

Table of Contents

Getting Started.....	1
To begin: Download the App	1
What Devices are Compatible?	1
Why Is the App Not Connecting?	2
I Already Have the App, but I'm Not Hearing the Messaging	2
How Should I Hold My iPhone?.....	2
Can I Use BlindSquare on an iPad?	2
Different App Versions.....	3
Can BlindSquare be Used by People Who are Deafblind?	3
Important Concept: Geofence	6
Travel Tips	6
Safety Considerations.....	6
Tip #1 Use a Single Ear Headset or Bone Conduction Headphones	7
Tip #3: Research Destinations in Advance	8
Tip #4 Check Weather Conditions	9
BlindSquare Components	10
Customized Location System (CLS)	10
Beacon Positioning System (BPS).....	11
Quick Response Codes (QRS)	11
How BlindSquare Works	12
Current Location	12
Filters.....	13
Track Your Destination	13
Add Place.....	15
Saved Places	16
Voices.....	16
Foursquare.....	16
Check-ins	17
Languages	17
Orientation to BlindSquare Interface.....	18
Search Button	20

Add Place Button	21
Tools Button	22
Foursquare Button	23
Other (Settings) Button	24
Filter Announcements Page	25
Mute Speech Button	26
Radius Adjustment Button	27
Voice Command Button.....	28
Help Button	29
Accuracy/Compass Button	30
Sleep Mode Button	31
Tip: Turning VoiceOver On and Off.....	32
Using your Headset with the Audio Menu for Remote Control.....	33
Let's Practice in VoiceOver	33
Customizing the App	34
Distance Radius.....	34
Points of Interest.....	34
Conserving Power.....	35
Sleep Mode	35
Bluetooth	36
Shake Gesture Settings.....	38
Intersection Announcement Distance	39
Automatic Sleep Time.....	40
Select Voice and Language.....	41
Restore My Places.....	42
Simulation Mode	43
Let's Try It.....	44

Getting Started

To begin: Download the App

If you do not have either the free BlindSquare Event app or the paid BlindSquare app on your iPhone, you will need to download at least one version to access BlindSquare services. You'll need to use the app to practice as we go through the course.

Workflow: Download the BlindSquare Event App

Download the free [BlindSquare Event App](#)

1. Open the App Store on your iPhone
2. Enter BlindSquare Event into the search bar
3. Select the App BlindSquare Event
4. Download the app to your iPhone

Note

BlindSquare Event provides the same functionality as the paid version of BlindSquare as long as it is used at the time and location of an event that has been registered with the developer of BlindSquare and BlindSquare Event. As of May 20, 2021 (Global Accessibility Awareness Day), BlindSquare provides free and unexpired access to the EVENT app for all Canadians from coast to coast. This means that within Canada, the app is enabled to provide accessible navigation at no cost to the individual.

Since BlindSquare Event does not include offline maps, you need an active internet connection while using it outdoors. However, custom messaging and intersection information can be cached to the device and available without a connection.

When installing the BlindSquare App make sure you enable Share Location and Bluetooth.

What Devices are Compatible?

BlindSquare has a few baseline requirements, each met by current iOS technology.

All models of the iPhone starting with the iPhone 5 support BlindSquare.

- iPhones: iPhone 5 to current iPhone models
- iPad: all iPad 3 and onwards, all iPad Airs, and iPad Pro Models
- iPad Mini: all models
- iPods: not compatible

BlindSquare uses the apple sensors contained within your iOS devices to obtain and relay accurate information to the user about their location, speed, distance and heading. BlindSquare requires access to the internet, GPS and when within a Beacon Positioning System, Bluetooth. To utilize BlindSquare & access all of the Tools, your iOS device must have Wi-Fi or 3G data, Bluetooth, and camera functionality.

Why Is the App Not Connecting?

If you are not connected to a Wi-Fi network, your device may be blocking local updates if it is set to low data mode. To change this setting, open Settings on your device, go to cellular, cell data options and select standard. Alternatively, if you do not wish to use the cellular data on your device, connect to a Wi-Fi network in the location. Note that once you have connected BlindSquare in the area, you are exploring, you do not need a continual connection, but you will need to ensure that your GPS and Bluetooth remain enabled.

I Already Have the App, but I'm Not Hearing the Messaging

Ensure that your cellular data is enabled and not set to low data mode or that you have connected to a Wi-Fi network to receive the local information. Enable GPS and Bluetooth on your device if it is not already enabled. Check for updates on the app store to confirm your app version is up to date. It is recommended that you set your apps to receive automatic updates.

How Should I Hold My iPhone?

If travelling with your iPhone in your pocket or backpack, the back of the device should face the direction of your travel. When using the iPhone indoors, the traveller should hold the phone in-hand vertically. This is to ensure that the device orientation can be properly sensed by BlindSquare and all sensors for direction, movement, longitude/latitude, and altitude will be correct.

Can I Use BlindSquare on an iPad?

BlindSquare will work on an iPad if you are using a 3G or 4G model of the iPad since only these models possess GPS capabilities.

If you want to run BlindSquare on an iPad, it is recommended that you carry the iPad in a backpack. Make sure that the back of the iPad points in the direction in which you are travelling. Connect headphones to your iPad so you can hear announcements.

A benefit of the iPad is its longer battery life compared to the iPhone. Touching the screen to perform a search, however, is more difficult. It is recommended that you use BlindSquare with a headset that supports the Audio Menu. The Audio Menu allows you to perform different BlindSquare commands using the music controls of your headset. Both the AfterShokz and the Airdrives headsets support the Audio Menu. However, the Bluetooth models of the Aftershokz headsets do not support all the Audio Menu features.

Different App Versions

BlindSquare Enabled Event

A BlindSquare Enabled Event is a permanent location sponsored by the business or organization, to provide accessibility in their buildings, facilities, and/or grounds, to accommodate for the individual's sight impairments, blindness, print disabilities, language barriers, and/or other special needs.

This means that within the sponsored location the free BlindSquare EVENT app is enabled to provide accessible navigation at no cost to the individual.

BlindSquare EVENT Canada-Wide Geofence

Each BlindSquare installation is available on the FREE BlindSquare EVENT app. As of May 20, 2021 (Global Accessibility Awareness Day), BlindSquare provides free and unexpired access to the EVENT app for all Canadians from coast to coast. This means that within Canada, the app is enabled to provide accessible navigation at no cost to the individual.

BlindSquare EVENT

A version of the app that is provided FREE to the end-user. The app is enabled within certain locations when a BlindSquare "event" is created using a geofence.

BlindSquare Paid

A paid accessible GPS app developed for people who are blind or partially sighted. The current price within the app store is \$54.99 CAD.

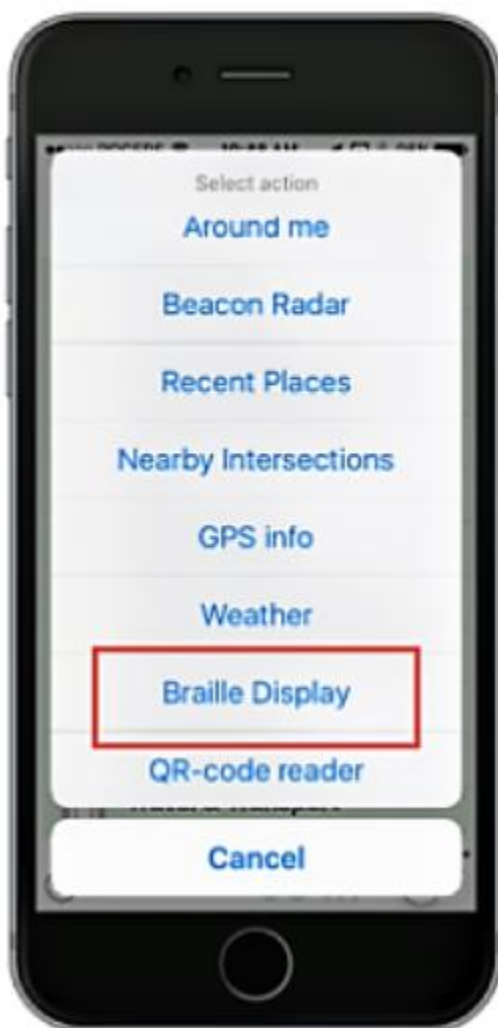
Can BlindSquare be Used by People Who are Deafblind?

BlindSquare supports Braille displays so people who are deafblind can also use it. To use BlindSquare with your Braille display, open the Tools menu and double-tap Braille Display to open a screen containing all the spoken text.

While this screen is active, BlindSquare will not use the Acapela or iOS speech synthesizer but will send all announcements to this screen so you can read it using VoiceOver and your Braille display.

You can shake your device to cause BlindSquare to display your current location. If you press the Home button to send BlindSquare to the background while the Braille Display Screen is active, BlindSquare will display all the spoken text as notifications, which can be read on your Braille display, too.

When BlindSquare mentions a place, you may double-tap the notification to open its Place Description Screen. If you perform any action on this screen e.g. checking in, BlindSquare will return to the Braille Display Screen, not to the main screen.

