



Google Maps Offline — Directions With No Signal

Directions Anywhere Download the map before you go and never lose your way

————— **An Extended Guide · No. 1598** —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

1. The Whole Idea in One Glance

If you remember only this page, you will still get most of the benefit.

An offline map is a copy of a map saved onto your phone ahead of time. Once it is saved, your phone can show you where you are and give you driving directions without any internet, any bars, or any data charges. The little dot that shows your location comes from GPS satellites, which work anywhere under open sky, even far from a cell tower.

- Open Google Maps at home, on Wi-Fi, before your trip
- Search for the city or area you are visiting
- Tap your little profile circle, then Offline maps, then Download
- Drag the box to cover where you will go, and tap Download
- On the road, the map and driving directions work with no signal

GOOD TO KNOW

Your phone's GPS does not need a cell signal or Wi-Fi to know where you are. That is why a saved map can still track your little blue dot in the middle of nowhere.

WHY IT MATTERS

2. Why a Saved Map Saves the Day

Cell signal has a way of vanishing at the worst moment. A mountain road, a national park, a stretch of rural highway, or a foreign country where your phone has no data plan can all leave you staring at a spinning wheel instead of directions. A map you saved in advance does not care one bit about signal.

It also saves money. If you travel abroad without an international data plan, every map that loads over the cellular network can cost you. A downloaded map uses none of that, because it is already sitting on your phone.

GOOD TO KNOW

Even at home in Ohio, a saved map is handy. Signal drops out on some back roads in the townships, and a downloaded map keeps your directions going without a hiccup.

WHAT YOU NEED

3. What You Need Before You Start

The good news is you almost certainly already have everything. You need a smartphone, the free Google Maps app, and a few minutes on Wi-Fi. There is nothing to buy and no subscription.

- A smartphone, either an iPhone or an Android phone
- The Google Maps app, which is free to download
- A Wi-Fi connection, so the download does not use your data
- A little free space on your phone, usually a few hundred megabytes per area

GOOD TO KNOW

Google Maps is free on both iPhone and Android. If it is not already on your phone, you can get it from the App Store on an iPhone or the Play Store on an Android.

HOW IT WORKS

4. How a Phone Finds You Without Signal

This part surprises people, so it is worth a plain explanation. Your phone has a tiny GPS receiver inside, the same kind of thing a car navigation unit uses. It listens for signals from satellites high above the earth, and from those it works out exactly where you are. None of that needs a cell tower or the internet.

The reason you normally need signal is that the map itself, all those roads and labels, usually streams in from the internet as you move. When you download the map ahead of time, that streaming is no longer needed. The map is already on the phone, and the GPS dot rides along on top of it.

TIP

GPS works best with a clear view of the sky. In a deep canyon, a tunnel, or a parking garage, the dot may drift or pause. It catches up again once you are back in the open.

DOWNLOADING A MAP

5. Downloading Your First Offline Map

Here is the heart of the whole guide. Do this at home, on Wi-Fi, before you leave. It takes about two minutes once you have done it once.

- 1 Open the Google Maps app
- 2 In the search box at the top, type the city or area you are visiting and tap it
- 3 Tap your profile circle in the top right, the little round photo or initial
- 4 Tap Offline maps, then tap Select Your Own Map
- 5 Drag and pinch the map so the blue box covers where you will travel, then tap Download

GOOD TO KNOW

The box shows you how much space the map will take before you download. A single city is small; a whole state is larger but still fits comfortably on most phones.

CHOOSING THE AREA

6. Picking the Right Area to Save

When the blue box appears, you get to choose how much map to save. Pinch with two fingers to zoom out and cover more ground, or spread them to zoom in and cover less. A bigger box covers more but takes more space; a smaller box is tidier but might not reach your whole trip.

- Cover your whole route, not just the destination city
- Include the airport, the hotel, and any day trips you expect
- If the box gets too big, Google may ask you to shrink it
- You can always save more than one area for a longer trip

WATCH OUT

When in doubt, save a little extra. It is better to have map you do not use than to drive off the edge of your saved area and lose your directions.

