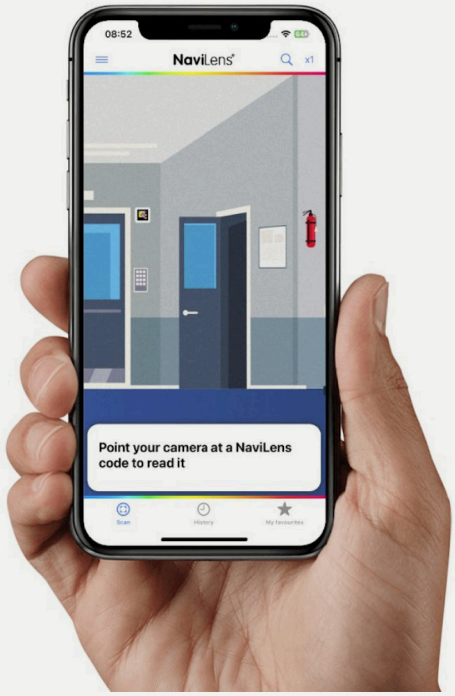
NaviLens App User Manual

Every screen and every setting of the NaviLens app, explained step by step.

Edition: February 2025
For NaviLens users



What is NaviLens?

NaviLens is a new system of intelligent digital codes that help make spaces more accessible. It consists of color codes similar to QR codes, but with technical characteristics that allow them to be read in conditions no other code can handle.

NaviLens codes help users obtain useful information (such as the lines that serve a stop, next departure times, stop descriptions or service incidents) in the format and language best suited to each user, improving the accessibility of any environment or service and the experience of using it.

NaviLens® | DECODE THE WORLD©

Table of Contents

How to Use NaviLens (Quick Guide) 3

Minimum Requirements for Installing NaviLens 4

Basic Information to Start Using NaviLens 4

NaviLens Settings (Advanced Guide) 5

User Guide 6

Main Screen 7

Main Menu 8

Settings 9

Location Mode 10

Reading Options 11

360° Vision 12

- 3D sound algorithm 13

NaviLens 360° Vision Wayfinding 14

- Record a new route 14
- Best practices for recording a NaviLens 360° route 15
- Record the route to the destination and stop recording 16
- Name the route 17
- Play a route 18
- Delete a route 21

Energy Mode 22

Flash Mode 23

Measuring System 24

Hands-Free 25

Speech Synthesis 26

Tactile Paving Guide 27

Siri Shortcuts (iPhone Only) 28

Request NaviLens Codes 29

NaviLens Friends & Family 30

Problems or Suggestions? 31

Do You Like NaviLens? 32

Help 32

Terms and Conditions 33

About 34

Personal Use Codes 35

Sharing Notes with NaviLens Friends & Family 35

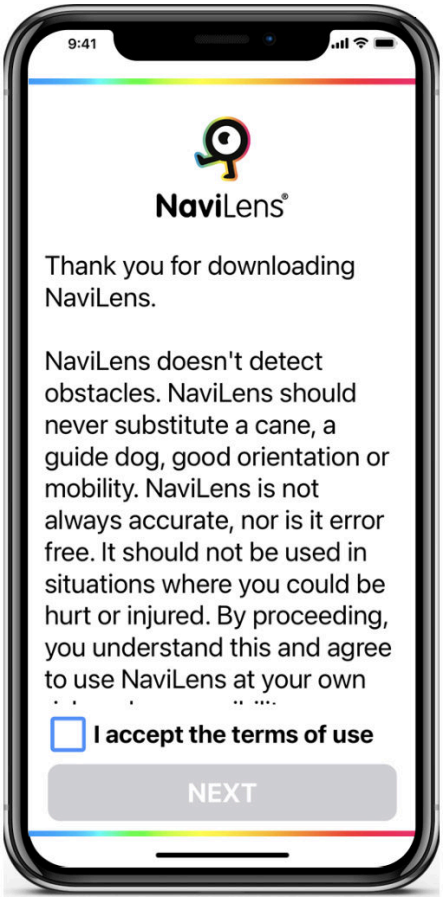
How to Use NaviLens (Quick Guide)

1. Install the free NaviLens app:

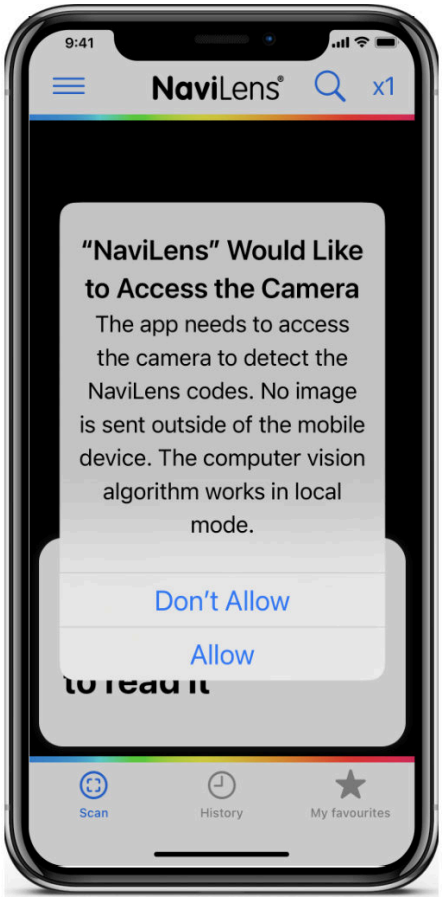
Download on the App Store

Get it on Google Play

2. Open the app, allow camera access and accept the terms of use.



Terms and conditions screen



Camera access screen

Minimum Requirements for Installing NaviLens

NaviLens for Android: Android 7.0 or higher

NaviLens for iOS: iOS 13 or higher

Basic Information to Start Using NaviLens

When you open the app, your phone's camera turns on so you can start exploring your surroundings right away. Just point the camera where you think there might be NaviLens codes. They can be anywhere: on walls or on the ground, marking routes or signs.

When your phone picks up a code, you'll hear a "click." If the sound repeats, congratulations! It means you've found several codes. NaviLens is smart and will tell you how far each code is from you.

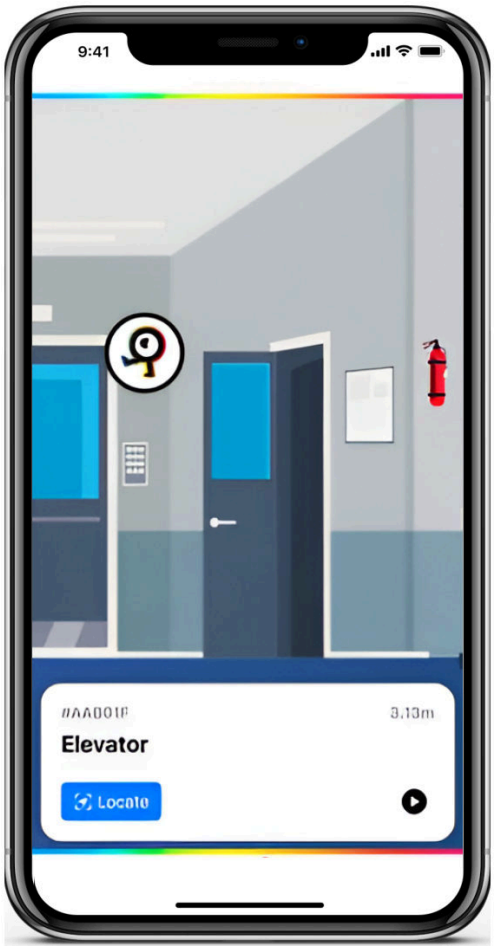
But that's not all: it will also read aloud the information each code holds. That can be anything from details about where you are to directions to a destination. If there is more than one code within reach, the app will tell you how many codes it sees.

