



MA User Experience Design Major Project

**A mobile and immersive experience that helps
international students reconnect with home.**

*Breathe
gently.
♡*

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Problem

Many international students experience emotional distress, which can affect their wellbeing and academic life.

1



Homesickness is common

Up to 94% experience homesickness during their first semester. *(English et al., 2017)*

2



Students miss familiarity

Homesickness can involve people, pets, places, food and culture. *(Kelly et al., 2021, Survey, 2026)*

3



It can affect wellbeing

Homesickness is associated with distress and lower wellbeing. *(Stroebe et al., 2015)*

A personalised support system is needed to reconnect international students with with familiar sources of comfort and support their emotional wellbeing.

User Research

Familiarity provides comfort, but digital connection alone does not always create a sense of presence.

Survey

35 current international students, 2026

66%

homesickness
during stressful
periods

77%

kept familiar
items from
home

74%

existing tools
lack physical
presence

Interview

P1 – French student in South Korea

P2 – Korean student in the USA

Familiar cues are
personal and multisensory

Time zones can limit immediate connection

Participants wanted
a stronger sense of “being there”

Insight to Concept

Personal, multisensory cues became the foundation for a more immersive form of comfort.

THE PROBLEM

Survey + interview findings



Homesickness is common.

International students often feel lonely and disconnected living away from home.



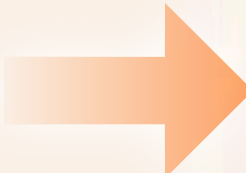
Digital contact lacks presence.

Staying in touch helps, but it doesn't recreate the feeling of being there.



Emotional support is hard to access in the moment.

When homesickness hits, students need comfort that is personal and immediate.

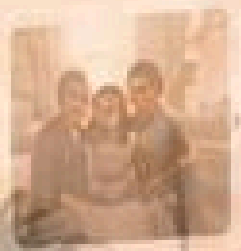


THE SOLUTION



Your island, always with you.

Isle turns familiar cues into an immersive space for comfort, reflection and real-life support



From fragmented memories to a familiar space.



Collect
what you miss



Experience
with presence

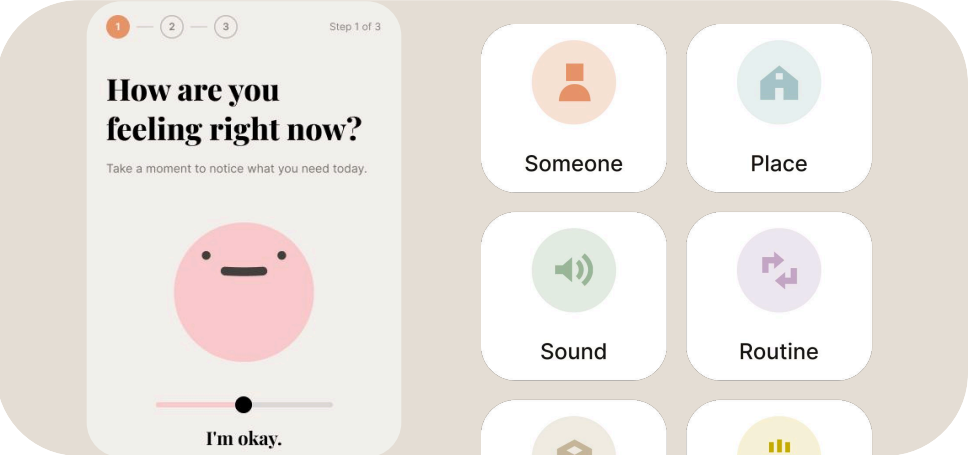


Reflect
and return

End-to-End Experience

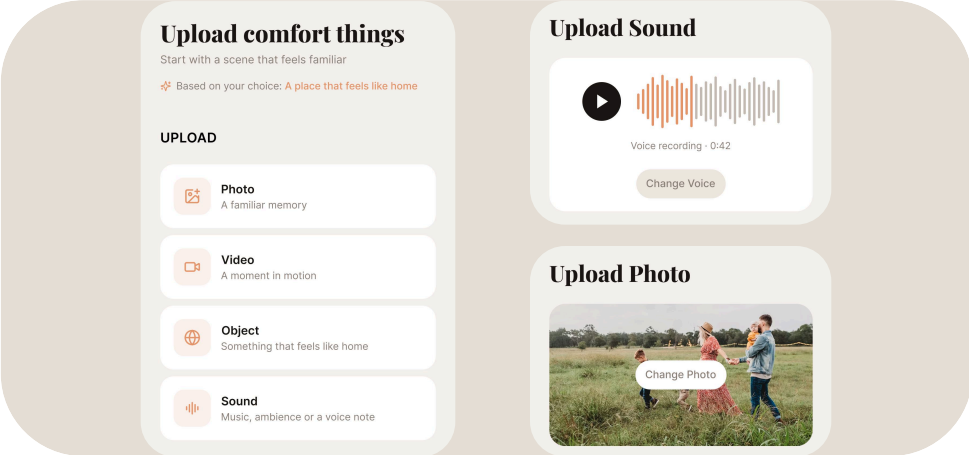
Isle connects a mobile check-in, an immersive memory experience and post-session reflection to support students before, during and after XR.

1 Emotion Check



Check how you feel, choose your desired ambience and identify what you miss.

