



Never Lose Your Parked Car Again — Phone Tricks That Remember for You

Phone tricks that remember where you parked An Extended Guide · No. 1935

————— An Extended Guide · No. 1935 —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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What's Inside

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1. The 60-Second Version If you only read one page, read this one. Losing track of a parked car is one of the most ordinary worries there is, and your phone is wonderful at fixing it. The idea is simple: the moment you park, your phone can mark exactly where you are on its map. Later, when you are loaded down with bags and have no idea which way the car is, you open the map, tap that mark, and let it walk you straight back. On an iPhone it can even do the marking by itself. There is nothing to memorize and nothing to buy. You just teach your phone one small habit, and the airport-garage wander becomes a thing of the past. The best part is that it works the same way in every lot you ever park in, from the grocery store to a stadium, so once you learn it a single time you are set for good. The second you park, let your phone mark the spot. On Android, use Save parking in Google Maps. On iPhone, Apple Maps can drop a parked-car pin on its own. To get back, tap the saved spot and choose walking directions. For a huge garage, also snap a photo of the level or aisle sign. WATCH OUT Mark the spot while you are parked and before you walk away, not while you are still pulling in. A few seconds standing by the car is all it takes. WHY IT WORKS 2. Why Your Phone Is So Good at This It always knows where it is. The reason this works at all is that your phone quietly knows its own location, using the same satellite system — GPS — that powers the maps and directions you already use. When you tell it to save your parking spot, it simply drops a pin on the map at wherever you are standing at that moment. That pin stays put while you go about your day. Then, when you want the car, the phone compares where you are now with where that pin sits and draws you a path between the two. You do not need to understand any of the machinery. You only need to know that your phone can remember a spot and lead you back to it, and that is exactly what we are going to set up. Think of it as giving the phone one simple job that it is perfectly suited for, so your own memory is free to hold onto the things that matter more than a parking space.

GOOD TO KNOW

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This uses the same location feature that powers driving directions. If your maps work for directions, they can remember your parking spot too. ANDROID 3. Saving Your Spot in Google Maps The Android way, step by step. On an Android phone, Google Maps has a tidy feature made just for this, called Save parking. When you park, you open the map, find the blue dot that shows where you are, give it a tap, and choose Save parking (on some phones it reads 'Save your parking'). The map drops a little parking marker right there and holds onto it. That is the whole trick. It takes about ten seconds once you know where the button lives, and after a time or two your fingers find it without thinking. Let's walk through it slowly the first time.

- 1 Park the car and open the Google Maps app.
- 2 Find the blue dot on the map — that is you.
- 3 Tap the blue dot once.
- 4 In the menu that pops up, tap Save parking (or 'Set as parking location').
- 5 A parking marker appears on the map. You are done. ANDROID 4. Adding a Note, a Photo, and the Level Make the saved spot even more helpful. Once you have saved your parking spot in Google Maps, you can make it far more useful by adding a few details. Tap the parking marker and you will find room to add a note — type something like 'Level 3, near the blue elevator' — and a button to add a photo, so you can snap the aisle sign or the row number right there. You can even note how much time is left on a meter or a garage limit, and the phone will remind you before it runs out. These extras are the difference between finding the right corner of a vast garage and wandering a bit. Add whatever will jog your memory later; it only takes a moment. Tap the parking marker to open its details. Add a note like the level, row, or a nearby landmark. Tap to add a photo of the aisle sign or level number. Set the time left on a meter and get a reminder before it expires.

TIP

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The photo is the real lifesaver in a big garage. A quick picture of the '3B' sign tells you more than any typed note when you are tired and loaded with bags. ANDROID 5. Walking Back to the Car on Android Let the map lead you. Getting back to the car is the easy, satisfying part. When you are ready to leave, open Google Maps, tap that parking marker you saved, and choose Directions. Then pick the little walking-person symbol so it gives you a walking route rather than a driving one. The map draws a path and, if you like, talks you through it step by step, just as it would in the car. Hold the phone in front of you and follow the blue line. Even in a sprawling lot or an unfamiliar part of town, it leads you straight to the spot where you parked. No more pressing the key fob and listening for a far-off chirp.

