



Backing Up Your Vacation Photos

Never Lose a Memory Back up vacation pictures safely to the cloud and beyond

————— **An Extended Guide · No. 1614** —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

Bill Davis — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com · Atwater, Ohio

Book a visit — billshometech.com/book

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

1. The Whole Idea in One Glance

If you read only this page, you will still protect your pictures.

Your phone can quietly copy every photo you take to a safe place on the internet, called the cloud. If anything happens to the phone, your pictures are still there, ready to come back on a new one. You turn this on once, and then it just happens by itself.

- iPhone owners: turn on iCloud Photos
- Everyone, including iPhone owners: the Google Photos app also backs up for free to start
- Set it to back up on Wi-Fi so it does not use travel data
- Check once that it says your photos are backed up
- For true peace of mind, keep a second copy somewhere, like a computer

GOOD TO KNOW

A backup is simply a second copy kept somewhere else. The whole point is that one accident, a drop in a pool or a stolen bag, can never take both copies at once.

THE CORE IDEA

2. What Backing Up Really Means

When people say back up your photos, they mean keep a copy somewhere besides your phone. Your phone is wonderful, but it is one small object that can be dropped, lost, or stolen. If the only copy of your trip is on that one object, you are one accident away from losing it all.

A backup fixes that. It makes a second copy and keeps it in another place entirely, so no single mishap can wipe out your memories. The best backups happen on their own, without you remembering to do anything.

TIP

If you can take a photo and open an app, you can set up a backup. It is a one-time setup, not a chore you repeat.

WHY IT MATTERS

3. Why Travel Photos Need a Safety Net

Vacation is exactly when phones get into trouble. They go to the beach, ride in boats, sit on restaurant tables, and travel in pockets through crowded places. A phone that lives a quiet life at home faces real hazards on a trip.

The photos from a once-in-a-lifetime trip are often the ones people would most hate to lose. A backup means that even if the worst happens to the phone, the pictures of the grandchildren at the canyon, or your anniversary dinner, are safe and waiting.

GOOD TO KNOW

Phones are replaceable; a particular sunset or a face caught mid-laugh is not. That is the real reason to back up before you travel, not after.

THE CLOUD EXPLAINED

4. What the Cloud Is, in Plain Words

The cloud sounds mysterious, but it is simple. It is a set of very large, very secure computers, owned by companies like Apple and Google, kept in locked buildings and looked after around the clock. When your photos go to the cloud, they are copied onto those computers.

Because those computers are far away and carefully protected, your pictures are safe there even if your phone is not. The companies also keep more than one copy on their end, in more than one building, so even a problem at their place does not lose your photos. You reach them by signing in to your account, from any device, anywhere there is internet, which is what makes them follow you to a new phone so easily.

TIP

Think of the cloud as a safe deposit box for your pictures. You hold the only key, which is your account and password, and the copies sit protected inside.

FOR IPHONE OWNERS

5. iCloud Photos, Apple's Built-In Backup

If you have an iPhone, Apple's own service is called iCloud Photos, and it is already on your phone. When you switch it on, every picture and video you take is copied to iCloud automatically, usually within a few minutes of taking it when you are on Wi-Fi.

Apple gives every account a small amount of iCloud space for free, and most people with a lot of photos eventually pay a modest monthly fee for more room. We will cover the space question on its own page, so do not worry about it yet.

GOOD TO KNOW

iCloud Photos is not a separate app to install. It is a setting inside your iPhone that you simply turn on.

TURN IT ON

6. Turning On iCloud Photos, Step by Step

Do this at home, on your own Wi-Fi, before your trip. It takes a minute, and then it looks after itself.

- 1 Open Settings on your iPhone
- 2 Tap your name at the very top
- 3 Tap iCloud, then tap Photos
- 4 Turn on the switch so your iPhone syncs to iCloud
- 5 Leave the phone on Wi-Fi for a while so the first batch of photos copies up

WATCH OUT

The first backup can take a while if you have thousands of old photos. Plug the phone in, keep it on Wi-Fi overnight, and let it finish. After that, new pictures copy up quickly.