Once you know what the code says, NaviLens stays with you. It guides you step by step to your destination, updating the distance as you move. And if you come across a special code, like the ones at bus stops, NaviLens switches to its 360° Vision mode. This feature immerses you in an augmented reality experience that makes finding your way easier and more interactive.

In short, NaviLens is the perfect companion for exploring and getting around in an innovative and accessible way. Just open the app and look around: you'll listen, learn and follow the directions NaviLens gives you, smoothly and easily.

NaviLens Settings (Advanced Guide)

NaviLens lets you configure many options about how the app behaves, so you can adapt it to your needs. You can open these settings from the app menu.



Main screen: code scanning

User Guide

The NaviLens interface has a central screen where detected codes appear and a menu of buttons at the bottom. With a screen reader, you can interact with the codes by double-tapping them.

NaviLens codes are detected with your phone's camera. Make sure the camera faces outward, in the direction where the codes are likely to be (walls, floor, at height, and so on).

When the camera detects a code, you'll hear a "click" telling you there is a NaviLens code marking something. The app starts reading the code automatically and tells you about that item.

You can stop the reading with a "shake" gesture: move the phone quickly from side to side and up and down.

After reading the code's information, NaviLens gives you voice instructions (right, left, forward, back, up, and so on) to help you reach the marked item.

If several codes are detected, the app says which codes the camera sees and how far each one is from your phone, and then reads the code closest to the center of the camera view.

If the camera detects a "magnet" code at a bus stop, the app automatically switches to 360° Vision mode and guides you to the stop's code with sounds, voice instructions and vibration. 360° mode keeps telling you where the code is even when the camera can no longer see it.

Video tutorial

You can learn more about how NaviLens works in this video:



NaviLens tutorial on YouTube

Main Screen

The NaviLens main screen shows the detected codes, along with buttons for different options.

There are three buttons at the top:

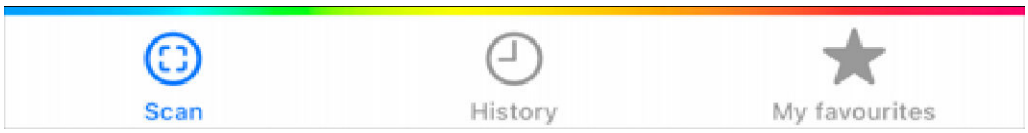
- **Main menu:** opens the main menu screen.
- **Filter:** filters codes by letters or words.
- **Zoom:** zooms the camera in or out.



Buttons at the top of the main screen

And three more at the bottom:

- **Scan:** opens the code scanning screen.
- **History:** shows the codes you have already read.
- **Favorites:** shows your favorite codes.

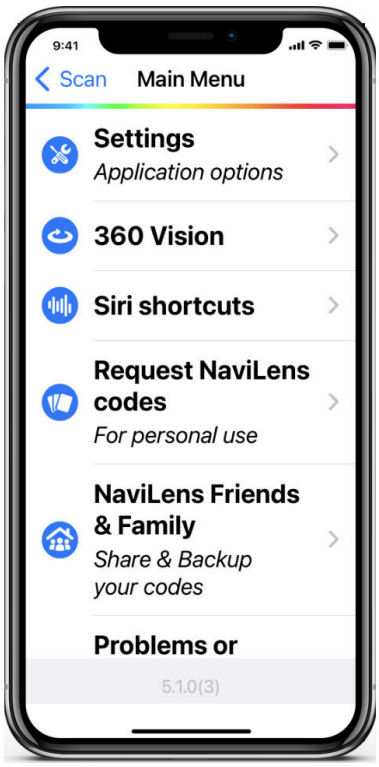


Buttons at the bottom of the main screen

Main Menu

The main menu gives you access to all the settings and the other features of the app:

- **Settings:** all the app settings.
- **360° Vision:** opens NaviLens 360° Vision.
- **Siri Shortcuts:** create your own quick actions with Siri (iPhone).
- **Request NaviLens codes:** order codes for personal use.
- **NaviLens Friends & Family:** share and back up your codes.
- **Problems or suggestions?:** contact NaviLens.
- **Write a review:** rate the app in the app store.
- **Help:** a short user guide to the app.
- **Terms and conditions:** the NaviLens terms of use.
- **What's new:** what's new in the latest version.
- **About:** information about the app.

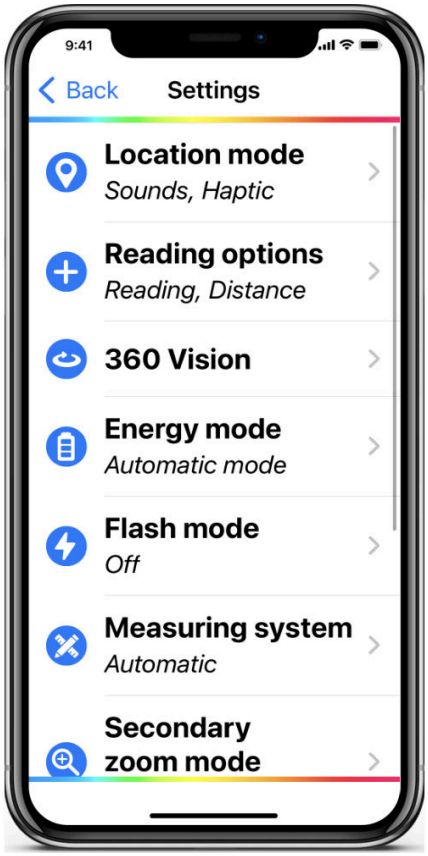


Main menu

Settings

In Settings you can change how the app behaves to suit your preferences. These are the options:

- **Location mode:** how the app guides you to the codes.
- **Reading options:** what the app does when it detects a code.
- **360° Vision:** settings for 360° Vision mode.
- **Energy mode:** power settings.
- **Flash mode:** how the flash behaves.
- **Measuring system:** the units used for distances.
- **Hands-free:** hands-free mode.
- **Speech synthesis:** how fast the app speaks.
- **Tactile paving guide:** guidance along tactile paving.



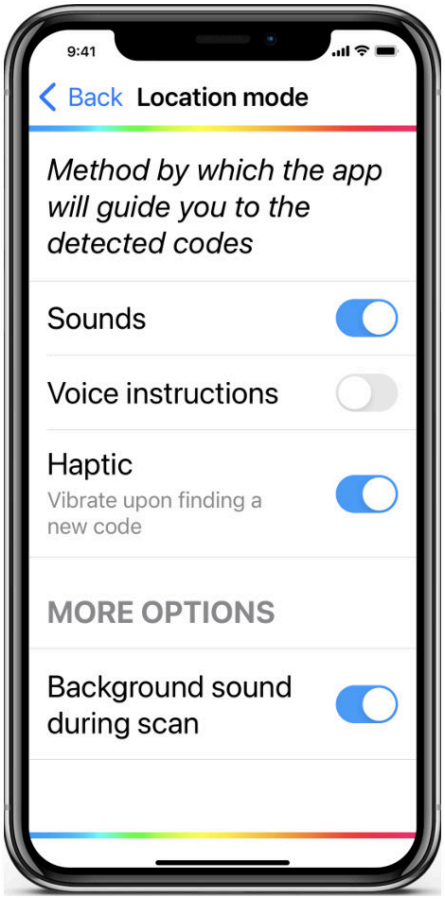
Settings menu

Location Mode

Choose how NaviLens gives you information while it guides you. These are the options:

- **Sounds:** the app tells you where the code is with three-dimensional, panned sounds.
- **Voice instructions:** the app tells you where the code is with spoken instructions instead of sounds (good for beginners, but slower).
- **Haptic:** the phone vibrates when it detects a code.
- **Background sound during scan:** plays a background sound on the code scanning screen.