NAMING AND FINDING

7. Where Your Saved Maps Live

Once a map finishes downloading, it is tucked away in one easy place. You do not need to hunt for it. The next time you want to see your saved maps, update them, or delete an old one, you go to the same spot.

- 1 Open Google Maps
- 2 Tap your profile circle in the top right
- 3 Tap Offline maps
- 4 You will see every area you have saved, with its name and size
- 5 Tap any one to update it, rename it, or delete it

GOOD TO KNOW

Google often names a saved map after the biggest city in the box, but you can rename it to something clear like Florida Trip so you know what it is at a glance.

USING IT OFFLINE

8. Using the Map When You Have No Signal

This is the payoff. When you are out of signal, you do not have to do anything special. Just open Google Maps the way you always do. The app quietly uses the saved map instead of the internet, and your blue dot moves along just the same.

You can search for a place inside your saved area, tap Directions, and get turn-by-turn driving guidance with the spoken voice, all with no bars. It feels exactly like normal, because to you it is normal.

TIP

To test it before your trip, turn on Airplane Mode at home and open Maps. If your saved area still shows roads and lets you get driving directions, you are all set.

GETTING DIRECTIONS

9. Turn-by-Turn Directions With No Internet

Driving directions are the single most useful thing an offline map does. Inside your saved area, Google Maps will route you from where you are to where you want to go, speak the turns aloud, and reroute you if you miss one. It all happens on the phone.

- Search for your destination, or tap it on the map
- Tap the blue Directions button
- Choose driving, and tap Start
- The spoken voice guides you turn by turn, no signal needed

WATCH OUT

Offline maps handle driving directions, but walking, biking, and public transit directions usually need the internet. For those, you will want a signal or a saved area with a data connection.

WHAT WORKS OFFLINE

10. What You Can and Cannot Do Offline

It helps to know the limits so nothing surprises you on the road. Offline maps do the everyday jobs well, but a few features lean on the internet and will pause until you reconnect.

- Works offline: seeing the map, your location, searching places in the area, driving directions
- Needs signal: live traffic, road closures, bus and train times, Street View
- Needs signal: searching for a place outside your saved area
- Needs signal: calling a restaurant or opening its website

GOOD TO KNOW

Because live traffic needs the internet, an offline route will not know about a fresh accident ahead. It still gets you there; it just cannot warn you about a jam it cannot see.

SEARCHING OFFLINE

11. Finding a Place Inside Your Saved Map

Even with no signal, you can search within the area you saved. Type the name of a town, a street address, or a well-known landmark, and if it sits inside your downloaded box, Google Maps will find it and offer directions.

What it cannot do offline is reach out across the whole world. If you search for a place well outside your saved area, the app will tell you it needs a connection. That is your cue that you have wandered past the edge of what you saved.

TIP

Before you lose signal, search for your hotel and your main stops and let them load. Places you have looked at hold on better when the signal drops away.

SAVED PLACES

12. Starring the Spots You Care About

Google Maps lets you save, or star, any place so it is easy to find again. A gold star marks it right on the map. This is wonderful for a trip, because you can mark your hotel, the restaurants you want to try, and the sights you plan to see, all before you leave.

- 1 Search for a place and tap its name to open its card
- 2 Tap the Save button, shown as a little flag or bookmark
- 3 Choose a list such as Favorites or Want to Go
- 4 The place now shows a marker on your map
- 5 Find all your saved places under the Saved tab at the bottom

GOOD TO KNOW

Your saved places show on the map even inside a downloaded offline area, so your starred hotel and restaurants are right there waiting when you arrive, signal or no signal.

PLANNING AHEAD

13. Mapping Your Trip at the Kitchen Table

A calm half hour before a trip pays off for the whole journey. Sit down with a cup of coffee, pull up your destination, and do the three small jobs that make travel smooth: star your places, save the map, and glance at the route.

- Star your hotel first, so it is always one tap away
- Star restaurants, museums, parks, and stops you want to make
- Download the offline map covering all of them
- Take a quick look at the driving route so nothing surprises you

TIP

Doing this at home means your phone is on fast Wi-Fi and you are relaxed. The airport, with a spotty signal and a plane to catch, is the worst place to try to set this up.

