



# Travel Tech for Vision, Hearing and Getting Around

Travel With Confidence Phone tools for vision, hearing and getting around more easily

————— **An Extended Guide · No. 1618** —————

**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 travel more easily.*

Your phone has built-in tools that make small print bigger, turn speech into words on the screen, and help you find step-free routes. They are free, already on your phone, and waiting under a menu called Accessibility. A handful of free apps add even more help.

- Vision: a Magnifier, bigger bolder text, a screen reader, and a flashlight
- Hearing: Live Captions, hearing-aid streaming, and sound alerts
- Getting around: accessible routes, rideshare options, and airport help
- Safety: a Medical ID and emergency contacts on your locked screen
- Everything starts in the Accessibility menu in Settings

**GOOD TO KNOW**

These tools are not just for people with serious trouble seeing or hearing. Anyone who squints at a menu or misses an announcement in a noisy gate area will find them a quiet comfort.

## WHERE IT ALL LIVES

## 2. Finding the Accessibility Menu

Almost everything in this guide lives in one place: a section of your phone's settings called Accessibility. It gathers all the tools for seeing, hearing, and touch into one tidy list.

Learning where it is means you can find any of these helpers in seconds.

- 1 On an iPhone, open Settings, then tap Accessibility
- 2 On an Android phone, open Settings, then tap Accessibility
- 3 Scroll through the groups for Vision, Hearing, and Physical
- 4 Tap any tool to turn it on and adjust it
- 5 Turn on only what helps you and ignore the rest

**TIP**

There is no harm in exploring this menu. Turning a setting on and off to see what it does cannot break anything, so take a few minutes to look around before your trip.

**A QUICK SHORTCUT**

### 3. Turning Tools On With a Triple-Click

Once you know which tools you like, your phone can switch them on in an instant with a shortcut, so you are not digging through menus at a busy gate. On an iPhone it is a triple-click of the side button; on Android it is a shortcut button you can place on the screen.

- On iPhone, set up the Accessibility Shortcut at the bottom of the menu
- Choose the tools you want the triple-click to offer, like Magnifier
- Then triple-click the side button any time to turn one on
- Android offers a floating shortcut button for your chosen tools

**TIP**

Set the Magnifier as your shortcut before you leave. Then reading a tiny gate number or a menu in dim light is only three quick clicks away.

**VISION: MAGNIFIER**

### 4. Turning Your Phone Into a Magnifying Glass

The Magnifier turns your phone's camera into a powerful magnifying glass. Point it at small print, a menu, a medicine label, or a departure board, and the screen shows it large and clear. You can freeze the picture to study it, brighten it, and even flip the colors to make faint text pop.

- 1 On iPhone, open the Magnifier app, or set it as your triple-click shortcut
- 2 On Android, open Settings, Accessibility, then Magnification
- 3 Point the camera at what you want to read
- 4 Slide to zoom in, and tap the screen to freeze the image
- 5 Tap the brightness and color buttons if the text is hard to see

**GOOD TO KNOW**

The freeze feature is a traveler's friend. Snap the overhead departure board or a far-off sign, then study it at your leisure without craning your neck.

## VISION: BIGGER TEXT

## 5. Making the Words on Screen Larger

If reading your own phone is a strain, you can make the text larger and bolder across the whole phone. This changes your messages, your email, your travel apps, everything, all at once. It is one of the kindest changes you can make, and it takes under a minute.

- 1 On iPhone, go to Settings, Accessibility, then Display and Text Size
- 2 Tap Larger Text and drag the slider until it feels comfortable
- 3 Turn on Bold Text in the same menu for extra clarity
- 4 On Android, go to Settings, Accessibility, then Display size and text
- 5 Adjust the font size and display size sliders to suit you

**WATCH OUT**

Make the text a little bigger than you think you need. On a bright platform or a shaky bus, easy-to-read text is a real relief, and you will never miss the smaller size.

## VISION: SPEAK SCREEN

## 6. Having Your Phone Read Aloud to You

If your eyes tire, your phone can read text out loud to you. A gentle feature often called Speak Screen reads whatever is on the page, like an email, a news story, or a long itinerary, in a clear voice. It is simpler than a full screen reader and perfect for resting your eyes on a long journey.

