

iPadOS 14 release date, compatibility & new features

iPadOS 14 - the new software coming to iPads this year - was unveiled at WWDC, here's what you need to know about the new features

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10 Jul 20



Apple surprised many fans when it unveiled a separate operating system for iPad at WWDC 2019 called iPadOS. This new [software](#) freed the tablets from some of the restrictions imposed by running on the same OS as the iPhone and paved a way for two streams of device going forward.

Now Apple has announced that iPadOS 14 will arrive on iPads later this year. In this article we will investigate when iPadOS 14 is coming out, if your iPad will get it, and what the best new features are.

When will iPadOS 14 be released?

iPadOS 14 was announced at [WWDC 2020](#) on 22 June, during the keynote speech.

As suspected, the [developer](#) preview of iPadOS 14 was made available to Apple Developer Program members straight away. If you're an Apple registered developer you can join Apple's beta programme and give it a try.

Apple then released the public beta on 9 July. The public beta program allows eager Apple fans to trial the software - but beware that running beta software can be problematic.

If you would like to join the beta testing program and [get the software on your iPad before everyone else we explain how to do so here](#). We also run through [how to install iPadOS on your iPad here](#).

Apple didn't reveal when it would officially launch iPadOS 14, saying only that it would be this autumn/fall. However, based on previous years, we expect Apple to release the final version of iPadOS 14 around 14 to 18 September 2020.

We've based this theory on the past five iOS release dates, which were:

- iOS 13: Thursday 19 September 2019
- iOS 12: Monday 17 September 2018
- iOS 11: Wednesday 20 September 2017
- iOS 10: Tuesday 13 September 2016
- iOS 9: Wednesday 16 September 2015

When the update finally arrives you'll get a notification when the OS is available, or you can check for it in Settings > General > [Software Update](#). Here's [how to update iPadOS](#).

Will my iPad get iPadOS 14?

A lot of iPads will be updated to iPadOS 14. Apple has confirmed that it arrive on everything from the iPad Air 2 and later, all iPad Pro models, iPad 5th generation and later, and iPad mini 4 and later.

Here's a full list of compatible iPadOS 14 devices:

- iPad Air 2 (2014)
- iPad Air (2019)
- iPad mini 4 (2015)
- iPad mini (2019)
- iPad (2017, 2018, 2019)
- iPad Pro 9.7in (2016)
- iPad Pro 10.5in (2017)
- iPad Pro 11in (2018, 2020)

- iPad Pro 12.9in (2015, 2017, 2018, 2020)



Best new features in iPadOS 14

Here are some of the best new features that will arrive in iPadOS 14 this autumn:

App Library

As you might expect, iPadOS 14 is getting many of the same features as iOS 14 since the two are very similar.

One of the major features for 2020 is an app drawer, essentially a place to keep your apps that isn't the home screen (individually or in folders).

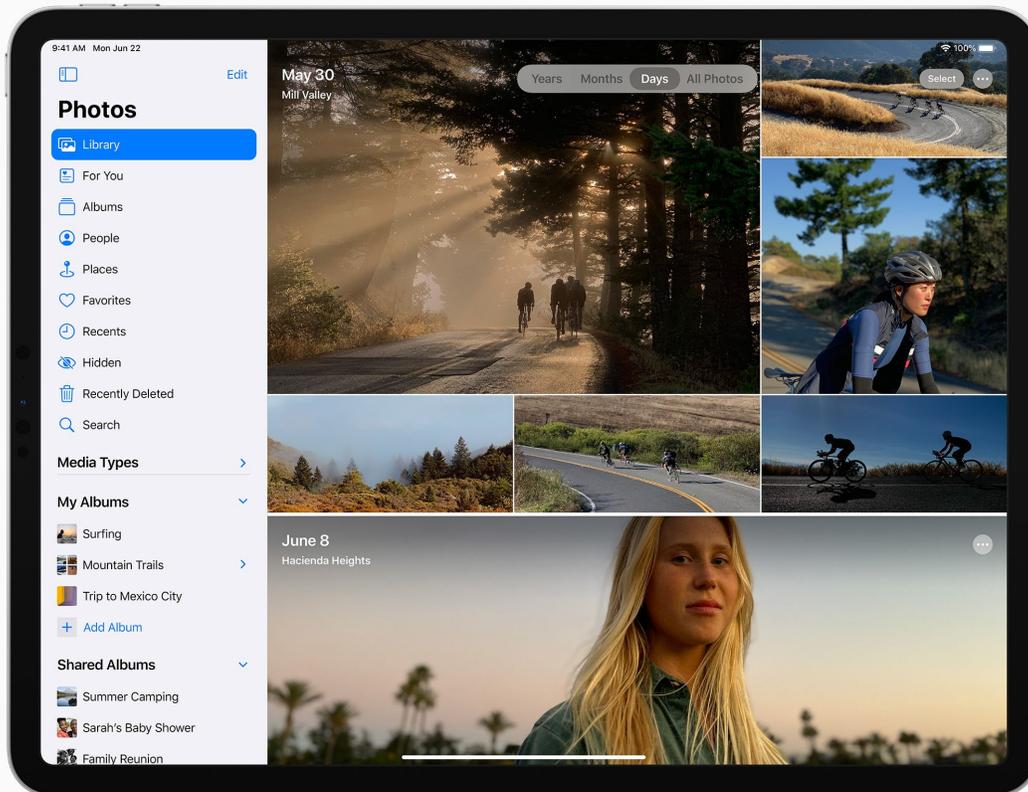
Instead, the App Library is a separate place to browse all the apps you have installed. They will be grouped so you can easily find the one you need.