- 1 Open Google Maps and tap your saved parking marker.
- 2 Tap Directions.
- 3 Choose the walking symbol (the little person) so it routes you on foot.
- 4 Follow the blue line, or let it speak the directions, back to your car. IPHONE 6. The iPhone Can Mark the Spot by Itself The most hands-off trick of all. Here is the piece iPhone owners love. If your iPhone connects to your car — either through CarPlay or through the car's Bluetooth — Apple Maps can drop a 'parked car' pin all on its own, the instant you shut off the engine and the connection drops. You do not have to remember to do a thing. You park, you walk away, and the pin is already waiting on your map. There is one setting to switch on to make this happen, and once it is on, it works quietly in the background for every trip. This is the closest thing to magic in this whole guide, and it costs nothing but one trip into the settings. GOOD TO KNOW This automatic pin only works if your iPhone connects to the car by CarPlay or Bluetooth. That connection is the signal that tells the phone you just parked.

IPHONE

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7. Turning On the Parked-Car Pin One setting, done once. Switching on the automatic parked-car pin takes under a minute and you only do it one time. You go into the iPhone's Settings, find the Maps section, and turn on the switch for Show Parked Location. From then on, whenever you disconnect from your car, the pin drops by itself. If the switch is already on, wonderful — you may have been using this without knowing. Let's turn it on together so you can count on it.

- 1 Open Settings on the iPhone.
- 2 Scroll down and tap Maps.
- 3 Find Show Parked Location and tap the switch so it turns green.
- 4 That is it — from now on, parking drops a pin on its own.
- 5 To check it, take a short drive, park, and look for the pin in Apple Maps. IPHONE 8. Adding a Photo and Note to the iPhone Pin Dress up the spot with details. Just like on Android, the iPhone lets you add helpful details to your parked-car pin. Open Apple Maps, tap the parked-car marker, and you will find room to type a note — 'Row H, by the cart return' — and a button to add a photo of the level sign or the nearest entrance. In a confusing garage, these small additions turn a rough 'somewhere over there' into a confident walk to the exact spot. It is worth getting in the habit of snapping one quick photo of the aisle marker as you leave the car. Your tired, bag-laden self an hour later will be very grateful. Tap the parked-car pin in Apple Maps to open it. Add a note with the level, row, or a landmark. Add a photo of the aisle or level sign. A photo beats a typed note when you are tired — snap one every time.

IPHONE

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9. Walking Back to the Car on iPhone Apple Maps leads the way. Returning to the car on an iPhone works just like the driving directions you already know. Open Apple Maps, tap your parked-car pin, and choose Directions. Then pick walking rather than driving, and the map lays out a path on foot and can speak each turn. You hold the phone, follow the line, and it brings you right back to where you left the car. There is also a handy shortcut: you can ask Siri. Say 'Hey Siri, take me to my parked car,' and it will pull up the walking directions for you without any tapping at all. Either way, the days of standing in a garage, utterly turned around, are behind you.

- 1 Open Apple Maps and tap your parked-car pin.
 - 2 Tap Directions.
 - 3 Choose the walking option.
 - 4 Follow the route back, or just say 'Hey Siri, take me to my parked car.'
- THE SIMPLE WAY 10. The Photo Trick Anyone Can Do No setup, works on any phone. If all the settings feel like too much, there is a trick so simple it needs no setup at all, and it works on absolutely any phone: take a picture. As you walk away from the car, snap a photo of the nearest sign — the level number, the aisle letter, the colored section, or a landmark like 'Lot C' or 'near the food court.' Your photos are automatically stamped with the time, so the most recent one is easy to find later. When you come back, pull up that picture and it tells you exactly where to head. Plenty of seasoned travelers use nothing but this. It is foolproof, it is free, and it takes two seconds. There is nothing to set up and nothing that can fail you, which is why it is the method I most often recommend to folks who would rather not fuss with settings at all. A picture is worth a thousand worried laps around a parking lot. Snap a photo of the level, aisle, or section sign as you leave. Include a nearby landmark if there is one — an elevator, a store, a statue. Your most recent photo is the one to look at later. Works on every phone with no setup at all.