- On iPhone, turn on Spoken Content under Accessibility
- Then swipe down with two fingers from the top to hear the screen
- On Android, Select to Speak lets you tap text to have it read
- Adjust the reading speed and voice to your liking

**GOOD TO KNOW**

This is a lovely way to catch up on reading during a flight. Pop in your earphones, close your eyes, and let your phone read your book or your emails to you.

## VISION: SCREEN READER

## 7. VoiceOver and TalkBack for Low Vision

For those who cannot see the screen well at all, phones include a full screen reader that describes everything and lets you control the phone by touch and sound. On iPhone it is called VoiceOver; on Android it is TalkBack. It reads what your finger touches and announces every button.

A screen reader takes some learning, because it changes how you tap and swipe. If you rely on one, it is well worth setting up before a trip and practicing at home. This is exactly the sort of thing a patient helper can teach you in a single sitting.

## TIP

Both app stores now show accessibility labels, so you can see whether an app works well with a screen reader before you download it. Look for that note on a travel app's page.

## VISION: FLASHLIGHT

## 8. The Flashlight, a Humble Travel Hero

The simplest vision helper of all is the flashlight built into your phone. In a dim hotel room, a dark restaurant, or finding your seat on a night flight, a quick burst of light makes everything easier. It is one tap away and costs nothing.

- Swipe to open the Control Center or quick settings and tap the flashlight
- Use it to read a menu or room key in low light
- Shine it into a bag to find keys, glasses, or a charger
- Light your steps in an unfamiliar room at night

## WATCH OUT

You can brighten or dim the flashlight on many phones by pressing and holding its button. A softer light is kinder when you do not want to wake a sleeping seatmate.

## VISION: BE MY EYES

## 9. A Friendly Pair of Eyes Through the Phone

Be My Eyes is a free app that connects you, by video call, with a sighted volunteer who can help with anything you cannot quite see. Point your camera and a kind helper reads a label, checks a sign, or tells you which platform you are on. It is used in many countries and costs nothing.

It is a wonderful tool for travel, when you face unfamiliar signs, foreign labels, and new surroundings. A volunteer can read a train departure, confirm a street name, or help you match an outfit, all in a quick, friendly call.

**GOOD TO KNOW**

The app also offers help from a computer assistant for quick questions, saving a volunteer for when you want a real person. Both are free and easy to reach.

**VISION: SEEING AI**

## 10. An App That Describes the World

There are free apps that use the camera to read text aloud and describe what is in front of you. Seeing AI is a well-known free one. Point it at a sign, a menu, or a letter, and it reads the words out loud. It can also describe a scene or identify money.

- It reads printed text aloud as you point the camera
- It can describe a room or a scene in words
- It helps tell apart banknotes, handy in a foreign country
- Google's Lookout app does similar jobs on Android phones

**TIP**

These apps work best in good light and with the text held steady. Rest your elbows on a table or railing to hold the phone still for a clearer reading.

**HEARING: LIVE CAPTIONS**

## 11. Turning Speech Into Words on Your Screen

One of the finest hearing helpers is Live Captions, which listens to speech around you or in a video call and shows the words on your screen as they are spoken. If an announcement is muffled or a companion is hard to hear, the captions let you read along. It works right on the phone with no extra gadget.

On an iPhone you turn on Live Captions under Accessibility, in the Hearing group. On Android it is Live Caption, often toggled with the volume buttons. Both can caption phone calls, videos, and the room around you, though the words are not always perfect.

**GOOD TO KNOW**

Captions are a best guess, so expect the odd wrong word, especially in a noisy place or with an unfamiliar accent. Even so, they catch the gist of an announcement you would otherwise miss.

**HEARING: LIVE TRANSCRIBE**

## 12. Following a Conversation in Text

For a face-to-face chat in a noisy restaurant or a busy station, an app that writes out what people say is a great help. Android phones include Live Transcribe, and there are free apps like Otter for both kinds of phone. Set the phone on the table and read the conversation as it scrolls by.

- Live Transcribe comes built into many Android phones
- It writes out speech in large, clear text as people talk
- Free apps bring similar help to iPhones
- Set the phone between you and the person speaking

**GOOD TO KNOW**

Let the person you are talking with know you are using it. Most people are glad to help, and they may speak a touch more clearly toward the phone.

**HEARING: HEARING AIDS**

## 13. Connecting Hearing Aids to Your Phone

Many hearing aids can link to your phone so that calls, videos, and directions play straight into your ears, clear and at your own volume. Your phone becomes a remote control for your aids, letting you adjust them without fumbling. This pairing uses a technology close to Bluetooth.

