SOUNDMAP 101 · STEP 5 · ON SITE, THEN AT HOME

Test and publish

Timing and space only come together on location. Walk it, watch others walk it, fix what you hear, then share it.

Get ready · Walk it yourself · Watch test walkers · Publish and share

Before you go

Preview at your desk

Catch missing files and wrong settings before the trip.

Download the walk

Save it to your phone in the Explorer app. Don’t rely on signal.

Go at a typical time

Test when visitors would actually be there, with real site noise.

Bring a way to take notes

Voice memos work well. Say the stop and what went wrong.

Walk it yourself

Headphones on. Walk at a visitor’s pace and listen for what doesn’t feel right.

IF YOU HEAR	TRY
A sound cuts in or out sharply	A longer fade in the file.
An echo doesn’t trigger	A bigger shape, or a polygon along the path.
A stop feels rushed	Move the echo earlier, or ask walkers to stop.
The voice gets lost	Raise the level in the file.
A walker wouldn’t know what to do next	Add a direct address: stop, look or keep walking.

Watch test walkers

1. Invite two to four people who haven’t heard the map.
2. Start from the very beginning: finding and opening the walk.
3. Follow quietly. Don’t help. Watch where they pause or get lost.
4. Afterward, ask what they remember and where they were unsure.

Watching someone else walk your map is the most useful hour you’ll spend on it.

Publish and share

Publish the walk

Add a short introduction and a preview, then publish.

Post a sign

A QR code, what the walk is, how long it takes, and headphone tips.

Close the walk

A final echo with thanks, sound credits and a feedback link.

Share it

Send the walk’s link to the people you made it for, so others can walk it.

Some things we've learned

From testing and launching prior walks.

WHAT HAPPENED	SO NOW
People kept walking while the app downloaded	Put a QR code where they can wait, ideally indoors with Wi-Fi.
Not everyone has headphones	Mix loud enough for speakerphone, and say it's fine.
Walkers weren't sure when to stop	Say "keep walking" at stops that don't need a pause, but walkers seem to stop.
One tester's opinion isn't a pattern	Fix what several people stumble on.

TRY IT · ABOUT 90 MINUTES ON SITE

Test, fix and launch

1. Walk the map yourself and note each problem by stop.
2. Watch two people walk it without helping.
3. Fix what came up more than once.
4. Publish, print a QR sign and share the link.

DONE WHEN

Your walk is live, and a stranger can start it from the sign.

You’ve made a sound map. Welcome to the community.