KEEPING IT FRESH

14. Updating a Map Before It Expires

A saved map does not last forever, because roads change and Google keeps its maps fresh. Each downloaded area has an expiration date, and the app will remind you when one is getting close. Updating is quick and free.

If your map has 15 days or less before it expires and your phone is on Wi-Fi, Google Maps tries to refresh it on its own. You often do not have to lift a finger. But it is worth knowing how to update by hand, just in case.

- 1 Open Google Maps and tap your profile circle
- 2 Tap Offline maps
- 3 Any area that needs attention shows an Update button
- 4 Tap Update and let it refresh over Wi-Fi

GOOD TO KNOW

An expired map does not vanish on its own, but it stops being reliable for directions. Refresh it before a big trip so you are driving on up-to-date roads.

AUTOMATIC UPDATES

15. Letting Maps Update Themselves

If you would rather not think about expiration dates at all, you can tell Google Maps to keep your areas fresh automatically. Then it quietly refreshes them in the background whenever you are on Wi-Fi, and you never see an expired map.

- 1 Tap your profile circle, then Offline maps
- 2 Tap the gear or Settings in the top right
- 3 Turn on Auto-update offline maps
- 4 You can also allow updates and downloads over cellular if you like

WATCH OUT

Leave downloads set to Wi-Fi only unless you have plenty of data. Map files can be large, and you do not want a surprise on your cellular bill.

SAVING SPACE

16. How Much Room Maps Take Up

People worry a saved map will fill up their phone, but the files are smaller than you might think. A single city is usually a modest download, and even a large region fits on most phones with room to spare. The app always shows you the size before you commit.

- The download size appears right under the blue box
- A city is small; a whole state is bigger but manageable
- You can delete an area any time to free the space back up

- There is a setting to store maps on a memory card if your phone has one

GOOD TO KNOW

If your phone is short on space, delete an old trip's map before saving a new one. In Offline maps, tap the area, then Delete. The map is gone but easy to download again later.

STREET VIEW

17. Recognizing Your Hotel With Street View

Street View is a feature that shows a real photograph of a place, as if you were standing on the sidewalk looking at it. Before a trip it is a gift, because you can see exactly what your hotel entrance, a parking lot, or a tricky intersection looks like, so it is familiar when you arrive.

- 1 Search for a place and open its card
- 2 Look for a photo marked Street View and tap it
- 3 Drag your finger to look left, right, up, and down
- 4 Pinch to zoom in on a sign or a doorway

WATCH OUT

Street View needs an internet connection and does not work offline. Look at it at home before you go, so the place is already fixed in your mind when you get there.

THE BLUE DOT

18. Reading Your Little Blue Dot

The blue dot is you. It shows where you are on the map, and a pale beam fanning out from it shows which way your phone, and usually you, are facing. Learning to trust that little dot is most of what navigating is about.

Sometimes the dot has a faint circle around it. That circle means the phone is not quite sure of the exact spot, often indoors or among tall buildings. As you move into the open, the circle shrinks and the dot settles down.

TIP

If the beam points the wrong way, hold the phone flat and move it in a figure-eight in the air a few times. That helps the phone's compass find north again.

APPLE MAPS

19. Apple Maps Can Go Offline Too

If you have an iPhone, you also have Apple Maps, the app with the purple-and-white map icon, and it can now save maps for offline use just as Google does. Some people prefer it because it comes built into the iPhone. Either app works well; the choice is simply what you like.

- Apple Maps and Google Maps both save areas for offline use
- Apple Maps is already on every iPhone, nothing to download
- Google Maps works on both iPhone and Android phones
- You can keep both and use whichever you prefer

GOOD TO KNOW

There is no wrong choice here. If you already know and like one app, stick with it. The offline trick works much the same in both.

APPLE MAPS STEPS

20. Saving an Offline Map in Apple Maps

The steps in Apple Maps are just as gentle as in Google's app. You search for a place, choose to download the area around it, and adjust the box before saving. Do it at home on Wi-Fi, the same as always.

