

GLEN'S GOODIES: IOS26

November 2025



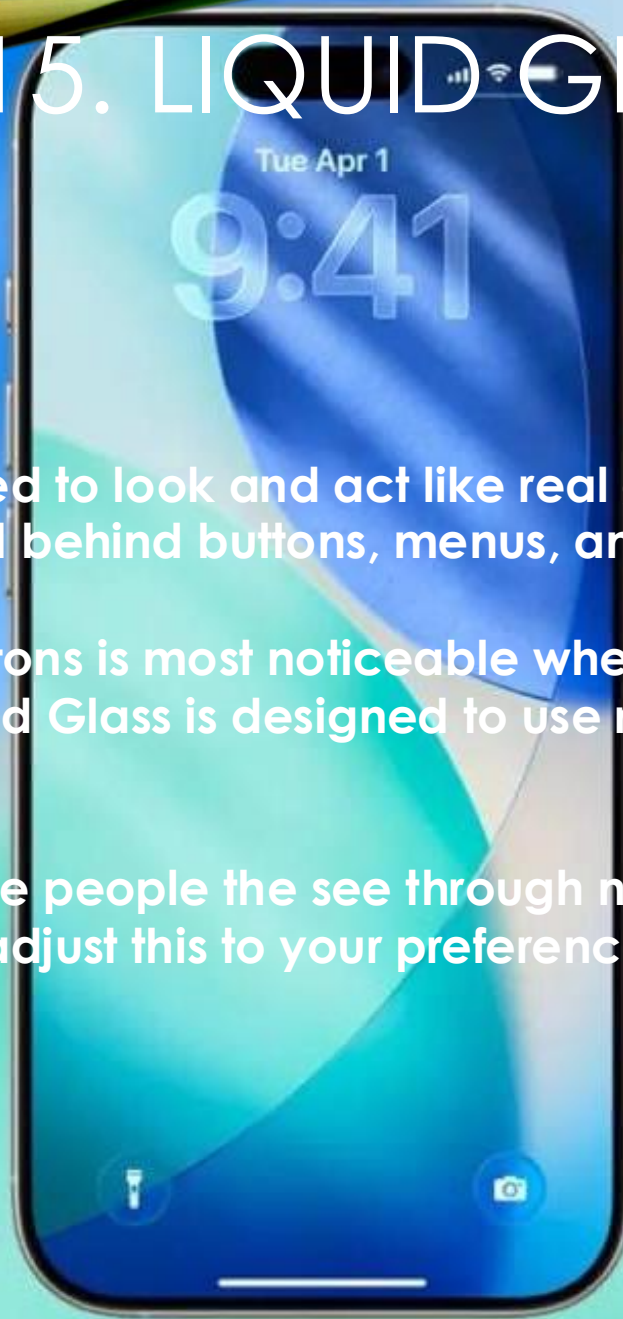
15. LIQUID GLASS ADJUSTMENTS



Liquid Glass is translucent so it is supposed to look and act like real glass. It allows light and color to filter through, so you can see the background behind buttons, menus, and other interface elements.

The light reflecting off of Liquid Glass buttons is most noticeable when you move your phone. Especially in your lock screen. Apple says, “that Liquid Glass is designed to use real-time rendering to dynamically react to movement with reflective highlights.”

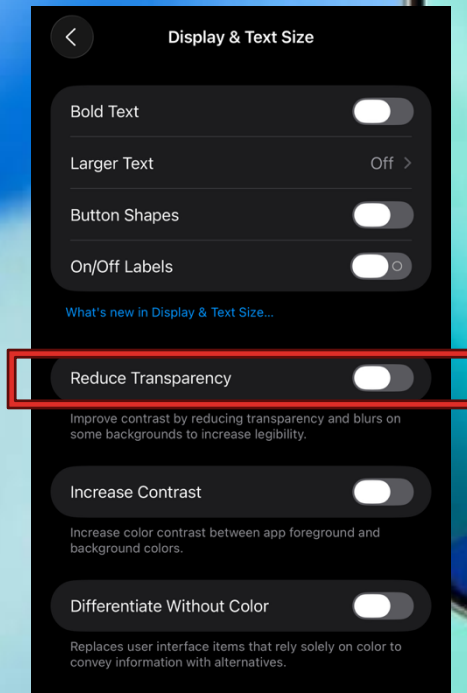
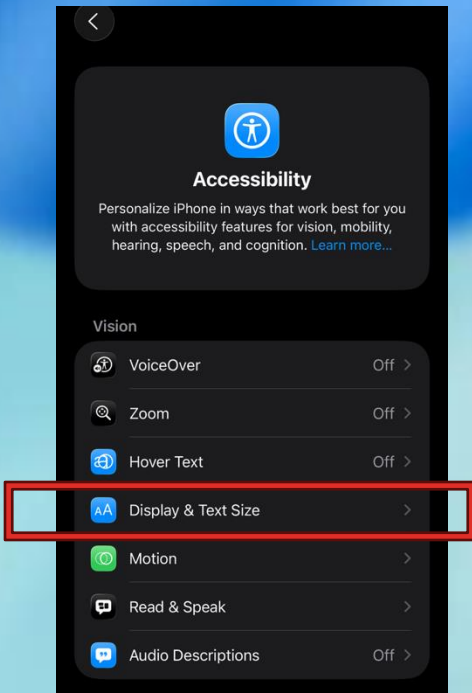
However, not everyone is a fan. For some people the see through nature of the buttons and folders is harder to work with. The good news is you can adjust this to your preference. Here's how.



