



Best Claude Code Guide 2026

The Complete Collection – V1 Through V5 + Starter Kit

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THE COMPLETE COLLECTION

I've been writing Claude Code guides since December 2025. Five versions, 59.9 million tokens tracked, 484 GitHub stars, translated into 11 languages, and ranked alongside Anthropic's own documentation by Google. This post is the directory – every guide, what it covers, and where to find it.

THE GUIDES

V1 – The Foundation *(December 2025)*

Where it all started. Global `CLAUDE.md` as a security gatekeeper, project scaffolding blueprint, and why single-purpose chats matter. Introduced Context7 MCP integration and the principle that Claude treats `CLAUDE.md` rules as suggestions – not commands.

 [GitHub – Original Guide \(V1 section\)](#)

V2 – Enforcement Over Suggestion *(January 2026)*

The community pointed out that Claude ignores `CLAUDE.md` rules under context pressure. V2 added the enforcement layer: **Skills & Hooks**. Deterministic hooks that *always* run – blocking `.env` access, preventing dangerous commands, running quality gates. This version changed the entire conversation from "tell Claude what to do" to "enforce it programmatically."

 [GitHub – Original Guide \(V2 section\)](#) ·  [GitHub Pages – V3 \(includes V2 content\)](#)

V3 – LSP & IDE-Level Intelligence *(January 2026)*

Claude Code v2.0.74 shipped native Language Server Protocol support – 900x faster cross-codebase navigation (50ms vs 45 seconds). V3 covered LSP integration, refined `CLAUDE.md` configuration patterns, MCP server directory, and the complete skills &

hooks reference. First version published on TheDecipherist.com.

 [Full Article – TheDecipherist.com](#) ·  [GitHub Pages](#)

V4 – The January 2026 Revolution *(January 2026)*

Claude Code 2.1.x shipped 1,096 commits in a single month. V4 covered the biggest changes: **MCP Tool Search** (85% context reduction – 77K → 8.7K tokens), **Custom Agents** with isolated context windows, **Session Teleportation** between terminal and claude.ai/code, **Background Tasks** with Ctrl+B, and the new Setup hook. This one hit 284K views on Reddit with a 96% upvote ratio.

 [Full Article – TheDecipherist.com](#) ·  [Reddit Post](#) (*search "Complete Guide to Claude Code V4" on r/ClaudeAI – 284K views, 646 upvotes*)

V5 – Rules That Actually Stick *(February 2026)*

Built from 60+ projects and 6 weeks of tracking every tool call Claude made. V5 tackled the hard problems: the **renaming problem** (Claude renames your variables/files mid-session), **Plan Mode contradictions**, hooks that don't wait for async operations, **TypeScript as non-negotiable**, the database wrapper pattern, a complete **testing methodology**, architecture docs, skills as scaffolding, and the techniques that make `CLAUDE.md` rules actually persist across long sessions.

 [Full Article – TheDecipherist.com](#)

THE STARTER KIT

Everything from V1–V5 baked into a production-ready project template. Instead of reading 4,000+ lines of guides, clone this and start building:

- **23 slash commands** (including `/setup`, `/review`, `/deploy`, `/diagram`, `/worktree`)
- **10 critical rules** in a battle-tested `CLAUDE.md`

- **9 deterministic hooks** (block secrets, lint on save, branch protection, port conflicts, E2E test gates)
- **2 custom agents** (code-reviewer, architect)
- **2 skills** (security-audit, commit-messages)
- **Production database wrapper** (MongoDB with native driver, no Mongoose)
- **12+ project profiles** for different tech stacks
- **MCP server integrations** pre-configured

 [GitHub – Starter Kit](#) ·  [Full Article – TheDecipherist.com](#) ·  [GitHub Pages – Documentation](#)

```
git clone https://github.com/TheDecipherist/claude-code-mastery-project-starter-kit
cd claude-code-mastery-project-starter-kit
# Open Claude Code and run /setup
```

BONUS: CLAUDE CODE'S MEMORY PROBLEM

If Claude keeps forgetting things mid-session, it's not random. It's caused by VS Code extension limits, session file caps, and WSL2/Docker memory leaks. Wrote a separate deep dive on diagnosing and fixing it:

 [Why Claude Code Forgets Everything \(And How to Fix It\)](#)

THE NUMBERS

METRIC	VALUE
Guide versions	5 (V1-V5)
Tokens tracked	59.9M across 6 weeks
GitHub stars	484 (combined repos)
GitHub forks	52
Reddit views	700K+ (Claude Code guides only)
Languages translated into	11 (organic, community-driven)
Google AI Overview	Cited alongside Anthropic's official docs

Every guide builds on the last. V1 teaches you what `CLAUDE.md` is. V2 teaches you why it's not enough. V3 gives Claude IDE-level intelligence. V4 makes it scale. V5 makes it reliable. And the starter kit puts it all in one `git clone`.

If you've been following the series – thanks. If you're new – start with V5 and the starter kit, then go back to fill in the fundamentals.

What's in your setup? Drop your `CLAUDE.md` rules, hooks, and agents below.