You can combine all four options.



Location mode

Reading Options

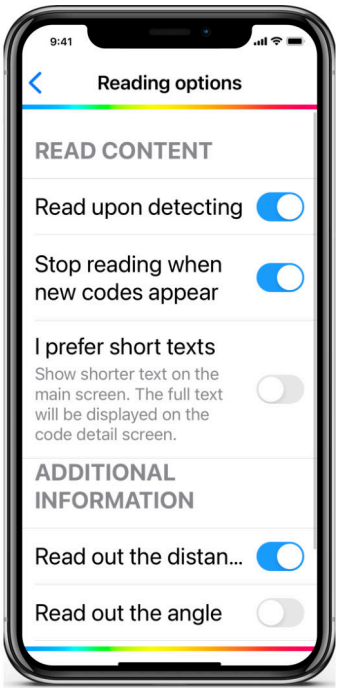
Choose how NaviLens reads out the information in the codes. There are two groups of options: what the app does when it reads a code's content, and what extra information it gives you besides the content.

Read content

- **Read upon detection:** reads the code's content as soon as it is detected, without needing to shake the phone.
- **Interrupt speech with new codes:** when this is on, the app stops reading a code's content as soon as it detects other codes. When it is off, the app finishes reading the code even if it detects others in the meantime.
- **Prefer short texts:** when this is on, the app reads the code's short text if one has been set up in the management panel. Tap the code to open its details and hear the normal text. You can also hear the full text by shaking the phone when the code is detected.

Additional information

- **Announce distance:** tells you how far the code is from your phone when it reads it.
- **Announce angle:** sound signals tell you the angle of the code relative to your phone, and the app says how far it is tilted.
- **Announce time since last read:** tells you how long ago the code was detected.



Reading options

360° Vision

Here you configure how NaviLens 360° Vision mode works. There are several sections:

Magnet

When Magnet is on, the app switches to 360° Vision mode automatically as soon as it detects a code set up as a magnet. When it is off, it only switches to 360° mode if you do it yourself.

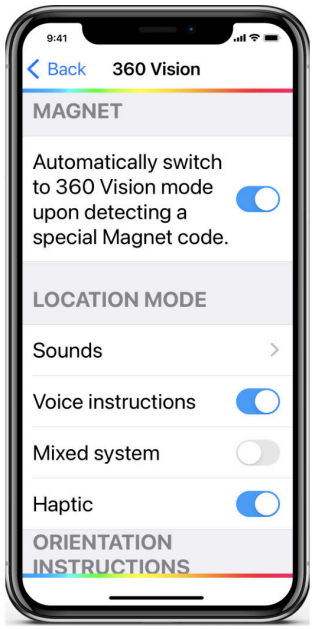
Location mode

- **Sounds:** three-dimensional, panned sounds tell you where the code is: whether it is centered or which side it is on.
- **Voice instructions:** spoken instructions tell you where the code is.
- **Haptic:** the phone vibrates when it detects the code, so you can feel when the code is in view.

You can combine all three options.

Orientation instructions

- **Clock-face directions:** tells you where the code is using clock positions (“at your two o’clock,” “at your nine o’clock”). Routes only.
- **Simplified instructions:** tells you where the code is with simple directions (“to your left,” “to your right”).



360° Vision

3D sound algorithm

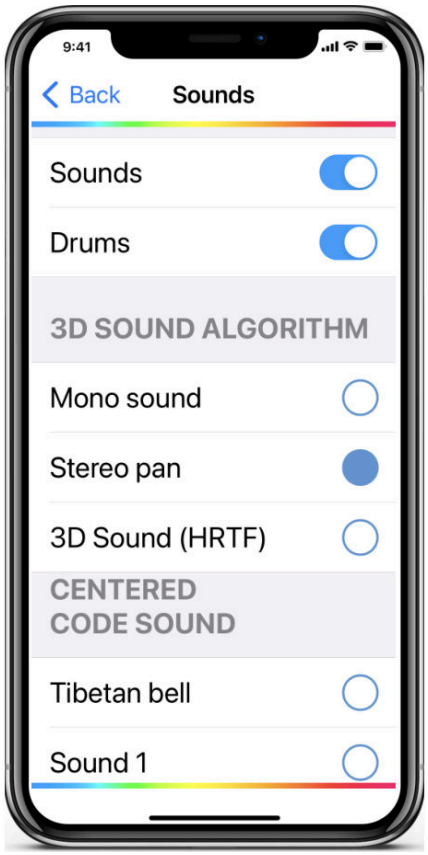
If you use sounds to locate codes, choose how you want to hear the 3D sound:

- **Mono sound:** a single sound channel.
- **Stereo pan:** two sound channels.
- **3D sound (HRTF):** positional 3D audio.

Centered code sound

If you use sounds to locate codes, choose the sound that tells you the code is centered. There are four options:

- **Tibetan bell:** the sound of a bell.
- **Sound 1:** a sonar sound.
- **Sound 2:** a sonar sound.
- **Sound 3:** a sonar sound.



Sounds

NaviLens 360° Vision Wayfinding

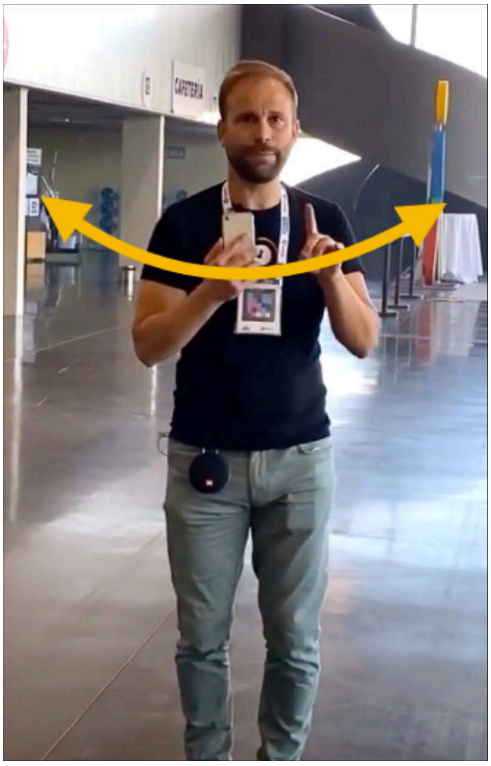
Record a new route

- Start by pointing your phone at a NaviLens code to use the “Record a new route” feature. This gets the system ready to recognize and record a new route.
- Tap the button to confirm that you want to start recording. As you do, move your phone closer to the NaviLens code, so the code is scanned correctly and recognized as the starting point of your route.
- Keep in mind that anyone who wants to play and follow the recorded route has to be physically near this starting point. Being close makes the guidance accurate and makes the route easier to follow later.