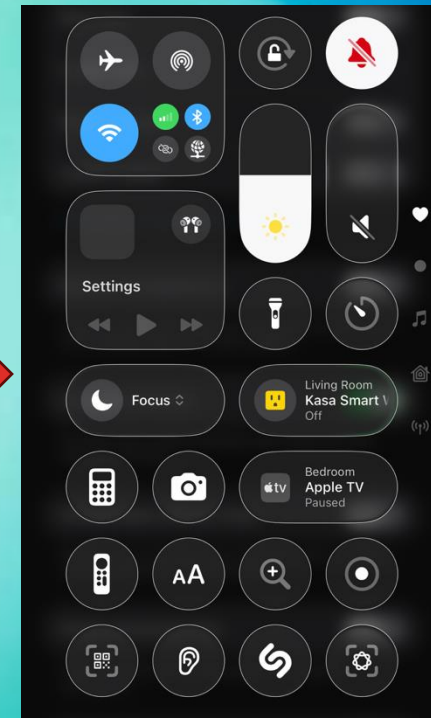
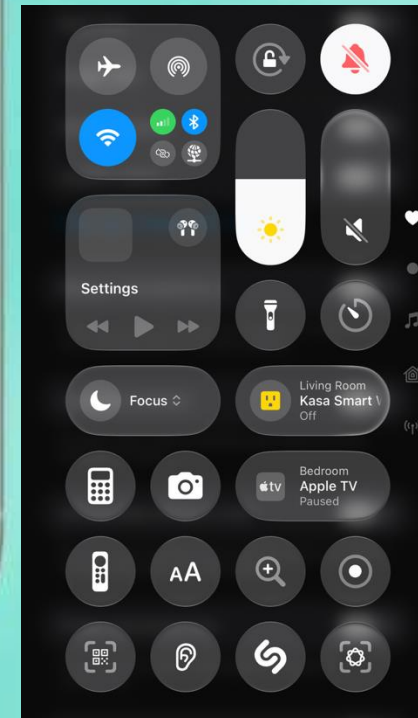
15. LIQUID GLASS ADJUSTMENTS

In the same Display & Text Size menu, you can toggle the “Increase Contrast” to help set Liquid Glass elements apart. It will give elements a white outline.

1. Open Settings.
2. Tap Accessibility.
3. Tap “Display & Text Size”
4. Tap the toggle for “Reduce Transparency”



This darkens menus and elements affected by the Liquid Glass design in apps and your Control Center.



15. LIQUID GLASS ADJUSTMENTS



Be aware that by taking these steps you're going to lose the transparency effect that liquid glass was created for. When you use "Reduce Transparency" and/or "Increase Contrast" you are inhibiting that effect. When Liquid Glass is fully in effect it ensures your background is the main focus, but the icons are still visible enough to distinguish between each one. When these other options are enabled, the icons are the main focus and you won't be able to see through them to the background. You can see the progression here if you adjust these settings.



Liquid Glass with no alterations (left), Liquid Glass with Reduce Transparency enabled (center-left), Liquid Glass with Increase Contrast enabled (center-right) and Liquid Glass with Reduce Transparency and Increase Contrast enabled (right).

16. THE CAMERA APP

The Mac Observer put together a nice chart on the changes in the camera app in iOS 26. Here you can see how they moved/changed things:

