



Getting Your Phone Trip-Ready Before You Leave

A Calm Pre-Trip Setup Updates, backups and must-have apps done before you leave home

————— **An Extended Guide · No. 1616** —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

1. The Whole Checklist in One Glance

If you do only these things, you are in good shape.

Getting your phone trip-ready is not one big job. It is a short list of small, calm tasks you do at home where the Wi-Fi is good and nobody is rushing you. Spread over an evening, none of them is hard.

- Update the phone's software and your key apps
- Charge the phone and a power bank, and test them
- Back up the phone and your photos to the cloud
- Download offline maps and a little entertainment
- Sort out travel data, and add boarding passes to your wallet
- Set your Medical ID and emergency contacts
- Share your location with one trusted family member

GOOD TO KNOW

Do all of this on your own home Wi-Fi a day or two before you leave, never in a hurry at the gate. A relaxed setup at home is the whole secret.

WHY BOTHER

2. Why a Little Prep Pays Off So Much

When something goes sideways on a trip, the phone is usually how you sort it out. A flight changes gates, a map is needed in a strange town, a family member wants to know you landed safely. A phone that is charged, updated, and loaded with what you need handles all of that quietly.

The opposite is the stress we all want to avoid: a dead battery at the worst moment, an app that will not open because it never got updated, or a photo library so full the camera refuses to take one more picture. Thirty minutes at home prevents nearly all of it.

TIP

Think of this the way you think of packing a suitcase. You would not leave without clothes. This is simply packing your phone so it has what it needs.

A CALM PLAN

3. How to Work Through This Without Rushing

You do not have to do everything in one sitting. The gentlest approach is to start a few evenings before the trip, do two or three items a night, and leave the simplest checks for the morning you pack.

- A few evenings before: updates and backups, which can take a while
- The night before: charge everything and download maps and shows
- The morning of: a final glance to confirm it all went through
- Keep your phone plugged in while big downloads and backups run

GOOD TO KNOW

Updates and backups go faster and cause no worry when the phone is plugged in and on Wi-Fi. Start them, then go make a cup of coffee while they finish.

UPDATE THE PHONE

4. Update Your Phone's Software First

The software that runs your phone gets regular updates that fix problems and patch security holes. Installing the latest one before you travel means fewer surprises and a safer phone while you are away from home. It is the first thing I check on any trip-ready phone.

- 1 On an iPhone, open Settings, tap General, then Software Update
- 2 On an Android, open Settings, tap System, then Software update
- 3 If an update is offered, plug in, connect to Wi-Fi, and tap Download and Install
- 4 Let it finish fully before you move on; the phone may restart itself

WATCH OUT

Do not start a software update at the airport or in the car. These downloads are large and can take a while. Do it at home on Wi-Fi with the phone plugged in.

UPDATE YOUR APPS

5. Update the Apps You Will Lean On

The apps you will use most on a trip, your airline, your maps, your bank, your messaging apps, all get updates too. An out-of-date app can misbehave or refuse to open at the worst time. Updating them at home takes a couple of taps.

- 1 On an iPhone, open the App Store, tap your picture in the top corner, and scroll to update all
- 2 On an Android, open the Play Store, tap your picture, choose Manage apps, then Update all
- 3 Pay special attention to your airline app, maps, and your bank's app
- 4 Let the updates finish before you unplug

TIP

If you are not sure which apps matter, update them all. It does no harm and makes sure nothing is left behind.

CHARGE EVERYTHING

6. Charge the Phone and Everything It Travels With

A full battery the morning you leave is a small comfort that makes a big difference. Charge not just the phone but the other things that run on batteries: your watch, your earbuds, your tablet, and most importantly your power bank.

- Phone to one hundred percent the night before or the morning of
- Power bank fully charged so it is ready to rescue the phone
- Earbuds, smartwatch, and tablet topped off
- Pack the right charging cables and plug, not just the phone

GOOD TO KNOW

Our sibling guide on charging covers power banks, car chargers, and plug adapters in detail. For this checklist, the key is simply that everything leaves home full.

TEST THE POWER BANK

7. Actually Test Your Power Bank Before You Trust It

A power bank is a spare battery in your bag. It is worth a quick test, because a bank that sat in a drawer for a year may have drained itself or stopped working. You do not want to discover that on a long layover.