2 Add Memory



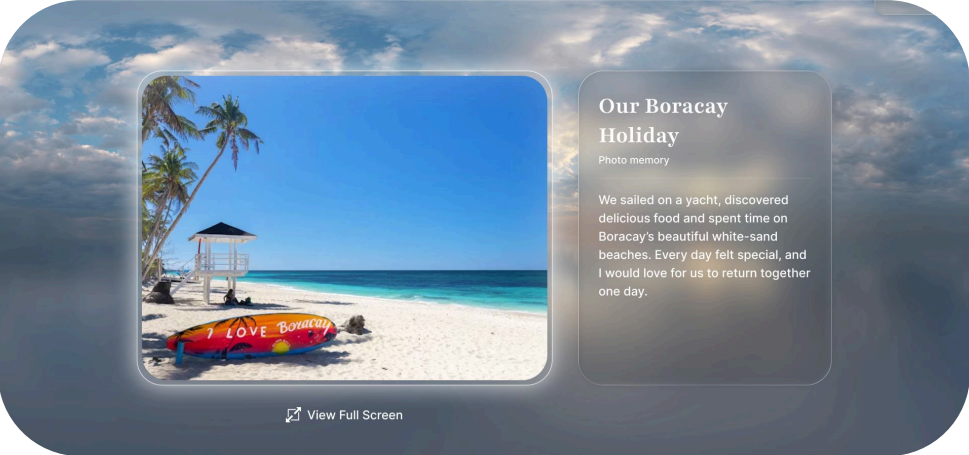
Add a familiar photo, video, object or voice to your island.

3 Enter XR



Step into your personal island surrounded by familiar cues.

4 Explore



Look around and select memories through XR interaction.

5 Play Memories



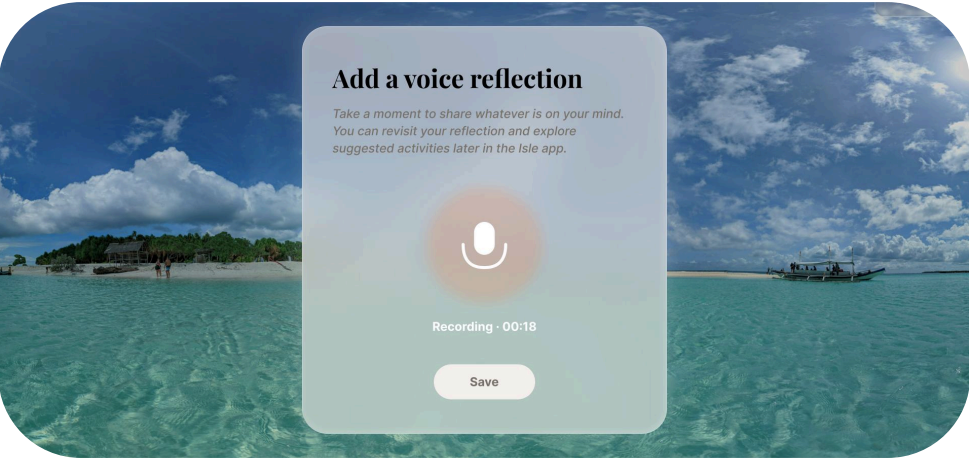
Open a memory and revisit a meaningful moment in cinema mode

6 Random Mode



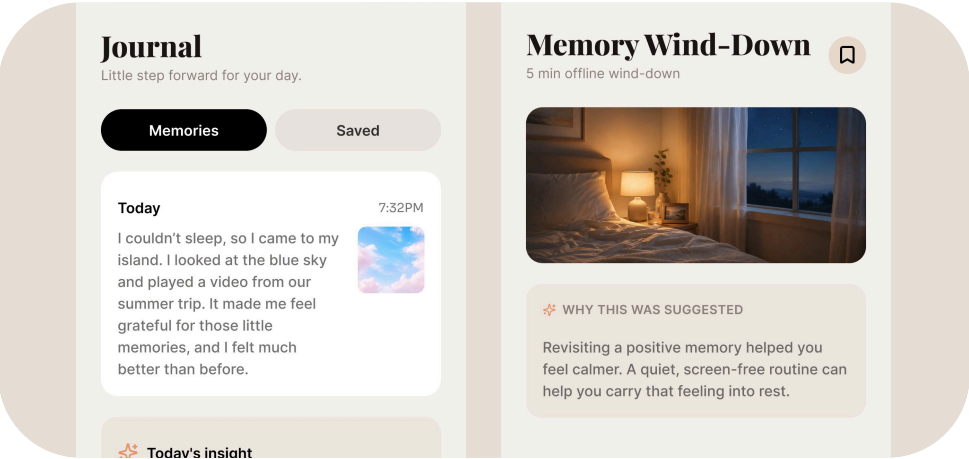
Pop a bubble or open a note to reveal a memory by surprise.

7 Reflection



Complete a short exit check and add an optional voice reflection.