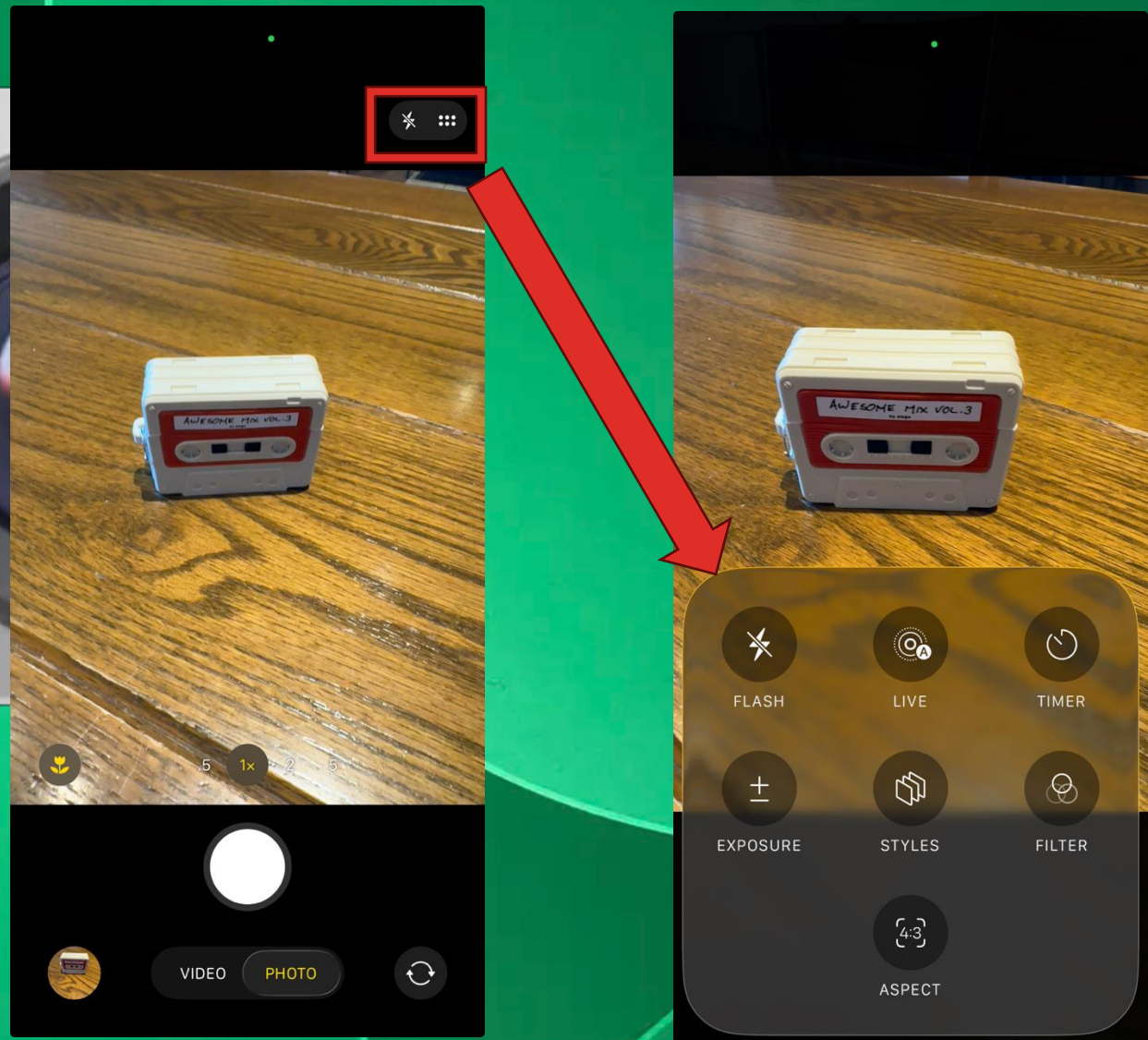
What Changed in the iOS 26 Camera App

Feature	What's New	Why It's Streamlined
Two-Main Modes on Launch	You now see only <i>Photo</i> and <i>Video</i> when you open the app. Other modes (Portrait, Pano, Slo-Mo, etc.) are tucked away but accessible with a swipe.	Focuses on the two most common tasks, less initial clutter.
Pop-out Menus	Settings like flash, timer, aspect ratio, exposure, styles, and Night Mode appear in pop-out menus instead of crowding the screen.	Keeps the interface clean and only shows controls when needed.
Liquid Glass Design	Controls now float with translucent backgrounds and rounded buttons, matching the new Liquid Glass style.	More modern, less visual weight on controls.
Lens Cleaning Hints	The camera can detect smudges or dirt on your lens and suggest you wipe it.	Helps prevent blurry photos caused by a dirty lens.
Relocated UI Elements	Modes moved below the shutter button, and some toggles shifted into menus.	More intuitive, less finger travel across the screen.

16. THE CAMERA APP

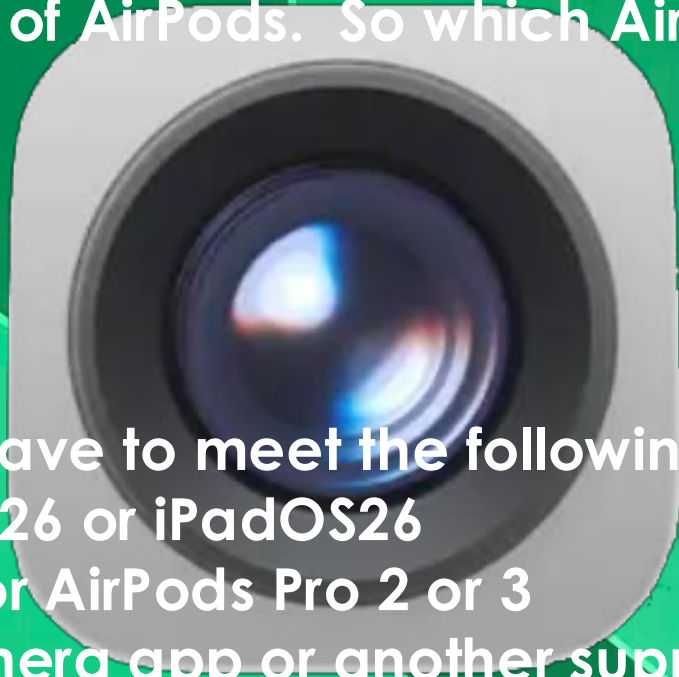
Let's talk about a few of these things.

Another big change you will notice is that other settings controls for the camera don't appear on the main screen. Instead, they are located in the waffle at the top right of the camera screen. When you press on the waffle a screen will pop-up at the bottom of the camera. From there you can fine tune your camera and photos. The options available changes depending on the camera mode you're in.



17. AIRPODS AS A CAMERA REMOTE

If you want you can use your AirPods as a remote to trigger your camera. Although you have to have a compatible pair of AirPods. So which AirPods models will allow you to do this?



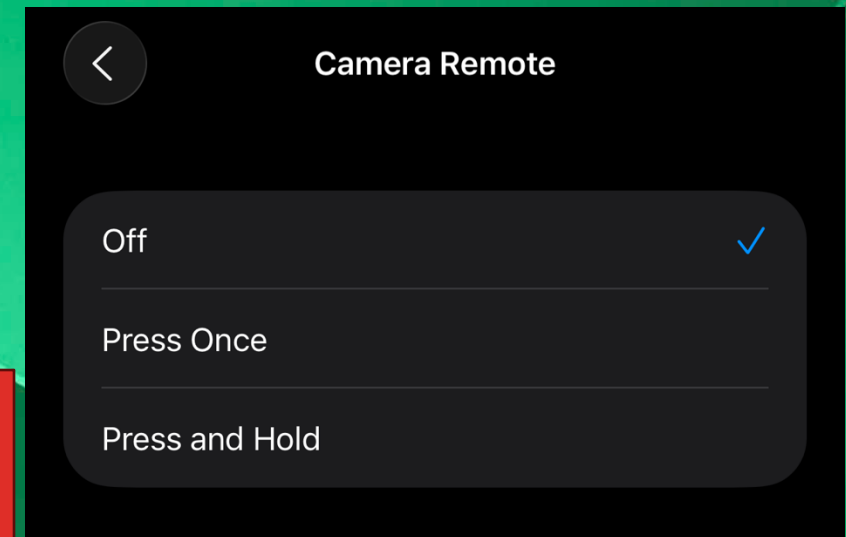
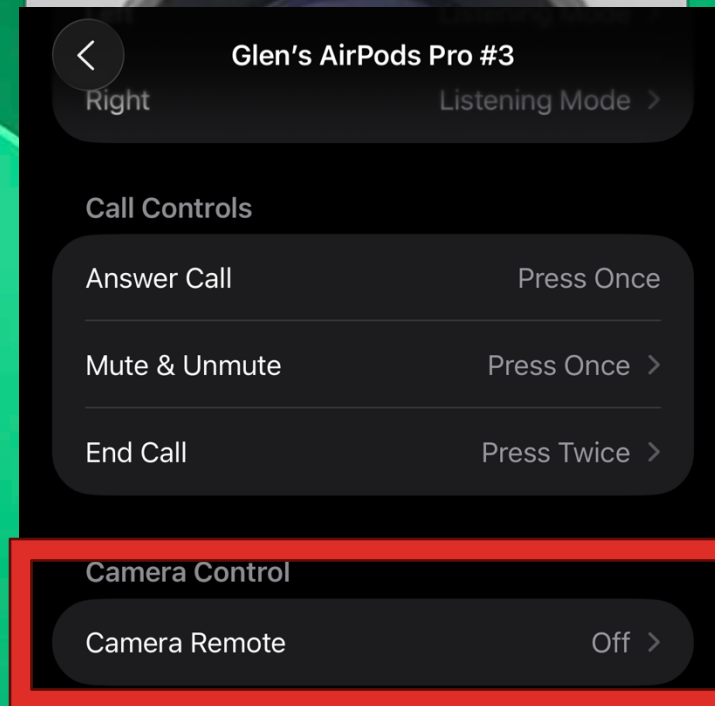
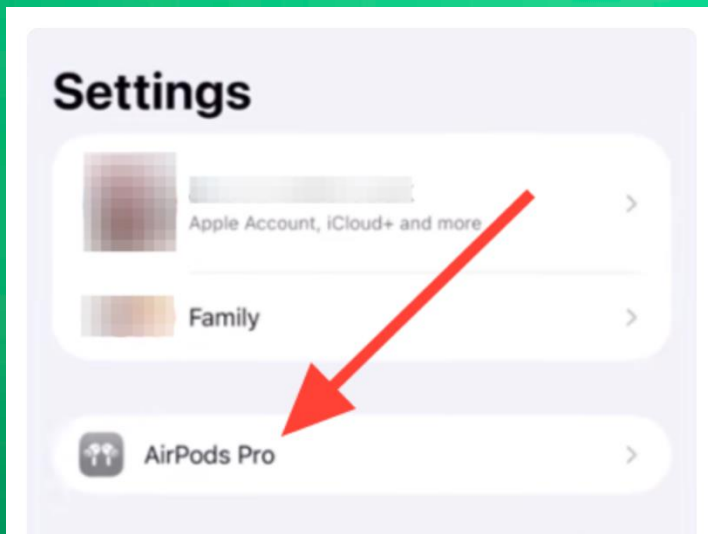
In order to make this work you have to meet the following conditions:

- An iPhone or iPad running iOS26 or iPadOS26
- Models of AirPods: AirPods 4 or AirPods Pro 2 or 3
- You are using the built-in Camera app or another supported camera app

If you are good with these things, then you first have to configure the Camera Remote on your AirPods.

17. AIRPODS AS A CAMERA REMOTE

1. Make sure you have your AirPods in your ears and connected to your phone. Then go into settings and select your AirPods under your name. Then click on "Camera Remote" and choose the setting you prefer. Understand that when you choose a Camera Remote setting it may interfere with other AirPods controls, so you will have to choose.



Capture a photo, start or stop recording, and more using either Press Once or Press and Hold. When using AirPods for camera actions, if you select Press Once, media control gestures will be unavailable, and if you select Press and Hold, listening mode and Siri gestures will be unavailable.

19. PLACES VISITED IN APPLE MAPS

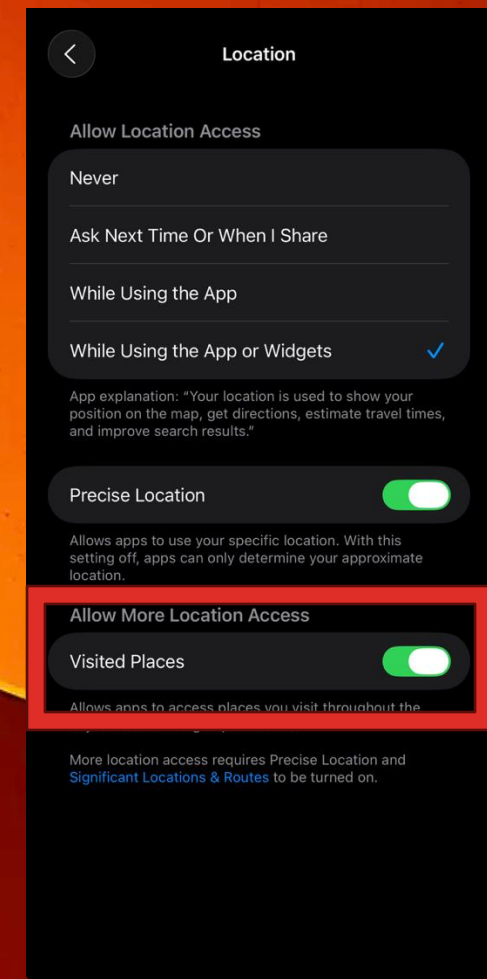
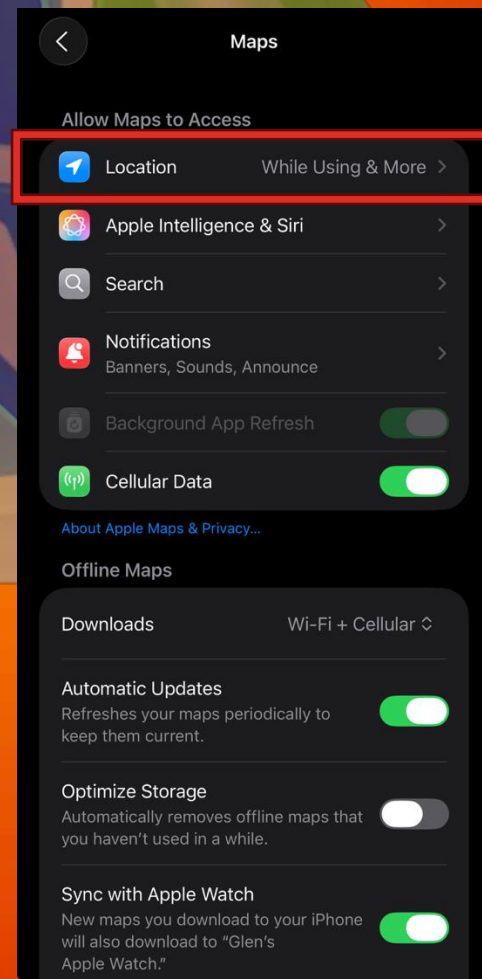
Apple Maps now includes “Visited Places” that will keep a secure history of the locations you have been to. Visited Places is an upgrade on the recent places. It give you a timeline of your places visited that can be filtered, searched, and organized.

If you’re worried about privacy, Visited Places are stored on-device and synced across your Apple devices, and protected with end-to-end encryption so they cannot be read by Apple. You can remove these any time you like. Here’s how to enable it:

Open the Settings app on your iPhone.

