



The Alliance Opinion Forum

Essential Travel Apps



August 2014

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The *Alliance Opinion Forum* provides travel journalists and travel and tourism industry partners and their agencies, the opportunity to initiate and/or respond to discussions on subjects of genuine interest and relevance.

In this way the *Alliance Opinion Forum* will help to influence an awareness and understanding of the issues facing the travel and tourism industries worldwide.

Discussions take place through email communications, the International Travel Writers Alliance *LinkedIn* group and other social networking platforms.

The AOF Briefing

If a particular discussion 'takes off', the Alliance will incorporate the contributions into an AOF briefing, which will then be archived at www.itwalliance.com and emailed to the Alliance's :

- 10,100 professional travel journalists
- 3,600 travel industry partners, and
- 1,600 representatives of agencies with travel related clients.

Essential travel apps

Travel professionals, who spend much of their time 'on the road', are now able to access a veritable arsenal of 'apps' for cell phone, tablet and laptop.

These can make travelling easier and more enjoyable.

The International Travel Writers Alliance asked its travel journalists and tourism industry partners to recommend the app's they find most useful.

This *Alliance Opinion Forum - Essential Travel Apps* briefing contains the list of recommended apps, which are listed in alphabetical order with a late entries section at the end.

Others will be added on a regular basis.

To contribute to the *Alliance Opinion Forum - Essential Travel Apps*, email your suggestions (with a brief explanation as to why) to : Ashley Gibbins at Ashley@itwalliance.com.

Ashley Gibbins

Chief Executive
The International Travel Writers Alliance

www.itwalliance.com

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Essential Travel Apps



AFAR

Kirsten Alana writes :

I love the *AFAR travel app* for finding things to do on future trips.

I can create lists and access my saved favourites offline, even if I don't have service in a country.



Airbnb

Nick Spence writes :

Airbnb offers a trusted community marketplace for people to list, discover, and book unique accommodations around the world.



Airports

Airports by TravelNerd allows users to access information on the airport, including gate information, detailed floor maps, Wi-Fi availability and opening hours for shops and restaurants.

By using the app, users can pool other travellers who can share a taxi or just find different ways to travel to and from the airport.



The Airport Transit Guide

Ron Salk writes :

The Airport Transit Guide (\$4.99) has over 400 city airports with information on everything from taxis, public transport, rental cars, airport parking and even Helicopter scheduled fares.



AroundMe

AroundMe allows users to find nearby points of interests such as restaurants, hotels, theatres, parking and hospitals.



Been

Ashley Gibbins writes :

Been allows you to keep track of the countries and American States visited with links to the Wikipedia entry.



CamCard

Ashley Gibbins writes :

CamCard reads business cards and save instantly to phone Contacts. It syncs all your cards across smart phones, tablets, computers and the web app.

CamCard reads business cards and save instantly to phone Contacts. It syncs all your cards across smart phones, tablets, computers and the web app.



Citymapper

Nick Spence writes :

Citymapper takes a variety of available data and combines it to ensure speedy travel in major cities - currently London, New York and Paris.

The app includes an impressive array of features including A to B journey planning, real-time travel information and weather forecasts.



CityMaps2go

CityMaps2go allows you to download maps of major global cities that can access offline.



City Papers

City Papers connects you to more than 3,000 English-language newspapers worldwide.



ClubLocator

Simon Locke writes :

As a member of Rotary International I look to visit Rotary Clubs while travelling, and the *ClubLocator* app allows one to find the day and time for Rotary Club meetings close to almost any current location in the world.



Commander Compass

Ashley Gibbins writes :

You may not need a compass that often but when you do this is one of the very best.





The Converted by Ideon

The Converted by Ideon is an all-in-one conversion app that includes currency conversion; Imperial/metric, Fahrenheit/Celsius and mile/kilometre.



Currency

Joy Hilton writes :

Of the many money converters I use *Currency*.

Nominate base currency and convert it to many currencies, not just the most common.

Handily grouped under continents. Opt to use conversions in reverse or use to check values of precious metals (as you do!)



Endomondo

Rachel Cotterill writes :

Endomondo is designed as an activity tracker, and I use it to track my runs, but I also find it really useful when wandering a new city.

It stores my route so I can look back over it later, and if I get lost, I can bring up the map and see exactly where I started (or anywhere I want to go back to).