8 Suggestion

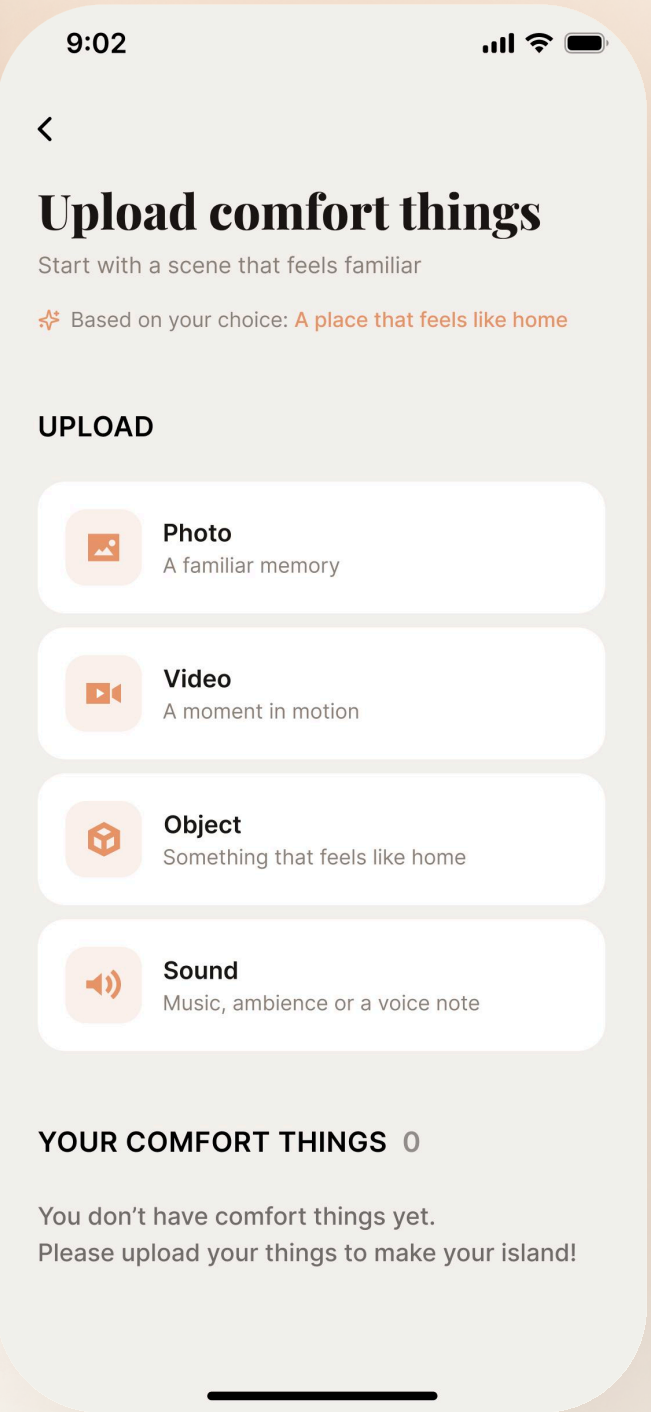
