



# ELEVATE MAP KEY

Current version:

5.7, 08/08/26 (changelog)

last update of the map key: **08/08/26**

## VARIANTS:

There are two different variants of the map styles contained in the downloads respectively:

### Elevate

I developed Elevate for mountain hiking in the alps. At first it was based on the standard hike and cycle map style of Openandromaps, but has been completely revised since. I added additional variants by and by for other uses, by user requests.

Everything should be self-explanatory without a key, as far as it's possible with the possibilities of mapsforge. Therefore I based it on the presentation on paper maps and

guideposts in German and Austrian areas. Unified symbols and colors are used. At higher zoom levels names of amenities and areas are shown. As many things which are relevant for hiking and travelling as possible are shown without coming too much to the front or eliminating one another - e.g. big symbols or captions - therefore some symbols and captions are shown at high zoom levels only.

With Elevate 3 overlays were introduced which make it possible to switch certain elements on or off. Those can be chosen, as well as the map styles, directly within the app.

Elevate has been tested and developed with current versions of Cruiser and OruxMaps.

## Elements

Elements is a modification of Elevate and is made for **sparsely populated/mapped areas or countries**, mostly backcountry usage, e.g. the outback of Australia, Iceland outside of the cities etc.

Elements contains the same map styles and details as Elevate. Only **all content is shown as soon as it is contained in the map**.

Therefore the colored dots at low zoom levels aren't necessary.

**In densely mapped areas this variation is not recommended, in those it is slow and unclear.**

With **Elevate 5** Elements can help to find specific things in the map - just activate only

the overlay which you want to view and not the others (e.g. "Amenities" if you are looking for drinking water) and then all appropriate symbols are shown as soon as possible.

## MAP STYLES & OPTIONS:

Elevate and Elements contain several map styles and options which **can be chosen within the app** (how this works depends on the app). The map style differ from each other in their purpose and in what can be displayed. Every map style has a different default selection of options which are selected, and for every map style different options are possible.

Essential to the rendering of the map style is how footpaths/cycleways/MTB trails are displayed - always optimized for chosen the activity, e.g. hiking/MTB difficulty is shown in the respective map styles.

### Hiking

Key aspect is to have good overview for all features which are relevant for **mountain hiking** and perceptibility of paths and track, especially their difficulty and character (or if there isn't any information about that). Cycleways which are allowed for pedestrians look similar to footways. As "Hiking" is the basis for the other map style characteristics like the display of landscape features are included in those.

## City

This is a **light version** which is especially useful in cities, for example for sightseeing or for everyday life.

Neither hiking nor cycling routes are shown. The highly emphasized footways and paths of "Hiking" are discreet and difficulty and visibility is not marked. Cycleways which are allowed for pedestrians look similar to footways.

Additionally for better overview at lower zoom landscape and protected area names and colored dots are missing. Therefore this variation is most suitable for finding names of settlements.

A public transport network can be overlayed.

## Cycling

As this is a cycling version instead of hiking routes **cycling routes** are shown strongly. The highly emphasized footways and paths of "Hiking" are slimmer and difficulty and visibility isn't marked. Cycleways are strongly emphasized and surface information is shown if it's in the map data. Ways where cycling isn't allowed are marked with a turquoise cross hatch.

## Mountainbike

Based on "Cycling" this map style shows MTB difficulty levels on tracks and paths, visibility of paths and MTB routes.

## Options

With options different things can be switched on and off. Since Elevate 4.5 certain letters are put in front as categories: [A] for areas; [P] for POIs (points of interest); [R] for routes; [W] for ways.

# MAP KEY:

## Captions

- Black are peaks.
- Red are alpine huts.
- Grey, dark green and brown are landscape names.
- Green with white outlines are protected areas.

Other colors of captions are those of the assigned symbols.

## Symbols

I hope that the symbols are mostly self-explanatory. Additionally, you can find an overview image of all symbols including their names by opening the image linked below. This image is also included in the PDF map key available above.



The colors depend on categories, which are identical with the POI options (since Elevate 4.5):

Dark blue:  
settlement  
names

Grey: landscape

features,  
barriers

Black: amenities

Light green:  
sports

Pink: emergency

Light blue:  
accommodation

Brown:  
restaurants +  
bars

Violet: shops +  
services

Ochre: tourism +  
culture

Turquoise:  
public transport,  
car

Dark green:  
special  
buildings

Most symbols are appearing at zoom 14 or higher, some important points of interest are marked earlier by colored dots:

(Hiking/Cycling)

 Alpine hut

 Camp site

 Hospital

**Public transport stations**

Public transport stations are marked by colored dots:

● Bus stop (large: bus station)

● Tram

● Subway

● Railway

● Ferry

## Paths and Footways



**Brown - unpaved path/footway** (or path without surface information) without difficulty information



**Grey - paved path/footway** (or footway without surface information) without difficulty information, on the top one cycling is also allowed (only in hiking mapstyle)

## Hiking paths

(Hiking)

Path difficulty uses the SAC hiking scale, however the colors here are according to those used in the eastern alps.