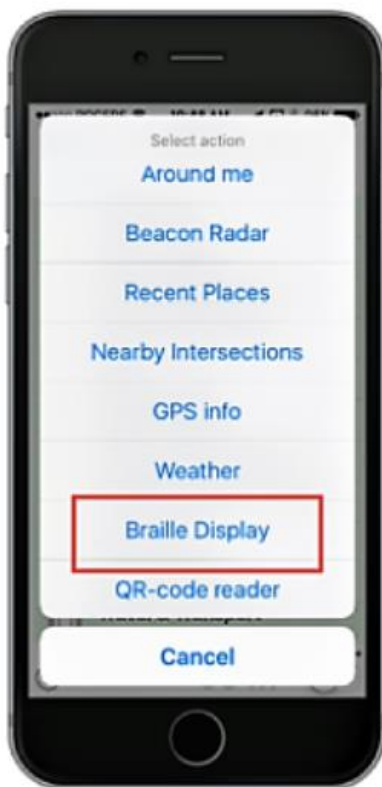


BlindSquare supports Braille displays so people who are deafblind can also use it. To use BlindSquare with your Braille display, open the Tools menu and double-tap Braille Display to open a screen containing all the spoken text.

While this screen is active, BlindSquare will not use the Acapela or iOS speech synthesizer but will send all announcements to this screen so you can read it using VoiceOver and your Braille display.

You can shake your device to cause BlindSquare to display your current location. If you press the Home button to send BlindSquare to the background while the Braille Display Screen is active, BlindSquare will display all the spoken text as notifications, which can be read on your Braille display, too.

When BlindSquare mentions a place, you may double-tap the notification to open its Place Description Screen. If you perform any action on this screen e.g. checking in, BlindSquare will return to the Braille Display Screen, not to the main screen.



Important Concept: Geofence

A virtual geographic boundary, defined by GPS (Global Positioning System) or RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology, that enables software to trigger a response when a mobile device enters or leaves a particular area.

Therefore, mobile services can be made available in a specific geographical area aka a Virtual Perimeter.



Top of Form

Travel Tips

Safety Considerations

When you launch BlindSquare for the first time, you will see a disclaimer asking you to always rely on your orientation and travelling skills, because the accuracy of BlindSquare's information cannot be guaranteed. BlindSquare is an information tool, not

a safety device. **Training with an Orientation & Mobility Specialist is essential before attempting to use BlindSquare outdoors.**



"Is BlindSquare the best tool for turning your iPhone or iOS devices into a "Walking Companion?" Well as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist there are several considerations to be made before implementing the use of BlindSquare. First and foremost, BlindSquare is not a replacement for a cane or Orientation and Mobility training. BlindSquare is, however, an excellent tool for Visually Impaired & Blind travellers to utilize as it will assist the traveller in obtaining information about the environment while offering the user the ability to customize information received as well as adding additional information or POI to assist them. BlindSquare is your "Screen Reader for the Environment!"

- Andrea Bodnari

M.S. Orientation & Mobility Specialist, AT, TVI

Certified BlindSquare Trainer & BPS Installation Specialist

Tip #1 Use a Single Ear Headset or Bone Conduction Headphones

Use a single ear headset or bone conduction headphones to keep hands free while listening to the messaging.

It's important while travelling to avoid being overloaded physically and mentally in order to be free to focus and react promptly to the environment.

Bone conduction allows you to hear sound through the vibration of the bones of your face (jawbones and cheekbones). This means that the sound waves are bypassing the outer and middle ear (where the eardrum is located) and directly stimulating the inner ear (hearing organ).

Because the bone conduction headset does not cut the user off from the environment, it is considered safer than air conduction alternatives. Additionally, there is no damage from stimulus intensity and/or the constant ear insertion required by earbuds and other types of insert headphones.



Tip #2 Find a Safe Quiet Area

When travelling in an unfamiliar area, the combination of environmental information and audio descriptions from the app can be very overwhelming. It is recommended that you find a safe, quiet area, out of the way of passersby to pause and listen to the more detailed information that is available in the area.

Tip #3: Research Destinations in Advance

Plan a route in advance of travelling to minimize uncertainty.

If your destination is further away or the route is more complex, you can start a third-party navigation app from the Place Summary screen of any place. Just double-tap the Plan A Route button or select this option in the Quick Access menu to see a menu letting you select one of the third-party navigation apps that are installed on your device and supported by BlindSquare.

The Plan a Route button will send the coordinates of the current venue to the third-party navigation app you have selected.

This means you can hear both the turn-by-turn directions of your navigation app and BlindSquare's information about your environment.

Additionally, many locations offer descriptions online such can be used to plan more detailed routes such as this description of [TTC Chester station](#).

Tip #4 Check Weather Conditions

Check weather conditions both at your current location and at your destination.

Knowing current weather conditions increases your safety as you travel. Many people with sight loss find travelling more difficult when there is snow; wind and rain can also make it harder to pick up auditory clues of the environment. BlindSquare lets you check weather conditions both at your current location and at your destination.

If you want to check weather conditions at your current location, go to the Tools menu and select Weather. You may have to wait a few seconds for BlindSquare to retrieve the information. As soon as it is available, BlindSquare will read it to you.

If you want to check the weather at a distant location, find the location using one of your saved points on the My Places list, through Category Search or by entering search terms. Once you have found the place, open the Place Summary screen and find the Weather button. When you double-tap it, BlindSquare will read the weather at your destination to you.

Please note that weather information is more extensive when you use BlindSquare in English, as the service BlindSquare queries provide forecast information in English only.



BlindSquare

Components

BlindSquare consists of three components in addition to traditional outdoor GPS navigation. These components provide a more comprehensive navigational experience that addresses indoor wayfinding and gaps in outdoor information of deep value to people who are blind or partially sighted.

The three components are:

1. Customized Location System (CLS)
2. Beacon Positioning System (BPS)
3. Quick Response Codes (QRS)

Let's learn about these components some more!

Customized Location System (CLS)

CLS points are programmed locations on a map that fill in gaps of key information a user might need to navigate outdoor spaces that are otherwise unlabeled. They can deliver customized information about an organization's premises.

An example CLS point sounds like this:

"Now at 4900 Yonge Street, Joseph Shepard building, Service Canada centre on site, 2 small flights of descending stairs to courtyard, then 36 metres, at 11 o'clock, 3 entrance doors available, ramp at right of stairs, about 3 metres, continuous bannister on left, ramp continues around left to courtyard, 3 entrance doors on right, about 35 metres"

CLS points are exclusively programmed outdoors because they use GPS coordinates to determine location. Users can receive several different messages based upon their location and proximity to the defined Landmark or GPS point. CLS can provide an obstacle alert message (i.e., construction) with an additional message providing information about a detour. A GPS/CLS point could also identify a Building Name with an additional message identifying or guiding the traveller to the Building Entrance. The second message is optional and is only activated when a user shakes their phone vertically or swipes down after the second message sound is played.

https://my.campustoday.ca/content/enforced/6772-thepowerofblindsquare_co/second%20message%20cue1.mp3?&d2lSessionVal=8N9cem5fkQsM2Cr6zi6qvuHn8&ou=6772

Beacon Positioning System (BPS)

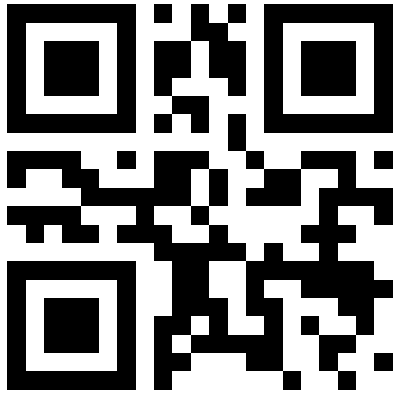
Beacons programmed with indoor wayfinding information use Bluetooth Low Energy to provide audible messaging to a user when in proximity to a beacon. Note; when using indoor BPS, data or Wi-Fi connection is not needed once the app is opened. However, Bluetooth needs to be enabled on the device. Like CLS points, they can also have a second message option.



Quick Response Codes (QRS)

QR codes are machine-readable codes that are scanned from the user's phone. Using BlindSquare QR codes allows the information to be read aloud. The app provides haptic feedback and the codes used are less dense, allowing a wider margin of error when aiming.

To scan the sample code below, open the BlindSquare app, open the tools menu (third menu icon from top left corner) and select QR-code reader at the bottom of the tools list, under "braille display". Aim the back of your phone towards the direction of the computer screen.



How BlindSquare Works

When BlindSquare has determined your location using your iOS-device's GPS capabilities, it will look up information about your surroundings on Open Street Map. Employing unique algorithms, it will then ascertain the information most useful to you and speak it in a clear synthetic voice. You can use BlindSquare, for example, to find the most popular café within a 200-meter radius or to find the nearest post office or the library.