Enigma

Joy Hilton writes :

Scanner apps such as *Enigma* and *QR Code Scanner* are particularly useful in museums and art galleries which may be crowded, making it difficult to read the written details about the exhibitions.

Many galleries have scanning devices at the entrance to exhibitions which give you these details.

You can stand back and read about the exhibitions on your own phone or tablet and retain the information to review it later.



The Entertainer

The Entertainer covers 23 cities so far, with more to come, and highlights places near your location that offer buy-one-get-one-free discounts.

Users just have to show the app and redeem the coupon when they're at the location.



Evernote

Rick Martin writes :

Evernote lets you make notes and organise them into folders—plus you can search for keywords to find that one note you need from all the other ones from your journeys.

Another option is to simply snap a picture of what you want to remember and save it to a specific notebook on your app.



FlightAware

Simon Locke writes :

FlightAware is used for tracking the progress and ETA of flights based on flight number, flight route or much less value to most people by tail number.



FlightTrack

David Powell writes :

I would go for *FlightTrack* - does what it says.



Flight Update

Kirsten Alana writes :

Flight Update is my favorite app to keep track of and monitor my flights, and those of friends/family.

I particularly love the map feature and the fact that this always has terminal and gate information even when I sometimes can't get it at the airport.



Flight+

Flight+ allows you to track all available flights worldwide in real-time, and display them on an intuitive interface.



Flyer rights

Flyer rights tells you what the carrier legally owes you (if you're in the - United States).

When you're bumped from a domestic flight and arrive at your destination more than two hours late, for instance, the app will tell you that you're owed 400 percent of the one-way fare (up to \$1,300).

Most of the information can be accessed without Wi-Fi, making the app easy to check when you're stuck on the tarmac or at baggage claim, but there's also a collection of links to airline rules that would be hard to find if you were searching for them on a computer.





Fodors city guides

Allyson Kazmucha writes :

Fodor's City Guides is a great way to check out the culture around you. Read up on popular landmarks and attractions. And who doesn't like looking at amazing images?



Foodspotting

Ben Bowers writes :

The Foodspotting app is powered by users' own reviews and images.

For each city, users can browse the app's selections alphabetically, by category, rank and neighborhood.



Forevermap

Forevermap allows you to download maps of your destination country before travelling, avoiding data roaming costs.



FourSquare

FourSquare is a location-based app that highlights places to eat.



Gas Buddy

Micki Kosman writes :

Gas Buddy is perfect for road trips, as it gives you crowd sourced prices on the cheapest gas.

It's especially popular in North America, where gas prices can vary significantly between gas stations in the same town.



Garmin BlueChart

Simon Locke writes :

The *Garmin BlueChart* app itself is free but regional charts of navigable water are available for various regions of the world at costs ranging from \$30 to \$120.

A phenomenal program for the international sailor. A free add-on to this charting software is *ActiveCaptain* that provides detailed information about marinas, anchorages, points of interest etc.



GateGuru

Kirsten Alana writes :

GateGuru is the only thing that's gotten me through some really long airport layovers.

It helps me find anything I would need at any airport no matter my length of stay from a chapel to a shower facility to a specific shop or type of cuisine.

The airport maps are fabulous.

Maggie Cooper writes :

Before I travel I usually look for apps for each airport that can help me streamline transfers, particularly if I have a tight connection to make.

Having a map of terminals can save a lot of time when you are doing the Run of Shame!

I've also recently downloaded *GateGuru* which has a database of worldwide airport information, including maps, but I've yet to have a chance to check it out on the fly.



Google earth

Ashley Gibbins writes :

Google earth give that bird's eye view of any destination from ones back yard to 5th Avenue, Naples (my latest use). Great for getting acclimatised to a new place.



Google Goggles

Google Goggles enables you to direct your phone's camera at a building and, as long as it is well known enough, the app will provide relevant Wikipedia articles on it.



Google Maps

Judith Fein writes :

I use *Google Maps* all the time. I love the talking feature, so I can keep my eyes on the road instead of my iPhone.

David Dean writes :

Even though Google seems determined to make *Google Maps* less useful for travellers with each new release by crippling the offline caching functions, it's still an app I use every day on the road.





Google Translate

David Dean writes :

Unlike the Maps product, Google has actually made *Google Translate* more useful recently with the addition of downloadable language packs (on Android).

Now I don't even need a data connection to translate the world around me (although there are many more options when I am connected).



