

PRINTABLE GUIDE

Scan a QR code and check its destination

Scanning shows a code's contents. Opening them is a separate decision; verify unfamiliar links or actions before proceeding.

iPhone or supported Android | 2 min read | 5 steps

Before you start

- ☐ A supported camera or QR-scanning feature
- ☐ A readable QR code from a source you trust
- ☐ Internet access if the result opens a website

1. Check the code's source

Choose a code from a trusted printed guide or the organisation's own material. In public, look for a sticker placed over an original code. If something seems altered, use the organisation's known website instead.

- ☐ Done this step

2. Open the correct camera feature

iPhone: open Camera in normal Photo mode. Many Android cameras also recognise codes. Pixel offers Camera scan suggestions and a QR scanner in Quick Settings. If your camera cannot scan, check the manufacturer's built-in scanner instructions.

- ☐ Done this step

3. Hold the whole code in view

Point the camera steadily at the square with reasonable lighting. You usually do not need to take a photograph. Move a little closer or further away until the code is in focus and fully inside the view.

☐ Done this step

4. Read the link or prompt

A link or banner should appear. Check the destination if shown before tapping it. A QR code can open more than a webpage, such as a network prompt or payment app; do not approve an unexpected action.

☐ Done this step

5. Open only when satisfied

Tap the banner if it matches what you intended. Check the website address again before signing in or entering details. Close the page if it asks for an unrelated password, download or urgent payment.

☐ Done this step

Try it for yourself

Scan a trusted code and identify the result before deciding whether to open it.

☐ I tried the task.

My notes

Nothing appears. Do I need a new app?

Not necessarily. Improve the lighting and check your camera's scan setting or built-in QR scanner before downloading a separate reader.

Official help and the online guide

Google: scan QR codes on Pixel - <https://support.google.com/pixelphone/answer/16561572?hl=en-GB>

Apple: scan a QR code - <https://support.apple.com/en-us/102680>

Read online: <https://plaintech-guides.pages.dev/guides/scan-qr-carefully/>