

# How Hackers Track Your Smartphone Photos and How to Stop Them



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You use your smartphone to take pictures of your adorable kids, snap some shots while you're out sightseeing, and of course, post those images on social media. You get plenty of likes, and your friends comment on how much they love your photos. You think everything is fine and go on with your day. But what you don't know is hackers are prowling social media sites like Facebook to extract private information from your photos.

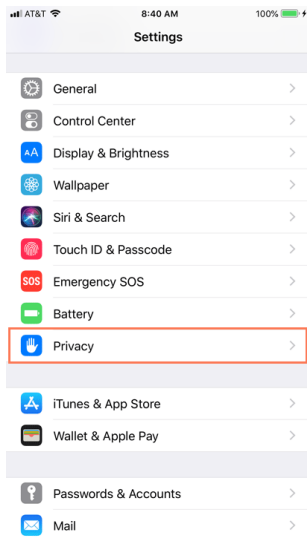


Practically all smartphones these days have a built-in GPS. So hackers can uncover sensitive information about your photos from the exchangeable image file format (EXIF) data pulled from the GPS. This can reveal the time and place you took each photo, and even the type of phone you used. That's way too much information that could trace back to your home, workplace, or child's school.

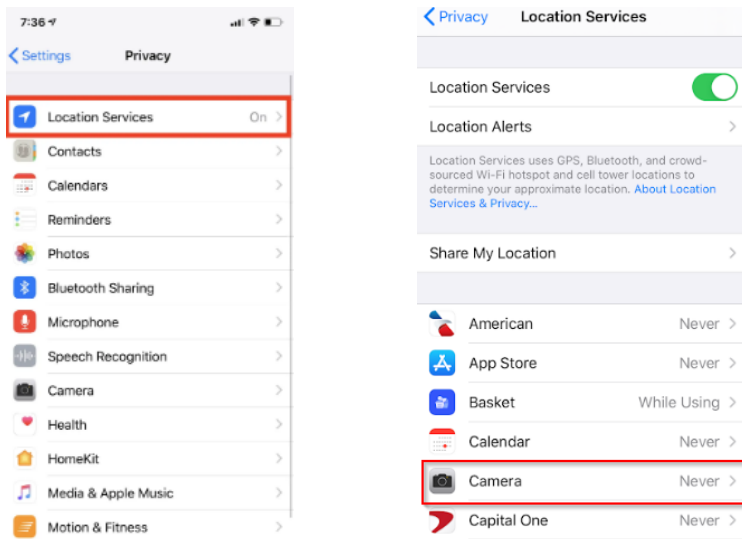
**So who do hackers target?** Anyone with a smartphone is at risk of being tracked through photos posted online. However, teens and young adults are the most vulnerable because they make up the largest share (96 percent) of smartphone owners in the U.S., according to [Pew Research Center](#). iPhone is the go-to option among young people. Roughly eight in 10 American teens use one, according to [Digital Trends](#). If you grew up with Apple products during the 80's and 90's, you're likely a loyal iPhone user too. So there's a good chance you or your child recently used an iPhone to take and share pictures. And cyber criminals are eager to track you.

**Learn how to stop hackers from tracking your iPhone photos with these simple steps:**

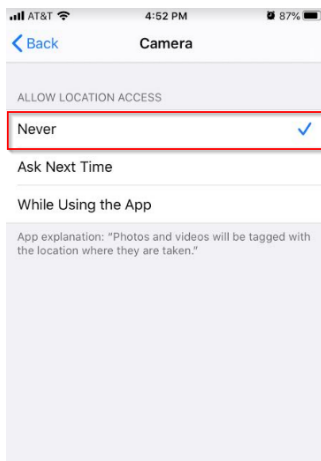
1. Tap the Settings icon and select "Privacy".



2. Go to "Location Services" and select "Camera" on the next screen.



3. Select "Never" to disable location access for your photos and videos.



That's it! You're done! Now you can feel more secure that your photos will be safe from hackers.