Glympse

Craig Lloyd writes :

Glympse provides friends with your exact, real-time location so they know where you are.

Simply just enter in the destination, and choose who you want to share Glympse with, and it sends a text message to that person where they can view your location on a map, as well as see your ETA.



Groopic

Mary Chong writes :

Groopic is a great app (\$1.99US) that allows the photographer to finally be present in group photos.

The app guides you through the process of taking two photos in sequence, first taken by the photographer, second shot where they have switched with someone in the group, and the app then merges the two photos together.

John Lamkin writes :

Groopic lets you (the photographer) get into the group photo without handing your camera to a stranger.



HearPlanet

The *HearPlanet* app provides an audio version of information from Wikipedia and its own database.



Hipmunk Hotels & Flights

Nick Spence writes :

Hipmunk Hotels & Flights compares travel sites to find the best deals on a range of services including flights, trains and accommodation.

Reviews provided by *TripAdvisor* are also available to browse, while flights can be sorted by 'agony' to best avoid long journey times and layovers.



HopStop

HopStop allows one to chart out public transportation, walking and driving directions for a number of major US cities and a smattering of global cities.

Also can save maps for offline viewing.



Hostelworld

Hostelworld offers a geo-tagged directory of 25,000 listings for budget hotels and access to over 3.5million user reviews.



Hotelpal

Ben Bowers writes :

HotelPal uses the iPhone's GPS functionality to show all the hotels around you.

It also allows users to view rates after inputting their desired length of stay, see pictures of the hotel in question and view a compatible list of the hotel amenities.



HotelTonight

Khristina Atwal writes :

Available from midday each day, last minute hotel bookers can make reservations with hotels in 250 major cities at great last minute prices using the *HotelTonight* app.



iCampsites

iCampsites provides a guide to more than 8,000 campsites in the UK and Europe, backed up with user reviews, pictures and GPS coordinates.



iMovie

iMovie is Apple's movie-studio-in-your-pocket that enables you to shoot and send video shorts.

Its pared-down editing suite, allows soundtracks and shot transitions to be dragged and dropped to create moving postcards.



iStone

iStone is a translation app designed for travellers minimal linguistic skills.

It records and translates into 12 languages and comes equipped with more than 300 useful phrases.





iTime Zone

Janet Fouts writes :

What time is it now at home? How about at your international destination? *iTimeZone* tracks and stores your most frequent time zones so you'll never call at 3 AM.



iTranslate

Nick Spence writes :

Users of iTranslate type in words or phrases for translation, while also listening to the translation being played back to help pronunciation.

iTranslate comes with 'Top In-App Purchases,' which essentially removes ads and unlocks the voice recognition function, and well worth investing in.



iWant

Angela MonDragon writes :

I really love *iWant*, another location based app which helps you find necessities nearest you such as restaurants, post office, gas, pharmacy and many more, with easy to find icons, and smart filters to find those nearest.



JetLag Genie

David Clarke writes :

While there are plenty of theories concerning the best methods for beating jetlag, it's generally agreed that gradually altering your sleeping habits before a trip is beneficial, and the *JetLag Genie* app will help.

Input your travel dates, destination and usual sleeping times and it'll give personalised alarm clocks



KAYAK

Nick Spence writes :

KAYAK compares hundreds of travel sites to find the best deals on hotels, flights and car rentals worldwide.



Kindle App

Susan Kohlback writes :

With the *Kindle App* you can download a book to read (short story collections are great for this purpose) and/or city guidebooks. Then when you find yourself in wait mode just turn on your phone and read a few pages.



LoungeBuddy

Jonathan B. Spira writes :

For frequent travelers, the most important thing next to getting one's preferred seat on the plane is having a few minutes to relax and check e-mail in an airline lounge before or after a flight.

If you have a long layover, finding the "right" lounge becomes critical.

The *LoungeBuddy* app locates and recommends airline lounges at specific airports based on user-defined criteria.



MapMyWalk

Rachael Rowe writes :

MapMyWalk which is useful for walking guide writers like myself and anyone just out and about keeping fit.

It gives you a map outline after the walk and the exact distance. Also calories burnt.



MapsWithMe

Karin-Marijke writes :

With *MapsWithMe* I can download off-line road maps for our next country so I can always access it.

I can search for points of interest like restaurants or museums while offline as well. I can even mark points and share them.