Best practices for recording a NaviLens 360° route

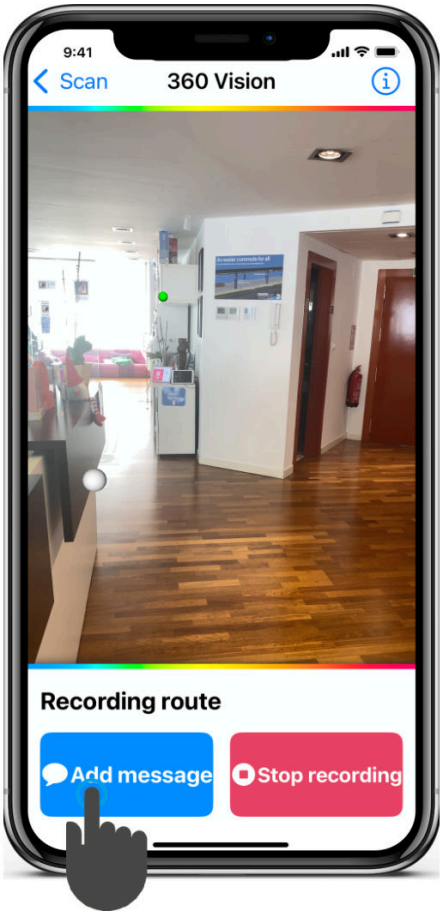
- Hold your phone close to your chest with the camera facing outward. This helps the camera capture a stable, complete view of your surroundings as you move.
- Walk the route at a moderate pace. Don’t rush, so the camera can capture all the details it needs; walking too slowly can also make the recording uneven.
- As you walk, try to capture the details of your surroundings with the camera. Sweep your phone 180 degrees to cover the whole area around you. This records a complete, detailed view of the route.
- The more visual references you capture, the better the recorded route will be. Focus on landmarks, signs and other details that will help with finding the way later.

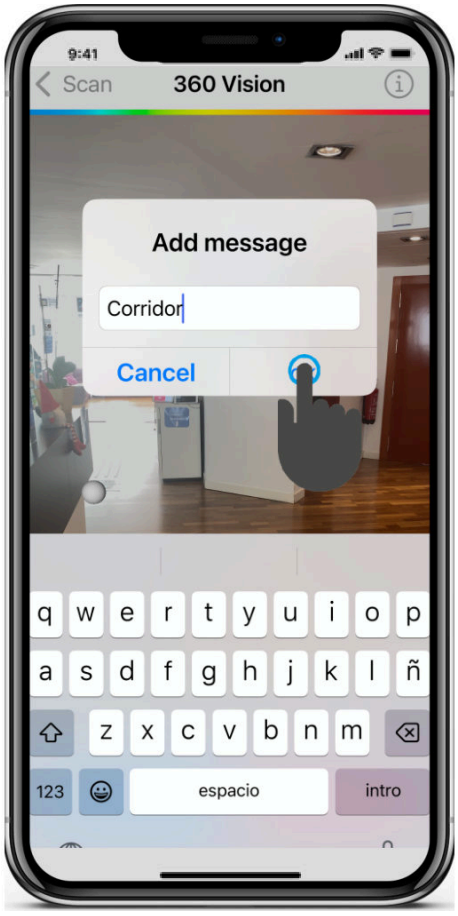


Record the route to the destination and stop recording

Start recording and walk toward your destination, making sure the camera captures all the relevant details along the way. When you reach the destination, tap “Stop recording” to finish.

You can add messages while you record. When someone follows the route you recorded, each message plays automatically when they reach that point.





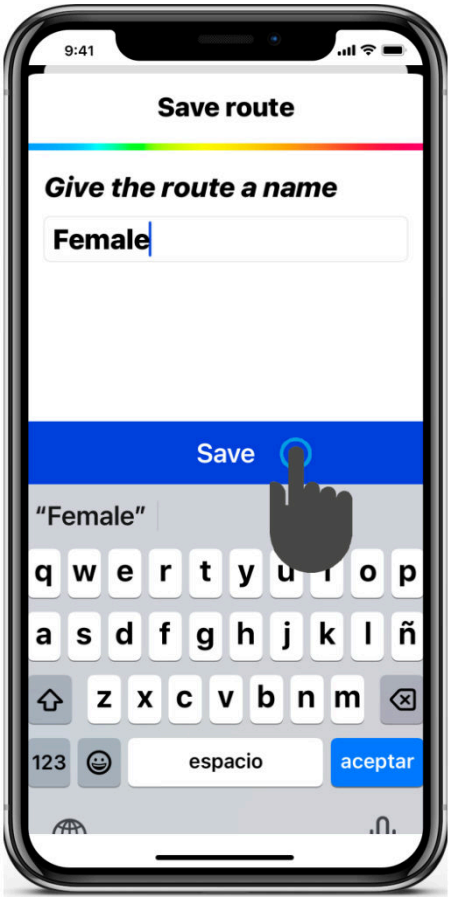
Name the route

When you finish recording, the app asks you to give the route a name. This step matters: the name is how you will identify and choose the route later.

Enter a clear, descriptive name for the route.

Once the route has a name, if you scan the same NaviLens code again you'll see that routes are available. Tap the button mentioned earlier to see the route you just named.

When you choose this route, wayfinding starts and guides you to the destination where you stopped recording. This makes it easy to get around using the recorded route.

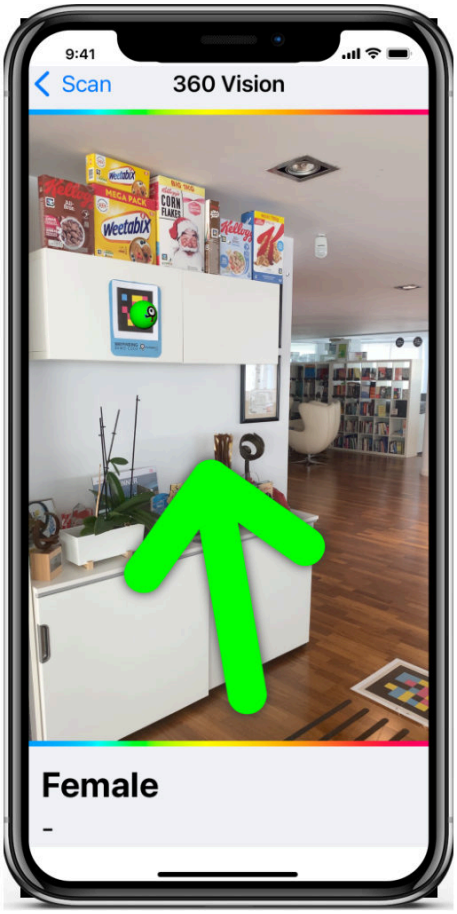


Play a route

1. **Point at a NaviLens code with recorded routes and choose the route.** If there is only one route, tap “Start route: [name].” If there is more than one, tap “Show routes” and choose the one you want.
2. **Download the route and follow the instructions.** Wait for the route to download. When it is ready, follow the steps the app gives you: point at the NaviLens code again and follow the voice instructions. NaviLens will guide you to the spot where the route was recorded so you can start.