FOR EVERYONE

7. Google Photos, the App That Works on Any Phone

Google Photos is a free app that backs up your pictures to Google's cloud. What many people do not realize is that it works on iPhones too, not just Android phones. So you can use it as your main backup or as a handy second copy alongside iCloud.

On most Android phones, such as Samsung, Motorola, or Google Pixel, Google Photos is the natural choice because it is built around your Google account, which the phone already uses. You download it from the app store if it is not already there, sign in, and turn on backup.

TIP

Using both iCloud and Google Photos on an iPhone is a quiet way to keep two cloud copies at once, at little or no cost. Many careful travelers do exactly that.

TURN IT ON

8. Turning On Google Photos Backup

The steps are much the same whether you are on an Android phone or an iPhone. Do it at home on Wi-Fi.

- 1 Open the Google Photos app, installing it from the app store first if needed
- 2 Sign in with your Google account, the one that ends in gmail.com if you have one
- 3 Tap your profile picture in the top corner
- 4 Open Backup settings and turn Backup on
- 5 Choose to back up over Wi-Fi so it does not use cellular data

GOOD TO KNOW

Once backup is on, a small cloud symbol or a checkmark appears on your photos as they finish copying up. That little mark is your proof the picture is safe.

WHICH TO USE

9. iCloud or Google Photos, or Both

There is no single right answer, and you honestly cannot go wrong. Both services are large, trustworthy, and easy to use, and both have looked after many millions of people's photos for years. The simplest path is to use whichever matches your phone, and leave it at that. You can always add the other one later if you decide you want a second copy, and nothing you have already backed up is lost by doing so.

- iPhone and you want the simplest setup: use iCloud Photos
- Android phone of any brand: use Google Photos
- Want two copies for extra safety: run both on the same phone

- Share pictures across a family with mixed phones: Google Photos reaches everyone easily

WATCH OUT

If choosing feels like too much, just turn on the one that came with your phone. A backup you actually have beats the perfect backup you never set up.

DATA ON THE ROAD

10. Wi-Fi Versus Cellular While Traveling

Photos, and especially videos, are large. If your phone backs them up over the cellular network while you travel, it can use a lot of your data allowance, and overseas it can run up charges. The safe habit is to let backups happen only on Wi-Fi.

Both iCloud and Google Photos let you choose Wi-Fi only. Then your pictures wait quietly on the phone during the day and copy up in the evening when you reach the hotel's Wi-Fi. Nothing is lost; the backup simply waits for a free connection.

WATCH OUT

Before a long trip, especially abroad, double-check that backup is set to Wi-Fi only. This one setting prevents the surprise data bill that catches many travelers.

EVENING HABIT

11. Letting Photos Catch Up on Hotel Wi-Fi

When you set backups to Wi-Fi only, the trick is to give the phone a chance to use Wi-Fi each day. The easiest way is to plug it in to charge at night, connected to the hotel or rental Wi-Fi, and leave it be.

While you sleep, the day's photos quietly climb up to the cloud. By morning your memories are safe and your phone is charged, all without you lifting a finger. It becomes as routine as putting your glasses on the nightstand.

TIP

Hotel Wi-Fi can be slow. If a big day of photos has not finished by morning, it will catch up the next night. There is no harm in it taking a little time.

CHECK IT WORKED

12. Making Sure a Backup Really Happened

A backup only helps if it actually ran, so it is worth knowing how to check. Both services show you plainly whether your pictures are safe. A quick glance now and then gives real peace of mind.

- In Google Photos, tap your profile picture; it tells you if backup is complete or still working
- In iCloud, open Settings, tap your name, then iCloud, then Photos to see the status
- Look for words like Backed up, Complete, or a cloud with a checkmark
- If it says something is waiting, keep the phone on Wi-Fi a while longer

GOOD TO KNOW

Make this check a small end-of-trip ritual before you leave a place. Thirty seconds of looking saves a lifetime of wondering.