Mibblo

Karen Rubin writes :

Mibblo, is the first interactive musical storybook app, a boon for families traveling with kids 3-8 years old - keeps them occupied on planes and in hotel.



Minube

Minube is a e-library that stocks thousands of user-generated mini-guides with 24,000 destinations in 200 countries.

There are more than 100,000 mini-guides for free or at a small cost.

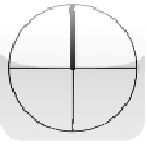


OpenStreetMaps

David Dean writes :

OpenStreetMaps is a viable alternative to Google Maps.





Orient

Rick Martin writes :

A very simple app but one of my favorites, Orient gives you a sort of compass view of a list of locations, showing you where certain locations are in relation to you.

When you fire up the app, it shows major world cities, but to get the full benefit, try adding all the places you plan to visit during your next day trip.



Packing (To Do)

Ben Bowers writes :

Coordinating what you need to bring for both short and extended trips is often an exhaustive exercise in memory and attention.

Luckily, this Packing app helps take some of the preparation stress off travelers by allowing users to create packing lists and check items off as they're packed.

Packing allows you to also view recreated sample packing lists or templates built for a variety of common trip types.



Packing Pro

David Clarke writes :

Tell *Packing Pro* where you're going, how long for and who with and it'll give a suggested list of what you might need, split up into essentials (passport, currency), clothes, gadgets and more, with lists for additional family members.



Pano

Ben Bowers writes :

Pano is an easy-to-use app that allows even novice photographers to shoot panoramas with up to 16 photos using the iPhone's onboard camera.

Simply point the camera at the desired panorama scene, and follow the app's handy semitransparent guide to help line up each shot perfectly.

From there, the software's advanced alignment, blending and color-matching algorithms do the rest of the work to create seamless images which can then be stored directly to your iPhone's photo roll.



Passbook

Joy Hilton writes :

Passbook holds vouchers, tickets, boarding passes, loyalty cards etc.

You scan Passbok barcodes with the camera or add them from apps, emails and websites.

Handy for boarding passes when you have checked in on line and have no luggage to deposit.

Free apps with *Passbook* include *Coupons*, *Hungry Hero* (food and drink), *Vouchr* (lifestyle) and *Ticketek* (entertainment).



Pin Drop

Pin Drop enables you locate GPS pins onto a map when you discover something interesting, or to browse user-made lists recommending the best attractions in the area.



PinPin ATM finder

PinPin ATM finder lists the destination of ATM cash machines in 220 countries.



Pixlr-o-matic

Pixlr-o-matic is app for taking and editing pictures, with similar features to *Instagram* but more.



Pixter Scanner

Allyson Kazmucha writes :

If you're traveling in a foreign country where the main language is not your first language, reading things such as traffic and transit signs can become overwhelming and quickly eat up a lot of time.

The *Pixter Scanner* app can snap a photo of any text you'd like and then translate it for you to any given language.

I've tried a lot of text translators and Pixter is by far one of the fastest and most accurate.



Ready Set Holiday!

Ready Set Holiday! is a simple app that tells you how many weeks and days you have left until that next trip.





RoadNinja

Susan Kohlback writes :

RoadNinja is a great app for Road Tripping in the United States.

Users can access any highway route in the United States, tap on an exit number and see what services are available there; hotels, restaurants, gas stations, shopping, pharmacy, etc.

If you have your GPS locator activated on your phone, the app will automatically load the information for the route you are traveling on.

This app makes it simple to scan four or five upcoming exits to see which one would be best to stop at for the night, who has the most gas stations (which means competitive pricing), and where you can find your favorite restaurant chain.



The Roller Coaster Guide

Aimed at a very niche market, *the Roller Coaster Guide* allows riders to browse through a database of over 5,000 roller coasters with images to find out the speed and height of the ride.

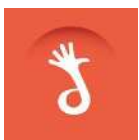
The app also supports ticket booking and offers exclusive discounts daily.



Shipfinder

Martyn Best writes :

Shipfinder is brilliant for identifying local ships nearby



StanStone

Karin-Marijke writes :

StanStone is a fun, new way of keeping track of fellow travellers - where are they, what are they doing, and maybe they left a recommendation of some sorts for my next destination.



SeatGuru

SeatGuru finds the cheapest tickets and adds crucial information from seat pitch and the proximity to the toilet to the likeliness to be bumped.

It allows flight search and features a color-coded seating plan -green is a good seat and red is bad.



