

HOW TO CREATE A MULTI-CACHE ?

A guideline

I. What is a multi-cache ?

Adapted from <https://www.geocaching.com/blog/2015/06/how-to-find-a-multi-cache/>

a) definition and symbol

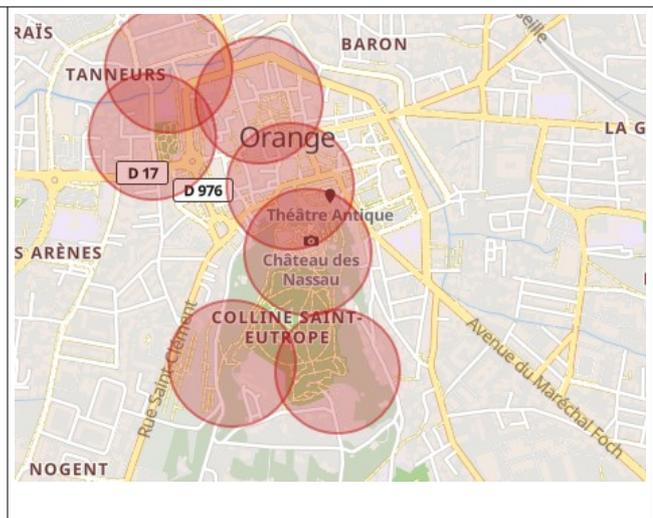
Multi-Caches involve two or more locations, with the final location being a physical container with a logbook inside.

There are many variations to this idea, but typically you'll visit at least two locations, or stages, to collect the information you'll need to find the physical geocache container at the last stage.

**Seattle's Central Park**
A cache by [cmloveland](#)  Message this owner Hidden : 02/18/2009
Difficulty: ★★★★★ Terrain: ★★★★★ Size:  (small)

The interest is that if the place you want to use is already full of existing physical caches, you can create another trail on top of that !

For example here in Orange, we didn't have much choice if we wanted to create a trail in the city center (the center of each 120m-ray is a box)

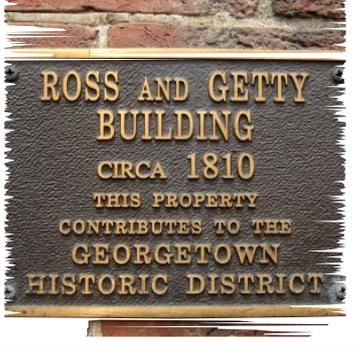


b) Finding a multi-cache

The best way to understand the ins and outs of creating a multi-cache is testing one !

The spot where the Multi-Cache is shown on the map is the first set of coordinates, or the first "stage" of the Multi-Cache. Rather than finding the geocache container at this spot, you'll have to figure out where the second stage or collect a piece of information that will help you find the final

location of the geocache. How this is accomplished will vary from geocache to geocache, but these are a few common ways it's done:

<p>The geocache owner may ask you to find a number, word, or other clue, which you'll need to write down before moving to the next stage.</p>		<p>Example: The second number on the plaque at this location is the 'X' in the final coordinates of the cache: N 47° 37.38X W 122° 19.197</p>
<p>You may find the coordinates for the next stage of the Multi-Cache hidden somewhere at the first stage.</p>		<p>Example: A sticker with the coordinates printed on it and hidden somewhere at this location.</p>
<p>The geocache owner may provide the incomplete coordinates for the second stage in the cache description. You might then be required to count something at the first stage to fill in the blanks.</p>		<p>Example: Count the number of flags in front of the UN building to find the 'X' in the set of coordinates for the next stage: N 45° 29.468X W 114° 23.1543</p>

Once you've collected the information required at the first stage, you can move on to the next stage. Enter the coordinates for the next stages into your GPS, or if you're using one of the [geocaching apps](#), use the app to add a waypoint to the geocache and navigate to that.

If the second set of coordinates is not the final location of the geocache, you'll again need to accomplish a task such as the ones described above.

Since a Multi-Cache has at least two stages, the second stage *could* be the final location of the geocache, where you'll find the physical cache container. If that's the case, you can sign the logbook!

II. How to create your own multi-cache ?

a) prep work :

You need first to decide how many steps there will be, and decide what is your first cache and what will be your final cache !