- 1 Charge the power bank fully; most show lights or a number when done
- 2 Plug your phone into it and confirm the phone shows it is charging
- 3 Let it run for a few minutes to be sure it holds
- 4 Charge the bank back up to full before you pack it

WATCH OUT

A power bank goes in your carry-on, never a checked bag, because of airline battery rules. Our flying-with-batteries guide explains exactly why and what is allowed.

BACK UP THE PHONE

8. Back Up the Whole Phone to the Cloud

A backup is a complete copy of your phone kept safely in the cloud. If your phone is ever lost, stolen, or dropped in a pool, a backup means you can set up a new phone and have everything back. This is the single most reassuring thing on the list.

- 1 On an iPhone, open Settings, tap your name, then iCloud, then iCloud Backup, and Back Up Now
- 2 On an Android, open Settings, search for Backup, and tap Back up now
- 3 Stay on Wi-Fi and plugged in until it finishes
- 4 Note the date it completed so you know the copy is fresh

GOOD TO KNOW

Your phone usually backs up on its own each night while charging. Doing one more backup on purpose before you leave means the copy is as fresh as it can be.

BACK UP PHOTOS

9. Make Sure Your Photos Are Safely Saved

Photos deserve their own mention, because the pictures you take on your trip are often the thing you would least want to lose. Turning on automatic photo backup means every picture copies itself to the cloud as you go, so even a lost phone does not cost you your memories.

- iPhone owners: turn on iCloud Photos in Settings under your name and iCloud
- Anyone: install Google Photos and turn on Backup for a free copy
- Confirm it says your library is backed up and up to date
- This also frees space, as we will cover on the storage page

TIP

Our 'Backing Up Your Vacation Photos' guide goes deeper on this. For your pre-trip check, simply confirm backup is turned on and caught up before you leave.

CHECK YOUR STORAGE

10. Clear a Little Room So the Camera Keeps Working

Nothing is more frustrating than a phone that says 'Storage Full' when you raise it to photograph a sunset. A few minutes of tidying at home gives you plenty of room for the trip's photos and videos, which take up more space than you would think.

- 1 On an iPhone, open Settings, General, then iPhone Storage to see what is full
- 2 On an Android, open Settings, then Storage
- 3 Delete apps you no longer use and old downloaded files
- 4 Once photos are backed up to the cloud, you can safely remove local copies to free space

GOOD TO KNOW

Video is the big space eater. If your phone is tight on room, clearing a few old videos frees more space than deleting hundreds of photos.

OFFLINE MAPS

11. Download the Map Before You Need It

A map you have downloaded works even with no signal and no data. This is a lifesaver in a parking garage, a rural area, or a foreign country where your data is limited. You download the area at home while on Wi-Fi, and then the map lives on your phone.

- 1 Open Google Maps and search for the city or region you are visiting
- 2 Tap the place name, then look for the Download or Offline maps option
- 3 Choose the area to save and tap Download while on Wi-Fi
- 4 The map now works on your phone without any signal

TIP

Our 'Google Maps Offline' guide covers this step by step, including Apple Maps. Downloading your destination before you fly is one of the best travel habits there is.

ENTERTAINMENT

12. Load Up Shows, Music, and Books for the Journey

A long flight or drive is far more pleasant with a few downloaded shows, a playlist, and maybe an audiobook. Downloading at home means you are not fighting slow airplane Wi-Fi or burning through your data to watch a movie.

- In Netflix, Disney, or your streaming app, look for a Download arrow on a show
- In Spotify or Apple Music, download playlists for offline listening
- Download an audiobook or podcast episodes for the quiet hours
- Do this at home on Wi-Fi, where downloads are fast and free

GOOD TO KNOW

Downloaded shows and music play with no signal at all, so they are perfect for a plane in airplane mode. Our entertainment guide walks through each app.

TRAVEL DATA

13. Decide How Your Phone Will Get Online Away From Home

Staying within the country, your phone usually just works. Going abroad is where people get surprised by big bills, so it is worth deciding ahead of time how you will get online. There are two common paths, and you set either one up before you leave.

- A carrier day pass: your own company, such as Verizon, AT&T, or T-Mobile, lets you use your phone abroad for a daily fee
- A travel eSIM: a second line you add to the phone, often cheaper for data
- Day passes run roughly ten to fifteen dollars a day; always confirm current pricing
- Set up whichever you choose at home, not at the airport

WATCH OUT

Some carriers turn a day pass on automatically the moment you use your phone abroad, and it can add up fast. Check with your carrier before you go so there are no surprises.

