MCP SERVER | NO CODE | CLOUD HOSTED

Foursquare MCP

Audit local venues, photos, and reviews with AI.

Foursquare lets you audit location data directly through your AI client. Search for venues, pull detailed metadata like categories and addresses, and gather public sentiment by analyzing community tips and photos. It acts as a real-time location intelligence scout for market research or local service management.

A+ Quality Score 100/100

location-data | venue-discovery | poi-search | metadata | geospatial-data

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vinkius.com/mcp/foursquare-alternative

SCAN TO VIEW

The infrastructure that powers AI agents in the real world.

Vinkius connects AI to the world's software through secure, enterprise-grade infrastructure — enabling real-world execution at scale, built on the Model Context Protocol (MCP).

Your AI Connections Run Through Vinkius Cloud

The world's largest managed MCP catalog

Vinkius is the cloud infrastructure where AI agents connect to the software your business already runs. We handle the hosting, the security, the credentials, the uptime — you get agents that actually do things.

We operate the world's largest managed MCP catalog. Major SaaS platforms, CRMs, databases, and cloud providers — running, monitored, production-ready. This MCP server is hosted and maintained by the Vinkius Cloud for AI Agents.

> *The agent doesn't manage credentials, doesn't manage uptime, doesn't manage security. Vinkius does.*
>
> — Architecture principle

Four Pillars of the Vinkius Runtime

01 — Security by design

Credentials stay encrypted at rest via AES-256. The AI agent never touches raw keys — they're injected into a sandboxed V8 isolate at runtime. Actions are logged, and connections have an emergency kill switch.

02 — Built on MCP Fusion

This MCP server was built with **MCP Fusion**, the open-source framework (Apache 2.0) that powers the entire Vinkius catalog. Schema-as-firewall strips undeclared fields, compiled PII redaction runs at zero overhead, and cryptographic lockfiles produce git-diffable audit trails.

03 — Deterministic observability

Eight immutable metrics per endpoint: request volume, p95 latency, error rate, active connections, cost attribution. A live payload feed logs every tool call with mutation detection.

04 — Autonomous operations

Servers are deployed, monitored, and patched autonomously. New capabilities and security patches ship weekly. Zero-downtime deployments ensure continuous availability across all managed MCP servers.

AES-256	Ed25519	24h TTL	V8 Isolate
Encryption at rest	PKI vault signatures	Ephemeral session keys	Sandboxed execution

One Token. Instant Access.

Every MCP server on Vinkius is accessed through a **Connection Token**. Tokens are generated in the cloud dashboard and produce a unique MCP endpoint URL. Paste this URL into any MCP-compatible client — no SDK required.

A single token can serve **multiple AI clients simultaneously**, or you can issue separate tokens per client for granular access control. Each token tracks its own request count, last activity timestamp, and can be individually enabled or revoked.

MCP ENDPOINT

```
https://edge.vinkius.com/{token}/mcp
```

Claude · Cursor · VS Code · Windsurf · Grok · Gemini

Security Is the Architecture

Security in Vinkius is not a feature — it's the foundation of the runtime. The gateway enforces multiple independent protection layers between AI agents and third-party APIs.

01 — Ed25519 PKI Vault

Every workspace has an Ed25519 Master Key. Session keys are generated ephemerally (24h TTL) and signed by the Master Key. Credentials never leave the vault boundary.

02 — V8 Isolate Sandboxing

Tool code runs inside isolated-vm V8 isolates with 64 MB memory caps and per-request timeouts. No filesystem access, no network access except through the SSRF-guarded fetch bridge.

03 — SSRF Guard

All outbound HTTP requests are DNS-resolved and validated before execution. Private IP ranges (10.x, 172.16-31.x, 192.168.x, AWS metadata 169.254.x) are blocked at the network layer.

04 — DLP & PII Redaction

A ResponseGuard pipeline intercepts every tool response. Configurable redaction patterns strip sensitive fields (emails, SSNs, card numbers) before data reaches the AI agent.

05 — Cryptographic Audit Trail

Every request is signed into a SHA-256 hash chain with Ed25519 signatures. Events form a tamper-proof, SIEM-exportable forensic record.

06 — Honeytoken Trap System

Phantom credentials are injected into isolated environments. If a honeytoken is used outside Vinkius infrastructure, the server is quarantined instantly.

Emergency Kill Switch

EU AI Act Art. 14(1) Compliant

The kill switch is an **emergency halt** mechanism — not a simple toggle. When triggered, it executes three actions atomically:

01 — Server deactivated

The MCP server is immediately taken offline across the entire cluster.

02 — All tokens revoked

Every connection token is invalidated. Total lockout — reconnection blocked until new tokens are issued.

03 — WebSocket connections killed

Active connections terminated via Redis pubsub broadcast. Propagates to every runtime node in the cluster.

Full Visibility. Zero Guesswork.

The Vinkius cloud dashboard includes a full MCP Governance suite — real-time analytics and security controls for production AI operations.

Control Plane

KPI dashboard with request volume, latency, success rate, token consumption, and AI-generated operational briefings.