WHEN SPACE RUNS LOW

13. When Your Phone Says Storage Is Full

On a long trip, your phone may warn that its storage is full and refuse to take more pictures. This is upsetting in the moment, but if your photos are backed up, it is easy to fix. The backup is what makes the fix safe.

The idea is simple: because full copies of your photos are already safe in the cloud, your phone can keep only small, space-saving versions on itself, freeing room for new pictures. The full ones are a tap away whenever you want them.

WATCH OUT

Never delete photos to make room until you are certain they are backed up. Check first. Freeing space the safe way, shown next, never deletes anything that is not already copied.

FREE UP ROOM

14. Freeing Space Without Losing Pictures

Both services have a feature that keeps your memories safe in the cloud while shrinking what sits on the phone. On iPhone it is called Optimize iPhone Storage. In Google Photos it is called Free up space.

- 1 On iPhone, open Settings, tap your name, iCloud, then Photos, and turn on Optimize iPhone Storage
- 2 This keeps full copies in iCloud and smaller ones on the phone
- 3 In Google Photos, tap your profile picture, then look for Free up space
- 4 It removes only phone copies of photos already safely backed up
- 5 Confirm, and the phone recovers room for new pictures

GOOD TO KNOW

These tools never touch your cloud copies. You can still see and download every picture in full whenever you connect to the internet.

HOW MUCH ROOM

15. How Much Cloud Storage You Actually Need

The free cloud space from Apple and Google is fairly small, and a trip full of photos and videos can fill it. When that happens, you pay a low monthly fee for more room. Think of it as rent on that safe deposit box for your memories.

Plans come in several sizes, and prices change often, so confirm the current price before you choose. As a rough guide, a modest monthly amount, less than a cup of coffee a week, buys enough space for most people's photo collections. You can start small and move up if you fill it.

GOOD TO KNOW

Apple offers a bundle that includes extra iCloud space along with other services. If you already pay for it, you may have more room than you think. It is worth a look before buying more.

CAMERA CARDS

16. Memory Cards for a Real Camera

Many travelers still carry a dedicated camera for the best shots. A camera stores its pictures on a small memory card, usually an SD card, which is about the size of a postage stamp. That card is wonderful, but it is not a backup; it is just the one place the pictures live until you copy them off.

The danger is treating the card like a vault. Cards can fail, fill up, or go missing with the camera. The safe habit is to move the pictures off the card to another place often, not to let

a whole trip pile up on one small card.

WATCH OUT

Carrying a spare memory card is cheap insurance. If one card misbehaves mid-trip, you simply pop in the other and keep shooting.

OFFLOAD THE CARD

17. Getting Camera Pictures Off the Card

To back up camera photos, you move them from the card into your phone or a computer, and from there they ride along into the cloud like any other picture. It is easier than it sounds.

- 1 Buy a small card reader that fits your phone or a computer
- 2 Slide the memory card into the reader and connect it
- 3 Open the Photos app and choose to import the pictures
- 4 Let them copy in, then confirm they appear in your photo library
- 5 Once backed up, you can safely reuse the card for more shots

GOOD TO KNOW

Many newer cameras can send photos to your phone over their own Wi-Fi, using the camera maker's free app. If yours does, that skips the card reader entirely.

THE GOLDEN RULE

18. The 3-2-1 Habit, in Plain Words

People who look after photos for a living follow a simple rule often called three-two-one. It sounds technical, but it is just common sense dressed up with numbers, and you do not have to memorize it.

- Three: keep at least three copies of your photos
- Two: keep them on two different kinds of storage, like a phone and the cloud
- One: keep one of those copies somewhere else entirely, away from home
- The cloud handles the away-from-home copy for you automatically

GOOD TO KNOW

If your photos are on your phone and also in the cloud, you are most of the way there already. Add one more copy on a computer and you have the full rule covered.

