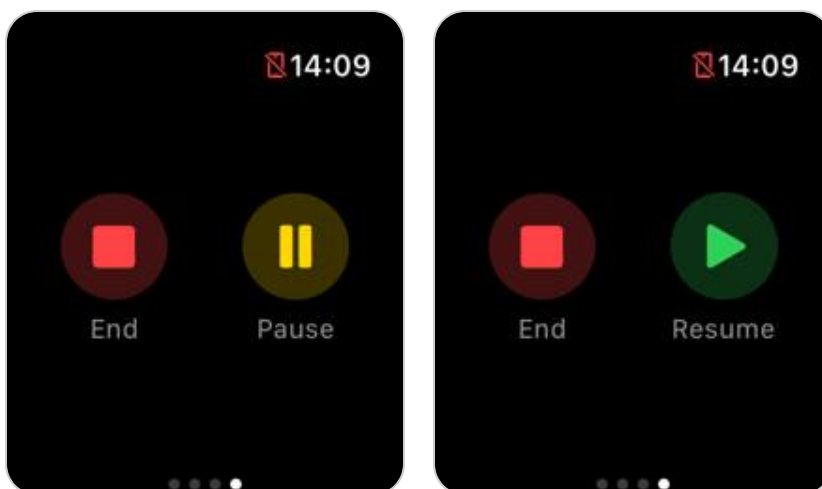
Page 3 — Metrics (while you're recording)



ROW	SHOWS
Compass (top, red)	An arrow pointing your direction of travel, with the direction written out (e.g. <i>NORTH EAST</i>)
 Time (green)	Elapsed time, updating every second
Distance	Distance travelled
Speed	Current speed
Elevation	Current altitude
 Steps	Steps counted
 Heart rate (pink)	Your live heart rate in bpm, from the watch's heart sensor

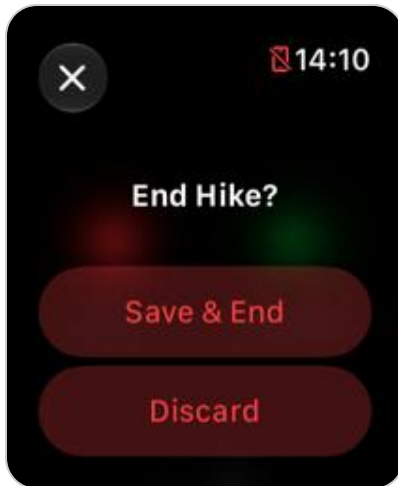
While paused, the compass is replaced by a pulsing yellow **Paused** label and the timer stops.

Page 4 — Controls (while you're recording)



- **Pause** (yellow) / **Resume** (green) — pauses or resumes recording.
- **Double Tap:** You can also pause and resume by **double-tapping your index finger and thumb together**, on Apple Watch models that support Double Tap. You don't need to touch the screen.

- **End** (red) — ends the hike. You're asked to choose:



CHOICE	RESULT
Save & End	Saves the hike, which then syncs to your iPhone. It's also saved as a Hiking workout in Apple Health.
Discard	Deletes the hike. Nothing is saved to Health.
× (top-left)	Cancels and keeps recording

Recording in the background

While a hike is recording, the watch app runs a workout session, just like the built-in Workout app. That means it **keeps recording with the screen off, or while you're on the watch face**. To get back to the hike, raise your wrist and tap the app, or use the complication.

Watch complications and Smart Stack widget

Add the **Ernie's Hikes** widget to a watch face or to the Smart Stack:

STYLE	WHILE HIKING	WHEN IDLE
Rectangular (Smart Stack)	Activity icon, hike name and a live elapsed timer. Shows Paused when paused.	<i>"Ernie's Hikes — Tap to start a hike"</i>
Circular / Corner	Activity icon with a timer below it (green)	Orange hiking figure
Inline	<i>"Hiking 12:34" or "Hike paused"</i>	<i>"Ernie's Hikes"</i>

Tap the widget to open the watch app.

