

Location Based Reminders

These are reminders, not based on a date or time, but on a location. Usually used when driving with your iPhone, they are based on a GPS location and is also known as geo-fencing - a reminder when you drive into or out of a specific location.

You could always simply ask Siri to remind you to go to Costco - "Hey Siri, remind me when I leave here to stop by Costco." But using the location based service will make it even more useable as you run around town. Your first step is to turn Location Services on at Settings > Privacy > Location Services for the Reminders app. Then open Reminders and create and name your new reminder "Costco".

Once this is done, click on the little 'circled i' information icon, in the upper right of your reminders screen. This opens up a details window and you will now have choices. Remind you when you get in your car (when your iPhone pairs with your car's Bluetooth); when you get out of your car (when your iPhone disconnects from your car's Bluetooth); or when you arrive or leave a specific location. All of these can be accessed using Siri as well. If you choose Location, a map with a circle around the current location is shown, change this to your desired location.

So you want to remind yourself to go to Costco in LaQuinta during tomorrow's adventures. As you plan on going out the back gate onto Hovley Lane, turn left and head east, you'll want the reminder when you get within 1/4 mile of Hovley and Washington, close by the Ralphs and Albertsons. Type 'Ralphs' into the search window and a map appears of the location. Click and drag the black handle in the circle and enlarge or shrink the area of the circle so that you will get a reminder at the intersection.

You have two choices listed just above this map: this one was "when I arrive" and the other choice is "when I leave". Let us say that you want to get the reminder as you leave In and Out Burger where you plan to have lunch (hey, I'm a guy!). Type in & select the restaurant and a tight circle with the reminder set to notify you about Costco as you leave the circle. You are essentially making a barrier circle so when you break out of that geo-fenced barrier, you will get a reminder. Better as you leave rather than when you arrive, as I would probably forget about Costco after my lunch.

Tip - If you set up your Reminders using iCloud (go to Settings > iCloud and turn on Reminders), you can do these chores on your Mac and they will automatically transfer to your iPhone!