For a multi-cache, you can use VIRTUAL caches : you create a point with coordinates that will be your first step, it will show on the map but there will be no box ! In this case, the interest lies in observing your surroundings to answer the questions or pick out some numbers to fill in the coordinates for the next point.

The only cache which needs to be real is your final cache. So you need to check that the final cache can be placed and that there is no other caches around. (160 m rule)

Then you need to go on the sites and decide what you want people to look for. The information can be a number (as in the examples above) or an enigma with a multiple choice question, and you can use an external tool called certitude to check the answers of the geocachers, and give them the next point.

My advice is to start from the end (= the final cache) and go back to the beginning + have a pen and take some photos on site in order to write down the right coordinates and information on each step of the way + spoilers if necessary

- Then you need to write down the description and the enigmas of each of the steps on a separate paper. Do not create the geocache before you are 100 % sure that the description bears no mistake. Otherwise you will have to modify it in html (not practical)

b) The creation of the cache on the website

A – TYPE AND LOCATION

STEP 1 -click at the top on « geocaches and SUBMIT a NEW GEOCACHE (or play → hide a cache)

Your Geocaching Details

Your Geocaching Logs This Month (Max 15 Logs Shown)

show: No logs to filter.

View geocaches you [own](#) or [have found](#).

2017 April						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Your Geocaches Awaiting Publication ([Show Archived](#)) (None in the Queue)

[Submit a New Geocache](#)

STEP 2-Then you need to create the cache : click on continue or search by address if you need to

Hide A Geocache

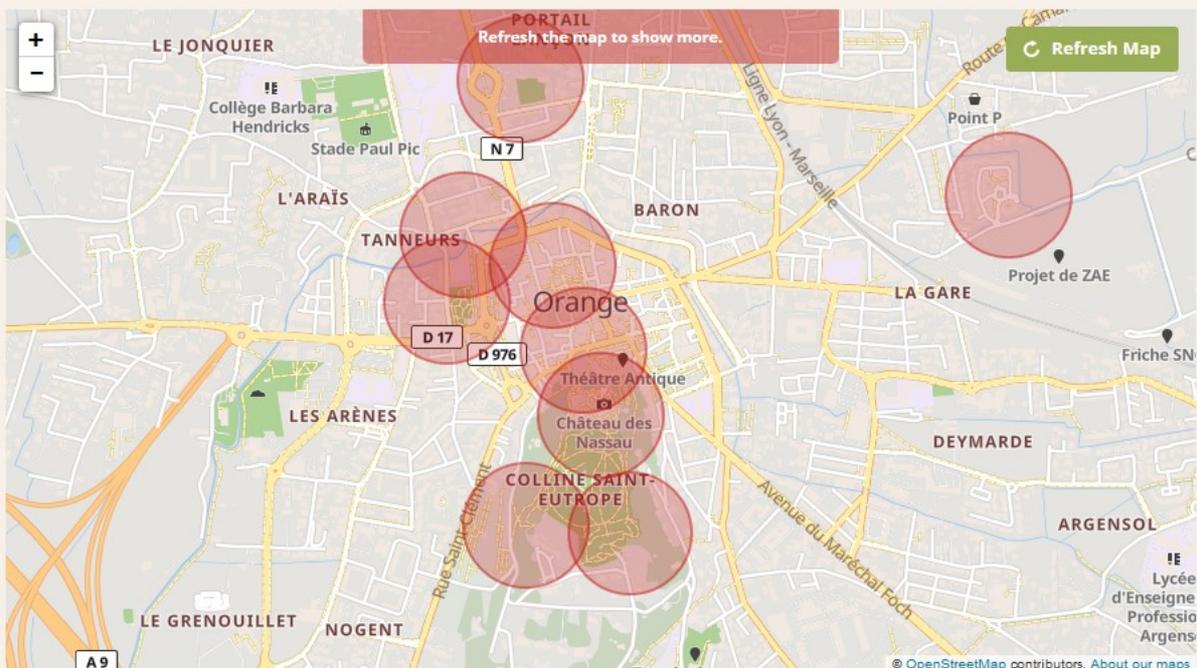
Search Locations

Check out potential geocache locations. Note: Before submitting your geocache, you will need to visit the location and [obtain accurate coordinates](#).

Already Know Your Hiding Spot?

If you've already visited the location, obtained exact coordinates and received land manager permission, you're all set to submit your geocache.