SkyScanner

Simon Locke writes :

SkyScanner is particularly useful for finding routing to a specific location.

For example the only direct flight from the USA to Martinique originates in Miami and one can determine the fare based on date of travel.

In this particular example it can then be used to obtain an estimate for a fare from an alternative point of origination.

Nick Spence writes :

Skyscanner is a simple app for finding and indirectly booking via the provider, cheaper flights, with the ability to search millions of flights from 1000 airlines worldwide.

Users can search by specific destination, date or, for more impulsive travel, view an interactive globe to see current 'indicative' prices.



SnapCast

SnapCast allows users to produce a 30-second, narrated video package without post-production editing.

This can be uploaded and shared on social media platforms.



Speedtest

David Dean writes :

I work online, so knowing whether the guesthouse or cafe wifi is usable before I book a room or order a coffee is important. *Speedtest* tells me in a matter of seconds.



Sunrise

Jason Z. Guest writes :

Sunrise, created by two ex-designers of Four Square, is the answer for those seeking to aggregate decentralized calendar-like content.

It delivers a beautiful interface, with intuitive, relevant icons for visual reference, incredible intuition for calendar navigation, accepts all features of Google Calendar (including their multiple calendar feature), and the app integrates the location of events with a single touch into Google Maps.





Simply Declare

Cyle O'Donnell writes :

Simply Declare calculates real-time taxes and declaration items per country when entering customs and does real-time exchange rates, suggested costs for various travel expenditures and a lot of other cool, mathematical stuff.



Springpad

SpringPad takes the notebook to the next level by adding further details to your entries automatically.

It's handy to create a checklist for a trip, when you add entries like hotels, restaurants or landmarks, the app will save contact information, reviews, maps and pictures.



Sunrise & Sunset

Angela MonDragon writes :

When traveling I always make a point to take in the sunrise and sunset in each new point across the world.

Sunrise & Sunset uses gps to give you the exact times to expect the light show.



Sunscreen

David Clarke writes :

Having detected the UVI rating of your current location, the *Sunscreen* app sets a countdown timer to alert you when you're due your next sun block.

All you have to do is input your skin type and the SPF of your lotion, then kick back and soak up some worry-free rays.



Telegraph travel guide

Ashley Gibbins writes :

The travel guides from the UK's Daily Telegraph are interesting and informative in equal measure.



Time Out city guides

The Time Out city guides provides a mini-guide to 20 of the world's biggest cities, with information on restaurants, bars, shows and exhibitions.



Tipping Bird

Rick Martin writes :

Tipping is a practice that can vary from one country to the next. Indeed in many cultures, they might not even tip at all.

The Tipping Bird app lets you select a country, and then it tells you a recommended tip for typical situations, such as in restaurants or taxis.

You can also convert the currency to your own.



Tipulator

David Clarke writes :

Tipulator is a tip calculator app to help the mathematically challenged split bills and tips while neatly sidestepping social embarrassment.



Touchnote

Heather Cowper writes :

I use *Touchnote* often to send a postcard to my parents, especially if I'm with the family as they love to hear from their grandchildren.

It's so easy to take an iPhone photo of ourselves when we are on holiday, add a few words and then a real postcard is delivered within a few days, for about the same cost as a traditional postcard but with far less work.



TouristEye

TouristEye helps to find the best prices and options for a trip and helps build a wish list of destinations



Translate

Simon Locke writes :

Translate, based on the Google translate engine, translates words, sentences or complete paragraphs between multiple languages.

My personal experience to date has been in translating from English to Japanese, Hebrew, Spanish and Czech and it also allows translation into English from another language or between two different languages.

Once the translation has been completed it will provide a written and a auditory version of the translation.





Translate Pro

Simon Locke writes :

Translate Pro is a slightly different approach since one segment of the app provides common phrases in various categories such as "bargaining", "weights and amount" and "in the restaurant" etc.

It is also possible to enter your own words or phrases to be translated on the fly. The written form is provided but in order to hear how a phrase should sound one needs to buy a language specific voice package that costs \$1.99 per language per voice.



Travel Channel Layover Guide

Allyson Kazmucha writes :

Travel Channel's Layover Guide local spots to hang out at that you may have never decided to visit. Everything from breweries to pubs to five star dining and local attractions.