A SECOND COPY

19. The Simple Second-Backup Habit

The cloud is a fine first backup, but the most careful people like a second, separate copy they control themselves. It guards against the rare day you cannot reach your cloud account, or you simply want your pictures in your own hands.

This does not need to be fancy. Copying your photos to a home computer, or to a small plug-in drive, once after each big trip is enough. The job takes a few minutes and lets you sleep easy knowing two very different places both hold your memories.

TIP

Pick an easy rhythm, like copying photos to the computer the first rainy day home from a trip. A habit you can keep beats a perfect plan you cannot.

SHARING WITH FAMILY

20. Sharing an Album So Everyone Can See

Half the joy of travel photos is showing them to family. Rather than texting pictures one at a time, you can make a shared album that loved ones can open any time, and even add their own pictures to. On iPhone this lives in the Photos app under the Albums area.

- 1 Open Photos and go to create a new shared album
- 2 Give it a name like Family Trip
- 3 Invite people by their email address or phone number
- 4 Add the photos you want to share into the album
- 5 Invited family can view, comment, and add their own shots

GOOD TO KNOW

Sharing an album is not the same as giving away your photos. You keep your originals; the album is just a window you open for the people you choose, and you can stop sharing any time.

SHARING ON GOOGLE

21. Sharing in Google Photos With Anyone

Google Photos makes sharing easy across any kind of phone, which is handy when the family has a mix of iPhones and Android phones. You can share a single picture, a batch, or a whole album, and the other person does not even need the same brand of phone.

- Open Google Photos and select the pictures or album to share
- Tap the share button and choose a person or create a link
- A link lets anyone view the photos, even without the app
- The people you invite can add their own pictures if you allow it
- Stop sharing whenever you like from the album's settings

TIP

A shared link is perfect for the relative who is not comfortable with apps. They just tap the link you text them and the pictures open in their web browser.

SHARED SPACES

22. A Shared Album Versus a Shared Library

There are two ways to share, and the difference is gentle. A shared album is one collection you invite people to see. A shared library is a deeper arrangement where family members pool their photos into one common place, so everyone's pictures from a trip gather together.

For most people, a simple shared album is all they ever need. A shared library is nice for a couple or a close family who want their trip photos automatically combined, but it is more setup. Start with an album and move up only if you want to.

GOOD TO KNOW

Whichever you choose, your private photos stay private. Only the pictures you deliberately put into a shared album or library are visible to others.

FINDING PHOTOS

23. Finding a Picture Later by Date

A big worry people have is that once they take hundreds of photos, they will never find the one they want. The good news is that your phone quietly files every picture by the date it was taken, so you can scroll straight to any trip.

Both iCloud and Google Photos show your pictures newest to oldest, grouped into days and months. To find last June's cruise, you simply scroll back to June, or use the little calendar and year markers to jump there quickly.

TIP

In Google Photos you can pinch the screen with two fingers to zoom out to whole years at once, then zoom back in on the trip you want. It is a fast way to travel back in time.

FINDING PHOTOS

24. Finding a Picture by Where You Were

Your phone also remembers where each photo was taken, if you leave that feature on, which it is by default. That means you can look up pictures by place, which is wonderful for trips. You can ask to see everything from Rome, or from the Grand Canyon, and up they come.

- In Google Photos, tap Search and type a city or landmark
- In Apple Photos, use the Search tab and type a place name
- Both can show your pictures on a map, with pins where you shot them
- Tapping a pin brings up every photo from that spot

GOOD TO KNOW

The map view is a delight for reliving a trip. You see your whole journey laid out, and you can wander it again just by tapping the places you went.

FINDING PHOTOS

25. Searching for What Is In the Picture

This surprises people: you can search your photos by what they show, not just when or where. Type the word beach, or boat, or cake, and your phone finds pictures containing those things. It recognizes common objects, scenes, and even your pets.