TIP

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Make it a ritual: close the car door, turn around, take the picture of whatever sign is nearest.

It becomes automatic and it has saved many a frazzled shopper. **BACKUP 11.** Leaving an AirTag in the Car A tiny tracker as a safety net. For a little extra peace of mind, you can leave a small tracker in the car. An AirTag is a coin-sized Apple device that you tuck in the glovebox or console, and it quietly reports its location to your iPhone through Apple's Find My app. When you cannot recall where you parked, you open Find My, pick the AirTag, and it points you toward the car — and in close range it can even play a little sound so you can follow your ears. It is not really meant for parking, but it works nicely as a backup, and it has the bonus of helping if the car is ever towed or, heaven forbid, stolen. One AirTag, dropped in the car and forgotten, is a quiet guardian. **GOOD TO KNOW** An AirTag works with iPhones through the Find My app. It is a 'belt and suspenders' backup — you probably will not need it often, but it is nice to have in the console. **BACKUP 12.** A Tile for Android Folks The same idea, Android-friendly. If you carry an Android phone, the AirTag is not your best match, but a Tile does the same job. A Tile is a small tracker, about the size of a key fob, that you leave in the car and pair with the Tile app on your phone. When you need the car, you open the app and it shows you the Tile's last known spot and can help you home in on it. There are other similar trackers too, and the newer ones work with Google's own Find My Device network. The main thing to know is that Android owners have a perfectly good tracker option; you just reach for a Tile or a Google-compatible tag rather than an AirTag. A Tile is an Android-friendly tracker you leave in the car. Pair it once with the Tile app on your phone. The app shows its last location and helps you close in. Newer tags also work with Google's Find My Device network.

BIG GARAGES**9. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

13. Writing Down the Level and Row The oldest trick still works. In an enormous garage — the kind at a big hospital, a stadium, or an airport — even a saved pin can leave you on the wrong floor, because the pin may not know which level you are on. This is where the plainest old habit still shines: write it down. Jot 'Level 4, Row M, near the red elevator' in a note on your phone, or even on a scrap of paper in your pocket. Combine it with the map pin and the photo, and you have the spot nailed from three directions. Garages are built to confuse, with every floor looking like the last, so a little redundancy is not fussy — it is wisdom. Note the level especially, because that is the detail the map most often cannot catch. WATCH OUT Map pins can struggle to tell which floor of a garage you are on, because the levels sit right on top of each other. In a multi-level garage, always note the level yourself. OUT AND ABOUT 14. The Airport Parking Garage The classic place to lose a car. The airport garage deserves its own mention, because it is where more cars go missing than anywhere else. You park in a rush to catch a flight, you are gone for days, and you come home tired and foggy with a week between you and that spot. The fix is to spend thirty extra seconds before you roll your bag away: save the spot in your map, snap a photo of the level and row sign, and jot the level in a note. Days later, all three are waiting for you. Many airports also print the row on a ticket or have an app of their own, so take whatever help they offer. A tiny bit of care at the start of the trip saves a miserable wander at the end of it. Save the pin, photo the sign, and note the level before you leave. Keep any ticket that lists your row. Check whether the airport has its own parking app or lot-finder. Thirty seconds now saves a tired search days later.

OUT AND ABOUT

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15. Malls, Hospitals, and Big Lots Where every corner looks the same. Shopping malls, hospitals, and big-box stores all share the same trap: a flat sea of cars with precious few landmarks. The entrances are often named or numbered — 'Entrance 4,' 'the Garden Center doors,' 'near Macy's' — and that name is your friend. Note which door you went in by, because coming back out the same door puts you near the car. A photo of the nearest light pole number, where lots have them, works wonders too. And of course the map pin does its quiet work here as well. For a hospital visit, where you may be worried and distracted, letting the phone remember for you is an especially kind thing to do for yourself. TIP Remember the store entrance you walked in through. Coming back out the same doors usually lands you within a row or two of the car. HANDS-FREE 16. Just Ask Siri or Google Let your voice do the work. You do not always have to tap around to find your car. Both phones will answer a spoken question. On an iPhone, say 'Hey Siri, where did I park?' and it brings up your parked-car pin and offers to walk you there. On an Android, you can ask Google Assistant to show your parking or to give directions to your saved parking spot. This is especially handy when your hands are full or your eyes are tired. It is the same information we have been saving all along, just fetched with a sentence instead of a few taps. If you are a person who would rather talk than poke at a screen, this is the friendliest door into the whole feature. iPhone: 'Hey Siri, where did I park?' Android: ask Google Assistant for your parking spot. It pulls up the saved pin and offers walking directions. Handy when your hands are full or your eyes are tired.

