

# GARMIN GPS Comparisons 3/29/2009

|   | Nuvi 500   | Oreacn 400t or 300   | GPSMAP 60Csx   |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Main Features</b>  |   |    |   |
| <b>Price without Maps</b>   | n/a  | \$369 - Oregon 300   | \$319  |
| <b>Price with Topo Maps</b>   | n/a  | \$449 - Oregon 400t  | \$409 with Topo Maps   |
| <b>Price with only Street Maps</b>  | n/a  | \$458 - Oregon 300 w/ City Nav NT  | \$409 - w/ City Navigator NT   |
| <b>Price with both Maps</b>   | \$279  | \$537 - Oregon 400t w/ City Nav NT   | \$499 - w/ Topo US and City Nav  |
| <b>Rebates</b>  |  | * Prices Include \$50 rebate through May 10, 2009  |  |
| <b>Car Suction Cup Mount</b>  | Included with car power cable  | Additional \$39.95   | Additional \$25.95   |
| <b>Overall Ease of Use and Setup</b>  | Best<br>Maps are preloaded<br>Easy to load geocaches as a premium member   | Better<br>Must install Automotive Maps<br>Easy to load geocaches   | Good<br>Must Install Automotive or Topo Maps<br>Not as good for loading or reading Geocaches   |
| <b>User Interface</b>   | Best<br>Easy-to-use, touch screen interface  | Best<br>Easy-to-use, touch screen interface  | Best<br>Press Buttons on unit. Buttons are well marked   |
| <b>Maps</b>   | Includes: City Navigator NT for lower 48 states, Hawaii and Puerto Rico and TOPO U.S. for entire United States   | Topo included in 400t other City Navigator NT purchased separately   | Purchased separately<br>City Navigator NT<br>TOPO U.S. for the entire US   |
| <b>Automotive Routing</b>   | Better<br>Yes, Auto routing, turn-by-turn directions, and Unit prompts you with voice to "Turn right in 500 feet"<br>Fast calculation or recalculation of routes | Good<br>Yes, Auto routing, turn-by-turn directions, and audio alert tones (no voice prompts) along city streets when using optional City Navigator maps (basemaps do not auto route) | Good<br>Yes, Auto routing, turn-by-turn directions, and audio alert tones (no voice prompts) along city streets when using optional City Navigator maps (basemaps do not auto route) |
| <b>Voice Turn by Turn Directions</b>  | Yes - but not by street name.<br>Example: Turn right in 500 feet   | No Voice. Use of audible beeps   | No Voice. Use of audible beeps   |
| <b>Speech recognition</b><br><small>(navigate with voice commands)</small>          | No   | No   | No   |
| <b>Geocaching Mode</b>  | Best<br>Yes, See Descriptions, hints, etc.   | Best<br>Yes, See Descriptions, hints, etc.   | Good<br>Yes, Waypoints only.<br>Can find geocaches.<br>No Descriptions   |
| <b>Tracks / Trip Log</b><br><small>(bread crumb trail of where you've been)</small> | Fair<br>up to 10,000 points<br>Can NOT control dropping bread crumbs by distance or time.<br>Can NOT manage tracks in GPS, only with computer                    | Best<br>up to 10,000 points<br>Can control dropping bread crumbs by distance or time.<br>Can control and Manage Tracks with GPS  | Best<br>up to 10,000 points<br>Can control dropping bread crumbs by distance or time.<br>Can control and Manage Tracks with GPS  |
| <b>Use Modes</b>  | Better<br>Usage modes – Driving, Boating, Bicycling and Walking  | Best - Most Flexible<br>You create your own modes.   | Fair<br>Auto or Off Road only  |
| <b>Screen</b>   | Best<br>Great Size, very Bright<br>2.8" W x 2.1" H , 3.5" Diagonal<br>320 x 240 pixels<br>Color TFT  | Fair<br>Best Resolution. Hard to see outdoors in sunlight<br>(H x W): 2.55" x 1.53"; 3" diagonal<br>High display resolution (W x H): 240 x 400 pixels                                | Better<br>Works well outdoors in sunlight<br>1.5" W x 2.2" H, 2.6"-diagonal, 256-color, transfective TFT (160 x 240 pixels)  |
| <b>Batteries</b>  | Fair<br>Special Rechargeable   | Best<br>Two AA   | Best<br>Two AA   |
| <b>Size of Unit</b>   | Best for Automotive Use<br>Fair for Trail Use. Cumbersome to hold while hiking<br>4.21"W x 3.35"H x .9"D   | Best for Trail Use<br>4.5" x 2.3" x 1.4"   | Better - For Trail Use<br>2.4" W x 6.1" H x 1.3" D   |
| <b>Water Proof</b>  | Yes<br>Good  | Yes<br>Best  | Yes<br>Best  |
| <b>Antenna/Reception</b>  | Good?<br>High-sensitivity GPS receiver<br>NO WAAS  | Better<br>High-sensitivity GPS receiver<br>WAAS Capability for better accuracy   | Best<br>Built-in quad-helix receiving antenna with remote antenna capability. WAAS Capable   |
| <b>Compass</b>  | Fair<br>Only functions while moving. Not a true compass.   | Yes, Best<br>Electric Compass . Works while standing still.  | Yes, Best<br>Electric Compass . Works while standing still.  |
| <b>Altimeter</b>  | No   | Yes  | Yes  |
| <b>Removable/Expandable Memory</b>  | Yes, Unknown specs.  | YES<br>Optional microSD memory cards available to 4 GB+  | YES<br>Optional microSD memory cards available to 2 GB needed for additional maps  |