- 1 Open the Maps app on your iPhone
- 2 Search for a place and tap it, or tap the profile circle then Offline Maps
- 3 Tap Download Map
- 4 Drag the frame to cover the area you need, then tap Download
- 5 Find your saved maps later under the profile circle, then Offline Maps

TIP

In Apple Maps you can turn on Automatic Updates and Optimize Storage under Offline Maps settings, so it keeps areas fresh and tidies up space on its own.

BATTERY

21. Keeping the Battery Alive While You Navigate

Navigation is one of the hungrier things a phone does, because the screen stays on and the GPS keeps working. This is true for online and offline maps alike. A little planning keeps you from running flat on a long drive.

- Plug the phone into the car with a charger while you drive
- Turn the screen brightness down a notch if you do not need it bright
- Close other apps you are not using
- An offline map actually uses a bit less battery, since it is not constantly pulling data

TIP

A cheap car charger and cable in the glovebox means your phone is always topped up on the road. Bill's guide on charging on the road covers picking a good one.

AIRPLANE MODE

22. Navigating in Airplane Mode

Here is a tidy trick for traveling abroad or saving battery. You can put your phone in Airplane Mode, which switches off the cellular connection, and still navigate with a saved map. The GPS keeps working in Airplane Mode because it only listens to satellites; it does not send anything out.

This is a favorite for overseas trips. You avoid any roaming charges because the phone is not touching the cell network at all, yet your downloaded map and your blue dot work perfectly.

GOOD TO KNOW

On some phones, Airplane Mode turns off GPS too. If your dot stops moving, swipe to the settings and switch the Location or GPS back on while leaving cellular off.

ABROAD

23. Using Offline Maps in Another Country

Offline maps truly shine on an overseas trip, where data can be expensive or simply unavailable. Download the city or region of your destination before you fly, while you are on your home Wi-Fi, and you arrive with directions ready to go.

- Save the map of your foreign destination before you leave home
- The map is in the local language and layout, ready to use
- GPS and your blue dot work the same anywhere in the world
- No data plan is needed just to see the map and drive

TIP

Download the map while you are still home, not after you land. A foreign airport's Wi-Fi can be slow or locked, and that is a frustrating place to start fumbling with a big download.

MULTIPLE AREAS

24. Saving Several Maps for a Big Trip

A long trip might cover more ground than one box can hold. That is no problem. You can save as many separate areas as you like, each one covering a different leg of the journey, and your phone will use whichever one you happen to be inside.

- Save one area for each city or region you will visit
- Name each one clearly, like Orlando and Miami
- The app switches between them automatically as you travel
- Delete each one afterward to free the space

GOOD TO KNOW

There is no need to save the whole country in one giant box. Several smaller, well-placed areas are tidier and just as useful for the places you will actually go.

SHARING A DESTINATION

25. Sending a Place to Your Phone or a Friend

If someone emails you an address, or you find a place on a computer, you can send it straight to your phone's map so you do not have to type it in again. You can also share a place with a travel companion so they have it too.

- 1 Open the place in Google Maps
- 2 Tap the Share button
- 3 Choose to send it to yourself by text or email, or pick a friend
- 4 Tap the link on your phone, and it opens right in Maps

TIP

Have a family member send you the address of the rental house or the family reunion. One tap and it is on your map, no squinting at a handwritten note.

CAR SCREENS

26. Showing the Map on Your Car's Screen

Many cars built in the last several years can show your phone's map on the car's own dashboard screen, big and easy to read. Apple calls its version CarPlay; the Android version is called Android Auto. Your offline maps work there too.

- Plug your phone into the car with a cable, or connect wirelessly if the car allows
- The car screen shows Google Maps or Apple Maps in large, clear form
- Directions are spoken through the car speakers
- A saved map keeps guiding you on the big screen even with no signal

GOOD TO KNOW

Not every car has this, and the setup varies by make. If you would like it turned on, it is the kind of thing Bill can sort out with you in your own driveway.

A RENTAL CAR

27. Navigating a Rental Car in a New City

Picking up a rental car in an unfamiliar city is exactly where a saved map earns its keep. You step off the plane, and before you even leave the rental lot you have directions to your hotel, with no scrambling for signal in a strange place.