3. **Recognizing the surroundings and route accuracy. Yellow arrow:** if NaviLens 360° does not recognize the surroundings, it relies only on the phone's sensors, which can make it less accurate. **Green arrow:** if it recognizes the surroundings, NaviLens 360° uses both the sensors and what the camera sees, so the route is very accurate.





4. As you follow the route, you'll see the points where messages were added. When you reach each one, the message recorded when the route was created plays.





5. **Audio cues.** Drums help guide you along the route, and a bell tells you where the next point of the route is.
6. **Arrival at the destination.** Congratulations, you have reached your destination!



Actions and sounds along the route:

NaviLens settings: 360 Vision

Orientation **sounds**

- **Sounds**. Constant 3D drums to help orientation.
- **Voice instructions**. Right, left indications when next point missed
- **Haptic.** Haptic vibration when next point focused.
- **Clockwise indications.** Next point orientation with clockwise references.
- **Simplified indications.** Next point orientation with left or right references.

(Click to listen and example)

Shake the phone to next step and route information

(Orientation, next checkpoint distance, distance to destination)

"At your eleven, two meter away, 23.5 meters to destination"

Delete a route

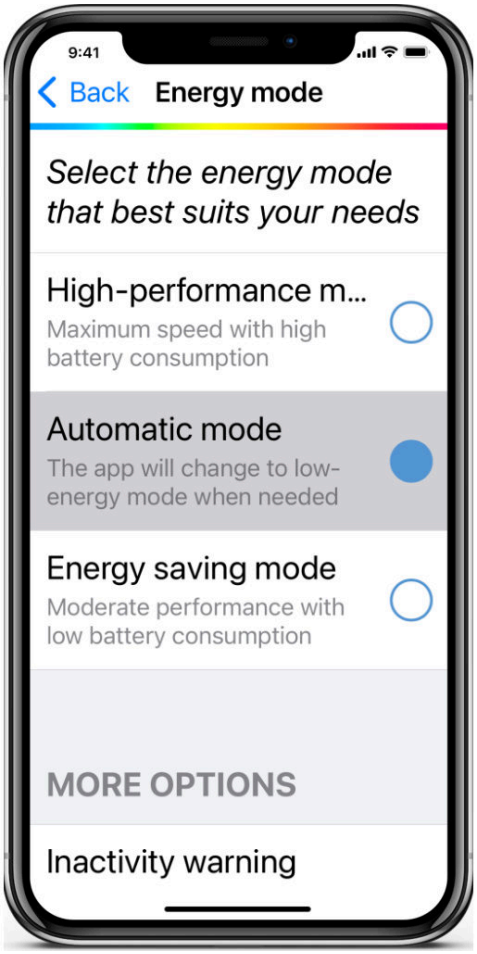
Only the route's owner can delete it.

- **If there is only one route:** tap the route and confirm with "Delete route."
- **If there are several routes:** tap "Show routes," choose the route and confirm with "Delete route."

Energy Mode

Configure how the app manages power. You can choose from these options:

- **High-performance mode:** maximum performance, with higher power consumption.
- **Automatic mode:** the app switches to power saving when it needs to.
- **Energy saving mode:** moderate performance with low power consumption.
- **Inactivity warning:** scanning stops when no NaviLens codes have been detected for a while.

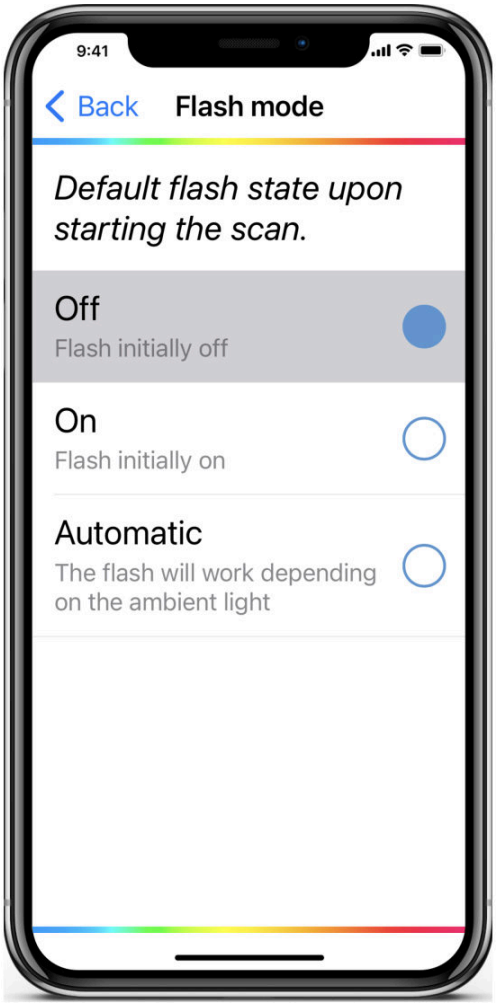


Energy mode

Flash Mode

Manage the flash. You can choose from:

- **Off:** the flash is off.
- **On:** the flash stays on.
- **Automatic:** the flash turns on by itself in low light.

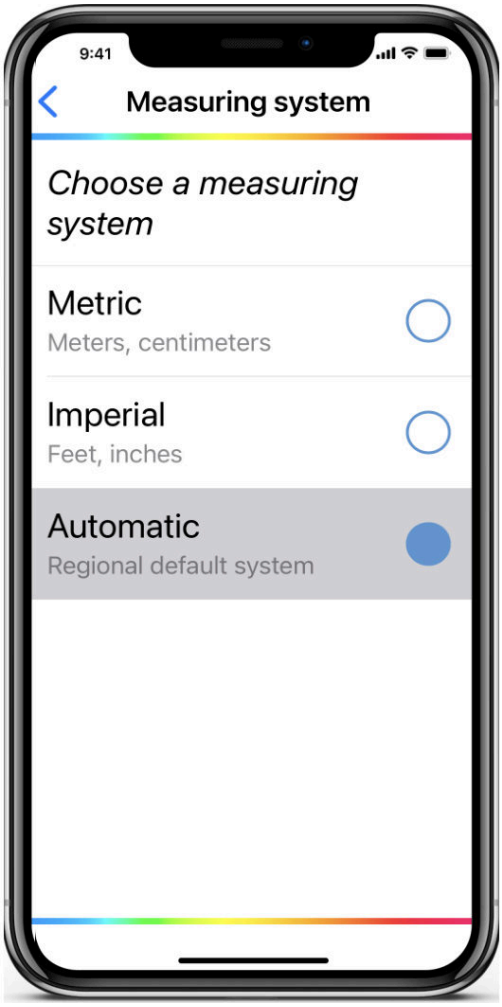


Flash mode

Measuring System

Choose how the app tells you the distance to a code:

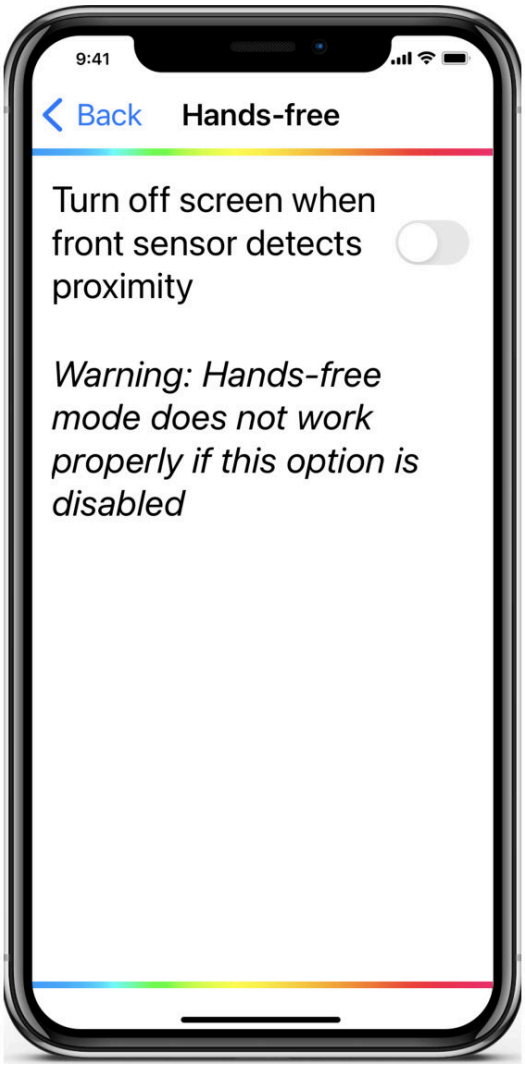
- **Metric:** distances are always given in meters or centimeters.
- **Imperial:** distances are always given in feet or inches.
- **Automatic:** the unit follows your phone's region settings.



Measuring system

Hands-Free

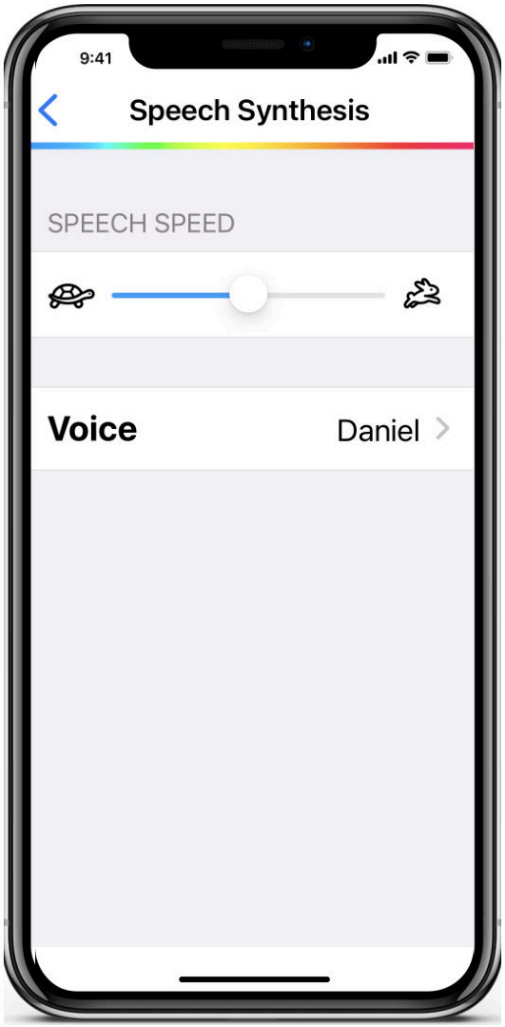
Choose whether the screen turns off when the front proximity sensor detects something close, or whether the screen always stays on.



Hands-free

Speech Synthesis

Set how fast the app speaks. This speed only applies when the screen reader is off.



Speech synthesis

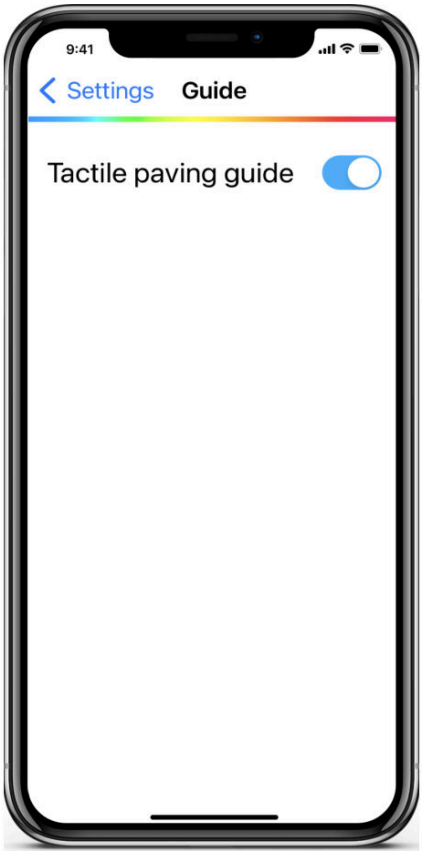
Tactile Paving Guide

In the NaviLens settings you can turn guidance along tactile paving at route intersections on or off.

Tactile paving uses raised lines on the ground that people who are blind or have low vision can follow along a defined, safe path.

When this option is on, NaviLens uses the tactile paving codes at intersections to give you extra directions while you navigate.

This is especially useful for better orientation and accuracy in areas with pedestrian traffic.

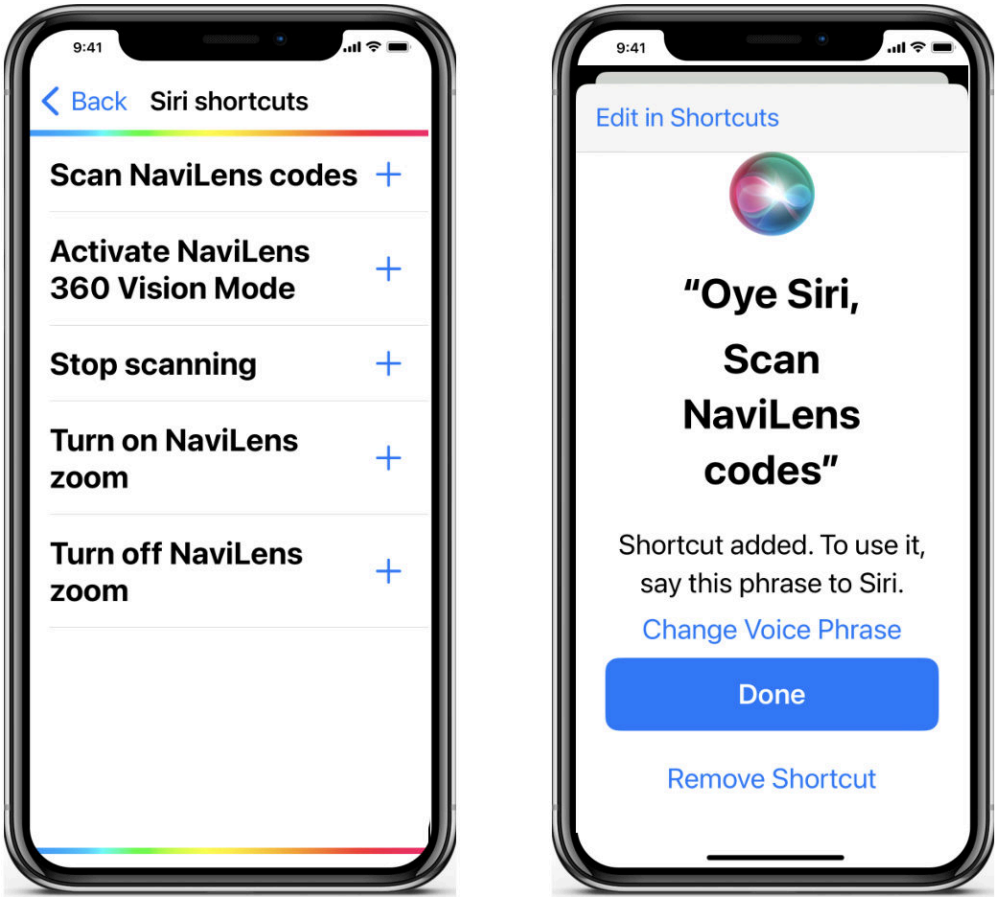


Tactile paving guide

Siri Shortcuts (iPhone Only)

Siri Shortcuts in NaviLens for iPhone give you a quick way to reach NaviLens features.