Tap Apps, then choose Maps.

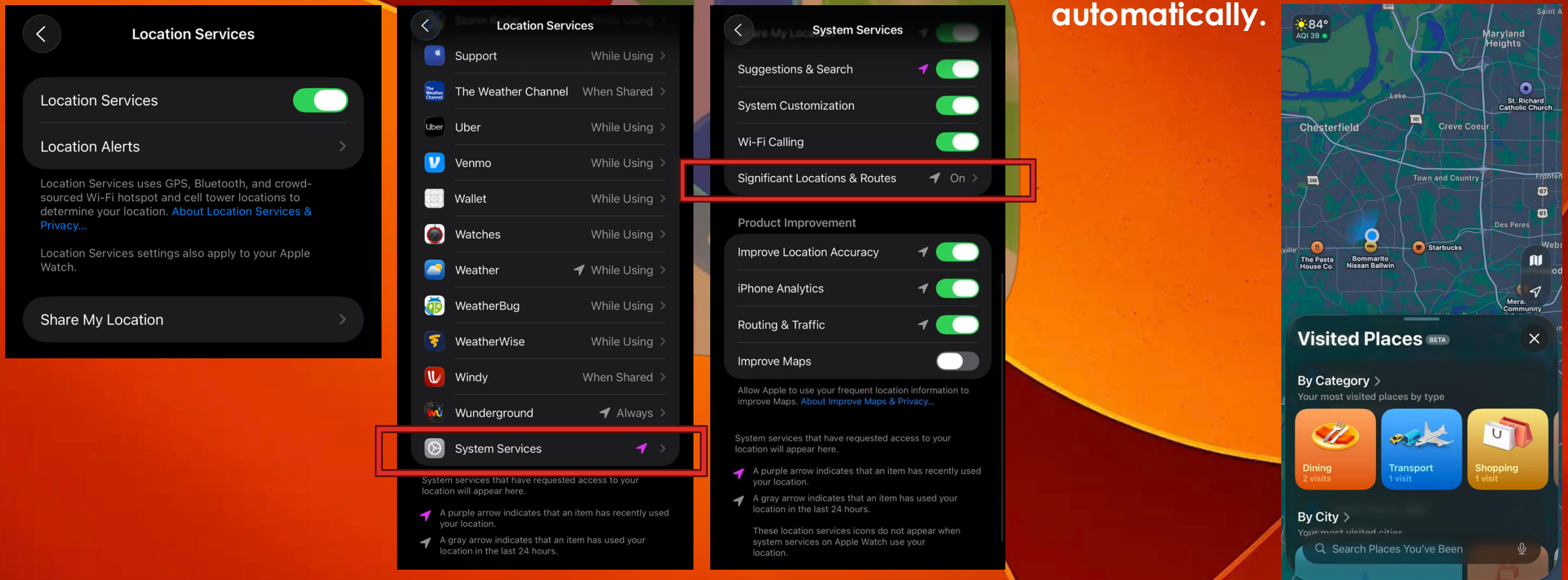
Tap Location, then turn on Precise Location and Visited Places.



19. PLACES VISITED IN APPLE MAPS

Go back to Settings > Privacy & Security.
Tap Location Services, then make sure it is turned on.
Select System Services, tap Significant Locations & Routes, and turn it on.

After you make sure these settings are turned on in the correct way, Apple Maps will begin recording and organizing your Visited Places automatically.



21. IOS 26 HAS A "NEW" SYSTEM APP

In iOS 26 you'll discover a new app called Preview. Well, technically this isn't a completely new app since it's been on the Mac for years. Now it makes its debut on the iPhone. I'm shocked it hasn't happened before this considering how useful the app is. Believe it or not, Preview on the Mac has been around since 1989! It originated as a part of the NEXT OS.

Just in case anyone doesn't know, Preview is an Apple app designed for viewing and editing PDFs and images.

So why did Apple finally add Preview to iOS? Probably because in the past on iPhone and iPad you could open and look at PDFs and annotate with Markup, but there wasn't a single app that handled this. Here is a list MacObserver made of the things Preview can do in iOS 26.

- Open & view PDFs
- Annotate with Markup (pen, highlighter, shapes, text notes, arrows)
- Sign documents with a saved signature (finger on iPhone, Pencil on iPad)
- Fill forms (type into fields, check boxes, add text where needed)
- Reorder, rotate, or delete pages in a PDF
- Combine/merge PDFs (bring pages from another file)
- Scan to PDF using the camera and clean up the scan
- Export & share (flatten annotations, share via Messages, Mail, AirDrop, etc.)
- iCloud Drive integration so your edits sync across devices

22. BATTERY SAVING MODE

Smart phones are all about battery life. No battery life, no use. Apple has created a new method of combatting battery drain and it's called Adaptive Power mode. Apple is saying that it'll give your phone longer battery life. You need a relatively new iPhone to use it though; it's available on the iPhone 15 Pro and Pro Max, and every iPhone 16 and iPhone 17 model. How does it work?

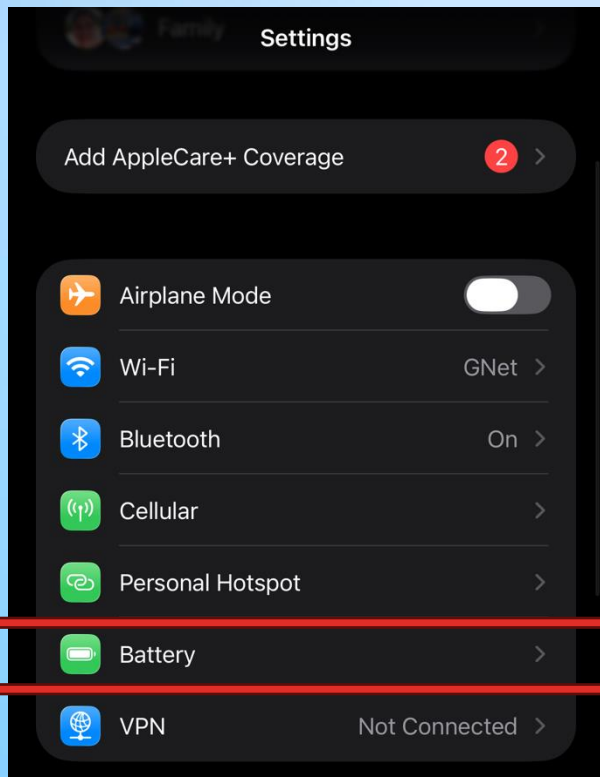
Adaptive Power monitors your typical phone usage patterns to find extra battery life when it thinks you're going to need it. Hopefully, you never notice it's doing anything. Apple says it takes about a week for the system to figure out how you use your phone and then starts to work.