Geocaches should be a minimum of 528ft/161m away from each other. The map below displays visible locations that are already taken by existing geocaches. The map does not display hidden waypoints and some other potential obstacles to hiding a geocache. Your location must still be reviewed by a community volunteer after it is submitted.



STEP 3- You will have to select the type of cache and as you click on it, a menu with details and description will appear :

Multi-Cache Stages

Stages that have physical containers must be 528 ft/161m from physical stages in other geocaches, but may be closer to one another. Virtual stages can be located any distance from other geocaches. Note: Your geocache and waypoint locations will still have to be reviewed before they are published.

Stage 1 (Posted Coordinates)

Physical - You placed an actual item here.
 Virtual - You did not place a physical item at this location.

Coordinates [Learn about coordinate formats](#)

+ Add Stage

Final Stage

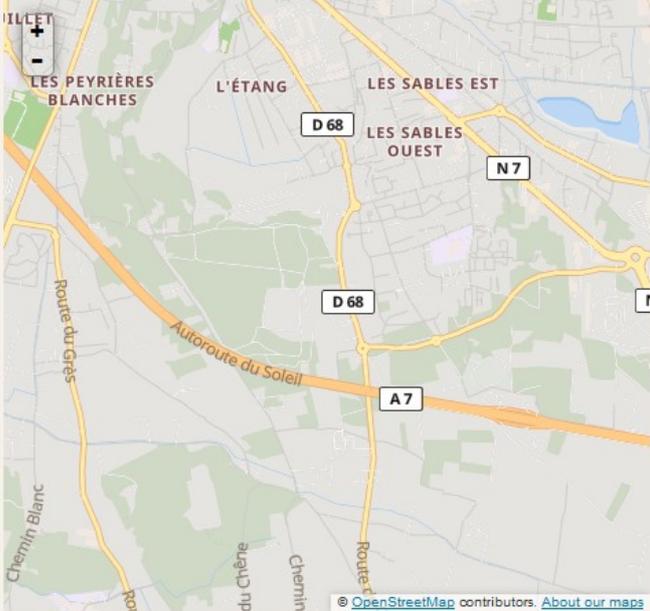
Coordinates

Description

Visibility

Hide Completely
Geocachers won't see this stage.

Continue



→ Note that for stage 1 you can create a physical or virtual cache. Only the final cache needs to be physical (=real)

→ enter the coordinates of your first and final cache (be careful with degrees minutes etc → google maps uses a different system, that's why we advise taking the coordinates on site)

EXEMPLE : (I am re-creating the history trail from Orange)

!! Make sure you click on « virtual cache » if your starting point isn't far from an existing cache, otherwise you will not be allowed to create the cache : (ex of error message)

Stage 1 (Posted Coordinates)

Physical - You placed an actual item here.
 Virtual - You did not place a physical item at this location.

Coordinates [Learn about coordinate formats](#)

N 44° 08.532 E 004° 48.300

That location is unavailable. Please select a location that's outside of a red circle.



Now you can add your different steps with the different coordinates :

Stages that have physical containers must be 528 ft/161m from physical stages in other geocaches, but may be closer to one another. Virtual stages can be located any distance from other geocaches. Note: Your geocache and waypoint locations will still have to be reviewed before they are published.

Stage 1 (Posted Coordinates)

Physical - You placed an actual item here.
 Virtual - You did not place a physical item at this location.

Coordinates [Learn about coordinate formats](#)

N 44° 08.532 E 004° 48.300

Stage 2 ×

Name

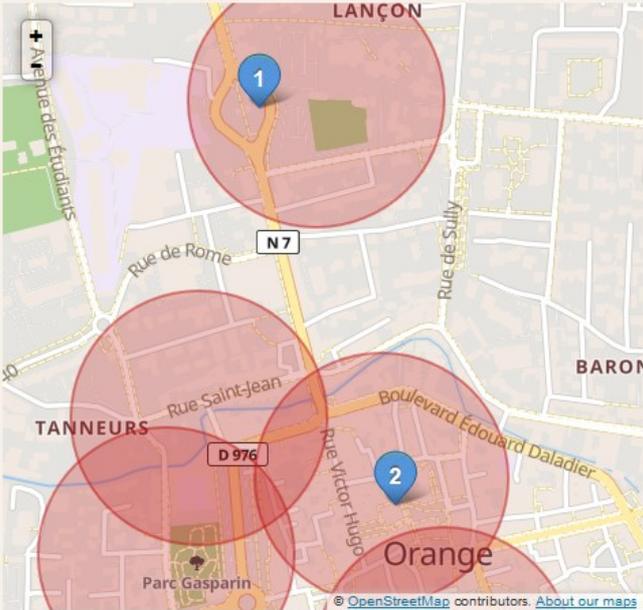
Stage 2

Physical - You placed an actual item here.
 Virtual - You did not place a physical item at this location.