With Siri Shortcuts you can create your own commands and trigger them with your voice or from the home screen.

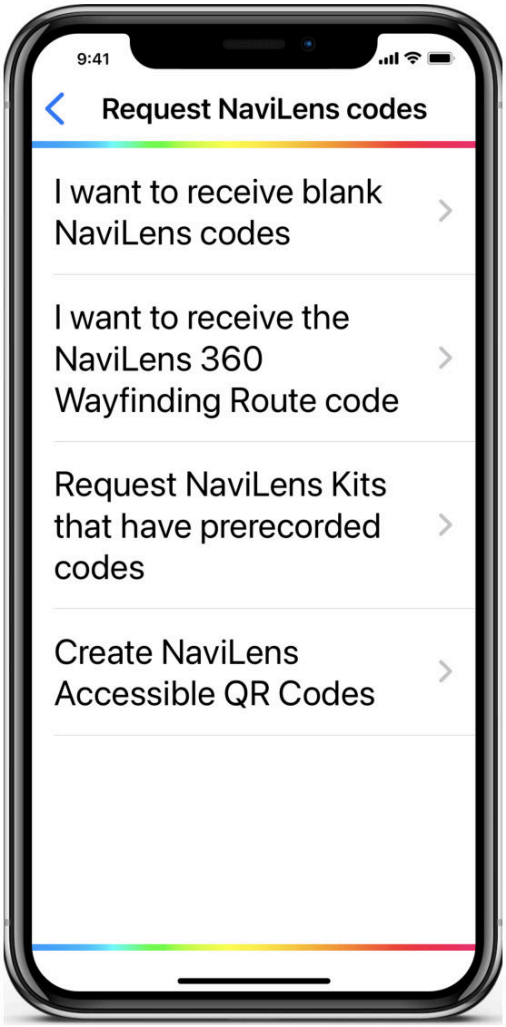


Siri Shortcuts

Request NaviLens Codes

Here you can ask us to send you a pack of codes, completely free of charge, to label things you use every day.

These are blank codes: you add the information you want from the app, for your personal use.



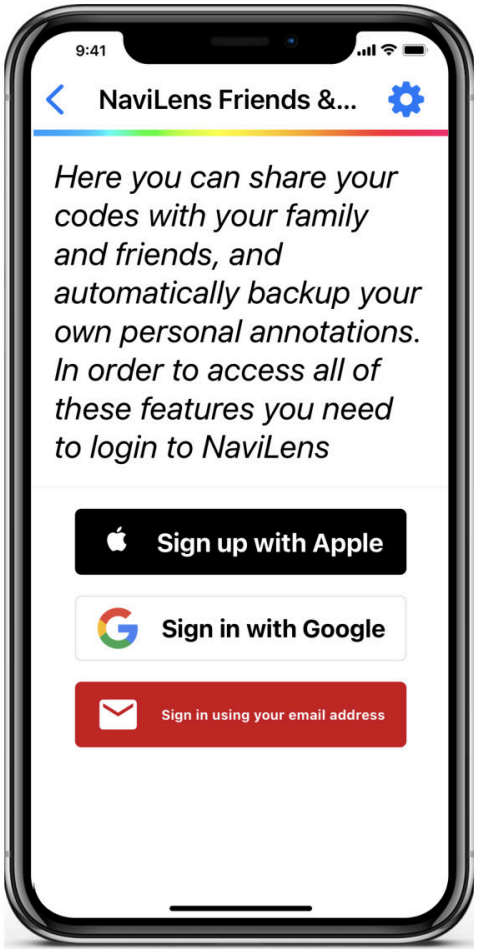
Request NaviLens codes

NaviLens Friends & Family

NaviLens Friends & Family lets you share your personal notes with other users, so you can work together and share information easily.

NaviLens Friends & Family also stores all your personal notes in the cloud, so they are backed up and available on any device you sign in on.

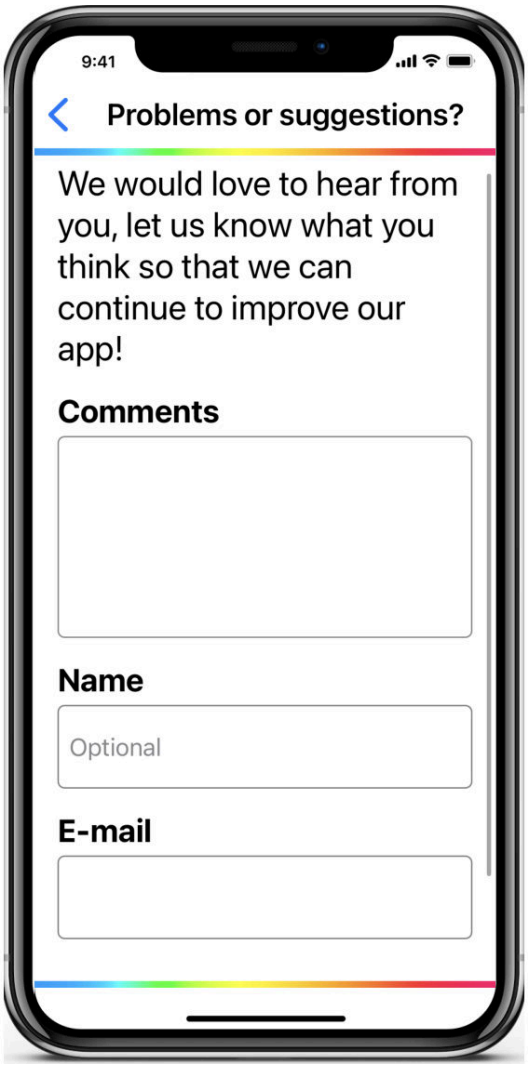
This feature makes it easy for NaviLens users to collaborate and share what they know.



NaviLens Friends & Family

Problems or Suggestions?

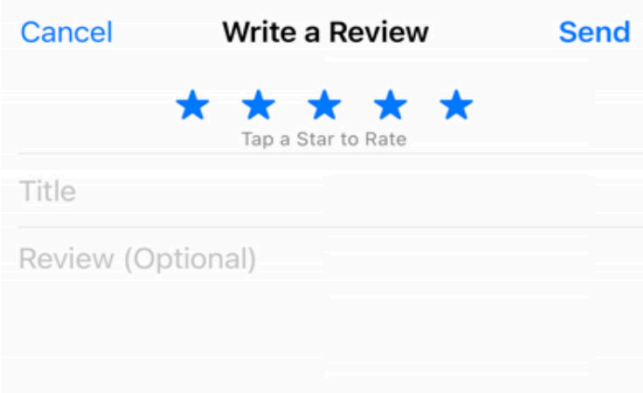
If you have a problem you want to tell us about or a suggestion to make, this option opens a contact form where you can send us your comments.