While this sounds great, there are of course down sides to this. When Adaptive Power starts doing it's thing, you might notice screen brightness dropping by 3 percent. There will be a combination of performance adjustments and less background activity. This could mean you notice a slight slowness in some apps.

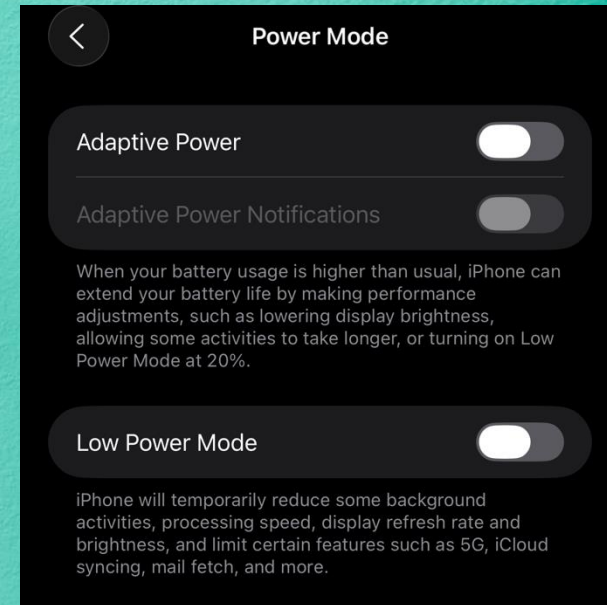
When your battery drops below 20 percent, Low Power mode automatically will be turned on. Apple has said that Adaptive Power won't be enabled if you're doing something demanding on your phone. They mention things like taking picture and video or playing games in game mode.

22. BATTERY SAVING MODE

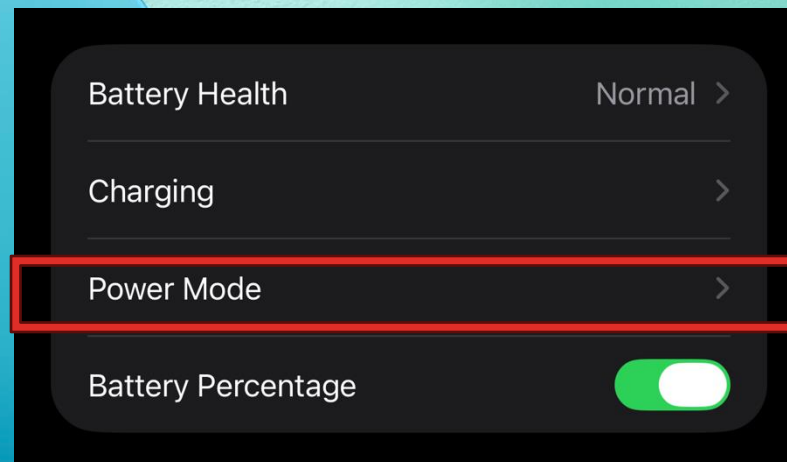
To work with Adaptive Power mode, go to your settings to Battery.



Next toggle “Adaptive Power on or off.”



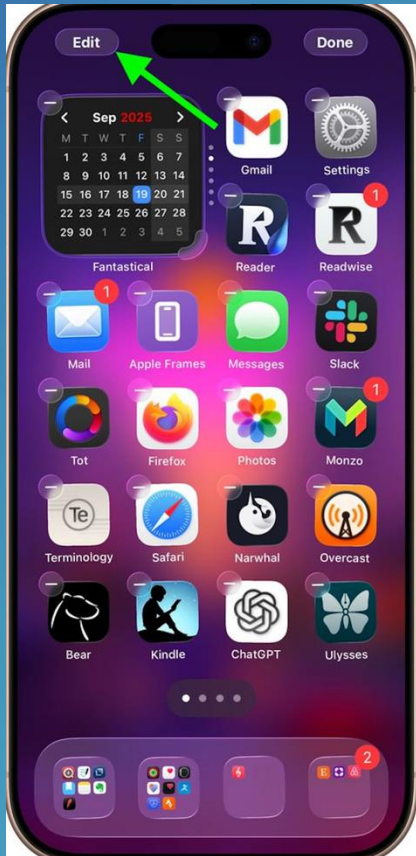
Then scroll down to the bottom to “Power Mode.”



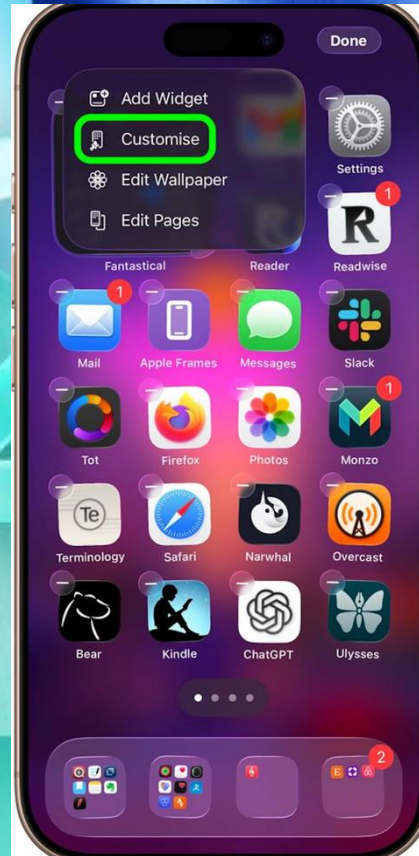
23. TINT ICONS TO MATCH IPHONE COLOR

iOS 26 gives the opportunity to match your icons to your background on your home screen. This is pretty simple to do.

