

Traffic FAQs

Where does Garmin obtain its traffic information from?

We obtain all this traffic information from a number of sources:

- Historic traffic data available from all over the world.
- Real time traffic detected via people using Garmin smartphone apps.
- Fleet management data and governmental information from our partners.
- Police and road service information and press updates.

The more data we obtain every day, the more accurate our information becomes. All of this data is processed and modeled in our data centres, before being supplied to your device.

Does Garmin Traffic monitor all roads?

Your Garmin device will provide you with traffic information in almost every country in the world. We monitor roads that experience high levels of traffic: from motorways to A roads and town/city centres. You'll receive real-time traffic flow information, as well as notifications of accidents and road closures.

How up-to-date is the traffic information?

We are constantly processing traffic information. Your device will receive Garmin Live and Digital Traffic updates every minute, instantly refreshing and providing you with minute-by-minute traffic information.

How accurate is the traffic information?

Garmin traffic information will be within metres of absolute accuracy. Via Digital Traffic, your device will recognise queues more than 100m in length, with up to 10m of accuracy. Via Live Traffic, it will be within 100m of absolute accuracy.

How much does the premium service cost?

Lifetime Digital Traffic and Premium RDS Traffic (where available) are included in the cost of the device. In several countries, Live Traffic is also available without subscription. You can access it via your smartphone and the Garmin Smartphone Link app.

What is the difference between RDS and DAB?

RDS (Radio Data System) traffic information comes through the regular FM radio system. RDS bandwidth is limited, so the amount of data you can receive via this method will be limited. DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting) uses digital radio and high-speed bandwidth technology to receive up-to-date nationwide data. DAB will give you access to reliable real-time traffic and incident information.

How complicated is it to set up traffic information on my device?

Not complicated at all. DAB and/or RDS receivers are already built into the sat nav. Charge your device and voila! – you'll be receiving traffic information. To set up Live Traffic on your device, download the Garmin Smartphone Link app on your phone. Then connect your phone to the sat nav via Bluetooth and you will receive (optional) Live Traffic information. No need to sync your phone with the sat nav every time.

Does it cost extra to use the Smartphone Link app?

The Smart Phone Link app is free to download. There should be no additional cost, unless you exceed the download limit of your data plan. You can download up to 10MB of traffic data per month. If you need Live Traffic abroad in Europe, the roaming costs are now very much affordable.