Widgets

You also get the same widgets as iOS (similar to Android). These can sort of be thought of like larger app icons that can show [information](#), with many taking up the space of four app icons.

They can be placed on the home screen amongst your regular app icons and supported apps include Weather, Music and Activity.

In short, it means you can get the basic info that that app provides without actually opening it. A simple glance at the widget may give you everything you needed.



Sidebar

A seemingly simple but important tweak in iPadOS 14 is sidebar. Essentially a menu, the sidebar has been added to various apps giving you a single place to do various things.

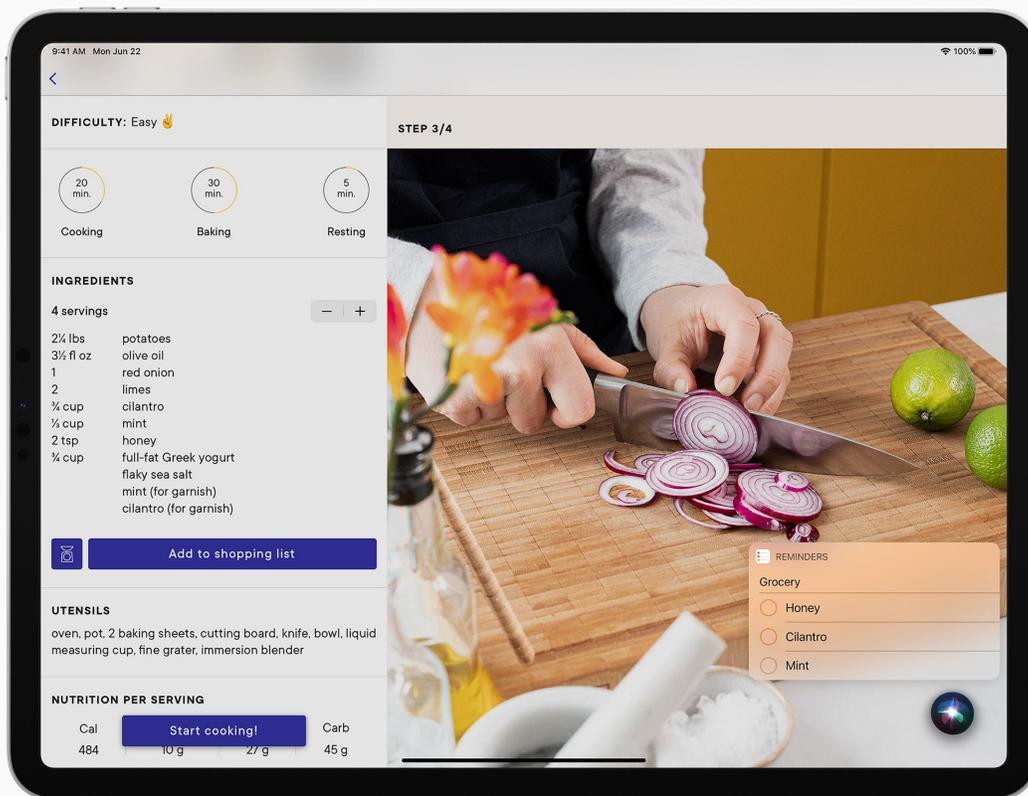
For example, in the Photos app you can browse all the core functions of the app and make use of drag and drop to add photos to different albums.