The same works for people. Your phone can gather all the photos of one grandchild into a group, so you can find every picture of them across years of trips in a moment. You simply tap the search box and type.

TIP

This is all done privately on your own account. Searching for faces or objects does not share anything with anyone; it only helps you find your own pictures faster.

IF THE WORST HAPPENS

26. If Your Phone Is Lost or Breaks

This is the whole reason for a backup, so let us be clear and reassuring. If your phone is lost, stolen, or dropped in the ocean, and your photos were backed up, you have lost nothing but the device. Your pictures are safe in the cloud, waiting.

You simply sign in to your account on a new phone, a borrowed phone, or any computer, and there they all are. The memories were never really on the phone that is gone; they were in the cloud, under your name, the whole time.

GOOD TO KNOW

This is why we set up the backup before the trip, not after. The copy made today is the one that protects you against tomorrow's accident.

GETTING THEM BACK

27. Bringing Your Photos to a New Phone

Recovering your pictures onto a new phone is pleasantly simple. You do not download them one by one; you just sign in and they flow back.

- 1 Set up the new phone and connect it to Wi-Fi
- 2 Sign in with the same account you used for backup, Apple or Google
- 3 Open Photos or the Google Photos app
- 4 Wait while your pictures appear, newest first, over a little time
- 5 Keep the phone on Wi-Fi so the full library fills back in

WATCH OUT

You must use the very same account and password you backed up with. This is why keeping your account details safe and written down somewhere secure matters so much.

BEFORE YOU GO

28. Getting Ready the Week Before a Trip

A few minutes of preparation at home means your photos are protected from the very first day of the trip. You do not want to be setting up backups while juggling luggage at the airport.

- Confirm your backup is turned on and up to date
- Make sure you have enough cloud space for a trip's worth of photos
- Set backups to Wi-Fi only so travel data stays safe
- Check that you know your account password
- Clear out some phone storage so there is room for new pictures

TIP

Do this the same day you start packing. It takes less time than choosing which shoes to bring, and it matters a great deal more if something goes wrong.

ON THE ROAD

29. A Gentle Daily Photo Routine

Travelers who never lose a photo tend to follow the same small routine without even thinking about it. It takes under a minute and turns backing up into a quiet background habit.

Each evening, plug in the phone on the room's Wi-Fi and glance to confirm the day's photos are backing up. If you shot with a camera, that is also the moment to move its pictures onto the phone. By morning, everything is safe and you start fresh.

GOOD TO KNOW

Tie the routine to something you already do, like charging the phone at bedtime. Habits that lean on existing habits are the ones that actually stick.

VIDEOS

30. Why Videos Fill Space So Fast

Videos are the quiet space-eaters on any trip. A single minute of video can take as much room as dozens of photos, and high-quality video takes even more. This is why phones and cloud space fill up faster when you shoot a lot of moving pictures.

There is nothing wrong with taking videos; the memories are precious, and a few seconds of a grandchild's voice can be worth more than any still photo. Just be aware that they count heavily toward your storage, and they are the main reason people need a larger cloud plan. Backing them up over Wi-Fi only is especially important because of their size, since a handful of long videos can use as much travel data as weeks of ordinary use.

TIP

For everyday clips, your phone's standard video setting is plenty and uses less space. Save the highest-quality setting for the moments that truly deserve it.

DELETE WITH CARE

31. Deleting Photos the Safe Way

Once your photos sync to the cloud, deleting a picture on your phone usually deletes it from the cloud too, because the two are kept in step. This trips people up, so it is worth understanding before you start tidying up.

The safe approach is to use the Free up space or Optimize Storage features we covered, which clear room without truly deleting anything. Only delete a photo outright when you genuinely never want to see it again, anywhere.

WATCH OUT

Deleted photos are not gone instantly. Both services keep them in a deleted-items folder for about thirty days, so if you remove one by mistake, open that folder and recover it promptly.