STREET PARKING

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17. Meters and Time Limits Do not come back to a ticket. When you park on the street or at a metered spot, the worry is not only finding the car but getting back before the time runs out. Google Maps lets you add a time limit to your saved parking and will nudge you with a reminder before it expires. You can also set a plain timer or alarm on your phone — 'two hours from now' — so you are never surprised by a ticket on the windshield. Pair that with the saved pin, and the phone looks after both halves of street parking: where the car is, and when you need to be back at it. In a busy downtown, those two reminders can save you both a long search and an expensive ticket.

- 1 Save your parking spot as usual.
- 2 In Google Maps, open the parking marker and set the time left.
- 3 Or set a simple timer: 'Hey Siri' or 'Hey Google, set a timer for 90 minutes.'
- 4 Head back when the reminder sounds, and let the pin lead you to the car. SHARING 18. Sharing the Spot With Your Spouse So you both can find it. Sometimes one person parks and the other needs to find the car — maybe you drop someone at a door and go park, or you split up in a big store. Both map apps let you share a location. Once you have saved the parking spot, you can tap to share it and send it to your spouse or a family member as a text, and their phone will show them the very same spot with directions. It is a small thing that saves a lot of standing around and phone-tag in a crowded lot. If you often travel as a pair, learning to share the pin is well worth a few minutes, and it is the kind of thing we can practice together. Once you have shared a spot a time or two, it becomes a natural part of parking, and the days of standing in a crowded lot calling each other to ask 'where are you' are behind you for good. GOOD TO KNOW Sharing a saved spot sends a link by text. The other person taps it and sees the same pin with their own walking directions — no guesswork between you.

TROUBLESHOOTING

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19. Why the iPhone Pin Sometimes Doesn't Appear Almost always one simple reason. If you have the parked-car pin turned on but it does not seem to drop, there is usually one plain cause: the iPhone needs to be connected to the car by CarPlay or Bluetooth for it to know you parked. If your car is older and does not pair, or the Bluetooth was off, the phone never gets the signal and no pin appears. The fix is to make sure your phone connects to the car each drive — which is also what you want for hands-free calling. If your car simply cannot connect, lean on the manual methods instead: save the spot yourself or snap a photo. Knowing the 'why' takes the mystery out of it, and there is always a good fallback. The auto-pin needs CarPlay or car Bluetooth to know you parked. If the car does not pair, the pin will not drop on its own. Make sure your phone connects each drive, or save the spot by hand. An older car without Bluetooth? Use the photo trick instead.

TROUBLESHOOTING 20. When the Android Save Won't Stick A quick checklist. On Android, if Save parking is not behaving, run through a short list. First, make sure Google Maps has permission to use your location — if it does not, it cannot drop the pin. Open your phone's settings, find Google Maps under Apps, and check that Location is allowed. Second, be sure you tapped the blue dot and then Save parking, rather than tapping the map somewhere else. Third, if the saved marker vanished, you may have cleared it; simply save it again next time you park. None of these are serious, and most are a matter of a setting being off. If it keeps fighting you, it is a two-minute fix we can do together.

- 1 Open Settings, tap Apps, then Google Maps, then Permissions.
- 2 Make sure Location is set to Allow (while using the app is fine).
- 3 Reopen Maps, tap the blue dot, and choose Save parking again.
- 4 If the marker keeps disappearing, just save fresh each time you park.

CATCH-UP

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21. You Forgot to Save — Now What?