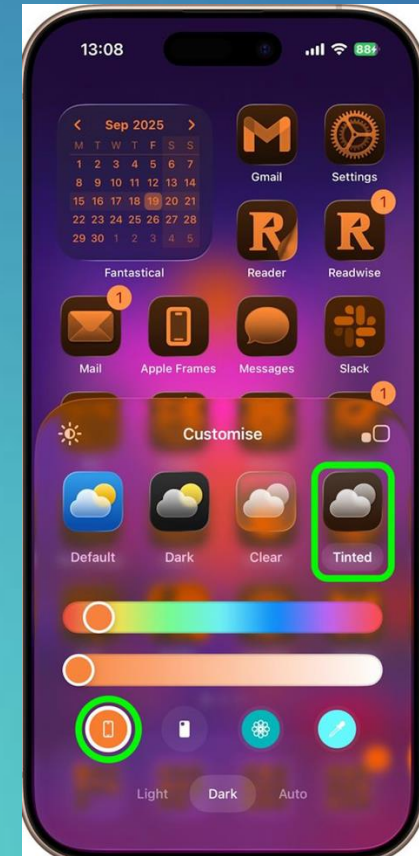
1. Long press a space on your Home screen and tap Edit in the upper left.



2. Press on "Customize."



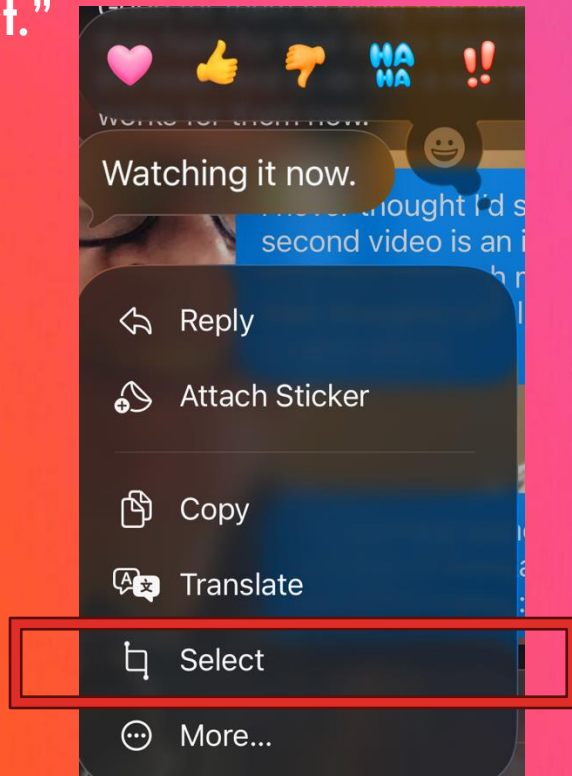
3. Click on "Tinted" in the Customize area. Then adjust the sliders until you find the color you want.



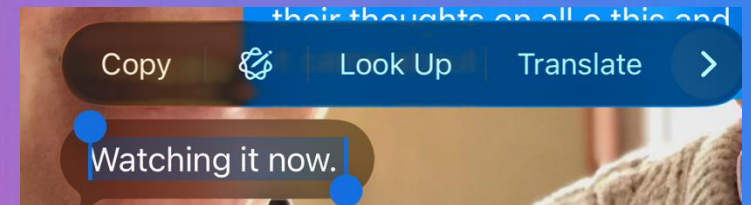
24. SELECTIVELY COPY MESSAGES TEXT

You can now copy parts of messages rather than the entire message. This was so frustrating in the past that you **couldn't do this**. Here's how:

1. Long press on a message. A Contextual menu will appear. Press on "Select."



2. You will see copy handles that appear around the words of the message. You can drag and copy the part you want.



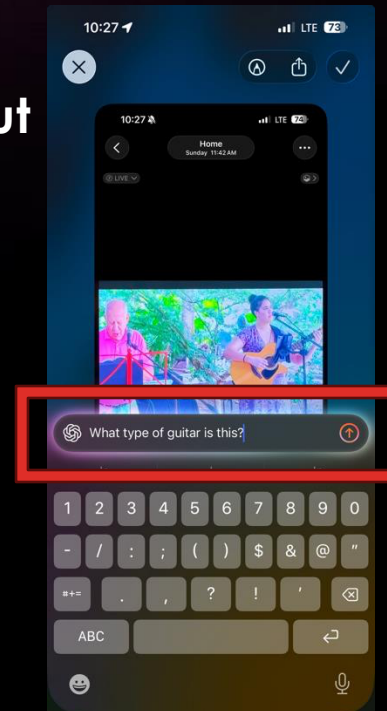
25. ASK CHATGPT ABOUT ONSCREEN CONTENT

If you see something on your screen that you want to know more about, you can use ChatGPT to help you. This can be from a picture, in a browser, or whatever.

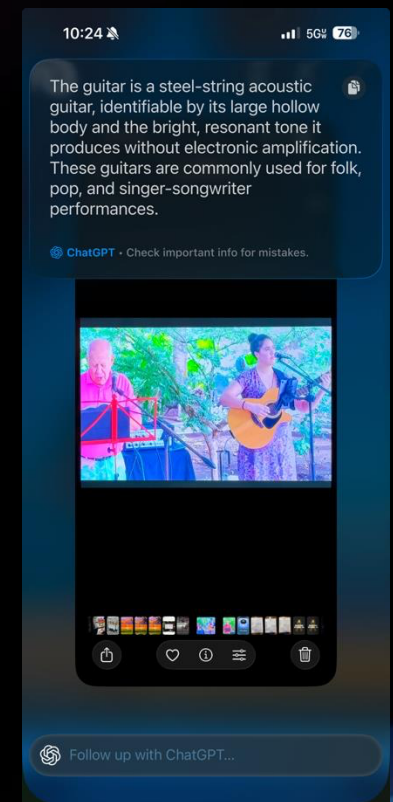
1. Take a screenshot (Quickly press and release the iPhone's Side button and the Volume Up button at the same time.) and then press the "ask" icon in the bottom left.