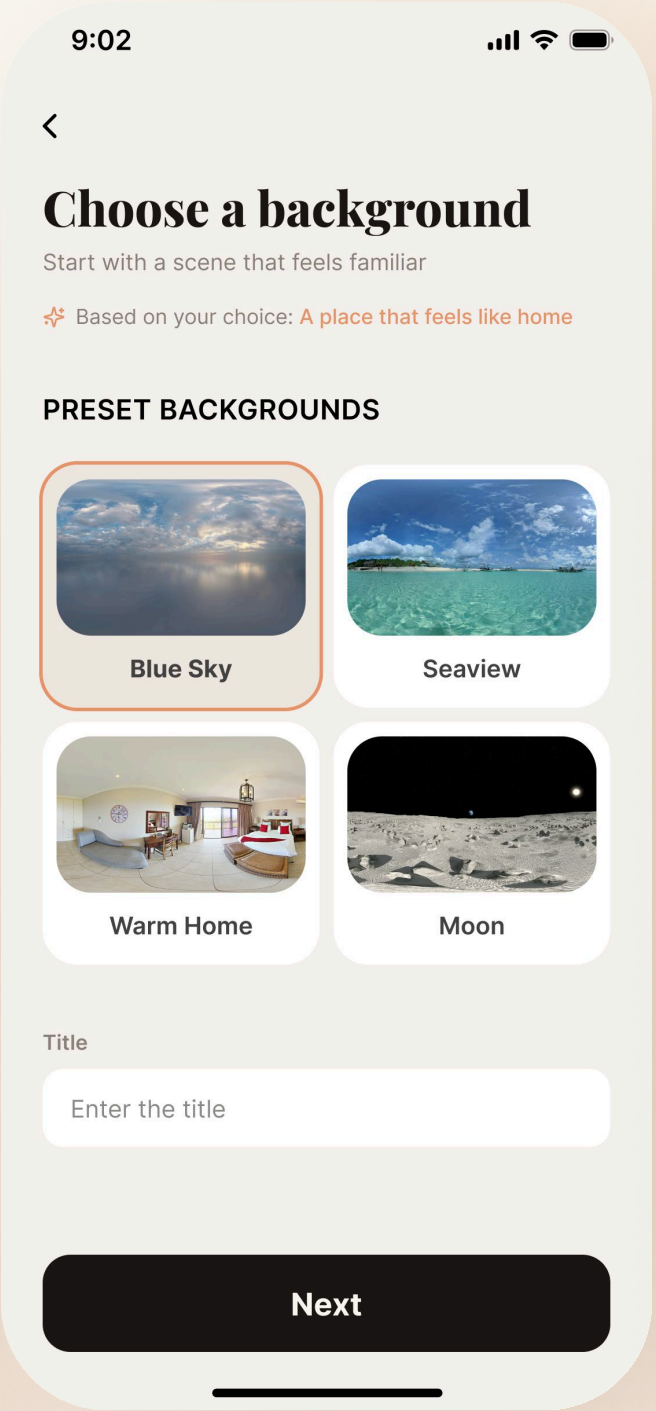
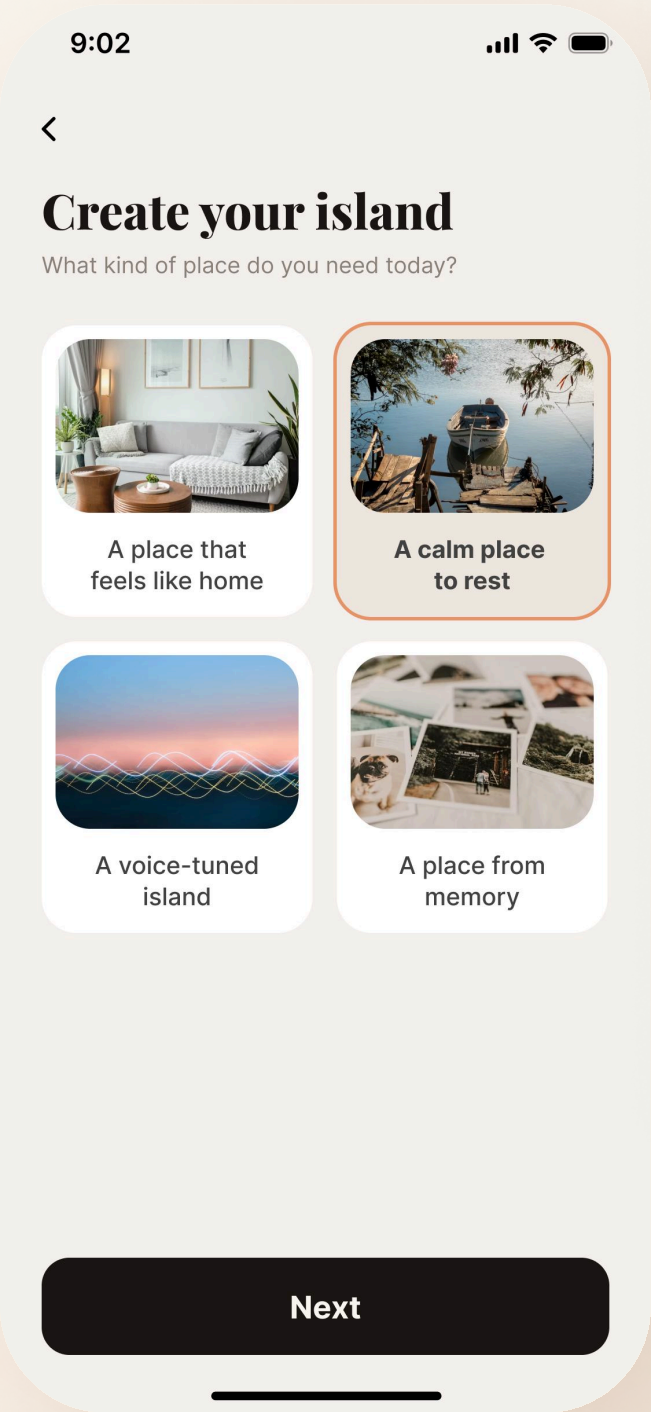