On an iPhone, look under Accessibility for Hearing Devices to pair aids made to work with it. On Android, hearing aids pair under the Accessibility or Bluetooth settings. Once linked, a turn-by-turn direction or a phone call comes through beautifully, which is a boon in a loud terminal.

**GOOD TO KNOW**

Hearing aids made to work with phones do not always appear in the ordinary Bluetooth list. If you cannot find yours, look under the Hearing section of Accessibility instead.

## HEARING: LIVE LISTEN

## 14. Using Your Phone as a Remote Microphone

There is a clever feature that turns your phone into a microphone that sends sound to your hearing aids or earphones. Set the phone near the person speaking, or at the front of a tour group, and their voice comes through to your ears even across a noisy room. On iPhone this is called Live Listen.

- Turn on Live Listen and place the phone near the speaker
- Their voice streams to your hearing aids or earphones
- It helps on a guided tour, at a help desk, or at dinner
- Newer iPhones can even show captions at the same time

**TIP**

On a guided tour, resting your phone near the guide and listening through your aids can transform a frustrating outing into one you enjoy every word of.

## HEARING: SOUND ALERTS

## 15. Letting Your Phone Listen for Important Sounds

Sound Recognition is a feature that has your phone listen for certain sounds and tap you on the shoulder, with a buzz and a message, when it hears one. It can watch for a smoke alarm, a doorbell, a knock, or a siren, which is reassuring in an unfamiliar hotel room.

- 1 On iPhone, go to Accessibility, then Sound Recognition, and turn it on
- 2 Choose the sounds to listen for, like alarms or a doorbell
- 3 On Android, look for Sound Notifications in Accessibility
- 4 The phone buzzes and shows a note when it hears that sound
- 5 Keep the phone nearby, such as on the nightstand

**WATCH OUT**

This is a helpful extra, not a replacement for a real alarm. In a hotel, still note the posted emergency instructions, and tell the front desk if you would like a visual alert for your room.

**HEARING: HEARING LOOPS**

## 16. Hearing Loops at Airports and Venues

Many airports, theaters, churches, and ticket counters have a hearing loop, a system that sends sound straight to hearing aids set to their telecoil mode. Look for a sign showing an ear with a letter T. When you see it, switching your aids to that mode brings announcements in clearly.

- Look for the ear-with-a-T sign at counters and gates
- Switch your hearing aids to their telecoil or T mode
- Announcements and the clerk's voice come through clearly
- Ask staff if a loop is available if you do not see a sign

**GOOD TO KNOW**

Not every hearing aid has a telecoil, and not every venue has a loop. If you are unsure whether yours does, your hearing care provider can tell you and switch it on.

**MOBILITY: ACCESSIBLE ROUTES**

## 17. Finding Step-Free Routes in Maps

If stairs and long walks are hard, the map apps can steer you around them. Google Maps and Apple Maps both offer wheelchair-accessible transit routes that favor stations with elevators and ramps. You choose it once in the options, and the app plans a step-free path.

- 1 In Google Maps, enter your destination and tap Directions
- 2 Choose the transit option, then open Options
- 3 Turn on wheelchair-accessible to get step-free routes
- 4 Apple Maps offers a similar accessible transit setting
- 5 The app then favors elevators and avoids stairs

**WATCH OUT**

An app cannot always know if an elevator is out of order on the day. It is wise to have a backup plan and, in a strange city, to ask a station attendant if you can.

**MOBILITY: ACCESSIBLE PLACES**

## 18. Spotting Step-Free Shops and Restaurants

The map apps also carry accessibility details for many businesses, noting a step-free entrance, accessible restrooms, or seating. A quick look before you set out saves you arriving to find a flight of steps at the door. The information comes from the business and from other travelers.

- Open a place's listing in Google Maps and look under About
- Check for a step-free entrance and accessible restroom
- Apple Maps shows similar accessibility notes for many places
- Phone ahead if the details are missing or unclear

**TIP**

A short phone call to a restaurant or hotel confirms the details the app may not have. Asking plainly about steps, ramps, and restrooms spares you surprises.

**MOBILITY: TRANSIT INFO**

## 19. Live Station and Platform Information

Beyond routes, the map and transit apps show live details that help you plan an easier journey, like which platform, how long a transfer is, and sometimes whether a lift is working. Knowing these ahead of time means less rushing and fewer unwelcome stairs.