TripAdvisor Offline City Guides

Micki Kosman writes :

The *TripAdvisor* offline city guides don't need an Internet connection, making it easy to find restaurants, hotels and attractions on the go.

Since the map works with your phone's GPS, you don't need to be connected to the internet to see your location on their maps.

The city guides are only available for major cities right now, but more are being added all the time.



TripCase

TripCase is another app that aims to centralise travel documentation and planning in one interface that's easy to refer to before travelling and on the trip.



TripList

TripList is the best travel application I have used, keeps me organized.



TRIPit

Joy Hilton writes :

TRIPit places all my travel and accommodation bookings plus any plans (dated) all in the one place.

It detects travel related receipts from emails and adds such bookings to the list, or you can do this manually.

A premium version informs you of such things as changes in flight times and boarding gates. You even get a reminder from them of upcoming trips!

Nicole Brewer writes :

Triplt details all of your travel plans in one place from flights, to hotels etc.

When I lost my flight details before receiving my ticket, I was able to pull up my reservation details at the check-in kiosk to proceed with check-in.

David Dean writes :

Tripit collects all of my transport and accommodation bookings live, and I use it all the time at airports, bus stations and when trying to find out where the heck I'm staying tonight.

After syncing, it doesn't need a data connection, making it even more useful in a new country.



Triposo

Triposo provides access to information on 8,000 destinations using sources from *Wikitravel* and *openstreetmap*, and is remarkably accurate.

An internet connection is not needed to access the guide and useful features include a currency converter, phrase book and active suggestions for exploration dependent on the day, weather and opening hours.



Triptease

Kirsten Alana writes :

Triptease is an essential for me on my iPad, not only for keeping track of my personal favorite hotels in a stylish way but also for finding new hotels that I want to experience during future travels.



Trover

Pete Heck writes :

Trover is designed for people to share their photos of discoveries from their travels. The app allows you to pin locations and helps travelers find unique spots to visit.





True Horizon

Ashley Gibbins writes :

True Horizon allows making photographs at the just right angle by highlighting the correct position of the camera relative to the horizon.

With the Pro Pack feature set you can even let the camera shoot automatically when the angle is correct.



Tuneln

Ashley Gibbins writes :

Tuneln lets you listen to the world's radio with music, sports, news, talk, and comedy streaming.

Of the 100,000 live radio stations and 2 million podcasts, concerts or shows it tends to be baroque in the morning, Absolute Country hits to keep me cheerful the day and Whispering Solo Piano Radio in the evenings.



Uber

Janet Fouts writes :

Always a step up from a local taxi and safer if you're in a town you don't know.

Uber drivers can find you and you pay through your phone, tip included.



Ulocal

Tucker Cummings writes :

Ulocal is a great way to get advice from locals about what makes a city great and on events, great places to eat, and all the pertinent info you need before planning a trip.

Ulocal includes in-app messaging and calling worldwide, which allows users to call foreign numbers with no charge.



Urbanspoon

Urbanspoon scans your location and finds the closest restaurants and bars with search by type, price and rating.



Viber

Martyn Best writes :

Like Whatsapp, *Viber* is a good free means of communicating with voice, text or other messages.



Waze

Simon Locke writes :

Waze is a really great mapping program that provides point-to-point navigation and interactive information about road hazards such as accidents, objects in the road, vehicles stopped on the road side, police, traffic delays.

This information is updated constantly by other individuals (Wazers) who are driving ahead of you.

It works well in the USA, Canada and Israel (3 examples) and has proved fairly reliable on major highways in Panama but some of the much smaller roads are missing.



WeatherPro

David Clarke writes :

WeatherPro is an intuitive app offering weather reports for well over two million geographical locations, feeding in everything from cloud formations and atmospheric pressure to wind speed and humidity.



WhatsApp Messenger

WhatsApp Messenger allows you to send pictures, videos, sound clips and text using wi-fi or your phone's web package to someone with the app anywhere in the world for free



Wi-Fi Finder

The *Wi-fi Finder* app provides directions to the nearest source of wireless internet.

The offline mode means you can download maps before you go to avoid unnecessary bills.



Wikipedia

Ashley Gibbins writes :

The official app of Wikipedia mind-boggling encyclopedia containing more than 20 million articles in 280 languages, and is the most comprehensive and widely used reference work humans have ever compiled.

All this information in Wikipedia's trademark no-frills format – just perfect.