TIDYING UP

32. Clearing Out Duplicates and Screenshots

Over a trip you collect clutter: ten nearly identical shots of the same church, blurry misfires, and screenshots of boarding passes and maps. Clearing these out makes your real memories easier to enjoy and saves storage space too.

- Apple Photos has a Duplicates album that finds near-identical shots to merge
- Both apps let you select many photos at once to delete blurry misfires
- Screenshots pile up; a quick sweep of them frees surprising space
- Do this tidying when you are home and relaxed, not in a hurry

GOOD TO KNOW

There is no need to keep every shot. Keeping the best few of each scene makes your photo library a joy to look through, rather than a chore to scroll.

KEEPSAKES

33. Printing Pictures and Making Photo Books

A printed photo is the oldest and most reliable backup of all, and it asks for nothing from a battery or the internet. Many people love turning a special trip into a printed photo book they can keep on the coffee table and hand around.

Both Apple and Google, along with drugstores and warehouse clubs, offer easy ways to order prints or a bound book straight from your photos. You pick the pictures, they arrive in the mail, and you have a keepsake that will outlast any phone.

TIP

Printing the dozen best shots from a trip costs little and makes a wonderful gift for family. A grandchild's face on real paper means more than a hundred on a screen.

GIFTS FROM FAMILY

34. Keeping Photos Others Send You

Family often sends you pictures by text or email, and these are easy to lose track of because they do not always land in your photo library. A grandchild's school picture or a photo from someone else's camera deserves the same safe keeping as your own.

The habit is to save the ones you want to keep into your photos, where your backup will then protect them. In a text message, tapping and holding a photo gives you a Save option; once saved, it rides up to the cloud with everything else.

GOOD TO KNOW

Photos left sitting only inside a text conversation are not backed up as photos. Save the keepers into your library so they are protected like the rest.

A COPY YOU HOLD

35. Backing Up to Your Home Computer

A home computer makes an excellent second copy that you fully control. After a trip, you connect the phone to the computer and copy the new photos across, giving you a complete set in your own home, independent of any cloud account.

- 1 Connect your phone to the computer with its cable
- 2 On a Mac, the Photos app offers to import new pictures; on Windows, the Photos app does the same
- 3 Choose to import all new items
- 4 Let them copy across and confirm they arrived
- 5 Keep the computer itself backed up too, so this copy is also protected

TIP

A computer is not a magic vault; it can fail like any machine. That is why the cloud plus a computer, two very different baskets, is the sweet spot for safety.

PLUG-IN DRIVES

36. External Drives and USB Sticks

For a copy you can hold in your hand and tuck in a drawer, a small external hard drive or a USB memory stick works well. You copy your photos onto it, and it sits safely offline, untouched by internet troubles or account problems.

These are inexpensive and hold a great many photos. The one rule is to keep the drive somewhere different from your computer when you can, so a single mishap at home, like a flood or a theft, cannot take both at once.

WATCH OUT

Drives and sticks can fail or get lost, so treat them as one copy among several, never your only one. Label it clearly so you remember what is on it.

THE KEY TO IT ALL

37. The Account That Holds Everything

Your entire cloud backup hangs on one thing: your account, meaning your Apple account or your Google account, and its password. That account is the key to the safe deposit box. If you lose access to it, you lose easy access to the photos inside, so it deserves real care.

Keep your password written down somewhere safe at home, not only in your head, and make sure a trusted family member knows how to find it in an emergency. This is practical, not morbid; it protects a lifetime of pictures.

TIP

A strong password you can read off a card, like Sunset-Beach-1962, is both hard for strangers to guess and easy for you to use. Write it on a card kept in a safe place.

EXTRA PROTECTION

38. The Second Lock on Your Account

Both Apple and Google offer a free extra layer of protection called two-factor, or two-step, sign-in. With it switched on, signing in on a new device also needs a short code sent to your trusted phone, so a stranger with only your password still cannot get in.