- Transit directions show platforms, transfers, and walking parts
- Some cities' own transit apps flag elevator outages
- Live arrival times let you wait where it is comfortable
- Check the walking distance between connections before you commit

**GOOD TO KNOW**

Large stations often have their own app or a help number. It is worth a look before a big trip, since local apps sometimes have the freshest news on elevators and access.

## MOBILITY: RIDESHARE

## 20. Rideshare Options for Easier Rides

Rideshare apps like Uber and Lyft can bring a car right to you, which spares a long walk or a wait for a bus. They also offer accessibility choices, such as a request for a driver who will help with a folding wheelchair, and in some cities a van that fits a wheelchair that does not fold.

- 1 Open the app and set your pickup and destination
- 2 Look through the ride types for an accessibility option
- 3 Choose the one that fits, such as assistance or a larger vehicle
- 4 Add a note for the driver about any help you need
- 5 Watch the car approach on the map so you are ready

**GOOD TO KNOW**

The wheelchair-van option is not available in every town, and it can take a little longer to arrive. In a smaller place, a call to a local accessible taxi service may be your surest bet.

## MOBILITY: AIRPORT HELP

## 21. Requesting Wheelchair Help at the Airport

If a long terminal is too far to walk, airlines will provide wheelchair assistance from the curb to your seat and again at the other end, at no charge. The easiest way to arrange it is when you book, or afterward through the airline's app or a phone call. It helps to ask ahead.

- 1 Request wheelchair help when you book your flight, online or by phone
- 2 You can also add it later in the airline's app under your trip
- 3 Most airlines ask for a day or two of notice when you can give it
- 4 On arrival, check in at the counter and remind them of your request
- 5 A helper meets you and takes you through security to your gate

**GOOD TO KNOW**

Even if you did not call ahead, airlines must still help you. Just ask at the check-in counter or a help desk when you arrive, and they will arrange it.

**MOBILITY: TSA CARES**

## 22. Smoother Security With TSA Cares

Airport security can be stressful if you use a mobility device or have a medical condition. In the United States there is a free helpline called TSA Cares that arranges extra help getting through the checkpoint. A call a few days ahead sets up someone to assist you on the day.

- Call TSA Cares a few days before your flight to arrange help
- The number is 855-787-2227, and the call is free
- You can stay seated in your own wheelchair for screening if needed
- Tell an officer about any medical devices or implants

**GOOD TO KNOW**

Save the TSA Cares number in your phone before you travel. Having it handy means you can arrange help the moment you book a trip.

**MOBILITY: PARKING**

## 23. Accessible Parking and Drop-Off Spots

When you drive, the map apps help you find accessible parking and the best drop-off spots close to an entrance. Searching ahead means less walking and less worry about where to leave the car. Many large venues and airports mark their accessible lots clearly on their own maps too.

- Search the map for accessible parking near your destination
- Look for a drop-off point close to the main entrance
- Check an airport or venue website for its accessible lots
- Keep your parking placard handy and displayed

**TIP**

Drop a pin in the map app where you park, especially in a huge airport garage. Finding your car again at the end of a long day is far easier that way.

**GETTING AROUND INDOORS**

## 24. Finding Your Way Inside Big Buildings

Large airports, malls, and stations can be a maze. Some map apps now show indoor maps that mark elevators, restrooms, and gates, so you can plan the easiest path from the door to your seat without a long detour or an unexpected staircase.

- Search a big airport by name in the map app for an indoor map
- Look for marked elevators and accessible restrooms
- Note the gate or platform before you set off walking
- Ask an information desk for the step-free route if in doubt

**GOOD TO KNOW**

Indoor maps are not available for every building, but they are a real help in the big ones. When there is no map, an information desk is always glad to point out the elevator.

**SAFETY: MEDICAL ID**

## 25. Your Health Details on a Locked Screen

A Medical ID is a page on your phone that holds your key health details, your conditions, medicines, allergies, and an emergency contact, so that a helper or medic can see them even without unlocking your phone. It is one of the most valuable things to set up before any trip.

- 1 On iPhone, open the Health app, tap your picture, then Medical ID
- 2 Fill in your conditions, medicines, allergies, and contacts
- 3 Turn on Show When Locked so it is reachable in an emergency
- 4 On Android, open Settings, Safety and emergency, Medical information
- 5 Fill it in and make sure it shows on the lock screen

**GOOD TO KNOW**

A helper can reach your Medical ID from the Emergency option on your locked phone, without your passcode. It can speak for you if you are ever unable to.