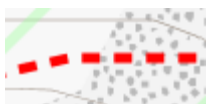
Additionally trail visibility (if it's available in the data) is marked by how the paths are dashed.



**Yellow - Hiking:** flat or slightly sloped, no fall hazard, SAC T1;  
in the example without information about trail visibility (if this information is missing is only shown on paths with difficulty information): long dash, short dash, short spaces



**Blue - Mountain hiking:** partially steep, fall hazard possible, SAC T2;  
in the example trail visibility is excellent or good: very long dash, short spaces



**Red - Demanding mountain hiking:** not always visible, may be secured, hands may be needed, partly exposed with fall hazard, SAC T3;  
in the example trail visibility is intermediate: medium length dashes and spaces



**Black - (Difficult/demanding)**  
**Alpine hiking/Via Ferrata:** no trail, very exposed, climbing, glaciers etc., SAC T4-T6;



**only with adequate experience, inform yourself about it before you go;**



in the example trail visibility is bad, horrible or no visibility: short dashes, long spaces  
 additionally T5 paths dashes are broken vertically, T6 vertically and horizontal

## Safety measures

On some paths fixed safety measures are included in the maps:



A cable, chain or rope to hold on to; here the grey dots on the path mark the length of the area with safety ropes



Rungs, stemples, pins



A ladder

## Via ferratas

Via ferratas are marked with thick grey bars

and a green via ferrata symbol. Depending on how the data is mapped they can have two different styles:



Mapped as via ferrata



Mapped as a path (including hiking difficulty)

## Hiking routes

(Hiking)

Hiking routes are rendered below paths and tracks starting at zoom level 14, till level 13 transparent above them.

International hiking routes are **blue**.

National hiking routes are **red**.

Regional hiking routes are **green**.

Local and other hiking routes are **yellow**.



In this example an international hiking route in blue called VAA49 and a regional hiking route in green with the number 211 can be seen.



**Waymarks** can be overlayed as an option, like the Jacobs mussel or the "E4" here; in lower zoom levels only a small symbol with the background color is shown. If a waycolor is given, it is marked along the trail with colored dots.



If waymarks is activated, **guideposts** are shown a bit earlier, and, if available, their reference number is shown right of the symbol in white with brown border.

## Cycling routes

(Cycling/Mountainbike)

Cycling routes are rendered below streets starting at zoom level 14, till level 13 transparent above them.

International cycling routes are **blue**

National cycling routes are **red**

Regional cycling routes are **violet**

Local cycling routes are **turquoise**

(Inter-)national and regional mountain bike routes are **green**

Local and other mountain bike routes are **yellow**



In this example an international cycling route in blue that goes from south-west to north, besides a regional route in violet.



A local MTB route in yellow which also shows with an arrow the proposed route direction.

## Mountain bike difficulty levels

(Mountainbike)

Mountain bike difficulty levels are shown according to the MTB Scale, you can find all details there.

Additionally trail visibility (if it's available in the data) is marked by how the paths are dashed.



**S0:** Blue bars on ways: no special driving skills required. In this example you can see how it is shown on tracks.



**S1:** Blue-red bars on ways:  
basic driving skills required,  
obstacles can be passed over;  
in the example without  
information about trail  
visibility



**S2:** Red bars on ways:  
advanced driving skills  
required;  
in the example trail visibility is  
excellent



**S3:** Red-black bars on ways:  
very good bike control  
required;  
in the example trail visibility is  
good or intermediate



**S4:** Black bars on ways: at  
least perfect bike control with  
trial skills required;  
in the example trail visibility is  
bad, horrible or no visibility



**S5/S6:** Several thin black  
bars on ways: excellent  
mastering of special trail  
techniques required or nearly  
completely impassable;  
in the example without  
information about trail  
visibility

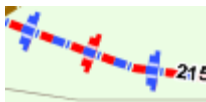


**Easy hiking path:** Yellow bars alternate with brown bars: if MTB scale isn't available it is possible to mark easy hiking paths (according to SAC T1, see above) with an overlay. If and how those are rideable isn't for sure, and if it is allowed to ride them depends on local legislation.

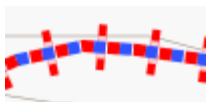
**MTB Scale uphill** is marked by horizontal dashes under ways:



**0: Blue dashes:** 15% incline max.



**1: Blue-red dashes:** 20% incline max, the two bars with different length also mark the uphill direction - the shorter one points uphill.