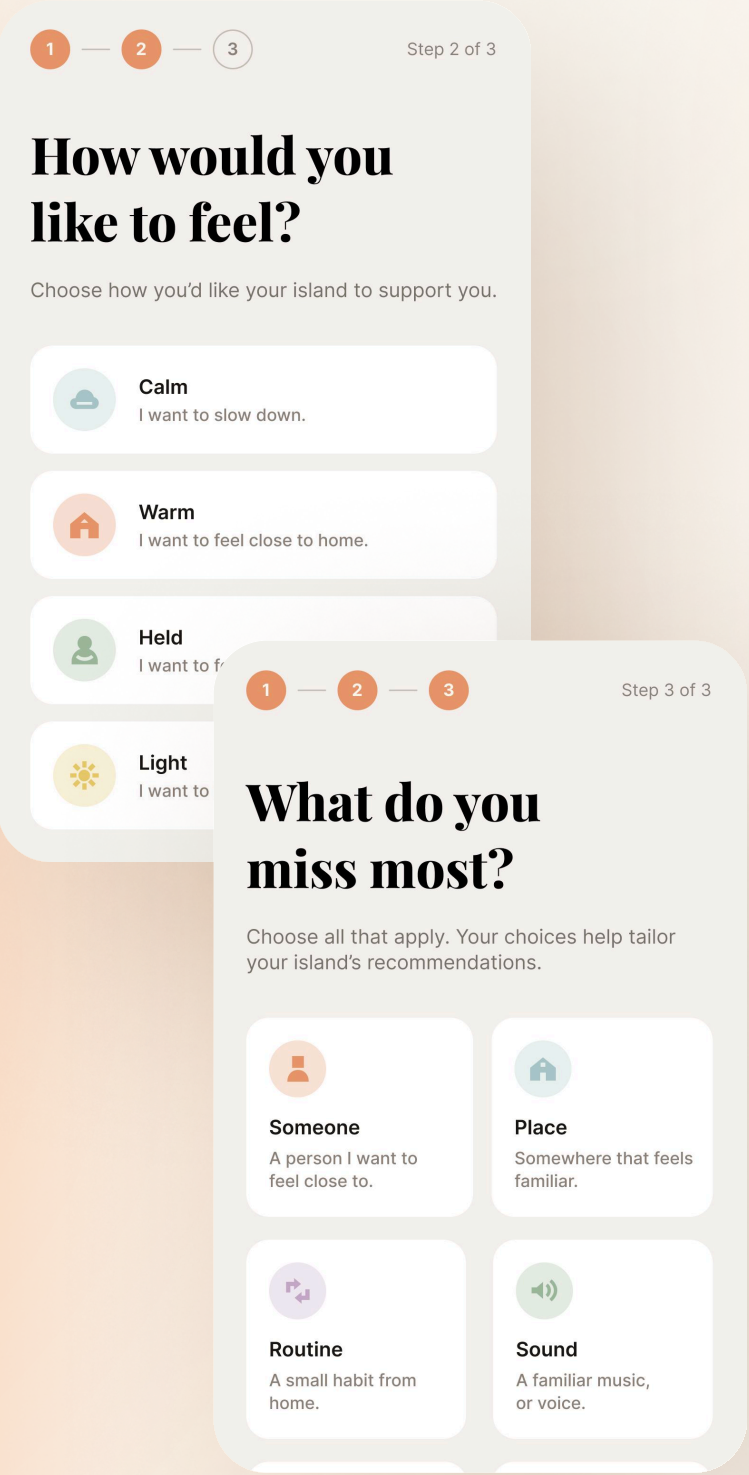
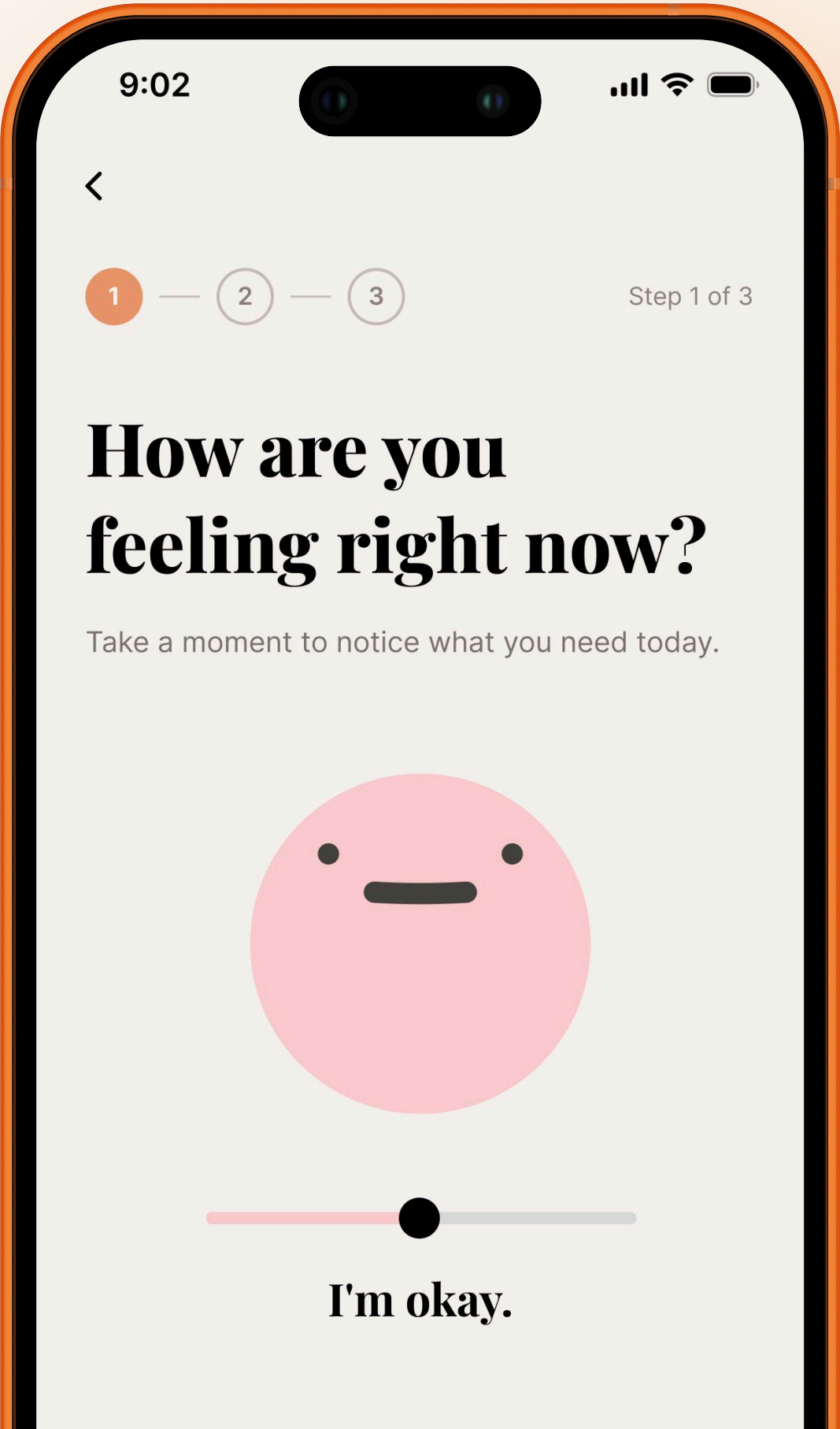