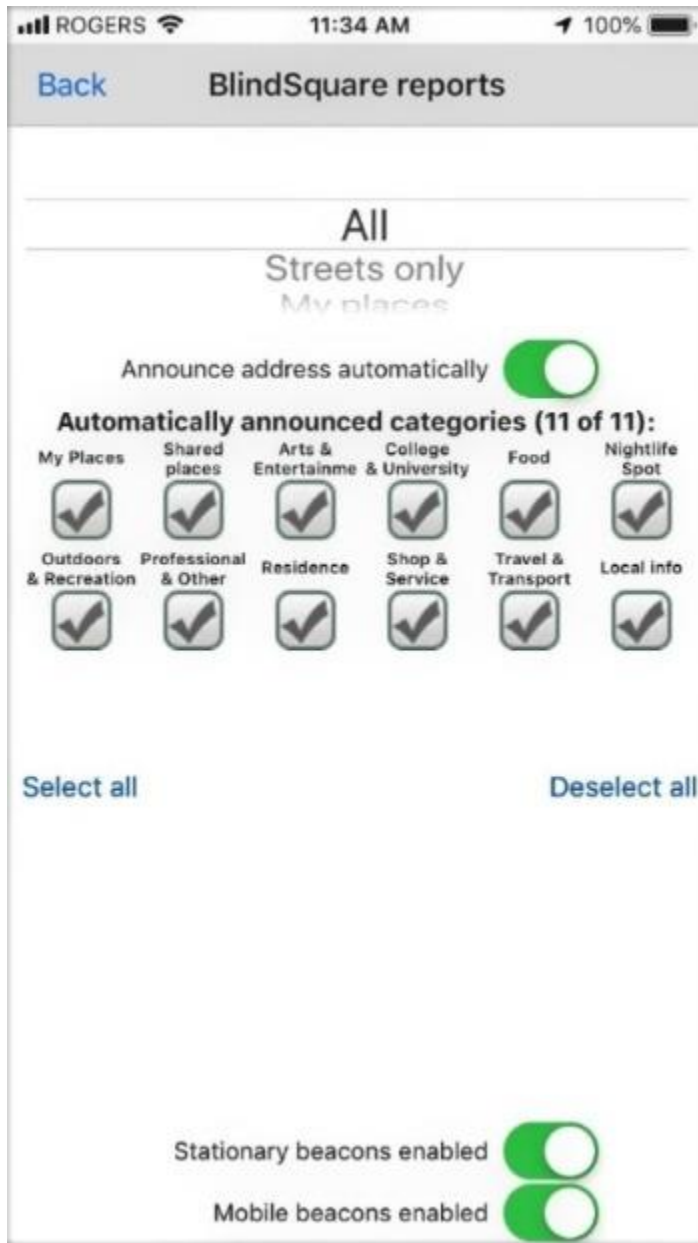
<https://youtu.be/tWn1oG9Mumk>

Current Location

Shake your device to hear your current location, as well as information about the location of the nearest street intersection and venues around you.

Filters

BlindSquare possesses filters you can set, so you only hear the information you currently need. Have BlindSquare announce streets and saved places only, so you do not get overwhelmed by more information than you need.

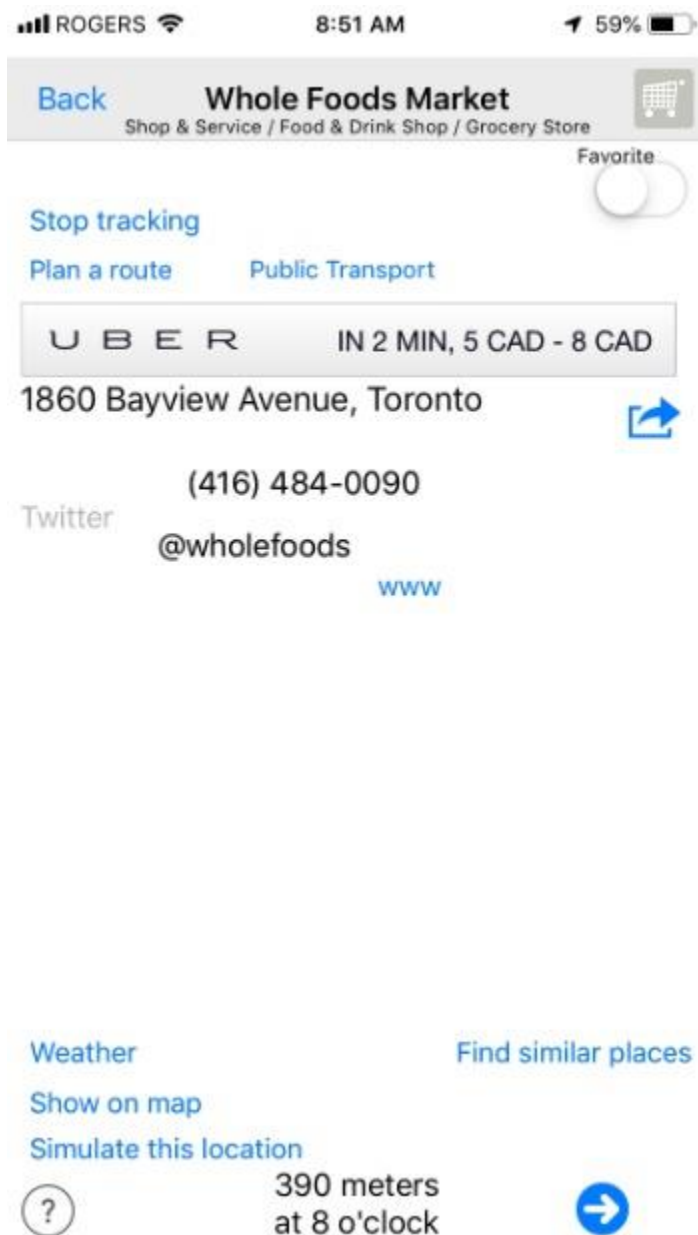


Track Your Destination

Track your destination, so BlindSquare will periodically announce the distance and direction while you are travelling. If you use BlindSquare to mark your position, it can help you to find this spot again later. You can track a place by going to its Place

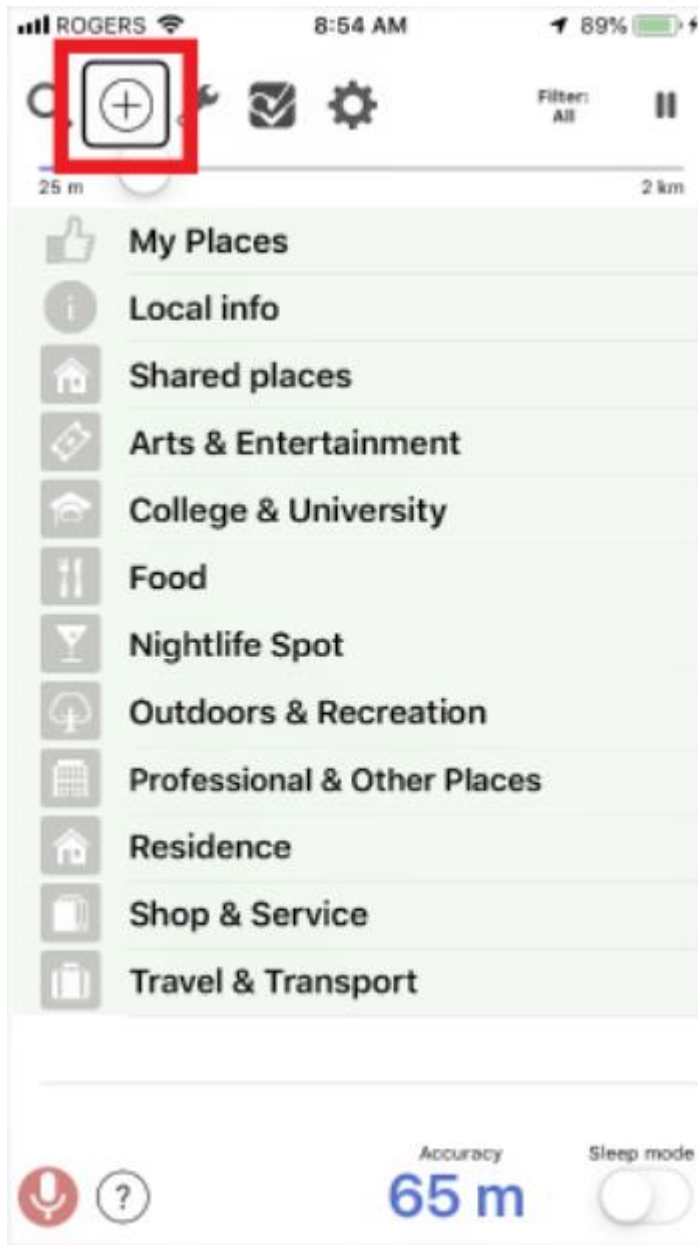
Summary screen and double-tapping Start Tracking. This will cause BlindSquare to frequently announce the distance of and direction to this place as you travel. The closer you get to the place, the more often you will hear the distance and direction. You can also shake your device to hear this information whenever you like. Tracking will stop automatically as soon as you reach the place.

BlindSquare will also track a place when you use BlindSquare's Plan a Route feature found on the Place Description Screen. By default, tracking will only start when you have approached your destination and are less than 150 meters away. You can change the default behaviour by going to Other, Settings, and activating Track Destination Automatically on Entire Route. When this is active, BlindSquare will track your destination as soon as you use the Plan a Route feature to navigate to a place.



Add Place

Adding customized places of interest allows the user to track to their specified locations with greater ease.



Saved Places

If you mark your saved places and Foursquare venues as Favorites, BlindSquare will always notify you when you reach them. Since BlindSquare saves your favourites and your places to iCloud, they get synched between all of your iOS-devices, and you can use BlindSquare on all of them.