Your phone may still have a clue. Suppose you walked off without saving anything, and now you are stuck. There is still hope. Both Google and Apple can keep a quiet history of the places you have been, if you have that feature turned on, and that history may show roughly where the car last stopped. In Google Maps this lives under your Timeline; on an iPhone it is tucked in the location settings under Significant Locations. It is not as tidy as a saved pin, but it can point you to the right area. And of course, if you left an AirTag or Tile in the car, this is its moment to shine. The lesson, gently, is that saving the spot up front beats hunting for it afterward — but all is not lost if you forget. We have all walked off without a thought now and then, and it is reassuring to know the phone may still hold a quiet clue to where the car is waiting. GOOD TO KNOW Location history can bail you out in a pinch, but it is fiddly to dig through. A saved pin or a quick photo up front is far easier than detective work later. PRIVACY 22. Is My Phone Tracking Me? A fair question, answered plainly. Some folks feel uneasy about the phone knowing where they parked, and that is a sensible thing to wonder about. Here is the honest picture. For the simple Save parking and the photo trick, the location stays on your own phone and is used only to help you find your car. The automatic parked-car pin and location history use features you can turn on or off whenever you like. Nothing here shares your spot with anyone unless you choose to send it to a family member. If the automatic features make you uncomfortable, skip them entirely and just use the photo trick, which keeps everything in your own camera roll. You are always in control of how much the phone remembers. The basic save and the photo trick stay on your phone. Automatic pins and history are features you can switch on or off. Your spot is shared only if you choose to send it to someone. Uneasy? The photo trick keeps it all in your own camera roll.

OHIO LIFE

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23. Snowy and Muddy Lots A few Portage County realities. Around here, the parking lot adds its own challenges in winter. Snow covers the painted lines and the row markers, and a lot that was easy to read in July becomes a white blur in January. That is all the more reason to lean on your phone. A saved pin does not care whether the lines are buried. A photo of the garage level sign shows through any amount of snow on the ground. And getting back to the car quickly, by a clear path the map draws, means less time slipping across an icy lot with your arms full. The methods in this guide earn their keep most on the very days the weather is working against you. There is a real comfort in knowing that a bitter, blowing January evening in a snow-covered lot holds no fear for you, because your phone remembers the spot no matter what the weather has done to the painted lines. TIP In snow, the painted lines and markers disappear. A saved pin and a photo of a permanent sign — a numbered pole or a level marker — cut right through a white-covered lot. KEEP IT SIMPLE 24. Pick One Method and Make It a Habit You do not need all of these at once. If this guide has shown you anything, it is that there are many ways to remember your car — maybe more than you need. So let me make it easy. Pick one method that suits you and make it your habit, and add the others only when you want extra insurance for a tricky garage. If you like gadgets and settings, let the automatic pin do the work. If you would rather keep it dead simple, use the photo trick every single time. The best method is the one you will actually do without thinking. Everything else in here is a bonus you can reach for on the days it matters most. There is no prize for using the most methods; the prize is simply never losing your car, and one dependable habit wins that prize just as surely as five. Gadget-friendly? Turn on the automatic pin and forget about it. Keep-it-simple? Snap a photo every time, on any phone. Big garage? Stack the pin, a photo, and a jotted level. The best method is the one you will actually use.

PRACTICE

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25. A Dry Run in Your Own Driveway Learn it where there is no pressure. The time to learn this is not in a packed airport garage when you are already stressed. It is today, in your own driveway or at the grocery store, where nothing is at stake. Park, save the spot, walk a little distance away, and then use the directions to walk back. Do it two or three times and the taps become second nature. A skill you have rehearsed when calm is a skill you can reach for when flustered, and that is worth a great deal on the day you truly need it in a strange and crowded lot. This little dry run is the difference between a feature you own and a feature you merely read about. Spend ten minutes on it, and you will carry the confidence everywhere you park.

