

Best travel applications for 2018

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Hipmunk (Android, iOS: Free)

Hipmunk presents a fast, all-in-one travel planning and booking solution, with a powerful flight and hotel search engine. In addition to the usual flight search criteria such as price, Hipmunk also includes an agony index for flight duration, number of stops and other factors. Users can also take advantage of last minute hotel deals, view reviews from TripAdvisor and other sources, and check out heat maps that show hotel proximity to shopping, dining and entertainment venues.



Kayak (Android, iOS: Free)

Kayak's mobile app (Android, iOS) provides users with a flexible assistant for searching for and booking rental cars, flights, hotels and more. Compare deals, book flights and accommodation, track your flights and manage your itinerary from Kayak's convenient mobile app. It's a great, centralized tool for keeping track of everything you'll need to arrange getting to and from your travel destinations.



Roadtrippers (Android, iOS: Free)

Another handy travel companion is the app named Roadtrippers (Android, iOS), a trip planning and itinerary app that helps you plot your next road trip, discovering destinations, attractions, and useful stops along the way. You can also share your route and schedule with friends and family. The app helps users find everything from diners and dives to hotels, restaurants, national parks, roadside attractions and other scenic points of interest. Users can plan out trips in the app or the Roadtrippers web portal, saving locations and stops into a trip plan which you can sync across multiple devices for easy reference.



Hotwire (Android, iOS: Free)**

And if you're looking for cheap hotels, or one that's located in your desired destination, Hotwire has just what you're looking for as your go-to source among travel sites. Need help with booking last-minute travel and destinations on your vacation wish list? We've built a killer mobile app and supereasy planning tools that ...



Hotel Tonight: (IOS and Android, free)

This slick purple app makes it almost too easy to book a great hotel for a discounted price, whether you're looking to stay next week, tomorrow, or in ten minutes. When hotels approved by HotelTonight have unsold rooms, they load them on the app and into your hands, with savings likely not available elsewhere. The app also comes with its own loyalty programme, totalling up your spending to reach levels that bestow even greater discounts, as well as perks like late check-out or a room upgrade.

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Airbnb (Android, iOS: Free)**

Airbnb (Android, iOS) is a marketplace app that allows users to search for and find unique accommodations across the world, from mom-and-pop B&Bs for a night, to a small apartment for a week, or even a castle for a month. There's no shortage of quirky and unique establishments. Airbnb covers a range of prices in more than 34,000 cities across almost 200 countries, which means the adventurous or flexible traveler has some interesting choices for accommodations on their next trip.



TripAdvisor (Android, iOS: Free) **

TripAdvisor (Android, iOS) is your crowd-sourced guide to hotels, restaurants and attractions worldwide. TripAdvisor allows you to browse through millions of reviews, images and videos featuring various establishments worldwide. You can also access contact details; search for nearby establishments; explore restaurants by food type, price range or rating; check out air fares; and even add to the knowledge base by posting your own reviews, images and entries for the places you visit. If you're using iOS 10, TripAdvisor has added a handy widget for your phone's lock screen that calls out nearby points of interest.

Google Flights (Free Web App only on computers) **

Google's own flight finder and price tracking service, Google Flights, has steadily added on to its features and reliability since its launch in 2011, making it an excellent companion app for prospective travelers looking for a great deal on international and local flights. Google Flights works its magic by comparing prices across thousands of flights from flag carriers, budget airlines, and charter flights to bring the best price, and in addition, Google works in its own search magic into the mix, allowing users to filter their searches through a variety of parameters, searching for flights by date, departure or destination airports, and more. Google also added a price prediction feature, alerting you to price changes, and likely fluctuations in price.



TripIt (Android, iOS: Free)

TripIt (Android, iOS) promises to cut back on the travel hassle by consolidating your travel plans into a simple, convenient itinerary. Viewable online and synced to your cell phone, you can also share itineraries with your contacts. You just link your email account to TripIt, and the service will automatically dig through your inbox for reservation confirmations and other forms. Using that data, TripIt builds an organized itinerary of your flight boarding times, hotel check-ins and more. The free app is ad-supported, while the paid version removes ads.

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Google Trips (Android, iOS: Free) **

Google Trips (Android, iOS) turns your smartphone into an all-in-one travel assistant, consolidating travel itineraries and reservations from your emails into automatically sorted trips. Google automatically collates your flight details, hotel and car reservations, tour itineraries and other information available in your emails, while also providing recommendations, suggested day plans, and related local sights and attractions based on your tastes, interests and local travel tips. Users can save their trip details locally to their smartphone, allowing for offline use away from local Wi-Fi or pricey roaming rates.



PackPoint (Android, iOS: Free)

PackPoint (Android, iOS) is a travel packing wizard that helps users by providing a checklist of travel essentials that they need to pack, depending on the nature of their trip. Users simply create a trip profile, with their destination, length of stay and purpose of travel. PackPoint then creates a customized packing and luggage checklist that takes into account whether you're traveling for business or pleasure, the type and amount of clothing to pack based on the weather forecast and other factors. The app also comes with a variety of premium features, such as TripIt integration for automatic packing list creation.