The sidebar will also make life a lot easier in other apps including Music, Note, Files and Calendar.

Siri

Apple is making Siri better all the time with more facts and features, but iPadOS 14 brings a slicker way to interact with the digital assistant.

Instead of taking over the screen, results will appear in the bottom right corner while the app you were using remains in the background.



Universal Search

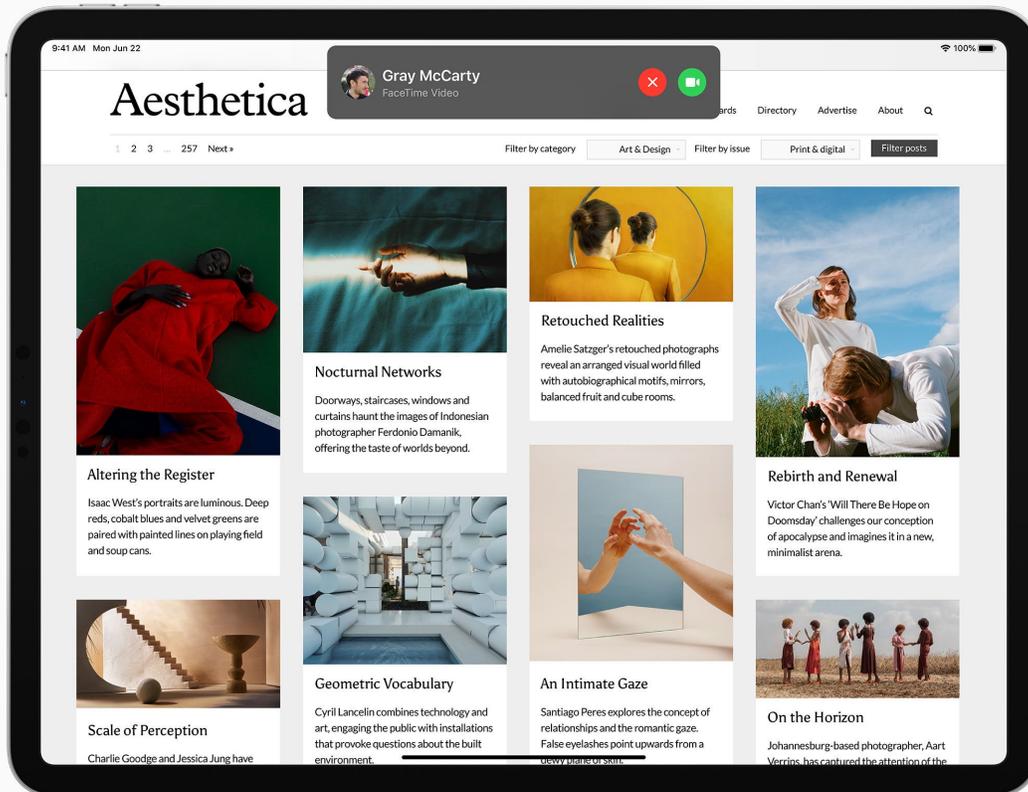
It's a similar story with Universal Search, which pops up in a much smaller bar as part of the iPadOS interface.

It can be used, as the name suggests, to do just about anything including launch apps, find contacts, documents. Web results will appear as well as particular websites which then launch in Safari.

Calls

Incoming calls are another element to be made more compact. No longer does it take over the entire display like a badly ported feature, instead it simply arrives as a small notification (or “lightweight banner”) you can tap to answer or flick to dismiss.

This applies for any calls whether they’re via your iPhone, FaceTime or third-party apps like Skype.



Messages

Apple has updated the Messages apps to make it easier to keep track of what conversations are going on.

The latest version of the app means users can pin conversations to the top and make further customisations with a photo or emoji. Icons for users who have sent the most recent messages will appear around the icon.

