

Getting the Most Out of Your AncestryDNA Results

WITHOUT AN ANCESTRY.COM SUBSCRIPTION YOU GET:

- Ethnicity report
- Genetic Regions report (if you have any)
- List of DNA matches with relationship estimates
- List of shared matches (4th cousin or closer) for each match
- Ability to contact matches (within Ancestry's messaging system)
- Ability to search DNA match list for surnames and places

ADDED WITH ANY ANCESTRY SUBSCRIPTION*:

- Access to matches' public trees
- Common Ancestor Hints**
- ThruLines**
- Potential Ancestors**
- List of shared surnames for each match**
- Map and Locations for each match**

* Minimum subscription, "Ancestry Insights", is \$49/yr through Ancestry Customer Service

** You must have a public tree or searchable private tree linked to your DNA test

GENERAL ANCESTRY TIPS

- **IMPORTANT!** Create a public or searchable private tree with your direct ancestors up to 10 generations and link your DNA test to it (Settings page).
- Searching your "All DNA Matches" list by **surname or place name** works even for matches' trees that are marked "searchable private".
- When your match has no tree or a private tree, use **Shared Matches** to get a sense of where the common ancestor might be in your tree.
- Record the common ancestors' names in the **Note** box for all your **Common Ancestor** matches. When you see Shared Matches with notes you will be able to see which branch of your tree is involved. When you see a match with Shared Matches you recognize, you can add a Note for them as well.

WHY DOESN'T MY MATCH HAVE A PUBLIC TREE?

- They are adopted and don't have a tree (and wish they did!)
- They are using their DNA tree to test out theories, so it's full of conjecture.
- Their tree isn't finished yet and they don't want to share it until it is done.
- They want people to ask them before they provide access.
- They just tested their DNA and they don't know any better.
- They are only interested in their ethnicity report - not genealogy

ARE YOU SURE THERE IS NO PUBLIC TREE?

- Check the blue box message on their DNA match page. There may be a list of trees there.
- Click on their account name to visit their profile page. Look for:
 - List of their public trees (their DNA may not be linked to their tree)
 - List of all their DNA tests - maybe another test will provide a clue
 - Other DNA tests you manage that may also match the person
 - Posts your match made on message boards - they may have left an email address
 - GEDMATCH kit numbers on their profile page!
- Worst case: You can research someone's tree yourself.

I MESSAGED THEM BUT THEY DON'T RESPOND...

- Messaging matches can be less reliable than email. Check their profile to see how long it's been since they logged on. Maybe they dropped their subscription to Ancestry.
- Try using both the green "Send Message" button on the match page and also the tan "Contact nameofperson" on their account profile page. Check your SENT mail folder to confirm that your message got sent.
- Google their profile name or other information you find on their profile page to see if they appear on the Internet. Try searching for someone by that name in FaceBook or other social media sites.
- Look for them at GEDmatch.com - email addresses are there!

MORE THINGS TO DO

- Add conjectural ancestors to your DNA tree to create ThruLines.
- Work with cousins who tested to build on your ThruLines.
- Put your email address and GEDmatch kit numbers on your Ancestry Profile page & in your profile location. (eg. joe@gmail.com, Glendale, CA)
- Keep in mind, even if your tree is public, that doesn't mean all your matches can see it. They may not be subscribers, so you may have to explicitly invite them to your tree.
- Ask your matches to share their DNA results with you. You will be able to see their Notes and any matches they got that you didn't. Offer to share your DNA with them too!
- Use the Snavely Chrome Plug-in (free) or the DNAGedcom.com client (\$5/month) to save all your Ancestry matches, trees, and shared matches to text files so you can print them, search in them, or use a spreadsheet program. Also, on DNAGedcom you can also use Match-O-Matic and GWORKS to analyze your matches' trees.
- Transfer your Raw DNA Data from Ancestry to: FamilyTreeDNA.com, GEDmatch.com, myHeritage.com, LivingDNA.com - all for free!

REFERENCES

- *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, Blaine T. Bettinger, 2016, about \$20 at the VCGS book sales table.
- Blaine Bettinger's Blog - The Genetic Genealogist:
<http://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2017/03/11/are-you-doing-everything-to-identify-your-matches/>
- Ancestry.com: 6 Steps for Success in Working with Your AncestryDNA Matches:
<https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2014/05/28/6-steps-for-success-in-working-with-your-ancestrydna-matches/>
- Roberta Estes' Blog - DNAeXplained:
<https://dna-explained.com/2019/03/11/ancestrys-thrulines-dissected-how-to-use-and-not-get-bit-by-the-gators/>
- Sue Griffith's Blog - Genealogy Junkie:
<http://www.genealogyjunkie.net/dna-tips-tools--managing-matches.html>
- Family Locket Blog:
<http://familylocket.com/3-tips-for-making-the-most-of-your-ancestry-dna-results/>

Ancestry Sharing Step-by-Step

Sharing Your Ancestry Tree

1. Logon to Ancestry.com
2. Select the correct Family Tree from under the Trees menu at the top of the screen
Note: you may be prompted at this point to “Select a Home Person for this family tree” – go ahead and do so.
3. Select “Sharing” from the drop-down menu in the upper left of the screen (with your tree name)
4. Select “Email”
5. Put in their email address in the box.
6. Next to the box, select "Guest" for the role you want them to have.
7. Click the “Send Invites” button

Your collaborator will receive an email from Ancestry inviting them to view your tree results and your tree name will appear in their list of “Trees Shared With Me” when they are on Ancestry, allowing them to switch between multiple trees.

Sharing Your Ancestry DNA Results

1. Logon to Ancestry.com
2. Select “Your DNA Results Summary” under the DNA menu at the top of the screen
3. Click on “Settings” in the upper right corner of the screen (next to the little gear icon)
4. Scroll down to “DNA Ethnicity and Matches Access”
5. Click on “+ Add a Person”
6. Put in their email address in the box.
7. Next to the box, select "Viewer" for the role you want them to have.
8. Click the “Send Invitation” button

Your collaborator will receive an email from Ancestry inviting them to view your DNA results and your kit name will appear in their “View Another Test” drop-down menu next to the “Settings” button on the DNA Results Summary screen, allowing them to switch profiles.