

# Smartphone Tips and Tricks

## Traveling with Your Smartphone

When you are traveling there are 1000's of apps that can help you out. Here are a few that may make your trip more enjoyable and less costly. All these apps are free.

**Google Maps** – Probably the most useful app for travel. It can tell you where you are and how to get to where you want to go. Use the search feature to find places to see, places to eat and driving, walking or transit directions. If you are going somewhere that has doubtful internet you can get a map of your destination before you leave and save it to your phone so you will have it even if you have no internet signal.

**Waze** – This mapping system will help to redirect you around traffic slowdowns.

**Hotels.com, Expedia, Booking.com, Trivago, Priceline and Hotwire** all have apps where you can book or see what you have booked. Most hotel chains also have their own app

**Trip Advisor and Yelp** – Get info on hotels, restaurants, attractions and businesses as rated by other users. Be aware that not all reviews are legitimate and that any review site is more likely to attract disgruntled than satisfied customers.

**Zagat** – Read reviews of restaurants with a higher standard of truth.

**Open Table** – A quick way to make reservations for dining. Additionally, you can earn points toward a discount certificate for future meals.

**Airline Apps** – All airlines have their own app. Install the app for the airline you are using for your trip and have information about your itinerary as well as your boarding pass. They will also advise you of delays or cancellations.

**Hopper** – This app will help you find the best time to get the cheapest fare on an airline. Put in your destination and it will tell you when you can expect the lowest fare for that trip.

**Google Translate** – Invaluable if you are in a country where you don't speak the language. (Be aware when traveling in other countries that you will need to get a data plan in that country.) It is also useful for translating that French restaurant menu. It will translate from voice, camera or written and will enable you to have a conversation with someone who speaks a different language.

**Mobile Passport** – Allows you to take a photo of your passport to speed up reentry to the US.

**Lyft and Uber** – Order and pay for a ride. It is usually less expensive than a cab but watch out for surge pricing where the rate goes up significantly when there is extra demand, so be sure to check the price before booking.

Next Bus – When relying on public transit Next Bus will tell you when you can expect the bus to arrive.

Hotel Tonight – If you find yourself suddenly in need of a hotel room this evening this app will show you availability and help find a discounted room.

Gas Buddy – This app is supported by users and gives you the price of gas at locations near you or anywhere else. Plan your gas stops and save up to \$.30 a gallon. Gas buddy is useful locally to check gas prices as well as helping to locate a gas station in an unfamiliar area.

Best Parking – Parking lots can vary greatly in price. By giving this app the location you want to be at, the date, time and length of time you want to park, it will show you all local garages and what it will cost you to park there. It also has the ability in some cases to reserve and prepay your parking at a discount.

There are numerous variations on all these apps. In the app store do a search for the kind of app you are looking for and then look at the scores and read the reviews. Don't forget to check on what info they are going to take from you.