- 1 At home, save the map of the city you are flying to
- 2 Star your hotel and your first stops
- 3 At the rental counter, mount your phone where you can see it
- 4 Open Maps, pick your starred hotel, and tap Directions
- 5 Drive off with the spoken voice guiding you

WATCH OUT

A cheap phone mount that clips to the car vent is worth its weight in gold. It keeps the map in view so you are never tempted to glance down at your lap while driving.

KNOWING WHERE YOU ARE

28. Checking Your Location Without a Plan

Sometimes you just want to know where you are, not get directions anywhere. A saved map answers that beautifully. Open the app, and the blue dot shows your spot on streets you can see and read, even with no signal at all.

This is reassuring on a scenic drive or a long rural stretch. A glance at the phone confirms you are on the right road and tells you the name of the town coming up, without needing a single bar.

GOOD TO KNOW

To jump straight to your own location, tap the little target or compass button, usually near the bottom corner of the map. The map snaps right to your blue dot.

WHEN THE DOT STRAYS

29. What to Do When the Dot Wanders

Once in a while the blue dot jumps, drifts, or sits in the wrong place. This is almost always the GPS struggling to see enough sky, not a broken phone. Tall buildings, heavy tree cover, tunnels, and parking garages all block the satellites.

- Step into the open, away from buildings and trees, and wait a moment
- Make sure Location or GPS is switched on in your phone settings
- Do the figure-eight wave to reset the compass
- Give it a minute; the dot usually settles once it sees the sky

WATCH OUT

A wandering dot almost never means a lost trip. Pull over somewhere open, let the phone catch its breath, and it will find you again.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

30. A Quick Check the Night Before

A two-minute check the evening before a trip saves a lot of fuss. You simply confirm that the map is saved, up to date, and working, all while you are calm at home on Wi-Fi.

- Open Offline maps and confirm your area is there and not expired
- Turn on Airplane Mode and check the map still shows roads

- Confirm your hotel is starred and easy to find
- Charge your phone and pack a car charger

GOOD TO KNOW

Testing with Airplane Mode is the surest way to know it will work when the signal really is gone. If it works in Airplane Mode at home, it will work on the road.

TRAFFIC AND CLOSURES

31. Why Offline Misses Live Traffic

It is worth understanding one honest limit so you are never caught off guard. Live traffic, accidents, and road closures are information that changes by the minute, and that kind of update can only arrive over the internet. A map saved to your phone cannot know about a jam that happened after you saved it.

The route it gives you is still a good route; it simply cannot promise it is the fastest one at that moment. When you do get a signal, the app happily adds live traffic back in and will reroute you around trouble.

WATCH OUT

On a long drive, your signal will come and go. When it comes back, let the app refresh for a moment so it can factor in any traffic ahead before you rely on the timing.

TWO APPS TOGETHER

32. Keeping Both Maps for Peace of Mind

There is no rule that says you must pick only one map app. Many travelers keep both Google Maps and, on an iPhone, Apple Maps, and save the same area in each. If one ever hiccups, the other is right there as a backup.

- Save your destination in both apps for a belt-and-suspenders backup
- Each works independently, so one can cover for the other
- They sit side by side on your phone and cost nothing
- Use whichever one feels clearer to you on a given day

TIP

If you are new to this, start with just one app so you are not juggling two. Add the second later, once the first feels easy.

A PAPER BACKUP

33. Why a Paper Map Still Earns Its Place

Technology is wonderful, but a dead battery or a dropped phone can leave you stuck. A simple paper map or a printed set of directions costs nothing and never runs out of charge. It is a gentle backup for the one day your phone lets you down.

You do not need a glovebox full of atlases. Just print the route for a big trip, or jot the hotel address and a couple of main roads on a card. It is there if you ever need it, and quietly reassuring even if you never do.

GOOD TO KNOW

Keeping the hotel's name, address, and phone number written on a card in your wallet is smart travel. If all else fails, you can hand it to a taxi driver or a friendly local.

TEACHING A SPOUSE

34. Helping a Travel Partner Learn the Ropes

In many couples, one person is the navigator and the other would rather not fuss with the phone. Offline maps are a kind place to share the load, because once a map is saved, using it is simply opening the app and reading the dot.