**SAFETY: EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

## 26. Letting Loved Ones Be Reached Fast

Alongside your Medical ID, you can list emergency contacts, the people a medic or good Samaritan should call if something happens to you. On many phones these contacts can be reached straight from the locked screen, and your phone can even text them your location in an emergency.

- Add emergency contacts within the Medical ID setup
- Choose a couple of people who are easy to reach
- Many phones can text them your location if you call for help
- Tell those people they are listed so they expect the call

**TIP**

Pick a contact who is likely to answer and who knows your medical history. A family member who can speak to a doctor on your behalf is ideal.

**SAFETY: EMERGENCY SOS**

## 27. Calling for Help in a Hurry

Phones have a built-in way to call for help fast, often by pressing the side buttons together. It rings the local emergency number and can alert your contacts with your location. Knowing how yours works brings real peace of mind when you are far from home.

- On iPhone, holding the side and a volume button starts Emergency SOS
- On Android, pressing the power button several times can do the same
- It calls local emergency services and can message your contacts
- Learn the steps for your phone before you travel

**WATCH OUT**

Practice gently so you know how it works, but be careful not to place a real call by accident. If you do trigger it in error, stay on the line and tell them all is well.

**EASIER TYPING**

## 28. Dictation and Voice Control

If tapping tiny keys is a struggle, you can simply speak to your phone instead. Dictation turns your spoken words into typed text in any message or search box, and voice assistants can open apps, call people, and get directions when you ask out loud.

- Tap the microphone on the keyboard and speak to type
- Ask the voice assistant to call a person or open the map
- Say your destination aloud to start directions hands-free
- This saves squinting and tapping on a shaky bus or train

**TIP**

Dictation is wonderful for sending a quick message to family while you travel. Just speak naturally, and say 'period' or 'comma' for the punctuation.

## ONE-HANDED HELP

## 29. Settings for Easier Tapping and Holding

If your hands are not as steady or strong as they were, a few settings make the phone easier to handle. You can slow down how fast a double-tap must be, make the touch less fussy, and bring the top of the screen down within easy reach of your thumb.

- Adjust touch settings under Accessibility for a steadier tap
- Turn on Reachability on iPhone to pull the screen down
- Use a pop-socket or strap so the phone is easier to grip
- Make on-screen buttons bigger with the display settings

## GOOD TO KNOW

These small touches add up. A phone that is easy to hold and tap is a phone you will actually reach for when you need one of these travel helpers.

## TRANSLATION

## 30. Bridging a Language Gap Abroad

Travel to a country where you do not speak the language need not be daunting. Translation apps listen to speech and translate it aloud or on screen, and they can read a foreign menu or sign through the camera. This pairs beautifully with the hearing and vision tools.

- Google Translate and Apple Translate handle speech and text
- Point the camera at a sign or menu to see it in English
- Speak a sentence and have it read aloud in the other language
- Download a language before you go so it works without signal

## TIP

Download the languages you will need before you leave home. Then the translator works even with no internet, such as on a rural road or in a station with no signal.

## SCREEN COMFORT

## 31. Easing Glare and Brightening the Screen

Bright sun on a platform or a dim corner of a plane can make a screen hard to read. A few comfort settings help: turning the brightness up or down, increasing the contrast, and reducing white glare. These sit in the same Accessibility menu as everything else.

- Turn up brightness for outdoor use, down for a dark cabin
- Increase contrast under Accessibility for clearer edges
- Reduce White Point on iPhone to soften a harsh screen
- A matte screen protector cuts glare in bright sun

**TIP**

Cupping a hand over the screen to shade it is the oldest trick there is, and it still works when the sun is washing out your departure board.

**PACK THE EXTRAS**

## 32. A Few Physical Helpers Worth Packing

The phone does a great deal, but a handful of simple items make its tools easier to use on the road. None are costly, and together they make a real difference to comfort over a long travel day.

- A power bank, so your helpers never run out of battery
- Comfortable earphones for Live Listen and captions audio
- A phone stand or strap for hands-free captioning at a table
- A spare pair of reading glasses kept in your bag

**WATCH OUT**

Keep a spare pair of glasses and your hearing aid batteries or charger in your carry-on, never in a checked bag. The things you rely on should always stay with you.