This matters most when you travel, because that is when phones and passwords are most at risk. The small extra step at sign-in is well worth the strong protection it gives your years of memories.

GOOD TO KNOW

Set this up before you leave and make sure the trusted phone number is one you will have with you. If your only trusted device is lost, recovering access is harder, so have a backup number too.

WHAT IT COSTS

39. A Plain Word About the Cost

Getting started costs nothing. Both Apple and Google give you a free amount of cloud space, enough for a modest collection. You only pay once your pictures outgrow that free space, which a few trips may well do.

The paid plans are modest monthly amounts, and prices change often, so confirm the current price when you sign up. For the safety of a lifetime of photos, most people find it a small and worthwhile cost, far less than reprinting memories that cannot be replaced.

TIP

Start on the smallest paid plan that fits and move up only if you fill it. There is no need to pay for more room than your pictures actually use.

COMMON WORRIES

40. The Questions Travelers Ask Me Most

A handful of worries come up again and again, and the answers are reassuring.

- Will backup drain my battery? Hardly at all, and plugging in overnight settles it
- Can anyone else see my photos? No, only you, through your account
- Does it use a lot of data? Not if you set it to Wi-Fi only
- What if I run out of space mid-trip? Free up room safely, or add cloud space in minutes
- Do I have to do anything each day? No, once set up it runs on its own

GOOD TO KNOW

The whole point of an automatic backup is that you stop having to think about it. Set it once, check it now and then, and enjoy your trip.

PEACE OF MIND

41. A Few Myths, Gently Corrected

It helps to clear up a couple of common misunderstandings that make people nervous. None of this is as fragile or complicated as it may seem.

- Myth: the cloud is risky. In truth, those computers are far safer than one phone in your pocket
- Myth: backing up is complicated. It is a one-time setting that then runs itself

- Myth: I will lose my photos if I change phones. Not if they are backed up; they follow your account
- Myth: it costs a fortune. It starts free, and more space is a small monthly amount

TIP

If worry is what has held you back, let this be the nudge. The safest your photos can be is backed up; the riskiest is living on one phone alone.

YOUR CHECKLIST

42. Your Pre-Trip Photo Checklist

Run through this the week before you travel and your memories are protected from day one.

- Backup turned on, iCloud or Google Photos
- Backup set to Wi-Fi only
- Enough cloud space for the trip
- Account password known and safely written down
- Two-step sign-in turned on
- Some phone storage freed up for new photos
- A plan to check the backup each evening

GOOD TO KNOW

Do this calmly at home. Five quiet minutes at the kitchen table is all it takes to travel knowing your pictures are safe no matter what.

OLD MEMORIES

43. Backing Up Boxes of Old Prints and Slides

The photos most at risk of being lost forever are often the oldest: the shoeboxes of prints, the carousels of slides, the wedding album slowly fading in a drawer. A trip is a fine prompt to protect those too, because a flood or a fire at home would take them in an instant, and unlike your phone photos, there is no cloud copy waiting.

Your phone can turn an old print into a digital photo in seconds. A free scanning app, or even just the camera, captures the picture, and from there it joins your backup like any other. Doing a few each evening turns a daunting box into a finished project over a season.

GOOD TO KNOW

Apple and Google both offer free photo-scanning tools, and there are simple standalone apps as well. Once a print is captured and backed up, the memory is finally safe from the hazards of paper.

ENJOYING THEM

44. Turning a Trip Into Something You Share

Backing up is about safety, but the reward is getting to enjoy the pictures. Both iCloud and Google Photos quietly gather your trip into little slideshows and memory collections, set to music, that you can play on your phone or send to family. It is a lovely way to relive a journey without any effort.

You can also cast these to a television, so the whole family can watch the trip on the big screen after dinner. The photos you worked to protect become the evening's entertainment, which is the best reason of all to keep them safe.