Return to the app to review your journal and take a gentle real-life step.

Mobile Experience

Emotion Check

Users identify their current feeling, desired feeling and what they miss most. These choices inform the island's ambience and familiar-cue recommendations.



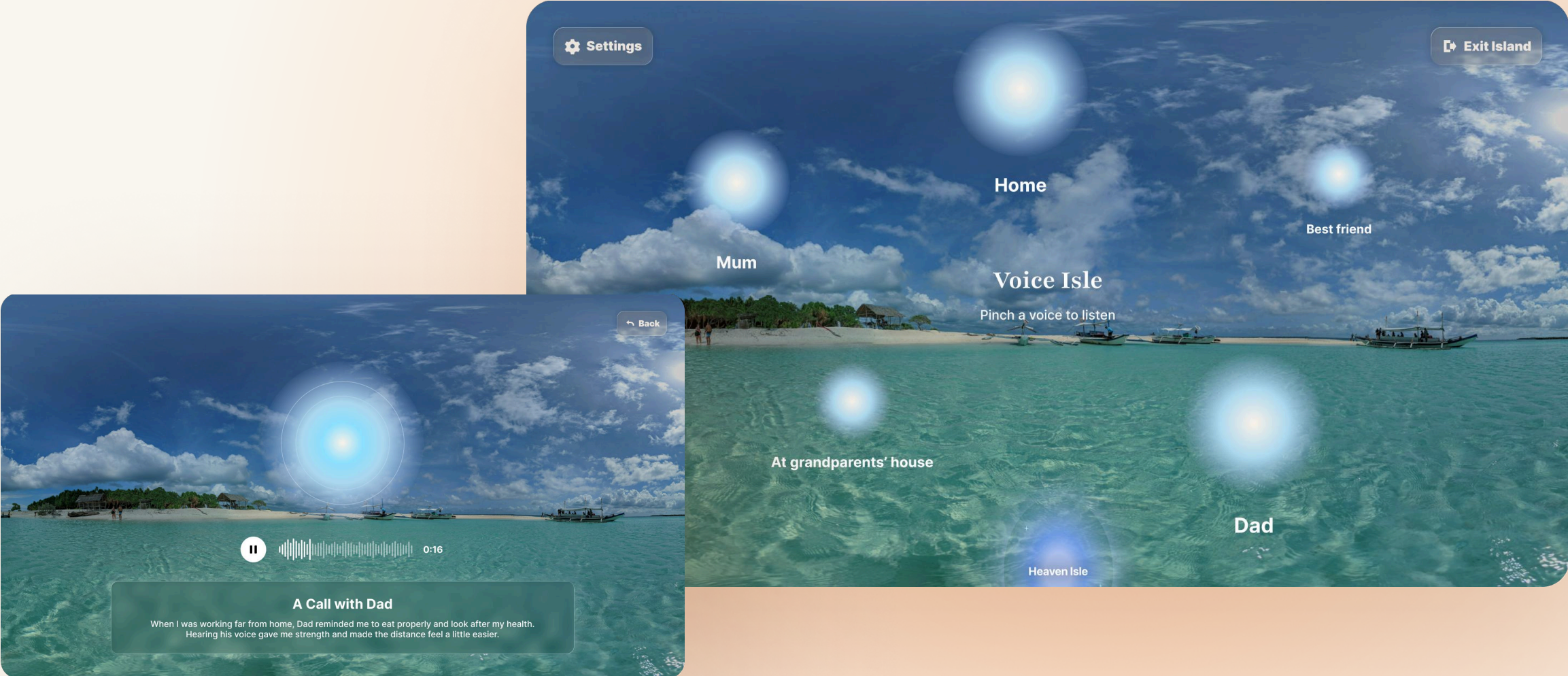
Island Creation

Users build a personal island by choosing a preferred environment and adding familiar cues. Each memory can include a title and short note for context.

Immersive Experience

Familiar Cues Island

Familiar Cues Island transforms personal photos, videos and objects into spatial memory cues. Users can revisit familiar moments while moving freely between cues.



Voice Island

Voice Island provides a dedicated space for familiar voices and sounds. Audio memories are distributed spatially around the environment and can be selected individually.

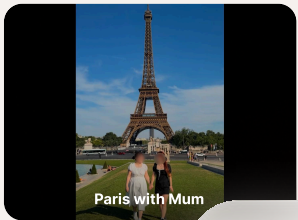
From XR to Everyday Life

01

Reflect in KR

Capture your reflections in the moment.

What brought you comfort today?



How do you feel now?

Take a moment before you leave.
Choose what feels closest.



Feeling better.



Feeling good!

Add a voice reflection

Take a moment to share whatever is on your mind.
You can revisit your reflection and explore suggested activities later in the Isle app.