**FOR FAMILIES**

## 33. Setting a Loved One's Phone Up for Travel

If you are helping a parent or spouse get ready to travel, a quiet hour at the kitchen table setting up these tools is a gift. Turn on the ones that help, practice them together, and write down the few steps that matter most on a card for their wallet.

- 1 Sit together and turn on the vision and hearing tools they need
- 2 Set the triple-click shortcut to their favorite tool
- 3 Fill in their Medical ID and emergency contacts
- 4 Practice Live Captions and the Magnifier a few times
- 5 Write the key steps on a card to tuck in their wallet

**GOOD TO KNOW**

Practicing once at home, somewhere calm, means the tool feels familiar when it is truly needed at a crowded gate. A little rehearsal goes a long way.

**SHARING LOCATION**

## 34. Letting Family Keep a Gentle Eye Out

Many travelers and their families feel easier when loved ones can see roughly where they are. Both kinds of phone let you share your location with chosen family members, who can then check the map if they are worried, or find you quickly if you need a hand.

- On iPhone, share your location through the Find My app
- On Android, share through Google Maps location sharing
- Choose only the family members you trust
- You can turn sharing off again whenever you like

**TIP**

This is entirely your choice and easy to switch off. Many find it a comfort to know a daughter or son can see they have arrived safely without needing a phone call.

**KEEP IT SIMPLE**

## 35. You Only Need the Tools That Help You

There are a lot of tools in this guide, and you do not need all of them. Pick the ones that answer a real difficulty you have, set those up well, and leave the rest. One or two tools used confidently beat a dozen half-remembered ones.

- Choose the few that solve a real problem for you
- Set them up and practice them until they feel easy
- Put your favorite on the triple-click shortcut
- Leave the rest; you can always add one later

**GOOD TO KNOW**

The aim is to travel with less worry, not to master every setting. If a tool does not help you, there is no reason to use it at all.

## PLAN AHEAD

## 36. A Little Planning Smooths the Way

The travelers who have the easiest time are the ones who arrange a few things before they go. A short call to the airline, a glance at the station's access, and a tested set of phone tools turn a daunting trip into a manageable one.

- Request airport wheelchair help and call TSA Cares if you need them
- Check your route and venues for step-free access
- Confirm your hotel room suits your needs when you book
- Test your phone's tools at home before you leave

## TIP

A phone call to a hotel or venue, asking plainly about steps, elevators, and accessible rooms, is worth more than any review. Most places are glad to help if you ask ahead.

## ON THE DAY

## 37. Keeping Calm When Travel Gets Busy

Even with good planning, travel days get hectic. The trick is to keep your most-used tools within a tap or two and to give yourself extra time. There is no prize for rushing, and the tools work best when you are not flustered.

- Give yourself plenty of time so nothing feels rushed
- Keep the triple-click shortcut set to your main tool
- Carry your phone charged, with a power bank in your bag
- Do not hesitate to ask airport or station staff for help

## GOOD TO KNOW

Airport and station staff help travelers like you every single day. Asking for a hand with directions or a wheelchair is a normal, welcome request, never an imposition.

## IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

## 38. When a Tool Will Not Cooperate

Now and then a setting turns itself off, an app will not open, or captions stop appearing. Most of these are small hiccups with simple fixes, and it helps to know a couple before you travel so a glitch does not leave you stuck.

- A quick restart of the phone fixes most small glitches

- Check the tool is still switched on in the Accessibility menu
- Make sure the app has permission to use the microphone or camera
- Keep a paper backup of your key details, just in case

**WATCH OUT**

A paper card with your flight details, hotel, and emergency contacts never needs a battery or a signal. It is the humblest backup and the most reliable.

**PUTTING IT TOGETHER**

## 39. How the Tools Work Side by Side

The real magic is in combining a few of these. On a tour, Live Listen sends the guide's voice to your hearing aids while captions show the words on screen. At a foreign restaurant, the camera translates the menu and the Magnifier makes it large. Each tool is useful alone and better together.

You do not have to plan these combinations in advance. Once the tools are set up and familiar, you will reach for whichever ones the moment calls for, the same way you reach for your glasses or your cane without a second thought.

**GOOD TO KNOW**

The more you use these tools, the more natural the combinations become. Within a trip or two, picking the right helper will be second nature.

**A GENTLE ROUTINE**

## 40. A Simple Rhythm for an Easier Trip

Pulling it all together, here is a calm way to lean on these tools across a travel day, from the first early start to settling into your room at night.