Coordinates

N 44° 08.260 E 004° 48.429

Description



 Blue pins represent virtual stages. These are allowed to overlap with "red zones".

 Green Pins are physical stages. These must be located outside of "red zones".

For each step, you need to specify the coordinates, add a **SHORT** description if you wish to (it will be visible at the end of the cache description on the webpage) and **MOST IMPORTANTLY** select the visibility (see below) → visible (if you want the trail to appear and want the geocachers to have the coordinates of all the caches from the start) or hide the coordinates/or the stage, and they will need clues on the site to get the missing coordinates (more challenging).

The image shows a screenshot of a geocaching website interface. On the left, there are two form panels for 'Stage 1 (Posted Coordinates)' and 'Stage 2'. Stage 1 has a 'Physical' radio button selected and coordinates 'N 44° 08.532 E 004° 48.300'. Stage 2 has a 'Virtual' radio button selected, a name 'Stage 2', coordinates 'N 44° 08.260 E 004° 48.429', and a description 'the town hall / stage 2'. A blue circle highlights the 'Visibility' section of Stage 2, which has four options: 'Visible' (selected), 'Visible', 'Hide Coordinates', and 'Hide Completely'. On the right, there is a map of Orange, France, with several red circular 'red zones' overlaid on it. A blue pin labeled '2' is placed on the map. Below the map is a legend: a blue pin icon for 'Blue pins represent virtual stages. These are allowed to overlap with "red zones".' and a green pin icon for 'Green Pins are physical stages. These must be located outside of "red zones".'. Below the legend is a note: 'You must always obtain landowner permission for both physical and virtual stages.'

Note that the description you provide here must be very short, and is not the one with the enigmas to solve etc. (that's why I just wrote the location and stage)

B - WAYPOINTS

Once this is done, you need to select what characterises your cache for example if you want to add a parking lot where it is practical to park the car, or an interest point not to miss...

Hide A Geocache

1. Type & Location

2. Waypoints

3. Description

4. Size & Ratings

5. Reviewer Notes

Waypoints (Optional)

Waypoints are extra points of reference for geocachers. For example, you can put a waypoint for parking, the trailhead, or even a nice viewpoint.



+ Add Parking



+ Add Trailhead



+ Add Reference Point

Back

Continue

C – DESCRIPTION

STEP 1 - Here you will paste what you have prepared in advance on a separate word file

IMPORTANT : while pasting the file, you will see that the images seem to be pasted on the description too. Actually they are not ! They will disappear when you click on continue

You need to upload them on the website geocaching.com (see later on how to put a picture / how to insert a certificate or a geocheck)

Summary

Using 500 characters or less, summarize this geocaching experience. Toggle the Source button to enter your own HTML.

Erasmus + project : Minds on the Move !

Applying Geocaching to education

We offer you a 5 virtual caches trail in the city center of Orange. It was made by the pupils of the Lucie Aubrac High School in Bollène, who worked on the topic of World Heritage Sites. This series is a part of a pedagogic European Erasmus + project called « Minds on the Move ». Pupils and teachers from seven different countries (France, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Spain) are being involved in that project which is meant to last from 2016 to 2018.

Description

Describe in detail this geocaching experience. The description may include information about the location and its significance, the cache container, the journey to get to the cache, and so forth. Toggle the Source button to enter your own HTML.

Stage 1

The Triumphal Arch:

Built on the Agrippa's way which connected Arles to Lyon between 30 and 20 B.C. This huge arch stands for the power of Rome and the foundation of the colony of Orange. At this time, it served as the entrance door to the city.