Voices

BlindSquare uses its own high-quality Acapela voices in many different languages to announce information about your environment. This means you will always hear all of the information you need, even when you can't touch the screen of your device, you lock the screen, or you use another app while BlindSquare is running in the background

Foursquare

If you enjoy playing **Foursquare**, authorize BlindSquare to access your account, so you can check in at your **favourite venues** just by shaking your device. However, you do not need to have a Foursquare account to use BlindSquare.

[Back](#)

Foursquare

You are not logged in to Foursquare. Please connect with your Foursquare account if you want to check in.

[Connect Foursquare](#)

Check-ins

You can set BlindSquare to share your **check-ins** on Facebook, Twitter, or to keep them private.

Languages

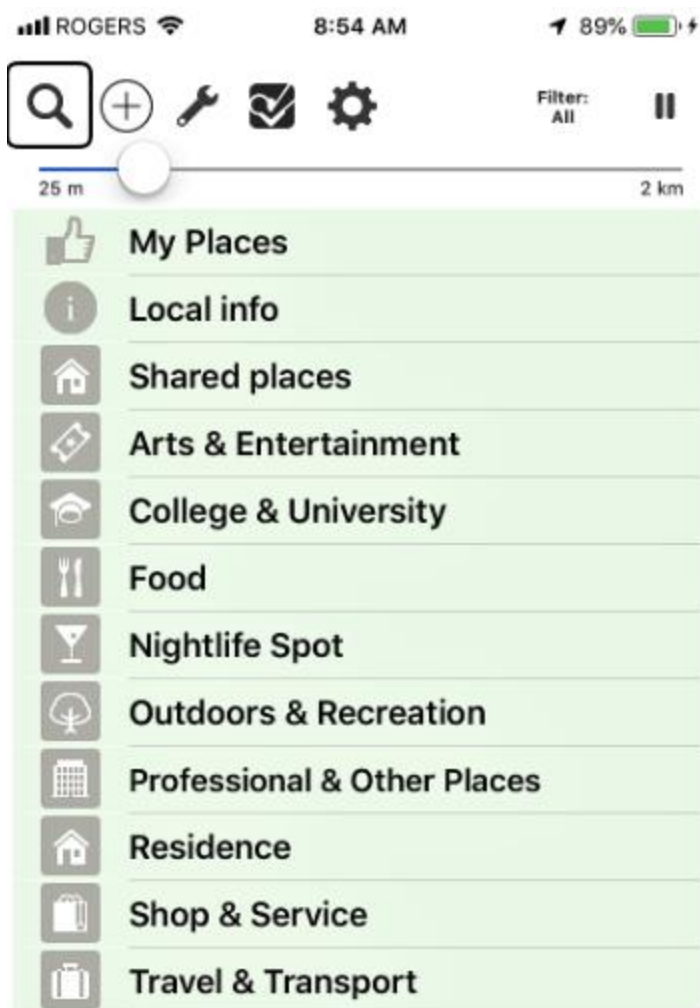
BlindSquare is available in English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Dutch, Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Czech, Russian, Estonian, Polish, Arabic, Turkish, Portuguese, Japanese, Greek, Romanian, Croatian and Hungarian.

To change the language in BlindSquare; select the Other button, then Settings. Select Voice and Language, found after "Directions Style".

Orientation to BlindSquare Interface

It's a good idea to explore BlindSquare's menu and buttons before using the app while travelling.

After opening BlindSquare, locate the Search Button at the upper left corner of your screen just below the status bar. If you have trouble finding the Search Button, place your finger at the top left corner of your screen and slide down, you should hear VoiceOver announce Search Button.



After you have found the Search Button, you can use single finger swipes to the right on your screen to advance through all the buttons across the top of your BlindSquare screen. As you swipe, you should hear "Add Place", "Tools", "Four Square", "Other" (Settings), "Filter Announcements", "Mute Speech", and the "Radius Adjustment" (Search for Places distance).

After this, if you keep swiping to the right, you will hear various categories of places (potential destinations). At the bottom of the screen, from left to right, you will find Voice Command, Help, Accuracy, and the Sleep Mode switch ending at the bottom right.

Now you will hear various categories of places; you can use these categories to search for businesses or places around you. These categories are very useful for exploring what types of businesses and restaurants are around you. Information is also provided

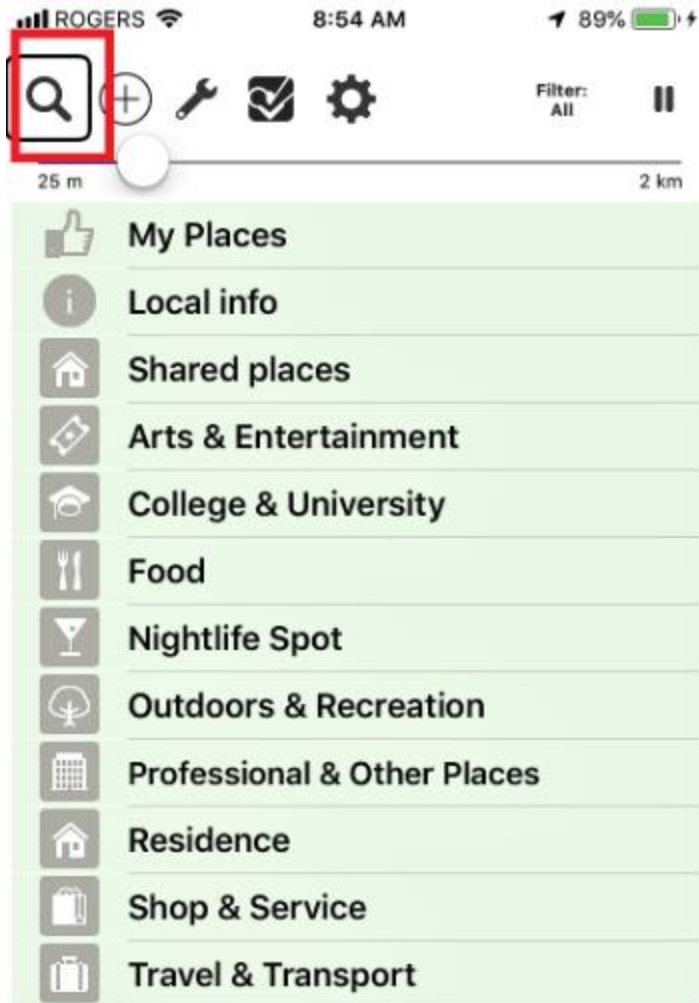
about the place, such as the distance, direction, phone number, Public Transit, and Simulation. When you find a place or business you would like to visit, you can go to Simulate this Location, and learn about nearby intersections and other businesses around that area. Remember, you can find these options after you find a specific business or restaurant and single finger double-tap on it. The screen that appears next has this information. Simulate this Place will be on the lower left corner of this screen.

Note: When you are finished searching through the categories, you need to find the back button at the upper left of your screen and single finger double-tap on this. This will take you back to the main BlindSquare screen. You may need to do this twice.

Following the categories, you will find a few remaining buttons on the bottom of your BlindSquare screen. Let's explore what you'll find from top left to bottom right.

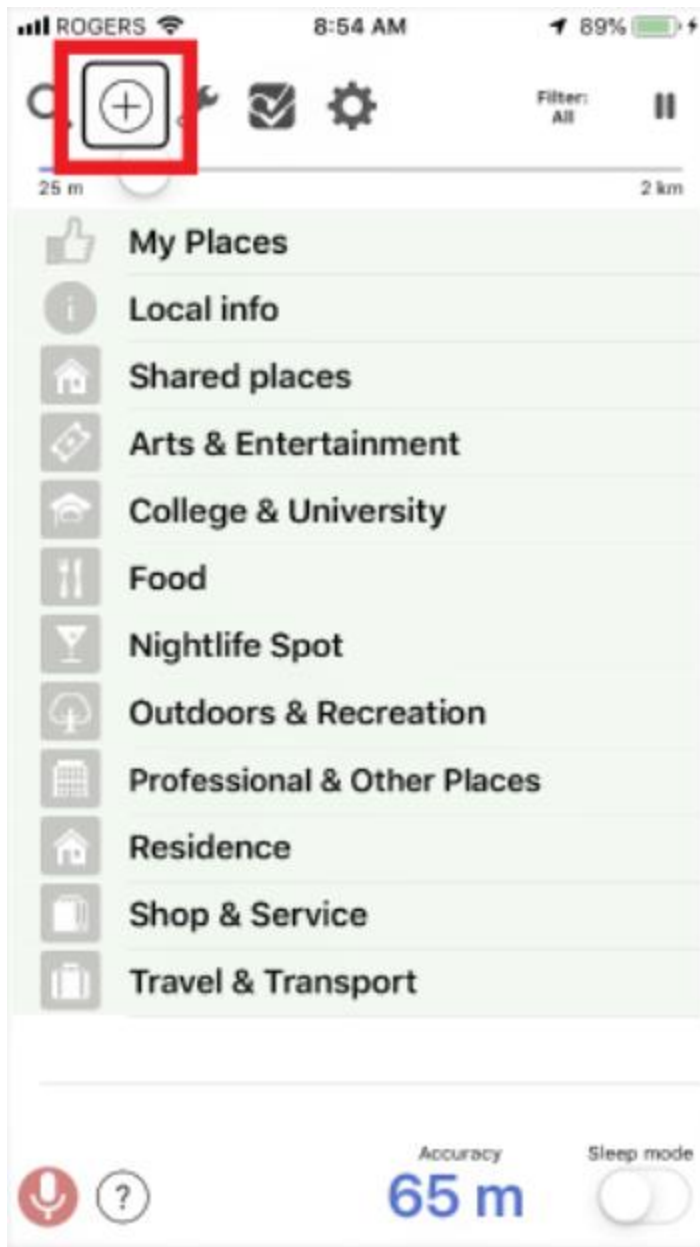
Search Button

Use this to enter the name or address of a place or business you are looking for.