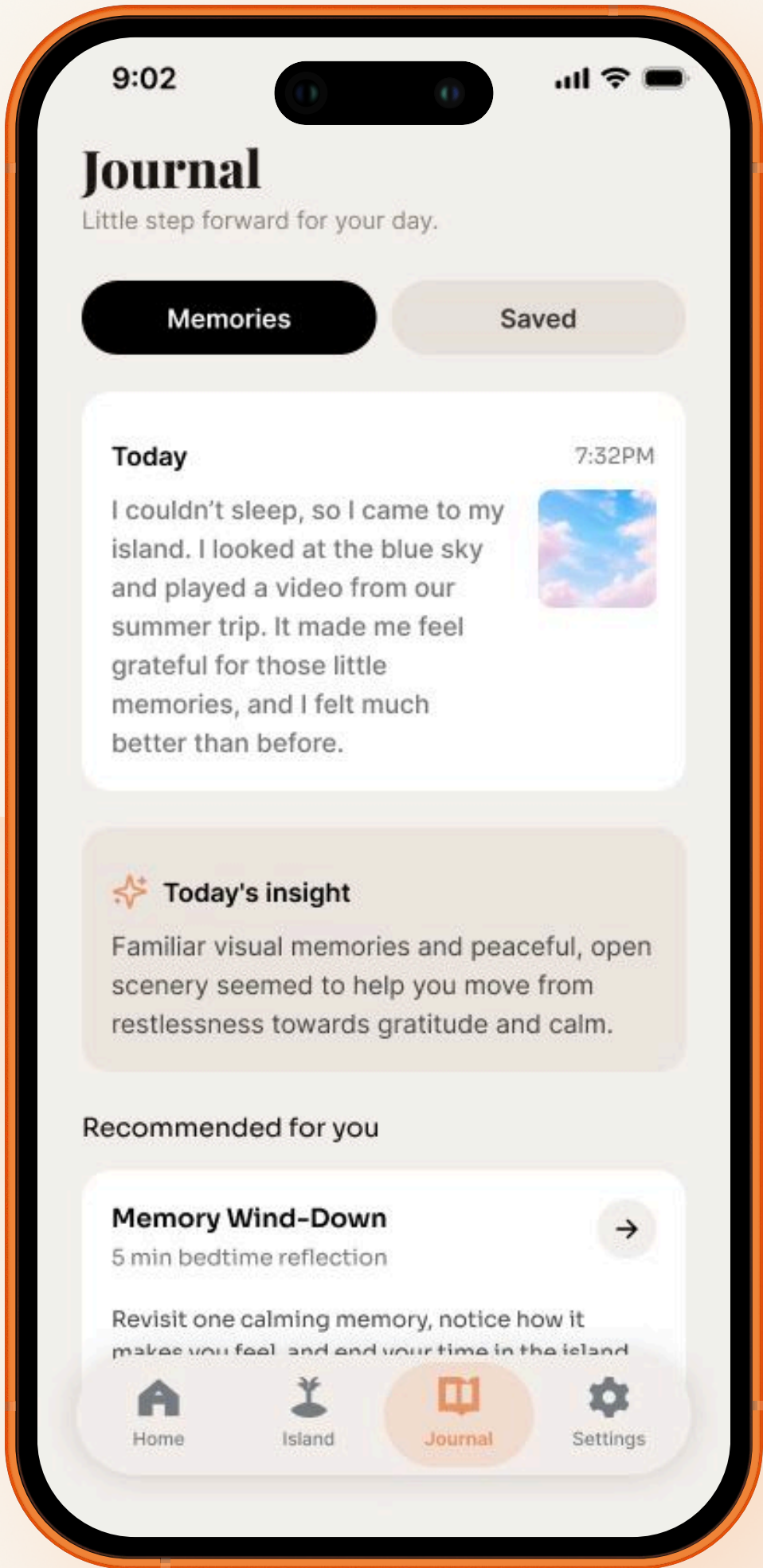


Recording - 00:18

02

Review in the Journal

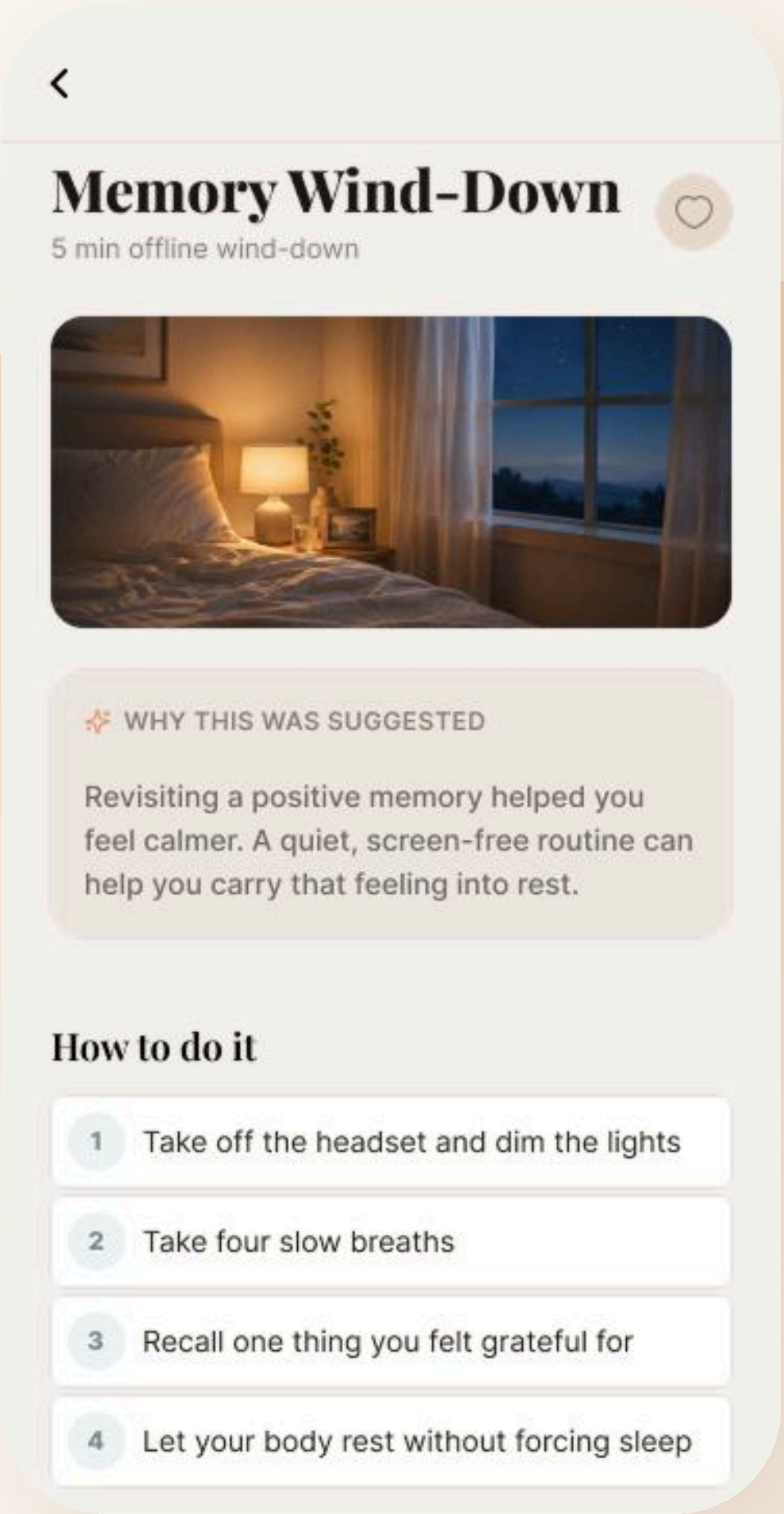
Reflect on your experience and uncover insights