## Oregon 400t Review

- One of the best for Geocaching.
- Touch screen user interface makes it easy to use.
- It is rugged and fits into your hand perfectly.
- It has paperless Geocaching features that show you up to 2000 geocaches including their full text descriptions, ratings for terrain and difficulty, hints, last 5 log entries by others. You can record your find. This is good for keeping track of TB/Coins.
- 2008 Topo maps are included
- Provides automotive turn-by-turn directions with the purchase of City Navigator street maps
- You can project waypoints (needed for some puzzle caches)
- Internal compass allows you to determine direction while standing still.
- It has customizable user modes or profiles (you create your own) including Automotive, Biking, Hiking, Geocaching, Boating, etc.
- You can customize the order of menu icons.

### MUST IMPROVE:

- Poor Screen visibility in bright sunlight or snow
- It does not have voice navigation
- Not as accurate as the 60csx, but close with v2.93

**Other Information:** Built-in Worldwide basemap with shaded relief; preloaded maps of US or European topographic maps, 3-D map view; WAAS-enabled; high-sensitivity GPS receiver; barometric altimeter; electronic compass; wireless data sharing; 240 x 400 pixel touch screen color display; SD card slot; waterproof and impact-resistant; runs up to 16 hours on 2 AA batteries.

## GPSMAP 60csx Review:

It has a great readable color screen; Great accuracy; One of the best; This is what other GPSr are compared against. Marked buttons on the unit make it easy to mark and find geocaches/waypoints. With routable maps, the unit warns you of upcoming turns with two series of beeps. User interface is good but not as good as touch screens. The unit is a little bulky with the large antenna. It includes a waypoint averaging that is great for easily marking precise and accurate waypoints. Supports POIs.

No Paperless Geocaching is the biggest drawback. You can not read full Geocaching descriptions or logs in the unit.

**Other information:** Built-in limited basemap with automatic routing functions; off-route recalculation; turn-by-turn directions; WAAS-enabled; high-sensitivity GPS receiver; barometric altimeter; electronic compass; 160 x 240 pixel color display; SD card slot; waterproof and impact-resistant; runs up to 18 hours on 2 AA batteries

## Nuvi 500 Review:

### PROS:

- \* Super Bright Screen and easy to use
- \* True, Paperless Geocaching with ability to quickly record logs on geocaching.com
- \* Super fast routing and recalculation of routes. Routing is solid and comparable the Garmin Oregon.
- \* Multi Modes: Drive, Walk, Bike, Scooter
- \* Can fit in your shirt pocket
- \* Custom POI feature
- \* Good value.

### CONS:

- \* Not as easy to hold as on-the-trail units
- \* If using this unit only for the automobile and Topo maps are being used, the green shades makes the secondary streets hard to see on the screen. This is avoided if map is set to Automotive 3D.
- \* Awkward at marking a waypoint (entering/saving coordinates by name)
- \* Needs a screen lock feature so you can carry it while tracking and not accidentally bump the screen and reset items
- \* This unit has tracking/trackback capability, but no control on how the unit records tracks like time or distance
- \* No electronic compass
- \* Voice should vocalize street names

**Other Information:** Detailed basemaps; preloaded street maps for lower 48 states and U.S. topographic maps; automatic route calculation, turn by turn voice directions; 320 x 240 pixel color display; optional FM lifetime traffic; Where am I?; waterproof; high-sensitivity receiver; SD card slot; up to 8 hours of battery life