When you record a hike **on your iPhone**, its Live Activity also appears in your watch's Smart Stack (see [Live Activity](#)).

What the watch app doesn't do

To keep it simple and save battery, the watch app doesn't show a map and doesn't do markers, photos or weather. Use the iPhone for those. Once a watch hike syncs to your iPhone, you get its full map, statistics and elevation profile there.

13. iCloud Sync

All hike data syncs automatically through your **private iCloud account** to every iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch signed in with the same Apple Account. That includes routes, statistics, markers, notes and photo records. There's nothing to set up beyond being signed in to iCloud.

Checking sync status

Go to **Settings → iCloud Sync**:

STATUS	MEANING
 Up to date (green)	The last upload finished successfully
 Uploading...	Changes are being sent to iCloud
 Upload failed (red)	Something went wrong. A short explanation appears in red below.
 Waiting	No upload has happened yet in this session

The section also shows the **Last upload** and **Last download** times, and how long the last upload took.

Sync tips

- **Hikes upload only while the app is open.** After a long hike, or the first time you use a new device, keep the app open until the status says **Up to date**.
- **Apple Watch without cellular:** The hike is stored on the watch until it can get online, through your iPhone nearby or Wi-Fi. Open the watch app for a minute once you're back in range so the upload can finish. Watch sessions are short, so an upload can be cut off if the app closes too soon.
- **Apple Watch with cellular:** Hikes can sync straight from the trail.
- If you aren't signed in to iCloud, hikes stay on the device that recorded them.

14. Tips and Troubleshooting

Tips

- **Start faster:** Set **Default Start Page** to **New Hike** so the app opens ready to record.

- **Mark things as they happen:** Use **Quick Markers** for one-tap warnings while you're moving. Use the **Add Marker** form when you've stopped and want to write notes.
- **Check GPS accuracy:** A smaller **GPS $\pm$** value in the Control Panel means a more accurate position. Accuracy is best with a clear view of the sky.
- **Choose "Always" for Location** so your route keeps recording with the phone in your pocket and the screen locked.
- **Pause for breaks** rather than ending the hike, so a coffee stop doesn't split your walk into two hikes.
- **Forgot to stop recording?** Edit the hike and correct the **End Date & Time**.
- **Find your best walks:** Sort History by **Distance** or **Duration**, and check the **Metrics** tab for your records.
- **Winter walks:** Try the **Winter** map style for better contrast on snow-covered trails.

Troubleshooting

PROBLEM	WHAT TO TRY
"Location access denied" in the Control Panel	iPhone Settings → Ernie's Hikes → Location → choose While Using or Always
Stuck on "Acquiring altitude..."	Move outdoors with a clear view of the sky and wait a few seconds
Route stops recording when the phone is locked	Set Location to Always . Don't force-quit the app during a hike.
No step count	iPhone Settings → Ernie's Hikes → Motion & Fitness → turn it on
No Live Activity	iPhone Settings → Ernie's Hikes → Live Activities → turn it on
Hike isn't showing on another device	Open the app on the device that recorded it and wait until Settings → iCloud Sync says Up to date . Check that both devices use the same Apple Account.
Photos don't show on my iPad	With App Only photo storage, photos stay on the device that took them. Choose App & Photos to also save them to your Photos library.
Near Me says "No Parks Loaded"	Check your internet connection and relaunch the app
Heart rate shows "--bpm" on the watch	Make sure the watch fits snugly and Health access was allowed (iPhone Health app → Sharing → Apps → Ernie's Hikes)

15. Meet the Team

Ernie's Hikes is made by **Phil**, with **Ernie** — his Doberman and constant trail companion — as chief inspiration, first tester, and the whole reason the app exists.



Every default Trail Companion name, every dog-themed marker, and a fair bit of the app's personality trace straight back to actual hikes with this actual dog.

Weather data provided by Apple Weather. Park data provided by the City of Ottawa. Maps © Mapbox and OpenStreetMap contributors.