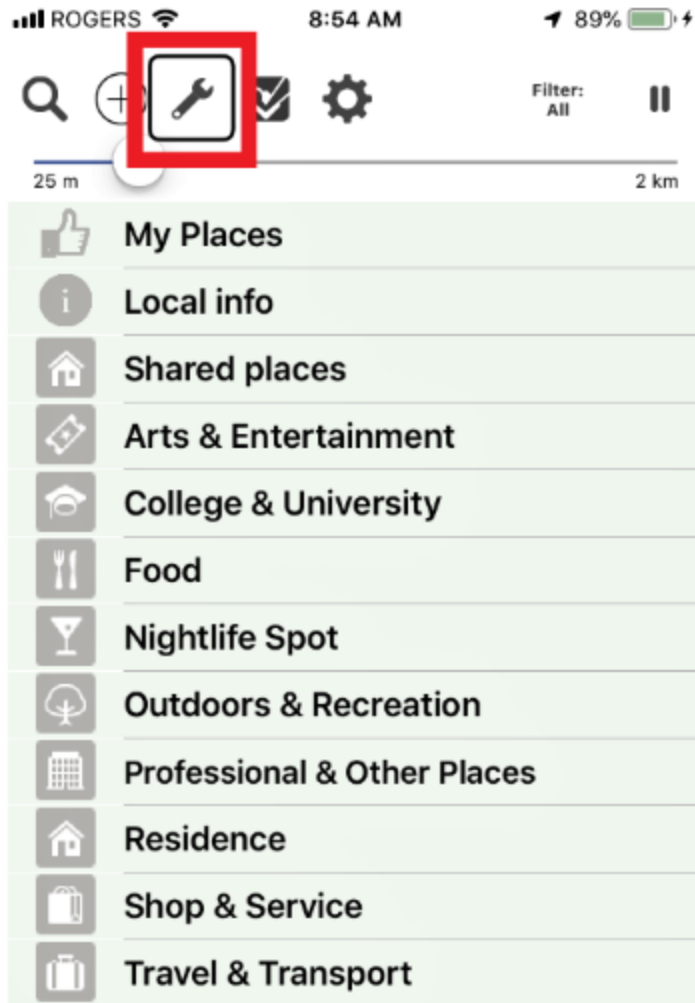
Add Place Button

Adding customized places of interest allows the user to track to their specified locations with greater ease.



Tools Button

You can find special tools here to assist you in obtaining different types of information about your current area. Some examples of tools in this menu include, Look Around, My Location, Around Me, GPS Information and QR Code Reader.



Foursquare Button

You can access your Foursquare account from here and check-in at your favourite venues by shaking your device.

ROGERS 8:54 AM 89%

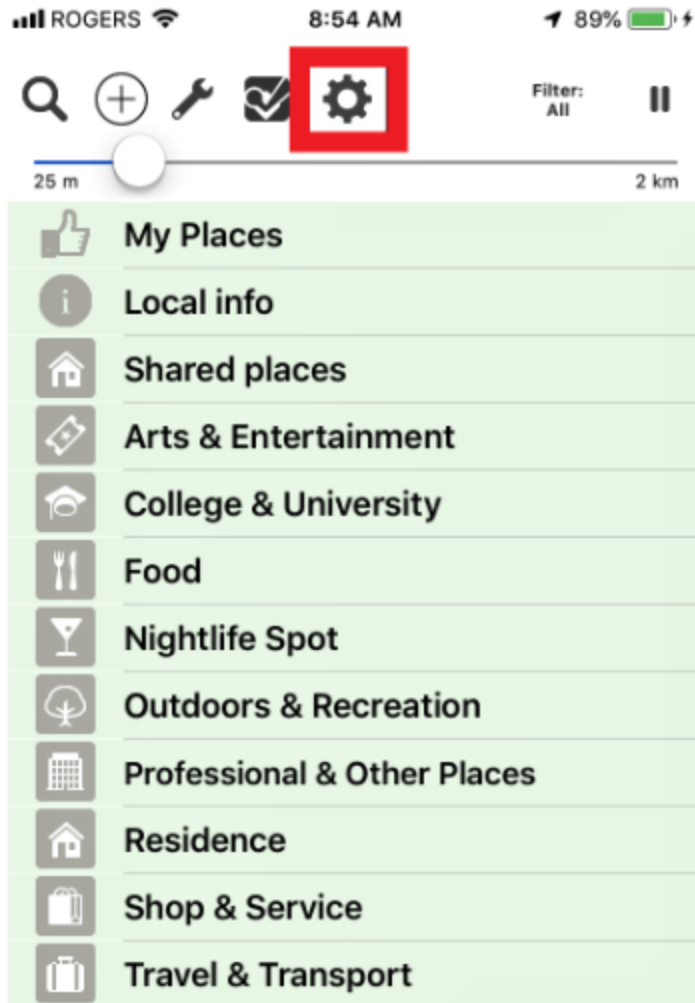


- My Places
- Local info
- Shared places
- Arts & Entertainment
- College & University
- Food
- Nightlife Spot
- Outdoors & Recreation
- Professional & Other Places
- Residence
- Shop & Service
- Travel & Transport



Other (Settings) Button

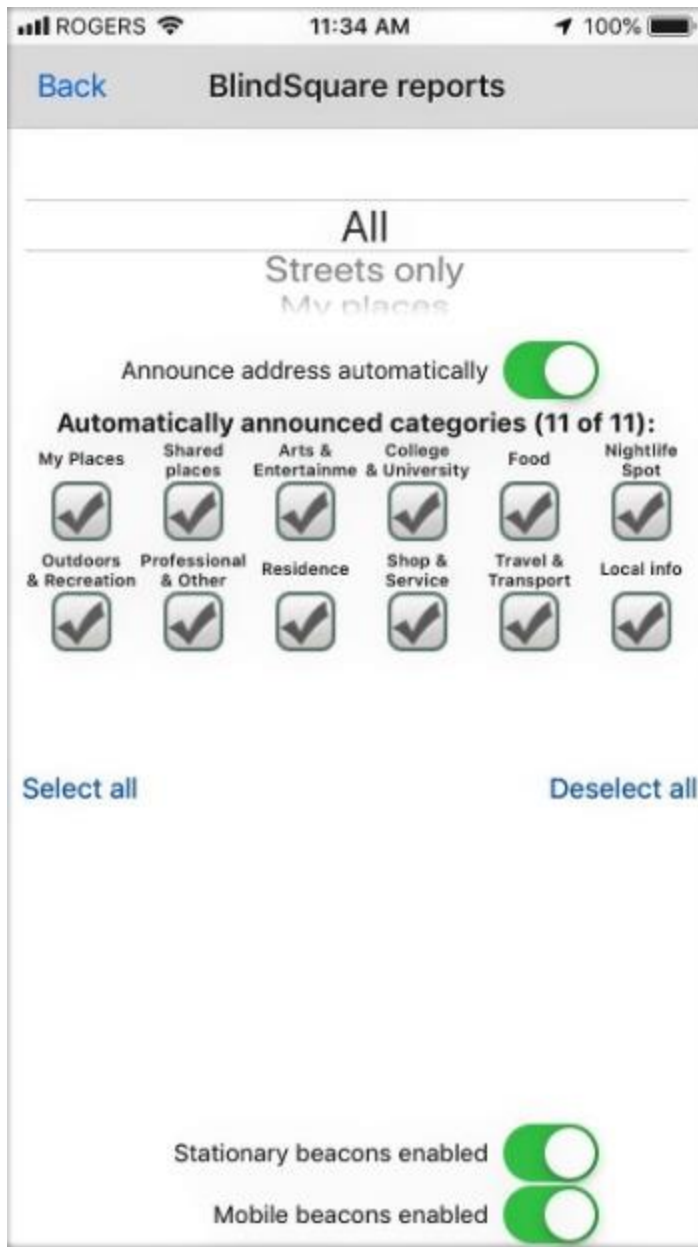
You can customize BlindSquare settings and options here.



Filter Announcements Page

You can control how much information you want BlindSquare to automatically announce in this section. It is recommended that you explore all the categories of information in the Filter Announcements area.

Remember, to explore all options, begin in the upper left corner below the Status Bar, and begin swiping to the right to explore all options. To select or unselect a category, simply use a single finger double-tap on the desired item.