**2: Red dashes:** 25% incline max.



**3: Red-black dashes:** 30% incline max



**4: Black dashes:** 40% incline max



**5: Two thin black dashes:** uphill riding not possible.

## Tracks

Forest tracks and agricultural roads are marked in Openstreetmap by grade:



Paved track



Unpaved track, gravel road



Track made out of a mixture of gravel and dirt



Track mainly made out of dirt/grass, some gravel



Track only made out of dirt/grass



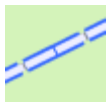
Track without grade



Bridleway

## Cycleways and road surfaces

If a normal road (not tracks/paths) or cycleway (when using cycling/mountainbike) has a different surface than asphalt or another flat sealed surface it is marked as following, if the "surface" is included:



Cycleways have a **blue border**. This only means that cycling is allowed here. If the border is a continuous line, the way is paved, dashed means unpaved or unknown. The picture shows an emphasized cycleway in the cycling map style without surface information, which is marked by thin stripes along the way.



Cycleway which might need a cross-country bicycle because of steepness/roughness (only in cycling mapstyle, not MTB)



paved/asphalt



paving stones or similar



cobblestone or similar



compacted unsealed road



loose gravel



natural ground



Option "extended road surfaces":  
paved/asphalt (on major roads  
white alternating with color of  
road importance, on normal  
roads just white)



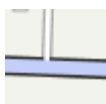
Option "extended road surfaces":  
no road surface information  
available



Option "emphasized paved cycle  
paths" (Cycling)



Option "emphasized paved  
footways" (City)



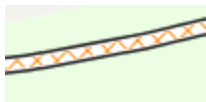
Bicycle road

## Access limits

Only those access limits are shown, which are valid for the mode of transportation the map style is intended for. In "Hiking" only if they are valid for pedestrians. In "Cycling"/"Mountainbike" only, if they are valid for cyclists. In "City" only general access limits.



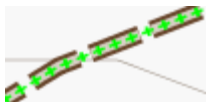
Local traffic only - only when  
travelling to this area.



Private road - only with permission of the owner.



No access allowed.



Option marking of permitted foot/cycle paths: usage permitted - important for countries like England, where e.g. a track can only legally be used if it's permitted for this track



toll road, marked by red dots



only use with permit (might be with costs), marked by green dots



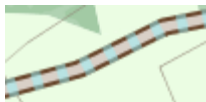
Pedestrian area or wide footways (possibly also cycling), if cycling is prohibited it's shown as above

## Winter sports

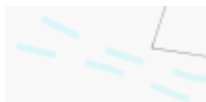
To avoid collisions or not so nice areas ski and sled pistes are marked unobstrusively:



Ski piste (with hiking path)



Sled piste (on track)



cross-country ski-tracks

## Landscape



Fell/Mountain meadow



Heath/dwarf-shrub



Wetlands/Marsh



Rock



Scree, loose rocks



Scrub



Wood, forest mixed



Wood, forest coniferous



Wood, forest deciduous



Glacier



Meadow, grass



Farmland



Orchard



Vineyard



Plant Nursery



Body of water



Intermittent body of water  
(sometimes water, sometimes dry)



Military



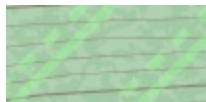
Protected area



Strictly protected area with  
strictly limited access



Protected area, seasonal  
strictly limited access



Protected area, discouraged access (might be seasonal)



Protected area, no off-road access (might be seasonal)



Aboriginal lands



Cliff, rock face



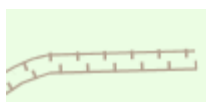
Ridge, arete



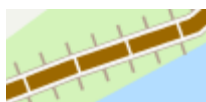
Earth Bank



Gully



Ditch



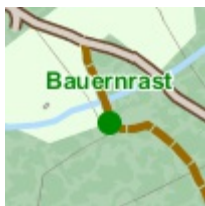
Dyke



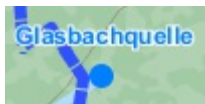
Cut/Hollow way



Embankment



Prominent Tree



Spring



Powerline/Minor powerline



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Tobias Kühn

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Elevate map key - symbols:

|                                                                                                              |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>Adit disused               | <br>Adit                      | <br>Aerialway station           | <br>Airport             | <br>Alpine hut low zoom         | <br>Alpine hut private | <br>Alpine hut winter         | <br>Alpine hut              | <br>Apartment            | <br>Archaeological                |
| <br>Artwork                   | <br>ATM                      | <br>Attraction                 | <br>Bakery             | <br>Bank                       | <br>Bar               | <br>Beach resort             | <br>Bench                  | <br>Beverages           | <br>Bicycle charging station fee |
| <br>Bicycle charging station  | <br>Bicycle rental           | <br>Bicycle repair station     | <br>Bicycle shop       | <br>Biergarten                 | <br>Block             | <br>Bollard                  | <br>Books                  | <br>Border control      | <br>Boundary stone               |
| <br>Bridge movable            | <br>Buddhist                 | <br>Bunker disused             | <br>Bunker             | <br>Butcher                    | <br>Cable car         | <br>Cafe                     | <br>Calm                   | <br>Camp site low zoom  | <br>Camp site                    |
| <br>Car shop                  | <br>Caravan site             | <br>Castle                     | <br>Cattle grid        | <br>Cave entrance              | <br>Chair lift        | <br>Chalet                   | <br>Checkpoint             | <br>Chemist             | <br>Church                       |
| <br>Cinema                    | <br>City major capital       | <br>City minor capital         | <br>City               | <br>Cliff diving               | <br>Cliff             | <br>Climbing adventure       | <br>Climbing               | <br>Cross               | <br>Cycle barrier                |
| <br>Defibrillator             | <br>Doctors                  | <br>Doityourself               | <br>Drag lift          | <br>Drinking water             | <br>Elevator          | <br>Embassy                  | <br>Emergency access point | <br>Emergency phone     | <br>Farm shop                    |
| <br>Farmyard                | <br>Fastfood               | <br>Firebrigade              | <br>Ford low zoom    | <br>Ford                     | <br>Fountain        | <br>Free flying            | <br>Fuel                 | <br>Gate private      | <br>Gate                       |
| <br>Geyser                  | <br>Golf                   | <br>Gondola                  | <br>Goods lift       | <br>Guided post              | <br>Helipad         | <br>Hindu                  | <br>Hospital low zoom    | <br>Hospital          | <br>Hostel                     |
| <br>Hot spring              | <br>Hotel                  | <br>Hunting stand            | <br>Ice cream        | <br>Info board               | <br>Info office     | <br>Info terminal          | <br>Kindergarten         | <br>Kissing gate      | <br>Ladder                     |
| <br>Laundry                 | <br>Library                | <br>Lift gate                | <br>Lighthouse       | <br>Log                      | <br>Lounge          | <br>Mall                   | <br>Market place         | <br>Memorial plaque   | <br>Memorial statue            |
| <br>Memorial Stolpers Stein | <br>Memorial stone         | <br>Memorial war             | <br>Memorial         | <br>Miniature golf           | <br>Monument        | <br>Mosque                 | <br>Museum               | <br>Oneway cycle      | <br>Oneway                     |
| <br>Organic                 | <br>Parking entrance       | <br>Parking fee entrance fee | <br>Parking fee      | <br>Parking private entrance | <br>Parking private | <br>Parking                | <br>Peak cross           | <br>Peak low zoom     | <br>Peak                       |
| <br>Petroleum well          | <br>Pharmacy               | <br>Picnic site              | <br>Place of worship | <br>Playground private       | <br>Playground      | <br>Police                 | <br>Postbox              | <br>Postoffice        | <br>Power coal                 |
| <br>Power gas               | <br>Power nuclear          | <br>Power water              | <br>Power wind       | <br>PT bus                   | <br>PT ferry        | <br>PT rail entrance       | <br>PT rail low zoom     | <br>PT rail           | <br>PT subway entrance         |
| <br>PT subway               | <br>PT tram                | <br>Pub                      | <br>Public bath      | <br>Public bookcase          | <br>Rail funicular  | <br>Railway crossing small | <br>Railway crossing     | <br>Rapids            | <br>Recycling                  |
| <br>Restaurant              | <br>Ridge                  | <br>Roller skating           | <br>Ruins            | <br>Rungs                    | <br>Saddle          | <br>Safety rope            | <br>School               | <br>Shelter basic hut | <br>Shelter picnic             |
| <br>Shelter rock            | <br>Shelter                | <br>Shinto                   | <br>Shooting         | <br>Slipway                  | <br>Soccer          | <br>Sports centre          | <br>Sports shop          | <br>Stile             | <br>Stone historic             |
| <br>Stone                   | <br>Supermarket            | <br>Swimming                 | <br>Synagogue        | <br>Telephone                | <br>Tennis          | <br>Theatre                | <br>Toilets customers    | <br>Toilets fee       | <br>Toilets                    |
| <br>Toll booth              | <br>Tower communication    | <br>Tower observation        | <br>Townhall         | <br>Traffic signal           | <br>Travel agency   | <br>Turnstile              | <br>University           | <br>Via ferrata       | <br>Viewpoint                  |
| <br>Volcano low zoom        | <br>Volcano                | <br>Wastewater plant         | <br>Water park       | <br>Water well               | <br>Water works     | <br>Waterfall              | <br>Watermill            | <br>Wayside cross     | <br>Wayside shrine             |
| <br>Weir                    | <br>Wilderness hut private | <br>Wilderness hut           | <br>Windmill         | <br>Windup                   | <br>Zoo             |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                    |