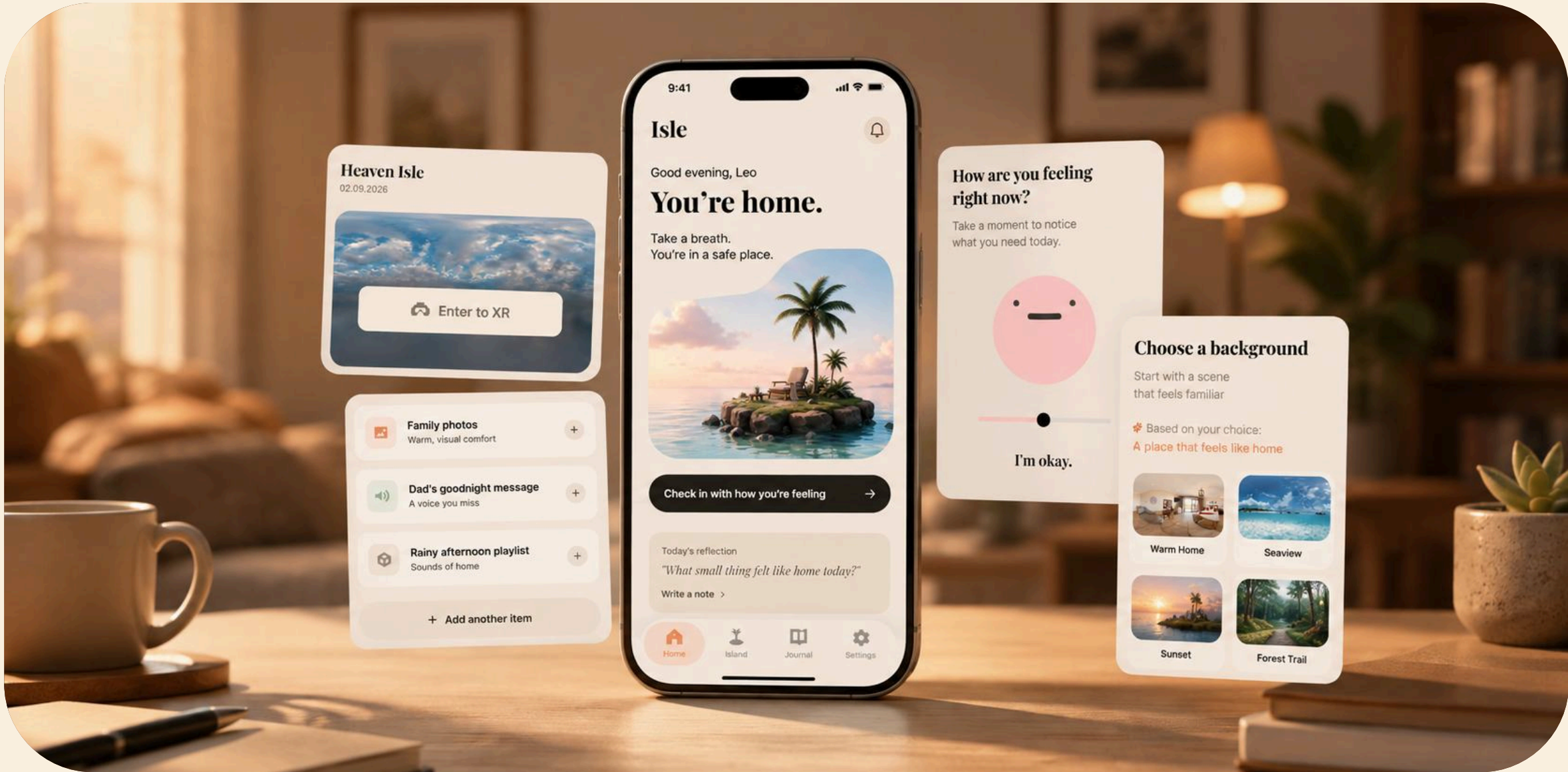


03

Take a Next Step

Try an activity for your wellbeing.





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Your Island,
Always With you



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