ESIM POINTER

14. A Word on eSIMs for Cheaper Data Abroad

An eSIM is a SIM card built into the phone that you can set up without any plastic card. For overseas trips, a travel eSIM often gives you plenty of data for a fraction of what roaming costs. You buy it in an app, and it loads onto the phone in minutes.

This is its own subject, and our 'eSIM' and 'Calling Home From Abroad' guides walk through it carefully. For this checklist, the point is simply to decide and set it up at home, so your phone is online the moment you land.

TIP

Set up a travel eSIM on your home Wi-Fi a day before you fly. You can usually tell it not to start counting your days until you arrive.

WI-FI CALLING

15. Turn On Wi-Fi Calling as a Safety Net

Wi-Fi calling lets your phone make and receive normal calls and texts over any Wi-Fi network, even when there is no cell signal. It is a wonderful backup in a hotel with poor reception or a building with thick walls, and it is free to turn on.

- 1 On an iPhone, open Settings, tap Phone, then Wi-Fi Calling, and switch it on
- 2 On an Android, open the Phone app settings and look for Wi-Fi calling
- 3 Confirm it is on before you travel
- 4 Then your calls work anywhere you have Wi-Fi, even with no signal

GOOD TO KNOW

Using your own number over Wi-Fi within your home country is usually free. Abroad, check with your carrier, because rules vary. Our calling-home guide covers this fully.

BOARDING PASSES

16. Add Your Boarding Passes to the Phone's Wallet

Your phone has a built-in Wallet that holds boarding passes, so you can scan your phone at security and the gate instead of hunting for a paper printout. A pass in your Wallet even updates itself if your gate or time changes, which paper cannot do.

- 1 Check in through your airline's app, usually about a day before the flight
- 2 When your boarding pass appears, tap Add to Apple Wallet or Add to Google Wallet
- 3 The pass is now saved and works even without signal
- 4 At security and the gate, open Wallet and hold the barcode to the scanner

WATCH OUT

A boarding pass in your Wallet works with no signal, so you are never stuck because the app will not load. Still, a paper copy in your bag is a fine backup.

DIGITAL ID

17. Know What Counts as ID and What to Still Carry

Some states let you add a digital driver's license to your phone's Wallet, and a growing number of airports accept it at security. It is a handy extra, but it does not replace your physical ID or passport for a trip.

Always pack your real driver's license and, for international travel, your passport. The digital version is a convenience, not a substitute. Our 'Your Phone as ID' guide explains where it works and where you still need the card in your hand.

WATCH OUT

Never leave home relying only on a phone for identification. Carry your physical ID and passport. Phones run out of battery, and not every checkpoint accepts the digital version.

MEDICAL ID

18. Set Up Your Medical ID on the Lock Screen

Your phone can carry a Medical ID that a paramedic or stranger can see without unlocking it. It can list your allergies, medications, conditions, and your blood type. If you are ever unwell away from home and cannot speak for yourself, this quietly tells responders what they need to know.

- 1 On an iPhone, open the Health app, tap your picture, then Medical ID, then Edit
- 2 Fill in your conditions, allergies, medications, and blood type
- 3 Turn on Show When Locked so it is visible without your passcode
- 4 On an Android, open Settings, search Medical information or Emergency, and fill it in

GOOD TO KNOW

On an iPhone, anyone can reach your Medical ID from the lock screen by tapping Emergency, then Medical ID. Setting this up is a small kindness to your future self.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

19. Add the People Who Should Be Called

Alongside your Medical ID, you can list emergency contacts, the people responders should call on your behalf. Your phone can even text these people your location automatically if you ever use the emergency call feature.

- 1 In the same Medical ID screen on iPhone, tap the plus under Emergency Contacts
- 2 Choose a person from your contacts and set their relationship to you
- 3 On an Android, add emergency contacts in the same Emergency or Safety settings
- 4 Pick someone likely to answer and who knows your medical history

TIP

Choose a contact who travels well with a phone and tends to answer. A spouse at home or an adult child is a common, sensible choice.

SHARE LOCATION

20. Let One Trusted Person See Where You Are

Sharing your location with a family member means they can see that you landed, arrived at the hotel, or are on your way, without you having to text at every step. You control who sees it and can turn it off any time. It brings real peace of mind to everyone.

- 1 On an iPhone, open Find My, tap People, then Share My Location
- 2 On an Android, open Google Maps, tap your picture, then Location sharing
- 3 Pick one trusted person and choose to share
- 4 Confirm they can see you, then you are set

GOOD TO KNOW

Our 'Sharing Your Location With Family' guide covers this in full, including how to share only for the length of a trip. You are always in control of who sees it.