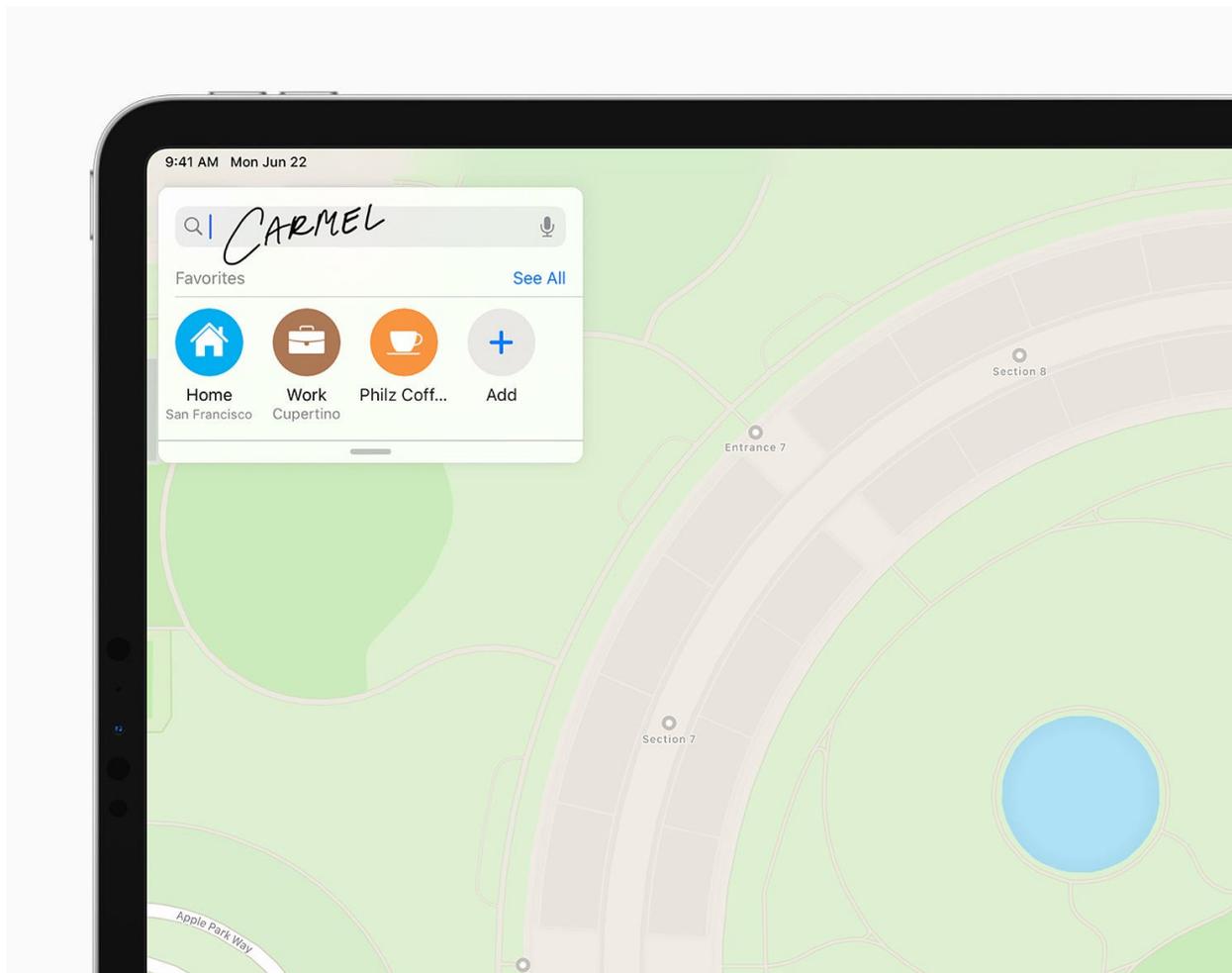
Memojis have been updated with more options including hairstyles, headwear, face coverings and more.

Apple Pencil improvements

If you have, or plan to buy, an Apple Pencil then it will get a whole lot more useful in iPadOS 14.

Improvements to the software such as Scribble mean you can use it in more ways including writing in any text box, which will then be converted to text. You can also draw shapes in some places, pausing at the end so the iPad can convert it into a perfect shape rather than your attempt.

Scribble also means you can write in English or Chinese and the software can also intelligently recognise things like phone numbers and addresses so you can action them from wherever you wrote them down.



AirPods software

Those with AirPods will find life a lot better too as Apple's earbuds will be able to automatically switch between devices, like when you put your iPhone down to swap to iPad.

Spatial Audio will make the AirPods Pro even better too. It's essentially surround sound and even tracks your head movements along with the device you're watching on to keep the audio in the correct place in the sound space.

Maps

It's probably inadvisable to be using Maps for some of the new features on iPad but improvements mean users can get cycling directions that take into account important things like elevation and how busy a street is.

Guides will give you various recommendations when visiting places including restaurants, attractions and interesting places.

original article:

<https://www.macworld.co.uk/feature/ipad/ipados-14-release-date-new-features-3779723/>