Sit down together once at the kitchen table. Save a map, star the hotel, and let your partner try getting directions to it. After one gentle run-through, either of you can take the wheel of the navigating.

TIP

Keep it to the one job that matters: open the app, find the starred place, tap Directions. There is no need to master every button to get where you are going.

COMMON WORRIES

35. The Questions Travelers Ask Me Most

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

- Does it cost anything? No, offline maps are free in both apps
- Will it use my data? No, not once the map is downloaded on Wi-Fi

- Does GPS work abroad? Yes, satellites cover the whole world
- Will it drain my battery fast? Navigating does, so keep a charger handy

GOOD TO KNOW

The most common mistake is forgetting to download the map before leaving home. Make it part of your packing routine, right alongside your toothbrush and chargers.

A GENTLE ROUTINE

36. A Simple Routine for Every Trip

The travelers who never get lost build a small, calm habit around their maps. None of it is hard, and after a trip or two it becomes second nature, like checking you have your wallet before you leave.

- At home: save the map and star your places on Wi-Fi
- Before leaving: test it in Airplane Mode
- In the car: mount the phone and plug in the charger
- On the road: open the app, pick your place, and drive

WATCH OUT

Save the map the same evening you pack your bag. Tying it to something you already do means you will never forget it.

YOUR CHECKLIST

37. Your Pre-Trip Map Checklist

Run through this short list before you travel and you are set to navigate anywhere.

- Google Maps or Apple Maps installed and open
- Destination area downloaded for offline use
- Map confirmed not expired, or auto-update turned on
- Hotel and key stops starred
- Tested in Airplane Mode and working
- Car charger and phone mount packed

GOOD TO KNOW

Do all of this at home on your own Wi-Fi, never in a rush at the gate. A calm five minutes at the kitchen table is all it takes to travel with confidence.

FOOD AND FUEL

38. Finding Gas, Food, and Rest Stops

On a long drive, you will want to find a gas station, a restroom, or a bite to eat. When you have a signal, Google Maps does this beautifully: search for gas or food and it shows what is near you, with hours and reviews. Inside a saved offline area, you can still find places you have marked or search for ones within the box, though the live details like hours need a connection.

- With a signal, search gas, food, or restroom to see what is near
- Tap a result to see directions, hours, and reviews
- Offline, you can still see and route to places inside your saved area
- Live hours and 'open now' details need an internet connection

TIP

Before a long stretch with no signal, search for a rest stop or town ahead while you still have bars. Once it is loaded, you can route to it even after the signal fades.

WHERE YOU PARKED

39. Remembering Where You Parked

A huge airport lot or an unfamiliar parking garage is an easy place to lose your car. Google Maps can mark where you parked so you can walk straight back to it later. It is a small feature that saves a lot of wandering at the end of a tiring trip.

- 1 When you park, open Google Maps
- 2 Tap the blue dot that shows your location
- 3 Choose Set as parking location, or Save your parking
- 4 A little P marker appears where you left the car
- 5 Later, tap it to get walking directions back

GOOD TO KNOW

On an iPhone, Apple Maps can also remember your parked car on its own when you disconnect from the car's bluetooth. Either way, a quick note of your row and level is a fine backup.

ON A TABLET

40. Using Maps on a Tablet

If you carry a tablet, like an iPad, you can save offline maps on it just as you do on a phone. A tablet's bigger screen is lovely for planning a trip at the kitchen table, where you can see more of the map at once and star your places with room to spare.

The one thing to know is that many tablets have no GPS of their own unless they also have a cellular plan. A plain Wi-Fi tablet can show the map but may not pinpoint you as well as a phone does out on the road. For live navigation in the car, your phone is usually the better tool.

TIP

Plan on the tablet at home for the big, easy view, then do the actual driving navigation on your phone, which always has GPS built in. The two work nicely together.

TRIP TIMING

41. Seeing How Far and How Long

Part of planning a trip is knowing how far it is and how long it will take. Google Maps shows both the distance and the estimated driving time the moment you ask for directions, so you can plan your stops, your meals, and when to set out.