TRACKERS

21. Pop a Tracker in the Bags You Check

A small Bluetooth tracker tucked in a checked bag lets you see where your luggage is on your own phone. It turns a lost-bag mystery into a simple fact you can show the airline. If you have one, set it up and place it before you leave.

- Match the tracker to your phone: AirTag for iPhone, SmartTag for Samsung
- Set it up in the matching app at home and name it for the bag
- Zip it inside an interior pocket of each checked bag
- Confirm it shows in the app before you pack

TIP

Our 'AirTags and Luggage Trackers' guide covers this start to finish. The key is to set it up and place it before you leave, not scrambling at the counter.

KEY APPS

22. Put the Apps You Need Where You Can Find Them

Before a trip, download and sign in to the apps you will actually use, and move them to your home screen so they are one tap away. The gate is not the place to be hunting through folders or signing in for the first time.

- Your airline's app, for boarding passes and delay alerts
- Your maps app, with the area downloaded for offline use
- Your bank app and a payment app like Apple Pay or Google Wallet
- A messaging app your family uses, such as WhatsApp or FaceTime
- A weather app for your destination

GOOD TO KNOW

Sign in to each one at home while you remember the password. Being logged in before you leave means no password struggles on the road.

WRITE IT DOWN

23. Write Down the Key Information on Paper

A phone can die, get lost, or be stolen. A small card in your wallet with the most important information means a dead phone never leaves you stranded. This is old-fashioned and it works beautifully.

- Your hotel's name, address, and phone number
- One or two family phone numbers you would want in an emergency
- Your airline's confirmation number and its phone number
- Your own phone number, in case you need to tell someone

TIP

Keep this card separate from your phone, in your wallet or a pocket. If the phone is the thing that goes missing, the card is your backup.

PASSWORDS

24. Make Sure You Can Get Into Your Accounts

Many accounts send a security code to confirm it is really you when you sign in from a new place. That is good protection, but it can lock you out if the code goes to a phone that has no signal abroad. A little planning avoids that trap.

- Know your passwords for email, bank, and airline, or keep them in a password manager
- Make sure security codes can reach you, by email as well as text
- Consider an app like Google Authenticator that makes codes without needing signal
- Sign in to your key apps at home so you are not locked out abroad

WATCH OUT

If your bank texts a code to your US number and you have no signal abroad, you can be locked out. Set up email codes or an authenticator app before you go.

FIND MY PHONE

25. Turn On Find My Phone Before You Travel

If your phone is lost or stolen on a trip, Find My lets you see it on a map, play a sound, lock it, or erase it from another device. It only works if it was turned on beforehand, so this is a must-do before you leave.

- 1 On an iPhone, open Settings, tap your name, then Find My, and turn on Find My iPhone
- 2 On an Android, open Settings, Security, and confirm Find My Device is on
- 3 Make sure you know your account email and password
- 4 Test it once at home by opening the Find My page and seeing your phone

GOOD TO KNOW

Our 'If Your Phone Is Lost or Stolen' guide covers exactly what to do if it happens. Turning Find My on before you go is what makes all of that possible.

LOCK IT DOWN

26. A Strong Passcode and a Locked Screen

A phone holds your photos, email, banking, and messages. A good lock on it means that even if it is lost or stolen, a stranger cannot get in. Fingerprint or face unlock makes a strong code painless to use day to day.

- Use a six-digit passcode rather than four, and avoid obvious numbers

- Turn on fingerprint or face unlock so the long code is rarely needed
- Set the screen to lock itself quickly when idle
- Never share your passcode with anyone you do not fully trust

TIP

Our 'Keeping Your Phone and Accounts Safe' guide goes deeper on travel security. For now, a strong lock and face or fingerprint unlock cover the basics well.

DO NOT DISTURB

27. Set Up Quiet Hours for the Time Difference

If you are crossing time zones, your phone can keep buzzing with messages and calls at hours when you want to sleep. A Sleep or Do Not Disturb setting silences everything during your rest hours, while still letting an urgent call from family ring through.

- 1 On an iPhone, open Settings, tap Focus, then Sleep, and set your hours
- 2 On an Android, open Settings, search for Do Not Disturb, and set a schedule
- 3 Allow calls from your emergency contacts to break through
- 4 Adjust the hours once you arrive in the new time zone

GOOD TO KNOW

Our 'Sleep, Jet Lag and Wellness' guide covers settling into a new time zone. Quiet hours on the phone are a simple first step toward resting well.