- 1 Park somewhere familiar, like your driveway or a quiet lot.
 - 2 Save the spot using your chosen method.
 - 3 Walk a little distance away.
 - 4 Open the saved spot, choose walking directions, and follow them back.
 - 5 Repeat once or twice until it feels easy.
- THE BASICS 26. Turning On Location So It All Works** The one switch everything depends on. Every trick in this guide rests on one thing: your phone being allowed to know where it is. That ability is called Location, and it is a switch you can turn on or off. For the parking features to work, your map app needs permission to use your location, at least while you are using it. On most phones this is already on, since it is what makes driving directions possible, but it is worth a quick check if the parking features seem to do nothing. The setting lives in your phone's Settings, under Privacy and then Location, or under the individual app's permissions. You want your map app set to use your location, which lets it drop and find the parking pin. This is not the phone spying on you — it is simply the phone being allowed to answer the question 'where am I' so it can help you find your car. Turn it on for your map app and everything else in this guide falls into place.
- 6 Open Settings on your phone.
 - 7 Find Privacy, then Location (or Location Services).
 - 8 Make sure Location is turned on.

ANDROID

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- 1 Find your map app in the list and set it to use your location.
- 2 Now the parking features have what they need to work. 27. Clearing an Old Parking Spot on Android Start fresh for the next trip. Sometimes you will look at Google Maps and see a parking marker from a previous trip still sitting there, which can be confusing when you are trying to find today's car. Clearing it is easy. You tap the old parking marker, and in its details there is an option to clear or remove it. Then, next time you park, you save a fresh one. In truth, saving a new spot usually replaces the old one on its own, so you rarely have to think about this, but it is good to know where the clear button is for the times the old marker lingers. A tidy map with only today's parking spot on it is easier to trust, especially in a stressful moment in a big garage. If you ever see two markers and are not sure which is which, clear them both and save again — it takes only a moment and removes all doubt. An old parking marker can linger from a previous trip. Tap the marker and choose to clear or remove it. Saving a new spot usually replaces the old one anyway. When in doubt, clear it and save fresh — no confusion. IPHONE 28. Finding Your Car in the Maps App List Where the parked pin lives. On an iPhone, the parked-car pin does not only sit on the map — it also shows up as a tidy entry you can pull right up. When you open Apple Maps and tap in the search area, you will often see Parked Car listed among your places, with the distance to it and a button for directions. This is handy because you do not have to hunt around the map to spot the little pin; the phone hands it to you directly. Tapping that entry brings up the spot, any photo and note you added, and the walking directions. If you have ever felt that the pin was hard to find on a busy map, this list entry is the friendlier door. Get in the habit of opening Apple Maps and looking for Parked Car in your places, and the whole feature feels much simpler and more reliable. Many people who thought the parked-car pin was fiddly simply had not found this list entry, and once they do, the whole thing clicks into place and they use it happily ever after.

THE SIMPLE WAY

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The parked-car spot appears as a 'Parked Car' entry in Apple Maps.

You do not have to hunt for the pin on the map. Tapping it shows the spot, your photo and note, and directions. Look for it in your places — it is the friendliest door in. 29. Jotting a Note on Your Phone Plain typing works wonderfully. Alongside photos and map pins, there is the humblest tool of all, and it works beautifully: a plain note. Every phone has a Notes app, and nothing stops you from opening it the moment you park and typing where you are — 'Blue garage, level 3, row F, near the elevator by the north doors.' It takes fifteen seconds and it captures exactly the details a map pin might miss, like which level and which entrance. Some folks keep a single note called 'My Car' and simply update it each time they park somewhere they might lose it. The note sits right in your phone, needs no special feature turned on, and is there whenever you want it. For a person who likes words better than maps and photos, a quick typed note is a perfectly good way to never lose the car, and it pairs nicely with a photo for extra certainty. Open your Notes app and type where you parked. Capture the level, row, and nearest entrance. Keep one note called 'My Car' and update it each time. Simple, reliable, and needs no special feature.