1. On the South façade. at the right, which objects are represented ?

- a) trophées
- b) coats of arms
- c) masks

2. On the North façade. a scene of battle is represented on the second bay. Which type of battle is it ?

- a) naval
- b) air
- c) terrestrial

Once you have inserted a description (how does the multi work / what is there to look for – see above) + a description of each step and their enigmas to solve + a Link to the solutions (you can also add it on the html page afterwards) so that geocacheurs may check they have the right destination and do not have to walk for 2 miles before realising they didn't have the right answer

→ then and only then you can click on continue ! (actually the summary has to be 500 characters max, I had to move it to the description part)

You can also add hints at that stage.

Step 2 – tick the boxes corresponding to your multi cache’s characteristics (the size of the cache applies to the final cache)

Hide A Geocache

1. Type & Location 2. Waypoints 3. Description 4. Size & Ratings 5. Reviewer Notes

Size

What size is your geocache?

Other	Micro	Small	Regular	Large
				

Difficulty and Terrain

We recommend [this system](#) to rate your cache.

Difficulty

1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

Terrain

1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

NOTE that if difficulty is superior to 2.5, the multi will only be accessible to premium members

STEP 3 – **Now you're almost done** : write to the reviewer (a person you want to be nice and polite with, because he'll validate your cache.) You will explain precisely what your container is, where exactly it is located.

D – ADDING PICTURES, EDITING the CACHE and CREATING SOLUTIONS TO BE CHECKED

1 – Add a picture

step 1 - Now if you want to add a picture, you need to upload one on your account

Orange history trail test GC7460M ▼

A cache by [mady84](#) [Message this owner](#) Hidden : 18/04/2017

Difficulty: ★★★★★ Size: (micro) ❤️ 0 Favorites ▼

Terrain: ★★★★★

N 44° 08.532 E 004° 48.300 In Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France
UTM: 31T E 644368 N 4889250 ▲ N 1.7 km from your home location

Print: [No Logs](#) [Driving Directions](#)

Download: [Read about waypoint downloads](#)

Please note Use of geocaching.com services is subject to the terms and conditions [in our disclaimer](#).

Log geocache

- [View Gallery \(0\)](#)
- [Watch \(0\)](#)
- [Add to list](#)
- [Ignore](#)

Admin Tools

- [Edit](#)
- [Edit Attributes](#)
- [Waypoints](#)
- [Upload Images](#)
- [Archive](#)
- [Enable](#)

Geocache Description:

Erasmus+ project = minds on the move!

Attributes

Upload a Geocache Image

upload it

for Orange history trail test [View](#)

Select an image for your machine to upload. The site will resize your image once it has finished up:

File:

logo mini.PNG

File Caption:

File Description:

Characters remaining: 241

File upload supports the following formats: jpg, gif, bmp and png.

step 2 - COPY the link of the file

step 3 -then on the description, where you want to edit it insert :

```

```

Step 4 - THEN submit changes and VIEW geocache (at the top) to check that it worked !

2- Editing the page

Here is what happens if you want to edit the page ; It is still manageable to add details, as you can see, but not user-friendly.

valid HTML tags: SHOW

Short Description:
Give geocachers a brief overview of your geocache. Text is limited to 500 characters.

```
<p><strong>Erasmus+ project = minds on the move!</strong></p>
```

Long Description:
Use this space to get creative! You can tell a story, give information about your geocache or add pictures.

```
<p style="text-align: center;"><strong>We offer you a 5 virtual caches trail in the city center of Orange. It was made by the pupils of the Lucie Aubrac High School in Bollégrave;ne, who worked on the topic of World Heritage Sites. This series is a part of a pedagogic European Erasmus + project called "Minds on the Move" . Pupils and teachers from seven different countries (France, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Spain) are being involved in that project which is meant to last from 2016 to 2018.</strong></p>

<h1 style="text-align:center;"><strong>Stage 1</strong></h1>

<p><u>&nbsp;<strong>The Triumphal Arch:</strong></u></p>
```

Hint:
Use this space to give geocachers a short, helpful clue to finding your geocache. This information will be encrypted on the site until a geocacher clicks on a link to decrypt it. Text within brackets [like this] will not be encrypted.

3- Add a certifiable/checkable solution

→ example : for stage 1 :

The Triumphal Arch:

Built on the Agrippa's way which connected Arles to Lyon between 30 and 20 B.C. This huge arch stands for the power of Rome and the fondation of the colony of Orange. At this time, it served as the entrance door to the city.