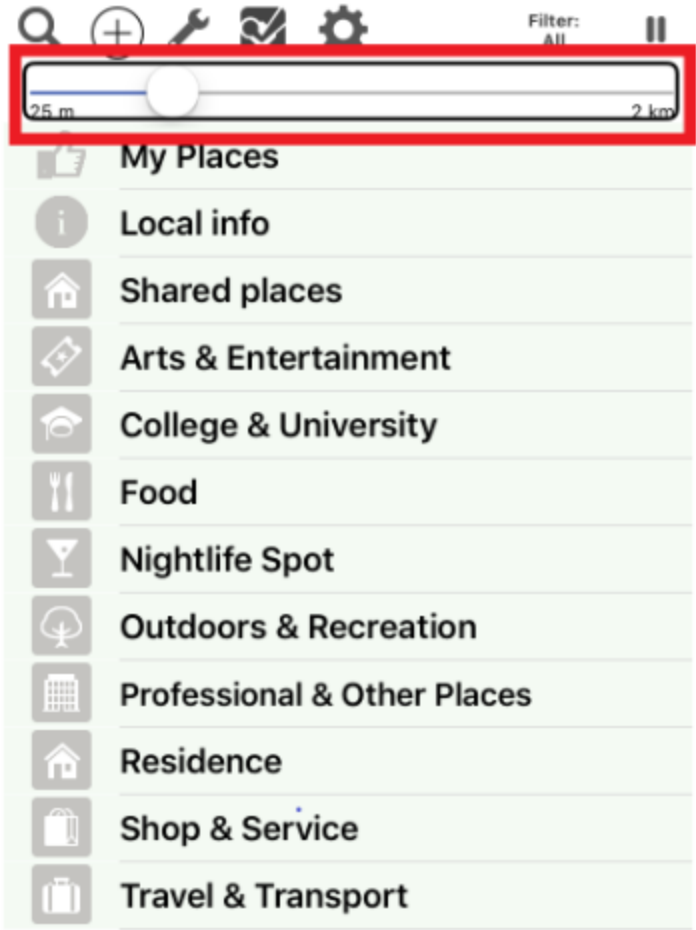
Mute Speech Button

It is best to use a 2 finger double-tap to mute or unmute speech when desired.



Radius Adjustment Button

Adjust the distance to which BlindSquare automatically announces places that are around you. The adjustment is not for searching for places but controls how far BlindSquare will automatically announce businesses as you pass them. When you select the Radius Adjustment slider, you can use one finger to swipe up or down to adjust the distance.



Voice Command Button

Voice Commands can be used instead of using your fingers to navigate the screen. When you first download the app, you are provided with 400 voice command credits. Additional credits can be purchased in the App Store.

Search, Add, Tools, Settings, Filter: All, 25 m, 2 km

- My Places
- Local info
- Shared places
- Arts & Entertainment
- College & University
- Food
- Nightlife Spot
- Outdoors & Recreation
- Professional & Other Places
- Residence
- Shop & Service
- Travel & Transport

Accuracy 65 m Sleep mode

Help Button

Here you will find BlindSquare help topics.

ROGERS 11:57 AM 46%



- My Places
- Local info
- Shared places
- Arts & Entertainment
- College & University
- Food
- Nightlife Spot
- Outdoors & Recreation
- Professional & Other Places
- Residence
- Shop & Service
- Travel & Transport



Accuracy **65 m** Sleep mode

Accuracy/Compass Button

This button will tell you how accurate your GPS is. Remember, your accuracy should be less than **16 metres** for BlindSquare to give you reliably accurate information. You can single finger double-tap on the **Accuracy** button to switch to the **Compass**.

The Compass is helpful in determining the current direction (heading) you are facing.



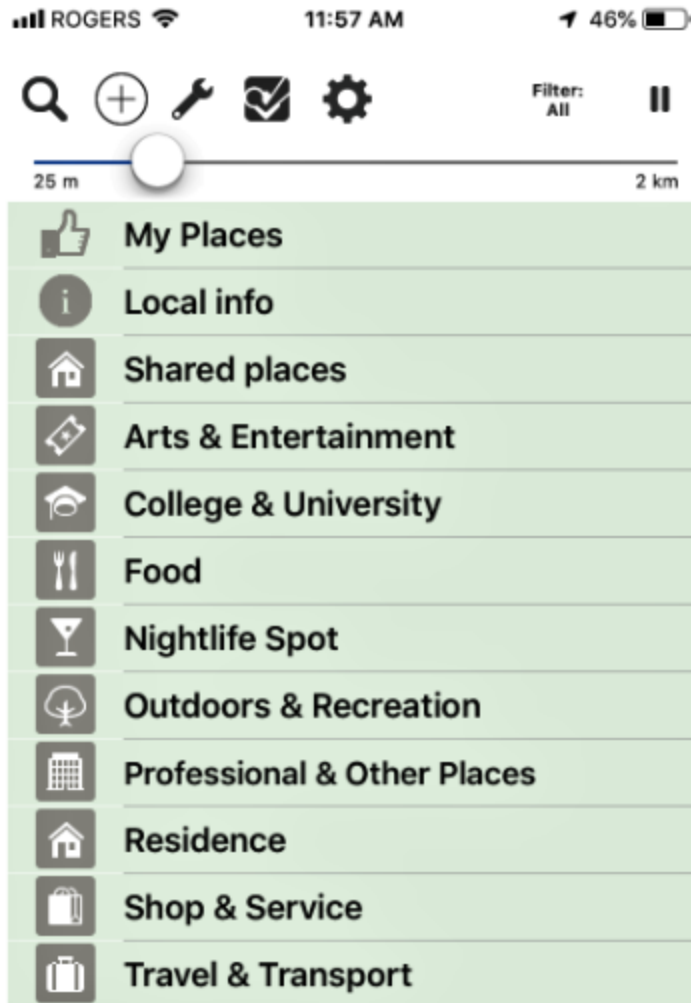
25 m 2 km

- My Places
- Local info
- Shared places
- Arts & Entertainment
- College & University
- Food
- Nightlife Spot
- Outdoors & Recreation
- Professional & Other Places
- Residence
- Shop & Service
- Travel & Transport



Sleep Mode Button

This is the last button on the bottom right. You can single finger double-tap on this button to put BlindSquare to Sleep, or wake it up. This will help save your battery.



Tip: Turning VoiceOver On and Off

You can turn on VoiceOver using any of these three possibilities:

1. Tell Siri, "Turn on VoiceOver"
2. Triple-click the Home Button 3x fast, if you have assigned VO as the accessibility shortcut key.
3. Enable VoiceOver using: Settings > General > Accessibility > VoiceOver > On

You can turn off VoiceOver using any of these three possibilities:

1. Tell Siri. "Turn off VoiceOver"
2. Triple-click the Home Button 3x fast, if you have assigned VO as the accessibility shortcut key.
3. Disable VoiceOver using: Settings > General > Accessibility > VoiceOver > Off

Assigning a Shortcut

Assign the Voiceover shortcut: General > Accessibility > Accessibility Shortcut > VoiceOver

Using your Headset with the Audio Menu for Remote Control

You can use your Apple Headset to access the audio menu. The audio menu is a spoken list of BlindSquare commands that you can control with the answer/select button on your apple headset.

Steps to using your Headset to control BlindSquare Audio Menu

1. Single finger double-tap on the **Other** button
2. Then, single finger double-tap on **settings**
3. Now, swipe to the right until you hear "**Audio Menu Settings**" and single finger double-tap
4. Now, swipe to the right until you hear "**Use Headset Remote to Control...**" this should say to control BlindSquare. If it says "**to control Voice Commands or Music Playback**", single finger double-tap on this item, then swipe to the right or left until you hear "**Use Headset to control BlindSquare Audio Menu**", then single finger double-tap to select this.
5. Now, go to the **Back** button at the upper left area of the screen, single finger double-tap, then you should be back to the main BlindSquare screen.
6. Now, plug in your Apple Headset and press the **Answer** or **Select** button on your apple headset cord (the same button you would use to answer calls)
7. After you press this button, BlindSquare will say "**Audio Menu**", and will begin announcing options. Here are the options: **Location, Sleep Mode, Look Around, Around Me, GPS Info, Add Place, and time**. Immediately after you hear one of these commands spoken, you need to press the same button on the cord of your apple headset to select that audio command.

Let's Practice in VoiceOver

Purpose: We're going to practice locating a Button or Search Category using Read All and the Pause Command. Let's focus on the search category, **Travel & Transportation**.

1. While listening to VoiceOver read the screen, pause the reading cursor at Travel & Transportation. To pause the VoiceOver reading cursor at a location simply single tap on the screen with two fingers.
2. Swipe up with two-fingers to Read All. This reads everything starting from the top left to the bottom right corner of the screen.
3. Get ready, listen for VoiceOver to read "Travel & Transportation". As soon as you hear Travel & Transportation tap on the screen quickly with a double tap on the screen with two fingers.
4. If you are fast at implementing one of the above commands you can pause the cursor at the exact location. But don't worry if you were a little slow, you can navigate backwards by item using a single-finger flick to the left.
5. A single finger touch will not activate/select a button, but instead, VoiceOver merely speaks the item under your finger. To activate or select a button spoken by VoiceOver on the Main Menu Panel double tap anywhere on the screen with one finger.
6. A single finger double tap, anywhere on the screen, or a split-tap will activate the selected item.

7. Top of Form

Customizing the App

Distance Radius

Below the top row of buttons and above the category list you will find the radius slider. The radius setting affects how much information BlindSquare will announce as you walk. Imagine a circle around you and yourself in the centre of this circle. As you walk, the circle around you will move along with you. Places that appear in the circle as you move will be announced by BlindSquare. The more you increase the radius of the circle, the more information you will hear on your way. However, if there is a large number of places inside the radius, BlindSquare will never read them all, but decide which ones will be announced based on the places' popularity and additional factors.