WikiSherpa

David Dean writes :

WikiSherpa is essentially an offline version of the Wikitravel/Wikivoyage site, and is another great tool for when you arrive in a new country and don't have a data connection.

Just pick where you're going beforehand, download the information and it'll be there when you need it.



Wikitude

Rick Martin writes :

This is a very handy application that draws a plethora of useful info about your surroundings from Wikitravel.

The display uses Augmented Reality to display annotations of nearby points of interest over the top of the regular camera display.



WorldMate

Forward your various confirmation emails for flights/hotels/hire cars/restaurant bookings etc. to trips@worldmate.com and the app instantly generates an itemised itinerary covering your entire trip.

If you upgrade to the premium version the app will keep you in the loop in real time, generating alerts to let you know when flights are delayed or gates change.



Word Lens

Nick Spence writes :

Word Lens translates printed words using your iPhone's built-in camera so you can read signs, menus and more when abroad.



XE Currency

Karin-Marijke writes :

Crossing borders means you get a new currency to deal with.

With the *XE Currency* app, you can convert among any currency. It keeps the latest exchange rates in memory, so you can use it off-line as well.

Simon Locke writes :

XE Currency provides conversion between different international currencies.

By selecting the starting currency and then entering an amount one then receives a conversion to any of 9 additional currencies of your choice.

This app would be of particular value if one was moving through several countries and one needed to exchange remaining currency from one country into the currency of the next country being visited.



Yahoo! Weather

Nick Spence writes :

Yahoo! Weather is an attractive, essential app for travellers providing location based reports, hourly forecasts over a 24 hour period along with a 10 day daily forecast.

You can enter and save further locations by simply searching via 'city or ZIP code,' which is ideal when planning a journey.



yr no and Sunsurveyor Lite

Julie H. Ferguson writes :

The best weather app is *yr no* from the Norwegian meteorological office.

It has by far the most accurate weather forecasting I've found where ever I am in the world.

As a photographer I use it to plan my adventures, along with *Sunsurveyor Lite* to estimate the golden hours around sunrise and sunset. Great combination.



Zuji Packman

Zuji Packman, launched by online travel agency Zuji, helps travellers organize their itinerary, coordinate their packing and share travel schedules.

Using the app, travellers can create multiple packing lists, set up personal reminders and see what others are packing.



Late entries



Groupon

Paige Conner Totaro writes :

Groupon is a listing of discounts and deals in local markets. Use it while traveling to find great deals on dining, tours, and adventure experiences.

We used it for a discounted trapeze class while we were in Los Angeles.



Happy Cow

Rachel Cotterill writes :

As a vegetarian, finding good food in a new city is often one of the biggest challenges. *Happy Cow* (the Veg Travel Guide for Vegan & Vegetarians) features local maps and listings, along with reviews from fellow veggies.

The trip-planning feature is a neat extra if you're looking ahead to your next trip. Create a (free) account you can save your favourites in the app.



Untappd

Paige Conner Totaro writes :

Untappd is a social network for beer lovers. You can use it to rate the beers you drink along the way, find local brews and breweries, and even find drinking buddies nearby.



TrailWallet

Paige Conner Totaro writes :

TrailWallet is an app for tracking expenses and budgets. I love it because you could change currencies easily and track custom categories.



Yelp

Paige Conner Totaro writes :

Yelp began as a restaurant and small business recommendation tool in the US but is expanding quickly to other markets.

In the countries where it is active, it can be a godsend for finding not only places to eat, but dry cleaners, hairdressers, pharmacies and the like.

Editor's pick

Ashley Gibbins writes :



The Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Although not an app, the travel advice offered by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, via its website, is an invaluable resource.

It provides the British Governments latest travel advice by country and cover safety and security, entry requirements, travel warnings and health.

Email updates are available

www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice



The US Department : Bureau of Consular Affairs

The US Department : Bureau of Consular Affairs provides the US government's official travel advice and travel warnings, again by country.

Registration for automated email updates also available.

www.travel.state.gov/content/travel/english.html

The International Travel Writers Alliance

AllWays traveller



The International Travel Writers Alliance is the world's largest association of professional travel writers, editors, broadcasters and photographers.

www.itwalliance.com



AllWays traveller provides independent travellers with an equally independent view of the world from the professional travel journalists in the Alliance

www.allwaystraveller.com

Ashley Gibbins FCIPR, MCIOJ
0776 419 8286
Ashley@itwalliance.com