OUT AND ABOUT

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30. Sports Venues and Big Events The hardest lots of all. A stadium, fairground, or concert venue is the toughest parking challenge there is: enormous grass or gravel lots with no numbered rows, thousands of identical cars, and a crowd flowing out all at once when it ends. This is exactly where your phone earns its keep. A saved map pin is a lifesaver here, because there are so few landmarks to go by otherwise. Snap a photo of any sign, flag, light tower, or landmark you can find near the car, and note roughly how far and in what direction you walked from it to the entrance. If you came by a shuttle or crossed a particular gate, remember that too, since you will likely return the same way. The Ohio State Fair, a Guardians game, a county fair — all of them end with a sea of tired people hunting for cars, and the folks who quietly saved a pin and a photo walk straight to theirs. A little effort as you arrive, when you are fresh and unhurried, pays off handsomely when you leave tired and the crowd is streaming out all at once. TIP At big grass or gravel event lots with no row markers, a saved pin is your best friend. Add a photo of any landmark — a light tower, a flag, a gate — and note which way you walked. TROUBLESHOOTING 31. When the Directions Seem Off A few reasons, all fixable. Now and then the walking directions back to your car may seem a little off — pointing you the wrong way for a moment, or taking a bit to settle down. This is almost always because the phone needs a moment to figure out exactly where you are standing, especially indoors or in a concrete garage where the satellite signal is weak. The fix is simple: step outside or toward an opening if you can, hold still for a few seconds, and let the little blue dot catch up to your true position. Once it knows where you are, the directions straighten right out. It also helps to hold the phone flat and still, as if reading it, which lets its compass orient properly. If the directions are stubborn in a deep garage, lean on your photo and your jotted level instead until you are near enough to the car to spot it. The phone is a wonderful helper, but a thick concrete garage is the one place it occasionally needs your patience. Give it those few extra seconds to find itself, and it will reward you with a clear path straight back to your car.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

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Directions can wander where the satellite signal is weak, like inside a garage.

Hold still a few seconds and let the blue dot settle. Stepping toward an opening or outdoors helps it find you. In a deep garage, fall back on your photo and jotted level. 32. Make It Part of Parking Tie it to a habit you already have. The surest way to never lose your car is to bolt the saving step onto something you already do every single time you park, so you never have to remember it on its own. You already turn off the engine, gather your things, and shut the door — simply add 'mark the spot' to that little routine. Turn off the car, pick up your phone, save the pin or snap the photo, then get out. Done every time, it stops being a thing you decide to do and becomes a thing that just happens, like checking your mirrors. Habits tied to other habits are the ones that stick, because the first action reminds you of the second. Within a week or two of doing it this way, you will find your car is always marked and you never gave it a conscious thought. That is the goal — not to remember to use the trick, but to have it happen on its own. A habit that runs by itself is worth far more than a clever trick you have to remember to use, because the day you most need it is usually the day you are too distracted to think of it. Attach 'mark the spot' to turning off the engine. Engine off, phone up, save or snap, then get out. Habits tied to other habits are the ones that stick. Within a week or two it happens on its own.

PEACE OF MIND

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33. You Do Not Have to Remember a Thing That is the whole point. Here is the gentle truth at the heart of this guide: the entire reason to let your phone remember where you parked is so that you never have to. There is no shame at all in losing track of a car in a vast lot — the lots are built to be confusing, every row looks like the next, and a busy or worried mind has better things to hold onto than a parking space. So we hand that little job to the phone, which is tireless and never forgets, and we get on with our day in peace. You do not have to keep a map in your head, count the rows, or feel that familiar flutter of worry as you walk away from the car. You just mark the spot, in whatever way suits you, and trust that it will lead you back when you need it. That freedom from one small daily worry is exactly the kind of thing these little tricks are for, and it is why they are worth the few minutes it takes to learn them. Losing track of a car in a big lot is nothing to be embarrassed about. The lots are built to confuse, and your mind has better things to hold. Hand the job to the phone, which never forgets. Mark the spot, trust it, and walk away without the worry. GET HELP

34. When to Call Bill Let's set it up together. If any of this feels fiddly — turning on the parked-car pin, getting the walking directions to come up, or just remembering where the button is — that is exactly the kind of thing I am glad to help with. A short visit sorts it out: I will turn on the right setting for your phone, walk you through saving a spot and finding your way back, set up an AirTag or Tile if you want a backup in the car, and have you practice until it feels natural. I have been doing this kind of work for more than thirty years, I serve folks right here in Portage County, and I come to you. If it is not working to your satisfaction, we make it right. That is my friendly guarantee. Call me at (330) 200-8042. I will turn on the parked-car feature for your phone. I will walk you through saving a spot and getting back to it. I will set up an AirTag or Tile in the car if you want a backup. Friendly guarantee: if it is not right, we make it right.