Points of Interest

If you are in a downtown area, it is very likely that there will be a lot of public points of interest (POI) around you. If you want to be informed about as many of them as possible, you should select a very small radius. When you increase the radius in a well-

covered area, there will be more places in the imaginary circle around you, and BlindSquare will not be able to inform you about as many of them.

If you are in an area that has few public POI on Foursquare, you may want to increase the radius. This will help to ensure you are not missing places you might want to be informed about.

Your choice of radius also affects the Category search and the Look Around feature.

Conserving Power

There are a few tips you can use to manage the app to help extend the battery life of your device:

Sleep Mode

When you turn on Sleep Mode, BlindSquare will be silent and stop querying Foursquare and Open Street Map for information. Sleep Mode helps you to save battery when you do not need BlindSquare.



25 m 2 km

- My Places
- Local info
- Shared places
- Arts & Entertainment
- College & University
- Food
- Nightlife Spot
- Outdoors & Recreation
- Professional & Other Places
- Residence
- Shop & Service
- Travel & Transport



Accuracy
65 m



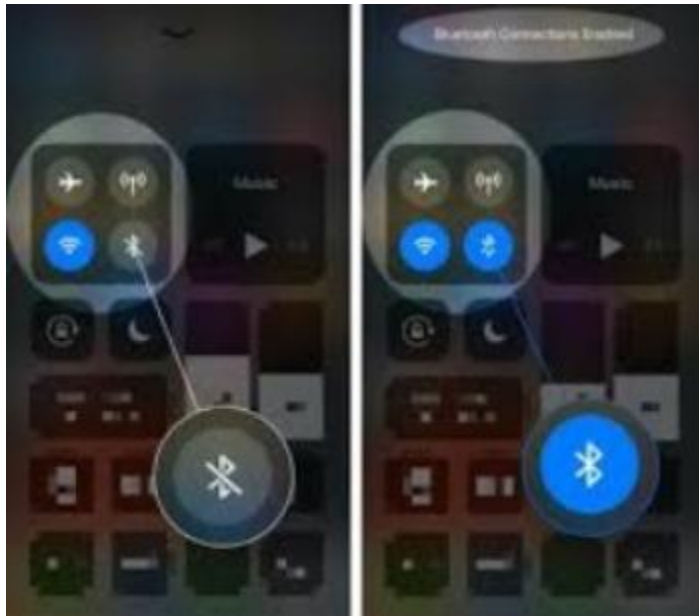
Bluetooth

Several technologies on your iPhone, including Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and cellular data, are made to continually check for a signal. Continual checking requires power, which comes from your device battery.

It makes sense, then, that turning these different wireless features off when you don't need them can help your battery last a little longer. When using BlindSquare outdoors only, you can disable Bluetooth to increase your battery. Remember to enable Bluetooth again when you are in the range of BlindSquare beacons (BPS).

In the same manner; if you are not using Wi-Fi, it is beneficial to your device's battery life to disable Wi-Fi on the control center until you will require it again.

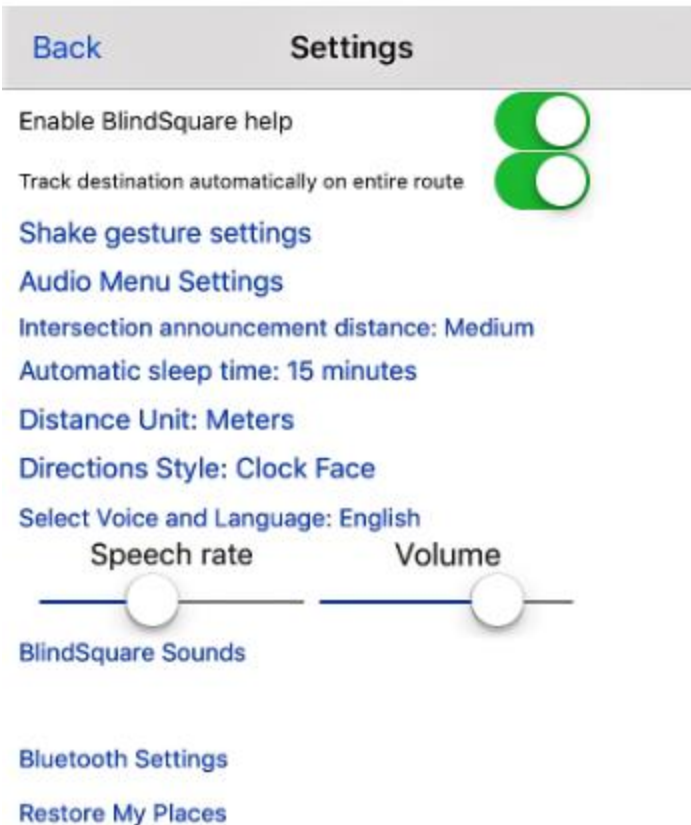
Note: If you only require BlindSquare to use BPS and/or scan QR codes, Wi-Fi or data is not required to receive messaging. It is best, however, to open the app with data or a Wi-Fi connection to receive the most up to date information from the cloud. Once you have opened the app, you will no longer require a connection to access the customized messaging associated with BlindSquare beacons and QR codes.



Settings

The Settings screen offers several customization options. Below are all the headings listed in this section. In Voiceover mode you will hear them in this order:

- Enable BlindSquare Help
- Track Destination Automatically on Entire Route
- Shake Gesture Settings
- Audio Menu Settings
- Intersection Announcement Distance
- Automatic Sleep Time
- Distance Unit
- Direction Style
- Select Voice and Language
- Speech Rate
- Volume
- BlindSquare Sounds
- Bluetooth Settings



Let's take a look at four settings that are most important for you to become familiar with.

Shake Gesture Settings

This button will open a screen where you can select several options for the shake gesture.

When you shake your device, BlindSquare can search your current address, check you into the nearest Foursquare place, or announce the current values on the pedometer. Activate the options for the actions you want BlindSquare to perform when you shake your device.

Shake to Search Address

If you activate this setting, BlindSquare will announce your current address, the direction you are heading in and the closest intersection. This is the same information you can obtain by going to Tools, Your Location, but shaking your phone might be a quicker method to hear this information when you are on the go.

Shake to Check in to a Place

If you activate this feature, you can check in to Foursquare places near you by shaking your phone. Shake a second time to confirm your check-in.

Shake to Read Pedometer

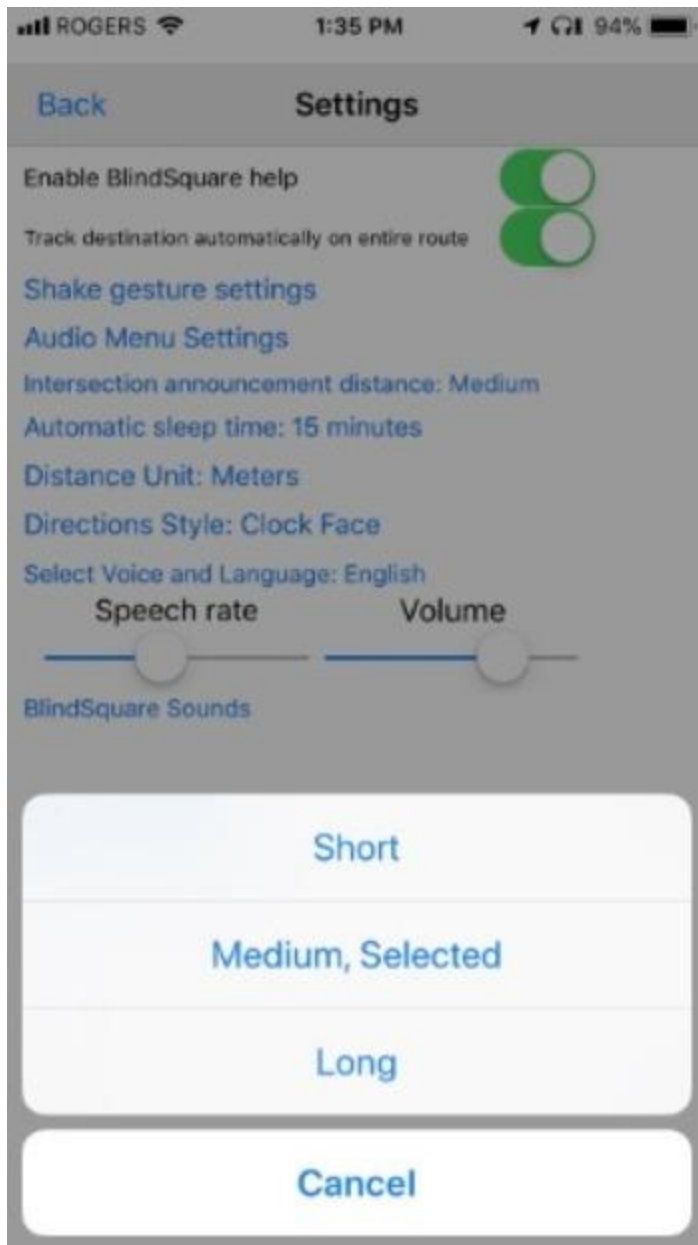
If you shake your device while this setting is active, BlindSquare will announce the distance you have covered so far and the time you have travelled. Since BlindSquare can recognize if you are walking or riding in a vehicle, it will only count the distance you have covered by foot.