- Before leaving: tools tested, shortcut set, Medical ID filled in
- At the airport: wheelchair help arranged, Magnifier for the boards
- In transit: accessible routes, captions for announcements
- At your destination: translation, accessible places, location shared

**TIP**

Keep your phone charged and your power bank topped up. Every tool here depends on a phone with battery, so that one habit underpins all the rest.

## WHEN TO CALL

## 41. When It Is Worth Calling Me

These tools are free and friendly, but the menus can be fiddly, and it is far easier to learn them with someone patient sitting beside you. That is exactly what I do. I have spent 30-plus years helping people get comfortable with their devices, and I serve seniors and their families all over Portage County.

I can turn on the vision, hearing, and getting-around tools that suit you, set your Medical ID and emergency contacts, and practice them with you until they feel easy, all in one unhurried visit. My first in-home visit is a flat \$99 and includes a 30-day follow-up, and I can also help over a screen-share for \$49. My assistant Sophie can answer your quick questions any time.

## TIP

Call me at (330) 200-8042 or email [Bill@BillsHomeTech.com](mailto:Bill@BillsHomeTech.com) before your trip, and we will get your phone set up so you can travel with real confidence and enjoy every part of it.

## CHEAT SHEET

## Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this page handy for your trip. It is the short answer to the tools that make traveling with vision, hearing, or mobility needs far easier.

- Find it all in Settings, under Accessibility
- Vision: Magnifier for small print, bigger text, and the flashlight
- Vision: Be My Eyes connects you to a sighted volunteer, free
- Hearing: Live Captions shows spoken words on your screen
- Hearing: link your hearing aids so calls and directions stream in
- Hearing: Sound Recognition buzzes you for alarms and doorbells
- Getting around: accessible routes in Maps, and rideshare options
- Airport: request wheelchair help when you book; call TSA Cares
- Safety: fill in your Medical ID and emergency contacts
- Get help: call Bill at (330) 200-8042

## AT A GLANCE

## A Picture to Follow Along

## Which Tool for Which Need?

Match the phone tool to what would help you most.

**Vision**

Magnifier for  
print  
Bigger, bolder  
text  
Be My Eyes  
volunteer

**Hearing**

Live Captions on  
screen  
Hearing aids  
stream in  
Sound alerts  
buzz you

**Getting Around**

Step-free map  
routes  
Rideshare  
assistance  
Airport  
wheelchair help

**Safety**

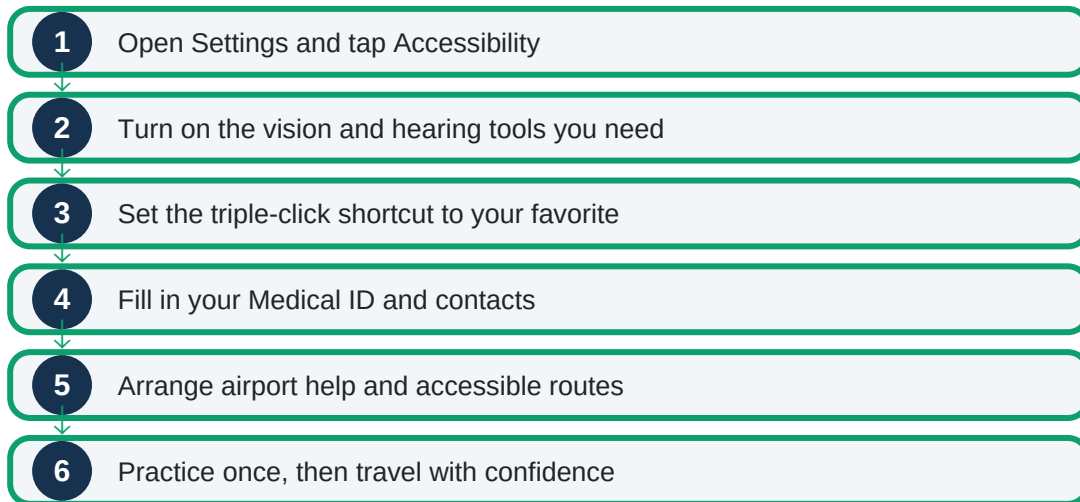
Medical ID on  
lock  
Emergency  
contacts set  
Emergency SOS  
ready

## AT A GLANCE

## A Second Look

## Setting Up for an Easier Trip

A calm path from your settings to the gate.



## 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.