Agent Activity

Which AI clients are connecting, how often, and what they're doing — real-time session tracking.

FinOps

Cost tracking per tool, payload compression savings, budget optimization signals, and consumption trends.

Tool Health

Slowest and most error-prone tools, with actionable root-cause insights and performance baselines.

Firewall & DLP

PII redaction activity, sensitive data protection counters, and security event timeline.

Incident Log

Error trends, failure rates, status-code breakdowns, and forensic audit trail access.

> Get started at **cloud.vinkius.com** — connect your AI agent in under 60 seconds.

Foursquare MCP

7 tools available
Cloud-hosted on Vinkius

If you're doing anything that relies on knowing what's where—from checking competitor pop-ups to mapping out the best lunch spots near an office—this MCP is built for you. You connect it through your preferred AI client, and your agent handles all the heavy lifting. Instead of manually visiting a dashboard or running multiple searches, you simply ask questions about local areas. Your agent can search for specific types of venues by name or coordinates, pull detailed data sheets on those places, and even list photos to give you an immediate feel for the aesthetic. It pulls in community reviews and tips so you understand public sentiment instantly. By using this MCP through Vinkius, your AI client becomes a comprehensive location scout that keeps your geographic data current and accurate, no matter how complex the area is.

Core Capabilities

01 — Discovering locations nearby

Find venues within a specific radius just by providing coordinates.

02 — Searching for specific places

Search the entire database for locations using names, categories, or general keywords.

03 — Auditing location details

Retrieve comprehensive metadata for any single venue, including its address and official categories.

04 — Understanding public opinion

Gather customer tips and reviews to gauge local sentiment about a specific place.

05 — Analyzing visual data

List photos associated with a venue to understand its environment or style.

One Click on Vinkius — From Prompt to Execution

Available at **vinkius.com/mcp/foursquare-alternative** — connect your AI agent in three steps.

01 Subscribe to this MCP and enter your Foursquare API Key.

02 Connect it to your AI client (like Claude, Cursor, or Windsurf).

03 Tell your agent what you need—for example, 'Find five Italian restaurants near my office.' The agent runs the necessary tool calls and returns structured data.

The bottom line is that you get actionable location intelligence without touching a single dashboard.

Built For

This MCP is critical for market researchers who can't physically visit every potential site. It helps operations leads verify local service listings, and business analysts who need to map out cross-functional geographic strategies instantly.

Market Researcher

You use this MCP to monitor venue distribution trends across different neighborhoods or categories without leaving your workflow.

Operations Lead

You verify that localized services are correctly identified and categorized in specific regions, ensuring accurate field mapping.

Business Analyst

You automate location querying to gather structured data points for cross-functional strategic planning and competitive analysis.

What Changes When You Connect

01 Understand public sentiment instantly. Instead of reading dozens of disparate Yelp or Google listings, you can use the tool to gather customer tips and reviews for a single spot.

02 Never waste time searching general directories. Use autocomplete_places to ensure your location queries are always precise by getting real-time naming suggestions.

03 Map local ecosystems easily. You can find multiple venues within a certain radius using get_nearby_places, making neighborhood analysis fast and simple.

04 Deep dive into metadata. When you need the raw data for strategy, get_place_details pulls all addresses and categories into your chat window in one go.

05 Analyze venue aesthetics quickly. Use get_place_photos to see what a place looks like without having to click through external image galleries.

Real-World Applications

Verifying competitor locations

A restaurant owner needs to know if a rival opened up nearby. They ask their agent to use get_nearby_places for the specific coordinates of their block, instantly mapping out any new competition.

Assessing event viability

An event planner is scouting a potential venue and needs to know its vibe. They ask the agent to run get_place_photos and get_place_tips for the location ID, getting both visual confirmation and public buzz.

Building a service directory

A developer building a local guide needs consistent data. They use list_categories first to understand all possible types of businesses, then search_places to pull accurate listings for their schema.

Quick market entry audit

A business analyst is looking into opening a branch in a new town. They ask the agent to get_place_details on several major competing venues to understand exactly how they are categorized and addressed locally.

Patterns to Avoid

Treating it like a simple search engine

✗ AVOID

Just searching for 'best coffee shops' assumes the results have depth. You might miss key metadata or reviews.

✓ INSTEAD

Instead of just searching, ask your agent to run get_place_details on the top three results from search_places. This ensures you pull detailed addresses and categories alongside the name.

Focusing only on names

✗ AVOID

Relying solely on manually entered names is prone to typos, missing nearby spots, or getting outdated data.

✓ INSTEAD

Always start by using get_nearby_places with coordinates. This guarantees you see everything in the area, even if it's not famous enough to be typed into a search bar.

Ignoring visual context

✗ AVOID

Reading only reviews can give an incomplete picture of a venue's actual atmosphere.

✓ INSTEAD

Always pair get_place_tips with get_place_photos. This gives you the public opinion alongside the physical aesthetic, giving a full 360-degree view.

