AirTags are proving to be a gift that keeps giving. Alongside keeping track of precious belongings, it can also double as an NFC trigger and assist you in day-to-day tasks, like calling someone, shopping lists, etc. I will show you how to use AirTags as NFC triggers for automation on iPhone.


But before I proceed, let me paint a picture. You are leaving for the office and tap the AirTag stuck to your bag. Instantly, the iPhone will open Maps and show the commute time. Or, while you are leaving the office, it will auto-disable work focus with a tap. Super cool, right? So, let's see how's that done.

Note: While NFC is supported by iPhone 7 Plus and later, the Background Tag Reading capability is only available on iPhone XS, XR, and later. Hence, this trick will only work for iPhone XS, XR, and later.

- [How does an AirTag work as an NFC trigger?](#)
- [How to make your AirTag an NFC trigger](#)
- [Some awesome use of AirTags as NFC trigger](#)

How does an AirTag work as an NFC trigger?

AirTag houses several proximity sensors, including near-field communication, aka NFC capability, to precisely locate your lost items. So, when someone [uses an NFC reader](#) on AirTag, a message like this will pop up on their screen.
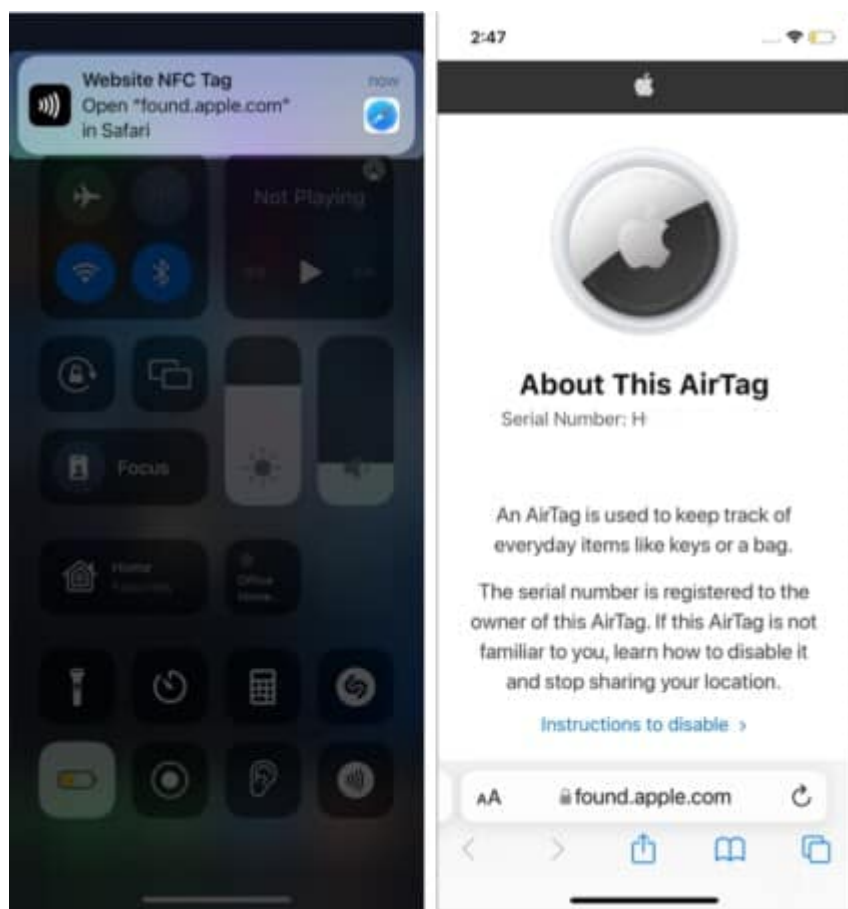

Thanks to a Background Tag Reading capability, iPhones can auto-detect a nearby NFC Tag. Smartly, Apple has intertwined this feature with automation in the Shortcuts app.

So, when a particular NFC tag, say AirTag, comes near the iPhone, it can trigger automation and perform any assigned task like opening an app, showing battery percentage, turning off Wi-Fi, etc.