Problems or suggestions?

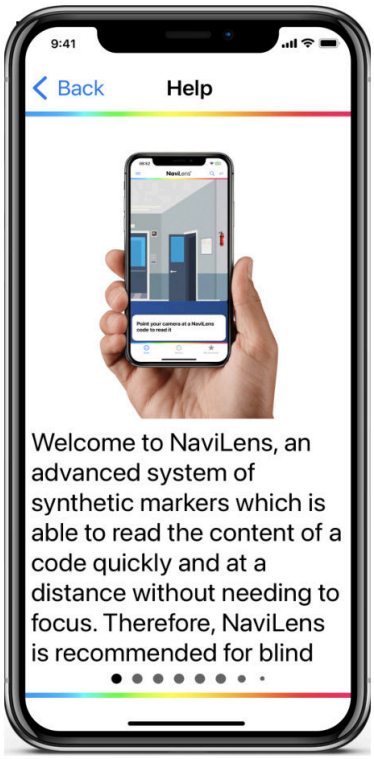
Do You Like NaviLens?

This option takes you to the app store, where you can write a review of NaviLens.



Help

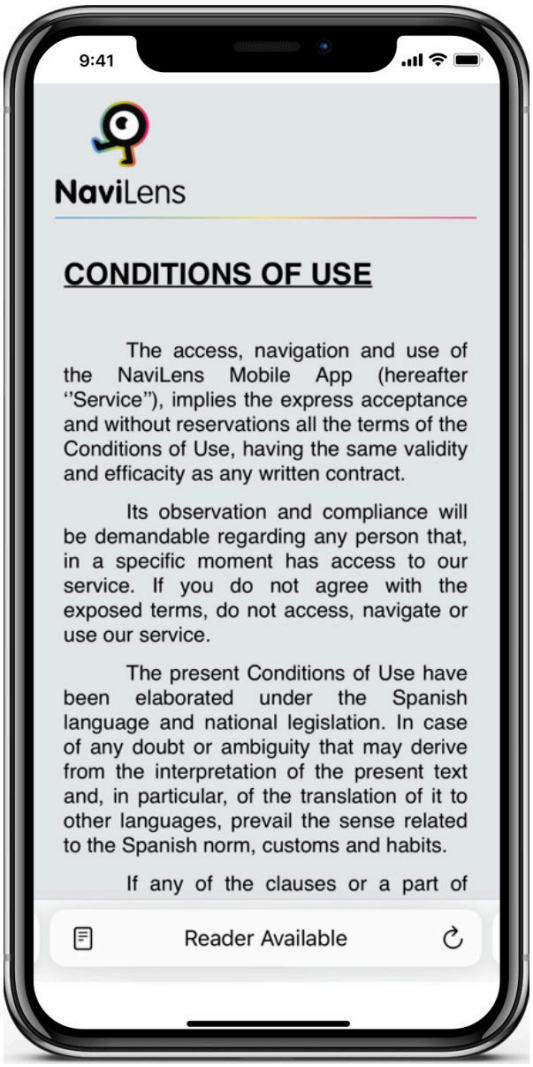
Here you'll find a short tutorial that explains how the app works, to give you a quick overview of how to use it.



Help

Terms and Conditions

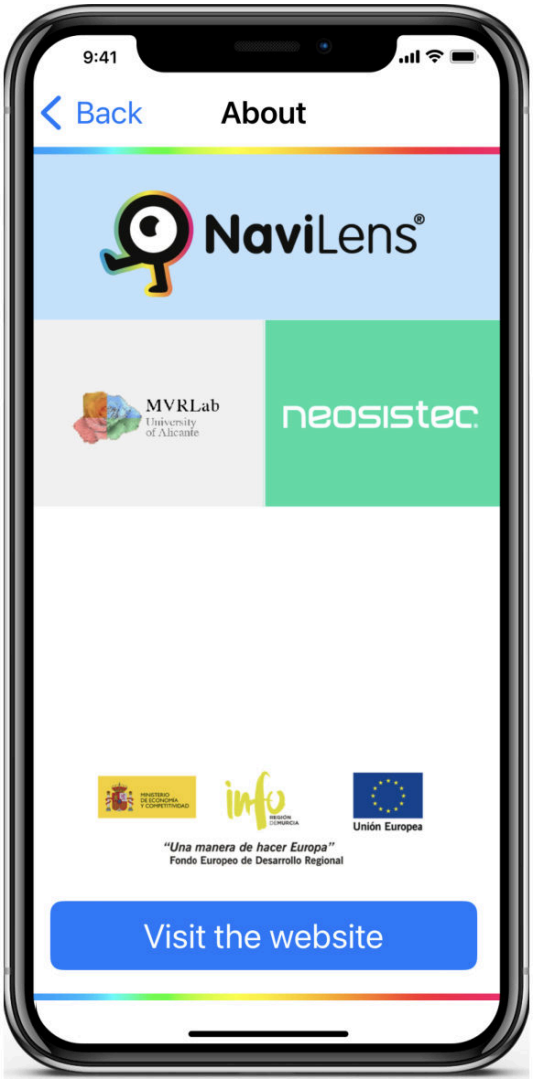
Here you can read the app's terms and conditions of use, which you must accept the first time you use it.



Conditions of use

About

This option shows information about NaviLens and the people who develop it.



About

Personal Use Codes

NaviLens has several handy features, including home or personal codes that help you find things at home or at work.

These blank codes can be customized with whatever information you want from the app. To get a free pack of color codes, go to “Request NaviLens codes” in the main menu and give your name and email address.

Once printed, you can stick the codes on all kinds of objects. To add information to a code: scan the code, select it on the screen, tap “Personal annotation” and write the text you want. Then confirm and close the code.

You can also add information to a code with the “Annotation” option in the code list.

Sharing Notes with NaviLens Friends & Family

NaviLens Friends & Family lets NaviLens users share the notes on their personal codes with other people and keep a cloud backup of all their notes.

To use NaviLens Friends & Family, go to the settings menu and select the option. Sign in with your email address, or with your Google account or Apple ID on iPhone, to share your codes with other users.

Once you are signed in, you can see your shared notes, the users you follow and your followers. You can have up to 5 followers and follow up to 5 users.

To share your notes, press “Share my annotations” and show the special NaviLens code that appears on your screen to the person you want to share with. They complete the process by scanning that code with the NaviLens app on their phone.

You can manage your followers and the users you follow from the NaviLens Friends & Family screen. To remove a follower, swipe left on them and tap “Delete.” To stop following someone, swipe left and select “Delete.”

You can also go straight to your personal notes in the “My annotations” section, where you can view and edit them.

NaviLens Friends & Family also has settings to adjust how it works: you can choose to show only your own notes, give your notes priority over those of the users you follow, and hide the date your notes were last updated.

If you want to stop using NaviLens Friends & Family, sign out from the main screen. You can keep a copy of your notes on your phone or delete them completely. When you sign out, you lose access to the NaviLens Friends & Family features and to shared notes.

When you sign in again, your personal notes sync with the cloud and keep your latest changes.

Need more help?

Watch the step-by-step video tutorials at navilens.com/en/resources/tutorials or write to us at hello@navilens.com.