GOOD TO KNOW

These slideshows are made for you automatically; you do not have to build them. Look for a Memories or For You area in your photo app and tap play.

WHEN TO CALL

45. When It Is Worth Calling Me

Most people can turn on a backup in a few minutes, but if the setup will not cooperate, if you are unsure whether your photos are truly safe, or if you simply want someone patient to sit beside you and walk through it, that is exactly what I am here for. I have more than thirty years of experience, I serve Portage County, and I never rush you or talk down to you.

A first in-home visit is a flat \$99, with a thirty-day follow-up included, and remote screen-share help is \$49 if you would rather not have anyone come out. Call or text me, Bill, at (330) 200-8042, or email Bill@BillsHomeTech.com. My friendly phone helper Sophie can also answer quick questions and get you on the schedule.

WATCH OUT

In one visit I can set up your backups, free up your phone's storage, show you how to find any photo, and make sure a whole trip's memories can never be lost. You leave on your trip with one less thing to worry about.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this page handy for your trip. It is the short answer to the questions travelers ask most about saving their photos.

- Turn on iCloud Photos (iPhone) or the Google Photos app (any phone)
- Set backup to Wi-Fi only so it does not use travel data
- Each evening, plug in on the hotel Wi-Fi and let photos catch up
- Phone full? Use Optimize Storage or Free up space; never delete unbacked photos
- Keep a second copy on a computer or a plug-in drive after each trip
- Find photos by date, by place on a map, or by typing what is in them
- Share a trip album with family by email, phone number, or a simple link
- Lost or broken phone? Sign in on a new one and your pictures come back
- Protect your account with a strong password and two-step sign-in
- Get help: call Bill at (330) 200-8042

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Where Should Your Photos Live?

The safest plan keeps copies in more than one place.

On the Phone

Where you take them
One copy only
Can be lost or broken

In the Cloud

iCloud or Google Photos
Automatic and safe
Comes back on any device

A Copy at Home

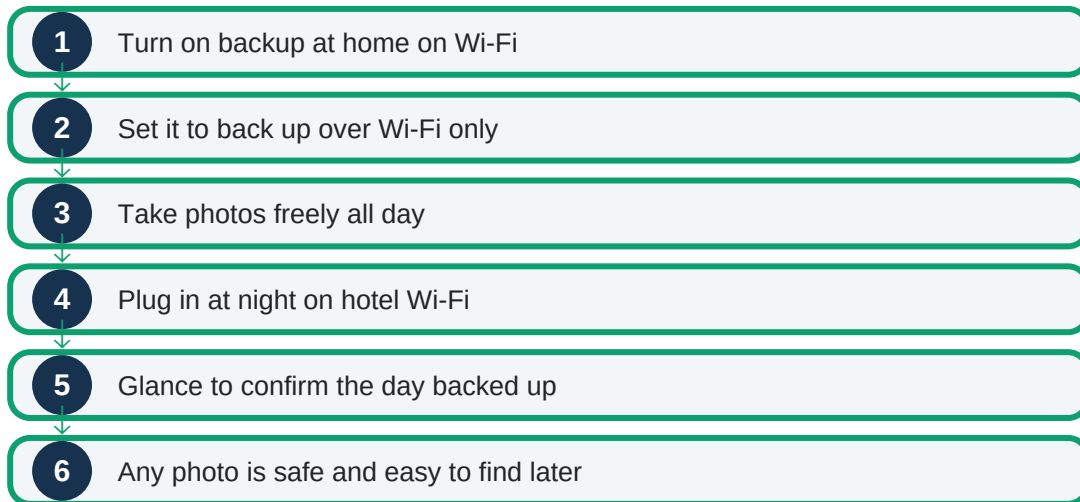
Computer or plug-in
drive
You hold it yourself
Guards against account
trouble

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

From Snapshot to Safe Forever

Set it up once at home, then let it run on your trip.



BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: **billshometech.com/book** · **bill@billshometech.com**

This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.