How to make your AirTag an NFC trigger

1. Launch **Shortcuts** app and tap **Automations.**
2. Tap **+** and select **Create Personal Automation.**
3. Now, scroll down and tap **NFC**.
4. Tap **Scan**.
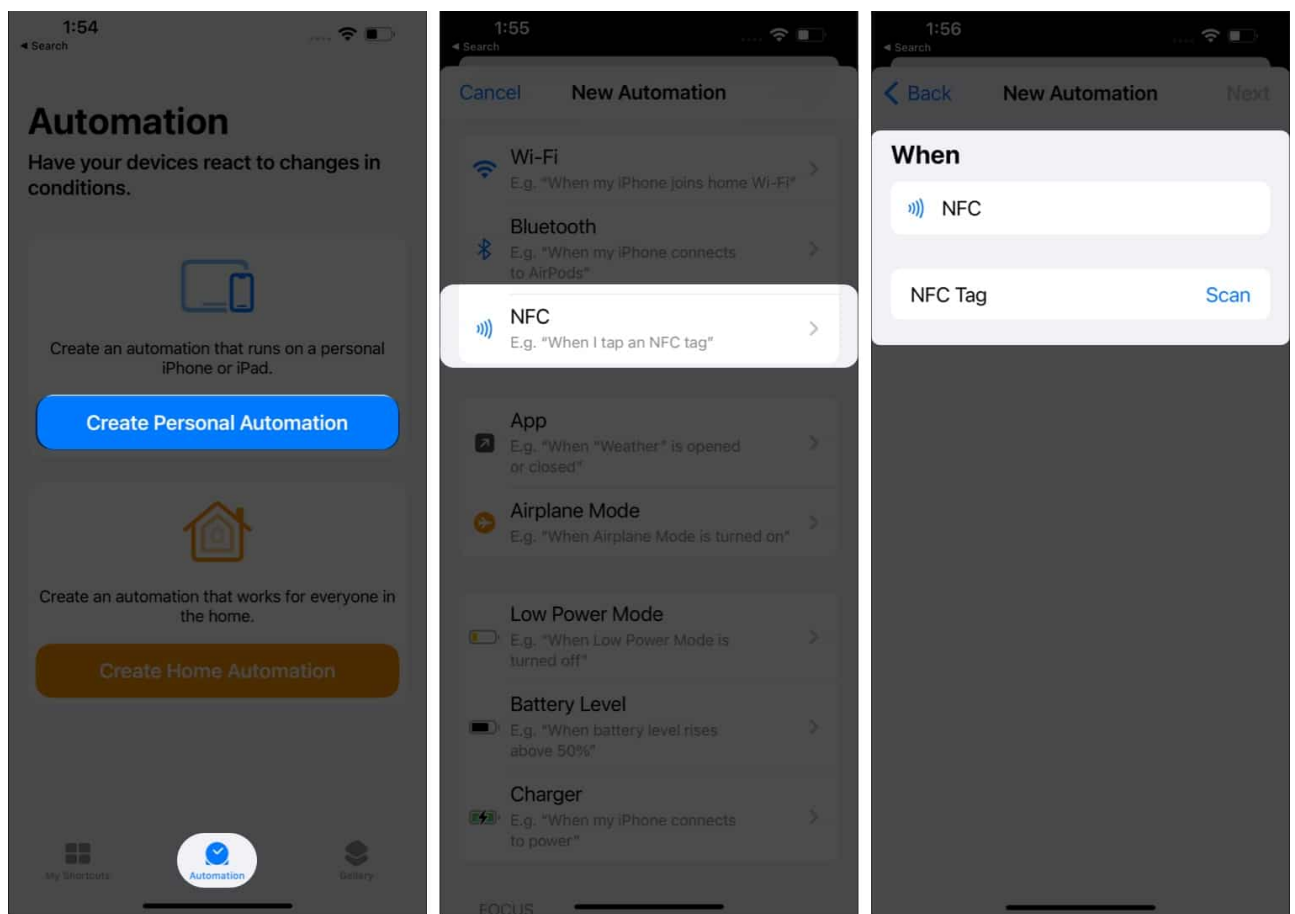
5. A **Ready to Scan** card will pop up.
6. Now, tap your **iPhone's back** (top-portion) to **AirTag** (white part).
7. Once the AirTag is recognized, give it a name and tap **OK.**
8. Then, tap **Next** to continue.
9. Tap **+ Add Action** and add the task.
10. Remember to turn off **Ask Before Running** toggle and tap **Don't Ask**.
11. Tap **Done** to save your automation.
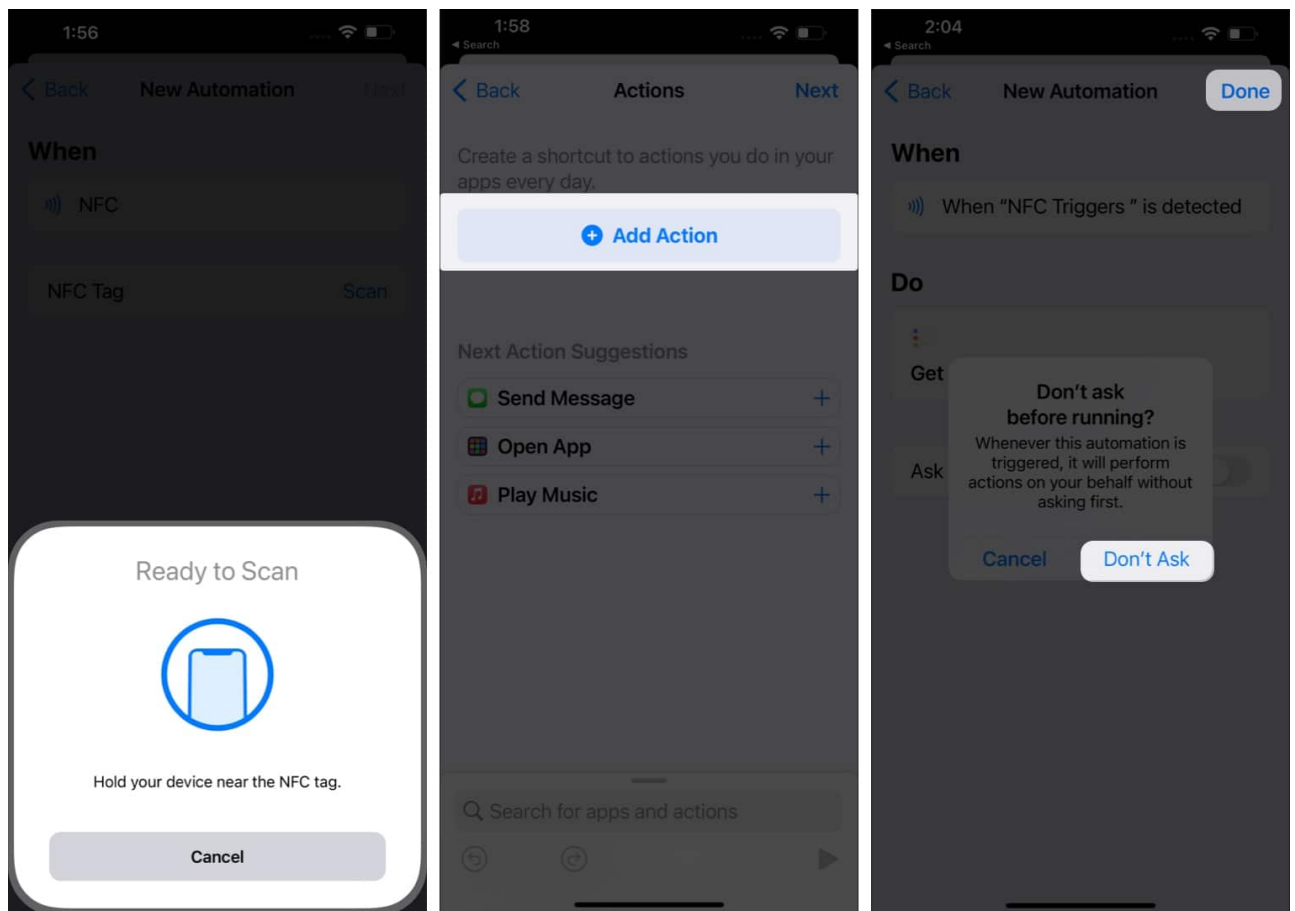
When you tap your iPhone to AirTag, it will instantly activate the automation and perform your assigned task.

Some awesome use of AirTags as NFC trigger

- Make a call or message someone.
- Open any **to-do app** and see what's pending, done, etc.
- Turn on/off focus, connect/disconnect to Bluetooth, Wi-Fi.
- Auto-start a workout when you reach the gym or start cycling.
- Get direction for home/office from anywhere and the estimated traveling time.
- Club home automation settings and turn on/off AC, lights, and more.

You can mix all the innovative uses of AirTags and NFC tags and create something that suits your need. The best part is that you can change the shortcut's instruction as and when needed.

Happy tagging!

Now, did the AirTags become more interesting? Do try this hack if you own one. Or you can even risk investing in one because AirTags are super cool. Need more proof?

Check out these articles:

- [AirTag vs. Tile Mate vs. Chipolo ONE Spot: Which should you buy?](#)
- [How to find nearby AirTags on Android phones](#)
- [Apple AirTags' Anti-stalking feature: Does it really work?](#)
- ["Unknown Accessory Detected" message on iPhone: How to deal with it?](#)