The Right Fit

Use this MCP if your job involves auditing, mapping, or researching locations where data consistency is key. You need to know not just *what* a place exists, but its formal categories (list_categories), what it looks like (get_place_photos), and how the general public feels about it (get_place_tips). Don't use this if you only need basic directions or a simple list of names. If all you need is a quick, raw directory listing without any metadata audit capability, another mapping service might suffice. But if you need to build out a comprehensive data sheet for cross-functional strategy, this MCP provides the depth and context that other tools lack.

Local location intelligence usually means clicking through dozens of tabs.

Today, checking on local venues is a multi-step chore. You start by typing a name into a search engine, then you click to see the details, which takes you to another page for photos, and finally, you might have to open a third tab just to read the reviews. If you're comparing five locations, that means five full cycles of clicking through different dashboards and copy-pasting metadata.

With this MCP, your agent handles it all in conversation. You ask about a cluster of venues, and the system pulls together location data, photos, tips, and addresses instantly. You get structured intelligence back immediately, without ever leaving your chat interface.

Get full context with Foursquare MCP

Manual audits force you to run separate queries for categories (list_categories), photos (get_place_photos), and tips (get_place_tips). This makes comparing multiple sites slow and prone to missing data points.

Now, your agent coordinates these tools automatically. You simply ask for a comprehensive report on five nearby spots, and it delivers the full metadata package—reviews, images, categories, addresses—all in one go.

Foursquare Alternative: 7 Tools for Location Data Management

These tools allow you to search, audit metadata, find nearby spots, and collect public reviews across the Foursquare database directly through your agent.

#	TOOL	DESCRIPTION
01	`autocomplete_places`	Provides real-time suggestions when you are typing a place name.
02	`get_nearby_places`	Identifies multiple locations that are close to specific coordinates.
03	`get_place_details`	Retrieves the full set of metadata for one particular venue.
04	`get_place_photos`	Fetches a list of photos that have been uploaded to a specific location listing.
05	`get_place_tips`	Queries community-submitted tips and reviews for one venue.
06	`list_categories`	Lists all the official categories used by Foursquare to classify venues.
07	`search_places`	Searches the database for places based on user-defined criteria.

See It in Action

Real prompts you can use once this MCP is connected to your AI agent through Vinkius Cloud.

U Search for coffee shops near 'New York, NY'.

I've found several coffee shops in New York. Top results include 'Blue Bottle Coffee' and 'Stumptown Coffee Roasters'. Would you like the addresses for any of them?

U Show me tips for place ID 4b2af3d6f964a520...

I've retrieved 5 tips for this venue. Customers recommend the 'espresso' and mentioned the 'cozy seating area'. Would you like to see the full list?

U Get nearby places for lat 40.7, long -74.0.

Finding nearby venues... I've identified several places within 1km, including a 'Fitness Center' and a 'Library'. Would you like the full categories and details?

Frequently Asked Questions

01 **How do I find all possible types of venues using Foursquare MCP?**

You use list_categories to get a complete master list of every venue category available. This helps you structure your search or filter results when searching for specific types of places.

02 **Can I find locations that aren't near my current address using Foursquare MCP?**

Yes, if you know the coordinates (latitude and longitude), you can use get_nearby_places to scan a specific area regardless of where you are right now.

03 **What is the difference between search_places and get_place_details?**

search_places finds multiple locations based on general criteria. Once you pick one, use get_place_details to pull every piece of specific metadata associated with that single venue.

04 **Does Foursquare MCP handle finding names I don’t know yet?**

Yes, if you are unsure how to spell a place or what it's called, use autocomplete_places. It gives you real-time suggestions as you type.

05 **Can I use Foursquare MCP for competitive analysis?**

Absolutely. You can use get_place_details and get_place_tips on several competitors' locations to gather rich data on their category, address, and public reception quickly.

Go Live in 60 Seconds

Get your connection token from **cloud.vinkius.com**, then paste the endpoint URL into any MCP-compatible client.

YOUR MCP ENDPOINT

```
https://edge.vinkius.com/[TOKEN]/mcp
```

CLIENT	WHERE TO CONFIGURE
Claude AI	Profile → Customize → Connectors → "+" → Add custom connector → Paste endpoint
Cursor	Settings → Features → MCP Servers → "+ Add New MCP Server" → Type: SSE → Paste endpoint
VS Code	Ctrl/Cmd+Shift+P → "MCP: Add Server" → add `"foursquare-alternative": { "url": "…" }`
Windsurf	MCP Settings → `mcp_settings.json` → Add endpoint URL
ChatGPT	Settings → Tools & plugins → Add MCP server → Paste endpoint
Gemini	Extensions → Add MCP Server → Paste endpoint URL

ASK AN AI ABOUT THIS

Let your preferred AI explain this MCP server

- Ask ChatGPT
- Ask Claude
- Ask Perplexity
- Ask Gemini
- Ask Grok

READY TO CONNECT

Foursquare is live on Vinkius Cloud.

Get your connection token, paste it into your AI agent, and start building. No SDK. No deployment. Just results.

Start at cloud.vinkius.com →

vinkius.com · support@vinkius.com

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