Shake to Hear Public Transport Stops

If this setting is active when you request location information by shaking your device, BlindSquare will announce the nearest public transport stop and the lines that are soon going to leave there.

Intersection Announcement Distance

When BlindSquare announces your distance to an intersection, it uses the centre of the intersection as a reference point. This means that the width of the street also determines how soon you hear the BlindSquare intersection announcement before you reach the curb. If you live in an area where the streets are narrow, you may find that BlindSquare announces intersections too early, whereas, in an area where streets are particularly wide, intersections may be announced too late. If the default **medium** setting of this option does not work to your satisfaction, try using the **long** setting if streets in your area are wide or **short** if streets are very narrow.



Automatic Sleep Time

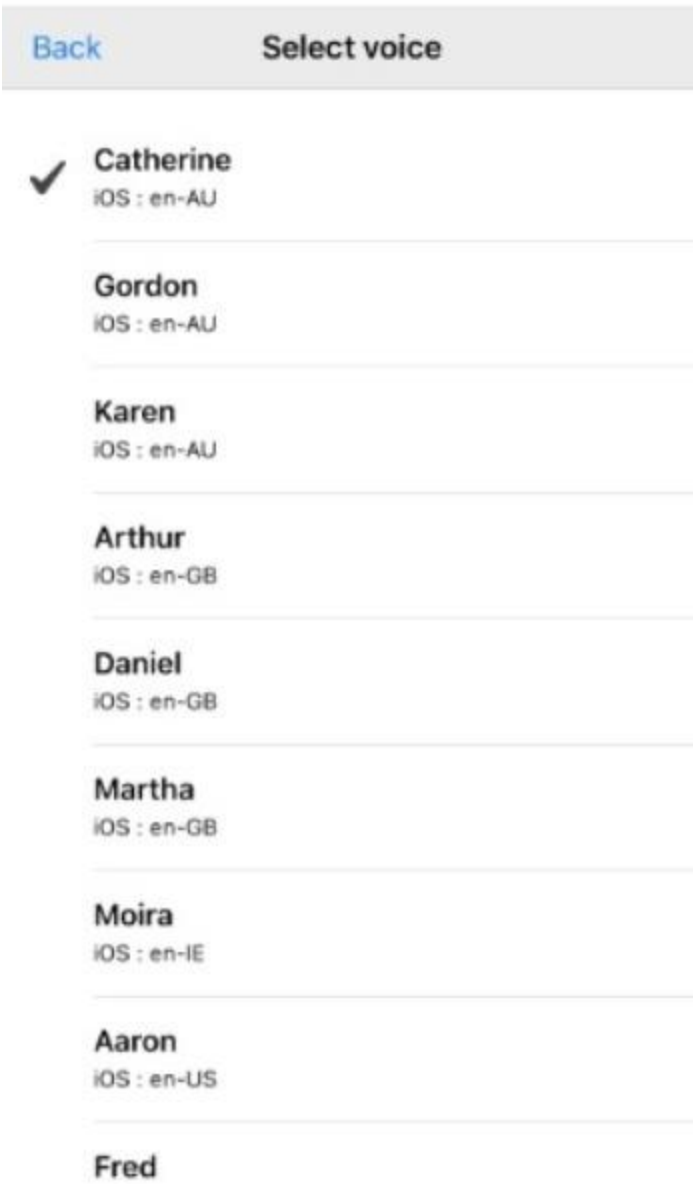
BlindSquare can recognize when your location does not change and if running in the background, will send BlindSquare into Sleep Mode after a specified period of time ranging from five to 90 minutes. You can also set BlindSquare not to activate Sleep Mode automatically. Double-tap the Automatic Sleep Time button and select the desired option from the menu.

Select Voice and Language

The next button is called Select Language. When you double-tap on it, you will see a screen listing all of the languages BlindSquare currently supports. As you flick through the screen, you will hear the name of each language, if it is selected, the default voice for the language, and how many voices there are available for it. If you want to select another language, just double-tap the one you want. You will then be presented with the list of voices available for that language. For most languages supported by BlindSquare, both iOS and Acapela voices are available. The iOS voices are preinstalled on your device. The Acapela voices are third-party voices that are downloaded onto your device if you select them. Double-tapping a voice selects it and plays a short voice clip for you to listen to.

Want Another Voice?

If you prefer another voice, just double-tap it and the previous voice will not be activated. When you have selected your new voice and/or language, use either the Back button at the top left of the screen or perform the scrub gesture until you are back on the main screen. If your selected voice is an Acapela voice, BlindSquare will now inform you that an additional voice will have to be downloaded onto your device. If you are not connected to a Wi-Fi network, it will ask you if you would like to use your cellular phone network for the download. If you agree, the voice will be downloaded. If you disagree, you will be asked again when you are connected to a Wi-Fi network. When the download has started, you will see a screen informing you about the progress. Once the voice download has completed, BlindSquare will speak using the new voice.

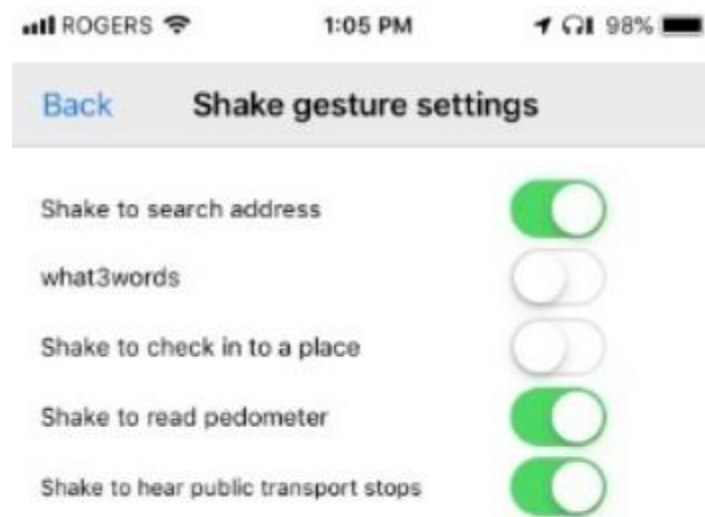


Restore My Places

It is recommended that you enable the help option on this screen. BlindSquare uses VoiceOver hints to provide context-sensitive help for all buttons. For this feature to work, the VoiceOver Hints feature has to be enabled in your device's VoiceOver settings. If you want to check whether it is active, go to your device settings, General, Accessibility, VoiceOver. Using the VoiceOver hints, BlindSquare can speak a short description of each button's functionality when you touch it.

When you have used BlindSquare for some time, you may no longer need this help and can disable it using the BlindSquare Help setting. This means that VoiceOver hints will

remain active in all of the other applications you use, but in BlindSquare itself context-sensitive help will not be spoken anymore.



Simulation Mode

Using the Simulation Mode feature is a great way to gain familiarity with the app and how information is relayed without having to leave home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAA1qzuK2qk#action=share>


When you activate the Simulation button on a Place Summary screen, the place you are viewing will be simulated by BlindSquare. This means that BlindSquare will behave as if you really were at this place. When you do a category search, the distance to the places you find will be the distance between your simulated place and the places displayed in your search results, not the distance between your real location and your search results. You can also use the Look Around feature to learn more about the environment of your simulated place. The simulation feature can be very useful when you plan a trip. You can check out interesting POI near your hotel before you travel. If you want to go to a specific destination, you can enter its address in the Search and simulate its location. Then you can perform a category search for Travel & Transport to find out what public transport is available near your destination. Once you know the name of the stops nearby, you can use another app to find out which bus service you can use to go there.

If you simulate a location and find a place in the vicinity of your simulated location that you would like to go to, you can activate BlindSquare's Plan A Route feature for the destination near your simulated location. If you select either Apple Maps or Google

Maps from the Plan A Route menu, your simulated location will be entered as your starting point and the venue in its vicinity will be recognized as the destination. This way you can easily look at a route in Apple Maps or Google Maps before you travel, without having to enter the address data into these GPS apps. Please note that some of the other third-party navigation apps supported by BlindSquare will not assume your simulated location but your actual location as the start of the route.

Let's Try It


Simulation Mode

Open the BlindSquare app and select the **Search**  button. When Voiceover is active, swipe right once then double tap to select.

In the text field type **Delisle Court, Toronto**. Slide your finger down to the lower right corner of the keyboard until "search" is spoken and double tap to select **Search Button**. When the results page loads, swipe right to begin hearing the list of results. Select "Delisle court, Toronto, Shopping mall" by double tapping. When the location page loads, swipe right repeatedly until "simulate this location" is spoken, after "show on map". Double tap to select.

Or, after the location page loads, locate "simulation this location" by finding the bottom left corner of the screen and slowly moving your finger up. When "simulate this location" is spoken, double tap to select.

Around Me

After Simulation mode has loaded, swipe right until "**Tools button**"  is spoken after "add place". Double tap to select. After the tools menu loads, swipe right until "**Around Me**" is spoken, after "your location". Double tap to select. Listen to hear what is located nearby.

8. Bottom of Form

Bottom of Form