2. Now a ChatGPT dialogue box will pop up. Type your question about the picture.



3. See what ChatGPT answers.

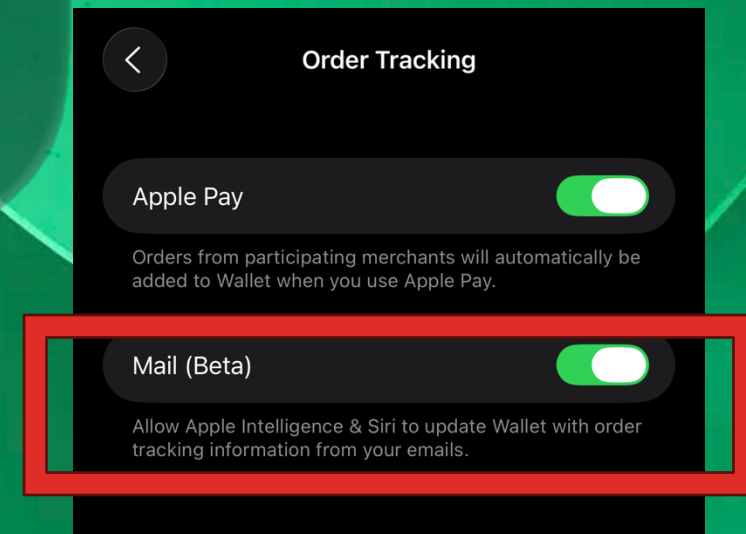
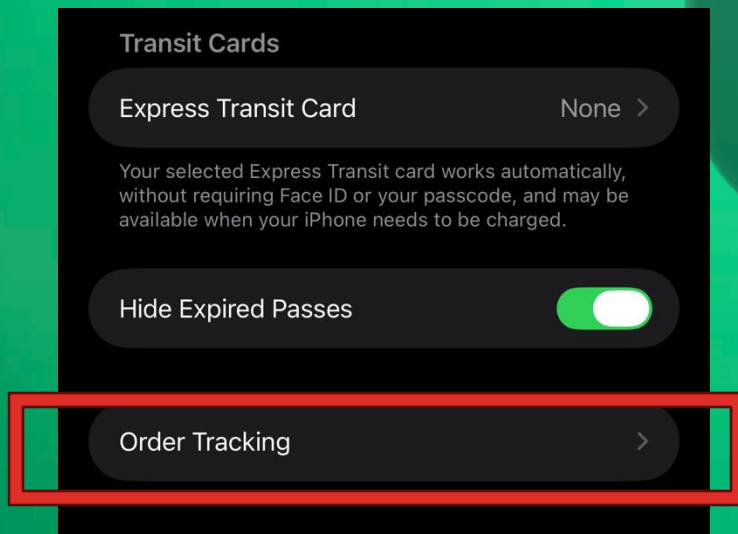


26.USING YOUR WALLET TO TRACK ORDERS

You can now track your orders using Apple Wallet. In order to do this, you need to be able to use Apple Intelligence. It will look at your emails from sellers and shipping companies, to give you your full order details. In order to take advantage of this, you first have to enable it.

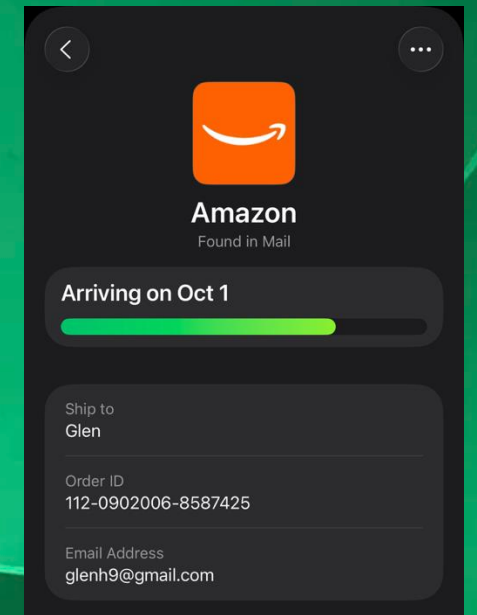
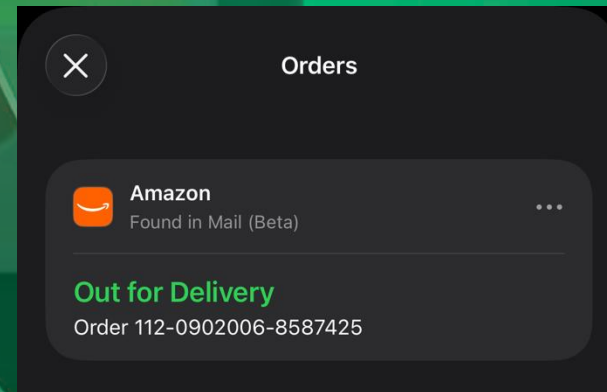
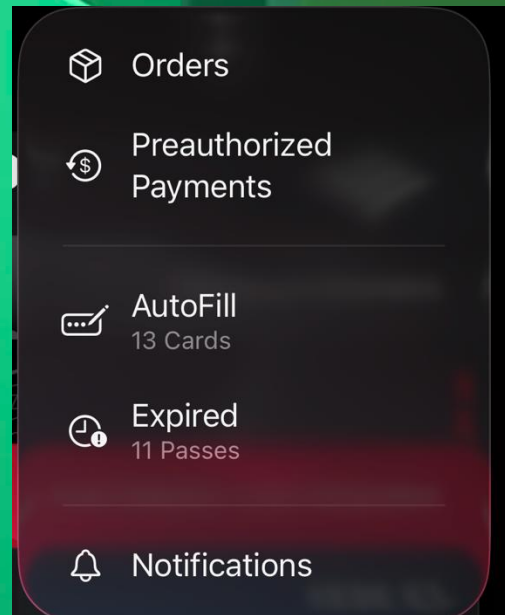
1. Go to Settings > Apps > Wallet & Apple Pay
2. Scroll to the bottom and click on “Order Tracking.”

3. Enable the switch next to Mail (Beta).



26.USING YOUR WALLET TO TRACK ORDERS

Now you are ready to track orders in Wallet. Go to the Wallet app and click on the 3 dots in the upper right corner. Here you will get a drop-down menu. Click on “Orders” and this will show your current orders. You can click on any of the orders to get more specific information about that order.



27. YOU EXPECT MORE?!?!?!?

You'll have to wait for iOS 27! I'm outta here!