TIP

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If you have a big trip coming up with airport parking, give me a call beforehand and we will make sure you are set to find the car when you get home. CHEAT SHEET Everyday Cheat Sheet Keep this page handy. It points you straight to what to do for each task. I want to... Do this I want to... Do this Save my spot on Android In Google Maps, tap the blue dot, choose Save parking Save my spot on iPhone Let Apple Maps drop a parked-car pin, or save it yourself Add a note or photo Both apps let you add the level and a picture Walk back to the car Tap the saved spot and choose Directions, then Walking Big garage trick Snap a photo of the aisle or level sign Belt-and-suspenders Leave an AirTag or Tile in the car Get it all set up Give me a call and we will practice together Get help Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

HOW I CAN HELP

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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.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Park, save, return

Three easy beats and your car waits for you.

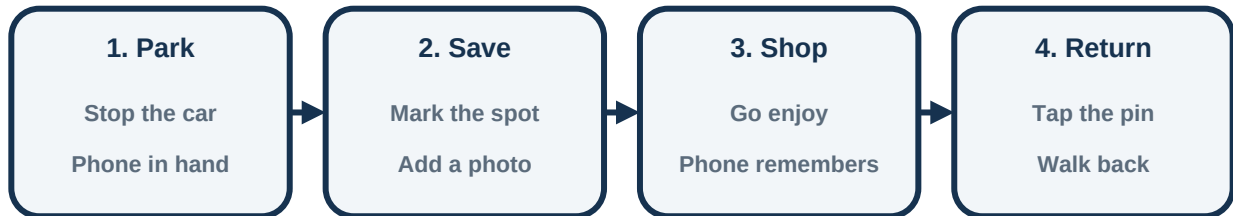


Illustration — a schematic. The order is a suggestion; do one box at a time.

A schematic of the plan — company steps vary; the order does not have to.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

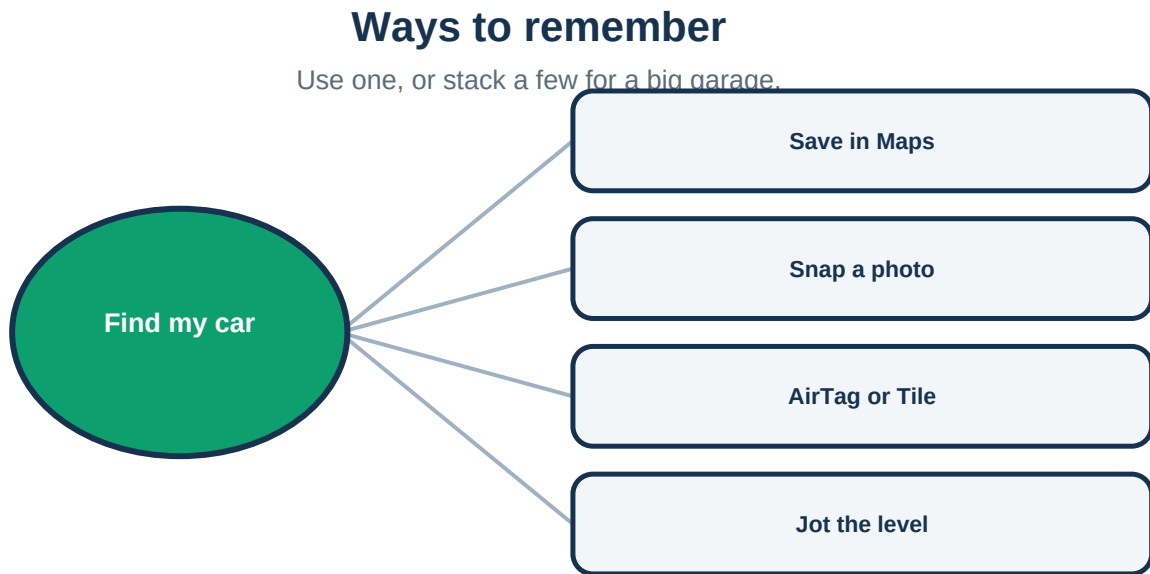


Illustration — a schematic. Set-up screens differ; each takes only a few minutes.

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**

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