Google Translate (Android, iOS: Free) **

Google Translate (Android, iOS) can convert words, phrases and short sentences from one language to another. Simply pick an input language and an output language, and then either type or dictate your message. The app does its magic, presenting you with translated text or a short synthesized voice message. In addition, visual translation features have just been added, allowing you to translate text and signage with the aid of your camera.



Speak & Translate – (Android and iOS) **

Speak & Translate is an indispensable voice and text translator that allows you to communicate effectively in any corner of the globe

Excellent translation options:

Apple Speech Recognition Technology support - real-time voice recognition significantly enhances the speed of your translations

- 117 languages for text translation...



AroundMe (IOS and Android, free)**

AroundMe quickly identifies your position and allows you to choose the nearest Bank, Bar, Gas Station, Hospital, Hotel, Movie Theatre, Restaurant, Supermarket, Theatre and Taxi.

AroundMe shows you a complete list of all the businesses in the category you have tapped on along with the distance from where you are.

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Flightradar24 (IOS and Android, free) **

Turn your phone into a live flight tracker, watching aircraft around the world and viewing flight data in real time. Identify flights overhead, or log on to inflight wi-fi and follow your route progress in detail (including a weather layer). Bonus features, like Augmented Reality View, which identifies the planes flying overhead when you point your phone's camera at the sky, are addictive and entertaining. Info from Flightradar24's worldwide network of data receivers has even been used to help investigate aviation incidents.

Uber (Android, iOS: Free) **

Getting a ride in a new city used to be a challenge, but apps like Uber (Android, iOS) have been a disruptive, on-demand transit revolution. Operating in dozens of countries and more than 600 cities, Uber makes hailing a ride simplicity itself, so long as you can get a mobile or Wi-Fi connection. Set up an account, link a credit card, and then simply type in your destination to request your ride; Uber will do the hard work of connecting you to a vetted driver, complete with an upfront pricing. While 2017 has been a rough year for the company, Uber remains a valuable resource for casual and business travelers in cities worldwide.

Citymapper (Android, iOS: Free)

Navigating public transportation and foot routes in a foreign city can be a daunting task, and while many mapping apps offer turn-by-turn navigation, few are quite as adroit at planning a multi-modal commute as Citymapper (Android, iOS). Users can plot trips combining public transportation options such as buses and ferries, and more unusual methods including car- and bike-sharing. Citymapper coordinates with local transport agencies to provide information such as up-to-date rates, schedules, and bus trackers where available, and even informs you of service interruptions. Users can plan their trips and then save maps and routes for offline use, allowing you to navigate on the go, even without a cellular signal.

Rome2rio: (IOS and Android, free)

Find the best way to get anywhere, without unfolding a map or squinting at a train schedule. Rome2rio considers all modes of transportation when advising on the best routes from where you are, to where you want to go. A single search may include plane, train, bus, car, ferry, bike share, driving, and walking directions, all with listed fares and a detailed map that weaves together the segments of your journey.

Waze (Android, iOS) **

Nothing takes the fun out of a vacation like getting stuck in traffic. But loading Waze (Android, iOS) on your phone before you hit the road can spare you some frustration. The navigation app feeds your smartphone real-time traffic information, based on reports from other Waze users. That data includes accidents, speed traps and other hazards that might keep you from getting to your destination in a timely fashion. Other features sure to impress travelers include automatic rerouting, cheap gas alerts and the ability to send your ETA to anyone waiting at your final stop.

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GasBuddy (Android, iOS: Free) **

If road trips are more your thing, consider GasBuddy (Android, iOS), a mobile app that helps users track down the cheapest gas in their region. Users can use their GPS location, or search by address or zip code. As many of the prices are based on user reports, GasBuddy rewards users with points for reporting and updating a station's prices, with points making you eligible for regular raffles of prizes like free gas.



AccuWeather (Android, iOS: Free)

The weather can make or break the best laid vacation plans, upending beach trips, wilderness hiking and other outdoor excursions. A good weather app with international reach is a must for travelers and tourists, and one of our favorites is AccuWeather (Android, iOS), which features 15-day forecast summaries, 5-day forecasts, and the hyper-local AccuWeather MinuteCast. That latter feature zeroes in on your GPS location to provide minute-by-minute precipitation forecasts out to the next two hours.



XE Currency (Android, iOS: Free) **

XE Currency's excellent currency conversion app (Android, iOS) is everything you'll ever need when you find yourself in need of prices and exchange rates abroad. The app supports just about every national currency used worldwide, with the ability to track up to 10 simultaneously. Rates are regularly updated (you can set the frequency of updates), and best of all, the app stores the rates of currencies you've looked up, so that they're always available offline, even away from Wi-Fi or a mobile connection.



Night Sky (IOS and Android, free, with paid upgrade options for additional features) **

Quickly identify stars, planets, constellations, and even satellites above you by simply holding your phone to the sky and using the Night Sky app. Whether you're trying to find a constellation or the International Space Station, Night Sky will show them to you and more, no matter if you're outside under the moon, or at home, bored and in bed. Finish up a romantic dinner with some casual stargazing, but actually know what you're looking at.



'Use-IT (IOS and Android, free) **

USE-IT provides insights from young local residents about what to see and do. Use-It can be used offline. So when you're connected to Wi-Fi, just download the city you're in, and you'll have a map with suggestions you can access on your device even without data connectivity.