CAMERA READY

28. Get the Camera Set for the Trip of a Lifetime

The camera is one of the best reasons to carry a phone on a trip. A moment of setup means you are ready for the photo you will treasure, rather than fumbling while the moment passes.

- Clear enough storage that the camera never says it is full
- Learn to open the camera quickly from the lock screen
- Confirm photo backup is on so pictures copy themselves to the cloud
- Wipe the lens with a soft cloth; a smudge dulls every shot

TIP

Practice opening the camera and snapping a photo a few times at home. When the grandchildren do something adorable abroad, you will be ready in a second.

TRIP ORGANIZER

29. Keep Your Trip Details in One Place

Flights, hotels, reservations, and confirmation numbers pile up. Keeping them in one spot on your phone means you are never digging through old emails at a check-in desk. A simple note or a trip app does the job.

- Save confirmation numbers in a single note titled with your trip
- Forward booking emails to an organizer app like Triplt if you use one
- Keep the hotel address handy for a taxi or rideshare
- Screenshot key reservations so they work even with no signal

GOOD TO KNOW

Our 'Tracking Flights and Organizing Your Trip' guide covers this fully. Even a plain note with your key numbers saves a lot of fumbling.

WEATHER AND ALERTS

30. Check the Weather and Turn On Alerts

Knowing the weather at your destination helps you pack and plan. Turning on weather alerts means your phone will warn you about a storm wherever you are, which matters more when you are somewhere unfamiliar.

- Add your destination city to your weather app so you can glance at it
- Allow the app to send alerts for severe weather
- Check the forecast the day before so you pack the right clothes
- Know how your phone shows an emergency alert, so you recognize one

TIP

Our 'Weather, Alerts and Emergency SOS' guide covers staying safe in bad weather. For your pre-trip check, simply add your destination and allow alerts.

AIRPLANE MODE

31. Know How to Use Airplane Mode

Airplane mode switches off the phone's signal in one tap, which the crew asks for during a flight. The nice part is that you can turn Wi-Fi back on while airplane mode is active, so you can still use the plane's Wi-Fi and your downloaded shows.

- 1 Swipe to open the control panel and tap the airplane icon to turn it on
- 2 This switches off cell signal to satisfy the crew
- 3 Tap the Wi-Fi icon to turn Wi-Fi back on if the plane offers it
- 4 Turn airplane mode off once you have landed and are off the plane

GOOD TO KNOW

Leaving airplane mode on abroad, with only Wi-Fi turned on, is also a clever way to avoid roaming charges while still using hotel and cafe Wi-Fi.

BATTERY HABITS

32. Simple Habits to Stretch Your Battery

A long travel day drains a battery fast between maps, photos, and messages. A few gentle habits keep the phone alive until you can charge it, so you are never caught at zero at the worst moment.

- Turn on Low Power Mode or Battery Saver when you drop below half
- Dim the screen; a bright screen is the biggest drain
- Close maps when you are not actively using them
- Carry the charged power bank you tested, so you are never stuck

TIP

Low Power Mode is perfectly safe to leave on all day while traveling. It simply trims background activity and makes your charge last noticeably longer.

DECLUTTER

33. A Gentle Declutter of the Home Screen

Before a trip is a good moment to tidy the phone so the things you need are easy to reach. You do not have to reorganize everything, just bring the travel essentials to the front.

- Move your airline, maps, wallet, and camera to the first home screen
- Tuck rarely used apps into a folder so they are out of the way
- Delete apps you never open to free space and reduce clutter
- Put your most-used app in the easy-to-reach bottom row

GOOD TO KNOW

When a flight is delayed or a map is needed in a hurry, a tidy home screen means the right app is right there, not buried three folders deep.

FAMILY SETUP

34. Helping a Spouse Get Their Phone Ready Too

If you travel as a couple, it is worth getting both phones ready, not just the one belonging to whoever handles the gadgets. If one phone dies or is lost, the other one has everything needed to carry on.

- Put boarding passes and maps on both phones, not just one
- Share your location with each other so you can meet up in a crowd
- Make sure both phones are backed up and have Find My on
- Keep the written card of key info with whoever is less phone-reliant

WATCH OUT

Walk through the checklist together at the kitchen table once. Two trip-ready phones mean one small mishap never derails the whole trip.

TEST IT ALL

35. A Quick Dress Rehearsal at Home

A few minutes of testing at home catches any gap while you can still fix it. This is the step that turns a checklist into real confidence. Pretend you have just landed and see whether everything works.