- Enter your start and destination to see distance and drive time
- The time estimate factors in traffic when you have a signal
- You can add a stop along the way and see the new total
- Offline, you still get distance and a time estimate, minus live traffic

GOOD TO KNOW

The drive-time estimate is just that, an estimate. Build in a little extra for rest stops, meals, and the unexpected, especially on a long day.

WHEN SIGNAL RETURNS

42. What Happens When the Signal Comes Back

On most trips your signal comes and goes. It is helpful to know how Maps behaves at the edges. When you lose signal, the app quietly leans on your saved map and keeps guiding you. When the signal returns, it picks the internet back up and adds live traffic and fresh details without any fuss on your part.

You do not have to switch anything on or off. The app handles the handoff by itself. If you ever notice the route recalculating when bars return, that is simply Maps checking whether a faster way has opened up now that it can see traffic again.

GOOD TO KNOW

If directions ever seem stuck right as you lose signal, make sure you started them while you still had a connection or inside your saved area. Starting a fresh route needs the map data to already be on the phone.

WHEN TO CALL

43. When It Is Worth Calling Me

Most people can save an offline map in a couple of minutes once they have seen it done. But if the download will not finish, if you are not sure which app to use, or if you would simply feel better having someone sit beside you and walk through it on your own phone, that is exactly what I am here for. Bill's Home Tech serves Portage County, and a first in-home visit is a flat \$99.

TIP

Call me at (330) 200-8042 or ask Sophie, my phone helper. I can set up offline maps for your whole trip, show you how to navigate with no signal, and connect your phone to your car's screen, all in one friendly visit.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this page handy for your trip. It is the short answer to the questions travelers ask most about using maps with no signal.

- Download the map at home, on Wi-Fi, before you leave
- In Google Maps: profile circle, then Offline maps, then download your area
- On iPhone you can also use Apple Maps the same way
- Star your hotel and stops so they are one tap away
- GPS and your blue dot work with no signal, even abroad
- Driving directions work offline; live traffic and Street View need internet
- Update or auto-update maps before they expire
- Test it in Airplane Mode before you go

- Get help: call Bill at (330) 200-8042

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Online Map Versus Offline Map

What changes when you save the map ahead of time.

Online Map

Streams over internet
Needs signal or data
Shows live traffic

Offline Map

Saved on your phone
Works with no signal
No data charges

Both Share

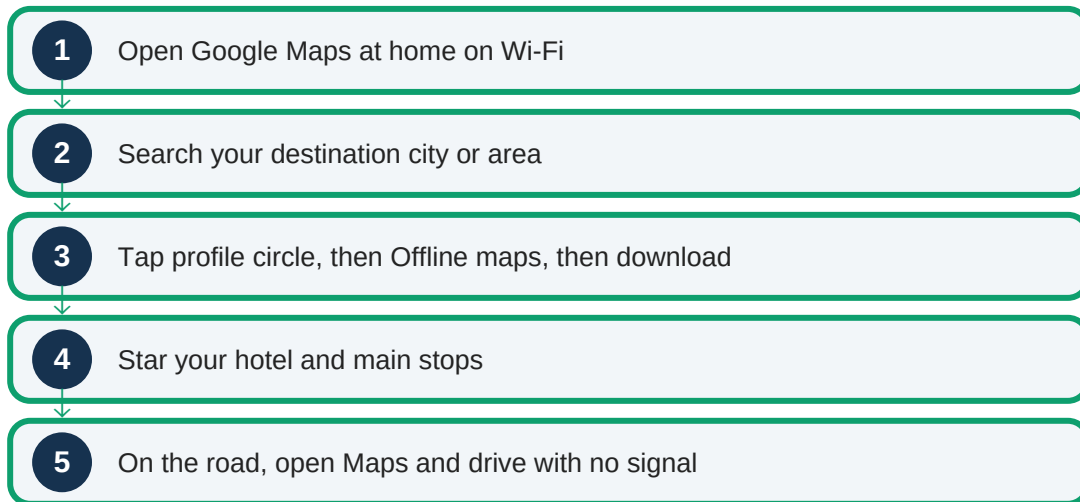
GPS blue dot
Driving directions
Your starred places

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

From Home Wi-Fi to the Open Road

Do the first steps at home, the last one anywhere.



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.