1. On the South façade, at the right, which objects are represented ?

a) trophées
b) coats of arms
c) masks

2. On the North façade, a scene of battle is represented on the second bay. Which type of battle is it ?

a) naval
b) air
c) terrestrial

3. What order do the columns belong to ?

a) Corinthian
b) Ionic
c) Doric

→ The correct answer is 1a2a3b

To enable the geocacher to check his answer and give him access to the 2nd stage of the multi-cache, you need to go on www.certitude.org :

1) you need to log in with your geocaching user name (you only need to click on allow to continue) :

Certitude

U.S. English
Certitude Solution


Certitude is a tool used to validate solutions for [geocaching](#) puzzles.

Your geocaching name is unknown, please [sign in](#) to identify yourself. [How does it work?](#)

Puzzle makers, create your own certifiable puzzle solution:

Puzzle GC#:

2) When you have done so, you need to say for which CACHE you need a « solution » to certify
→ the number of the cache is **there**

Orange history trail test GC7460M ▼
Cache by [mady84](#) Message this owner Hidden : 18/04/2017

Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆ Terrain: ★★☆☆☆ Size: [micro] 0 Favorites

N 44° 08.532 E 004° 48.300 In Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France
UTM: 31T E 644368 N 4889250 N 1.7 km from your home location

Print: No Logs Driving Directions

Log geocache
View Gallery (0)
Watch (0)
Add to list
Ignore

3) Then you can enter the answer, and the coordinates in the box below (bonus info) so that they may appear when the geocacher has found the right solution.

Puzzle makers, create your own certifiable puzzle solution:

Puzzle GC#: [GC7460M](#)

Puzzle name:

Puzzle solution:

Bonus info: (Optional) To be shown to solvers

If the puzzle solution above is a keyword, please enter the puzzle final coordinates:
Final coordinates:

If the puzzle solution above is for a stage of a multi-stage puzzle, please enter the stage number:
Stage number:

Optionally, you can provide a puzzle hint to solvers entering this wrong solution:
Wrong solution: (wildcard characters are allowed for keyword solutions)
Hint:

4) YOU then click on create certifiable solution and you will obtain a html code like this one :



[W27460M](#) - [Orange history trail te](#)

You have successfully created a puzzle solution.

Here is the code to add to your cache page:

```
<center>
<a href="https://www.certitudes.org/certitude?wp=W27460M">
</a><br>
<font face="Comic Sans MS">You can validate your puzzle solution with <a
href="https://www.certitudes.org/certitude?wp=W27460M">certitude</a></font>
</center>
```

Sample:



You can validate your puzzle solution with [certitude](#).

5) COPY this code and paste it on the html page of the description of your cache, wherever you want it to appear, and click on « submit changes » (tick yes to the 2 boxes above) + click on « view geocache »,

and here is the result :

Stage 1

The Triumphal Arch:

Built on the Agrippa's way which connected Arles to Lyon between 30 and 20 B.C. This huge arch stands for the power of Rome and the fondation of the colony of Orange. At this time, it served as the entrance door to the city.

1. On the South façade, at the right, which objects are represented ?

- a) trophies
- b) coats of arms
- c) masks

2. On the North façade, a scene of battle is represented on the second bay. Which type of battle is it ?

- a) naval
- b) air
- c) terrestrial

3. What order do the columns belong to ?

- a) Corinthian
- b) Ionic
- c) Doric

Now report the answers in order on this site :

if you have the right solution you will have access to the next point ! PAY ATTENTION : BEFORE LEAVING do not forget to report the number inscribed on the (real) cache entitled Arc de Triomphe



You can validate your puzzle solution with [certitude](#).

Additional Hints ([No hints available.](#))

6) NOW some HINTS and TRICKS :

CERTITUDE enables you to create ONE solution for ONE cache (the cache is spotted thanks to its code)

If you need to create several enigmas for one multicache with several codes, the trick is to create fake geocaches (do not submit them for publication) and use their code name to create the solution. In the end, it only serves to create a link that you will insert in your description, so the name or code of the geocache doesn't matter.

If you want to check coordinates, the same type of website exists, it is :

<http://geocheck.org/index.php>

→ the principle is the same, even if the interface is a little bit different.

Now you know it all !

Keep calm and geocache on...;)