- 1 Open your Wallet and confirm the boarding pass is there
- 2 Open maps and confirm your offline area is downloaded
- 3 Open a downloaded show to confirm it plays without signal
- 4 Open Find My and confirm you can see your own phone
- 5 Check that your Medical ID shows from the lock screen

GOOD TO KNOW

If anything in this rehearsal does not work, you have time to fix it at home. That is far better than discovering it at the gate.

NIGHT BEFORE

36. Your Calm Night-Before Routine

The night before you leave, a short routine ties it all together. None of it is hard, and doing it the evening before means the morning of your trip is calm instead of frantic.

- Plug in the phone, power bank, and any devices to charge overnight
- Confirm the backup and photo backup both completed
- Check the boarding pass is in your Wallet and the map is downloaded
- Set an alarm, and set quiet hours if crossing time zones
- Lay out the charger, cable, and power bank with your bags

TIP

Do the charging and the final checks the night before. In the morning, you simply unplug a full phone and walk out the door with nothing to worry about.

MORNING OF

37. A Thirty-Second Check on the Way Out

The morning you leave, one last glance confirms everything is ready. By now the hard work is done, so this is just a reassuring final look before you head out.

- Phone and power bank both charged and unplugged
- Charger, cable, and plug adapter packed
- Boarding pass in your Wallet and ID in your pocket
- The written card of key info in your wallet

GOOD TO KNOW

If this morning check is quick and boring, that is exactly the goal. All the real preparation already happened in your calm evenings at home.

COMMON WORRIES

38. The Questions Travelers Ask Me Most

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

- Will updating my phone change everything? No, your apps and photos stay put
- Will a backup cost me money? The free cloud space usually covers it, and more is cheap
- Can I still use my phone on the plane? Yes, in airplane mode with Wi-Fi on

- Will I get a huge bill abroad? Not if you set up a day pass or eSIM first

TIP

If any of these worries you, that is exactly the kind of thing I can settle in a single visit so you leave on your trip feeling sure.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

39. You Do Not Have to Do Every Single Thing

This is a full checklist, and not every item applies to every trip. A weekend with family needs far less than a month overseas. Do the ones that fit your trip and do not feel you must master all of it at once.

If you only ever do four things, make them these: update the phone, back it up, charge everything, and download your map. Those four cover the most common travel troubles, and the rest is simply making a good trip smoother.

GOOD TO KNOW

Being trip-ready is a habit that gets easier each time. After a couple of trips, this whole list takes you twenty quiet minutes and feels like second nature.

WHEN TO CALL

40. When It Is Worth Calling Me

Most people can work through this checklist in an evening or two. But if an update will not install, a backup will not finish, or you would simply feel better having someone sit beside you and get the whole phone ready at once, that is exactly what I am here for. I can get you and your spouse both set up in a single visit.

TIP

Call Bill's Home Tech at (330) 200-8042. A first in-home visit is a flat \$99, with a 30-day follow-up, and remote screen-share help is \$49. I can have your phone trip-ready so you leave with one less thing to worry about.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this page handy as you pack. It is the short version of getting your phone trip-ready, done calmly at home before you leave.

- Update the phone's software and your key apps on home Wi-Fi
- Charge the phone, power bank, and all your devices, and test the power bank
- Back up the phone and confirm photo backup is on and caught up
- Download your destination map and a few shows for offline use
- Sort out travel data: a carrier day pass or a travel eSIM, set up at home
- Add boarding passes to your Wallet and carry your real ID and passport
- Set your Medical ID to show on the lock screen and add emergency contacts
- Share your location with one trusted family member and turn on Find My
- Carry a paper card with hotel, flight, and family numbers as a backup
- Get help: call Bill at (330) 200-8042

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

The Four Pre-Trip Essentials

If you do nothing else, do these four.

Update

Phone software
first
Then your key
apps
Fewer surprises
abroad

Back Up

Whole phone to
cloud
Photos backing
up too
Safe if phone is
lost

Charge

Phone to full
Power bank
tested
Cables and plug
packed

Download

Offline map
saved
Shows and music
loaded
Works with no
signal

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Your Night-Before Routine

A calm order to finish the checklist.

- 1 Plug in the phone and power bank to charge
- 2 Confirm the backup and photo backup finished
- 3 Check the boarding pass is in your Wallet
- 4 Confirm your destination map is downloaded
- 5 Set quiet hours if crossing time zones
- 6 Lay out chargers and the key-info card

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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