How To Navigate Towns & Cities Using Religious Buildings (many are aligned to certain directions)

Categories: Urban Survival
Ok, scenario is - You don't have a compass and you can't remember (or don't know how) how to navigate using the sun. You are trying to navigate through an urban area and you are completely lost. For whatever reason (you fill in this blank) there is no one around to help you. What do you do to get a bearing?
Religious Buildings of course! Everyone knows this, right? (only kidding).

From earliest dates, religious buildings have been built and aligned to certain directions.

Early Christian churches are usually aligned west-east, with the altar at the eastern end to catch the sunrise. Often, gravestones are also aligned west-east.

Mosques and synagogues are a bit more tricky. With a mosque, you need to go inside and find the niche/al-Qibla wall, which indicates the direction for prayer and will be the direction of Mecca, wherever you are located in the world. Synagogues normally place the Torah Ark at the eastern end, so worshippers face towards Jerusalem. Synagogues in countries that are east of Israel will face west.

So to summarise - it is probably easier to carry a compass (and if possible a map), but if you are really lost and help is not available, knowing a bit about religious building alignments, might get you going in the right location.