

Useful Travel Apps

When it comes to travel, you will likely find that “there’s an app for that.” A plethora of smart phone apps can ease navigating, conversing, or researching information when traveling. Many apps offer a free version as well as a paid option with upgraded features.

UC Retirees Travel’s worldwide tours are expertly planned and led, so the use of apps is not necessary while on our tours, but apps can facilitate communication and logistics, particularly during free time while on tour. Some apps that UC retirees have used while traveling include:

Communication:

- **WhatsApp:** Send text messages or make voice or video calls to friends/family back home for free whenever you have Wi-Fi. UC Retirees Travel escorts often use WhatsApp to send reminders, share pictures, and make recommendations during trips.
- **Duolingo or Babble:** Learn some basic vocabulary before traveling. Babble uses more traditional training modules and Duolingo uses a fun, gamified approach.
- **Google Translate:** Translate spoken conversations or use your smart phone camera to translate written text on restaurant menus, street signs, etc.

Transportation:

- **Airline apps:** Download the app for your airline(s) to check in for flights, store boarding passes, and get notifications of schedule or gate changes.
- **Flight Tracker:** track the real-time flight status and see the live map flight track of any commercial flight.
- **Google maps:** Search for directions using different transportation methods, download maps to access offline, and create your own “saved lists” of attractions, restaurants, and more.
- **Local transportation apps:** Use local transportation apps at your destination to plan routes, buy tickets, or get real-time updates.
- **Rome2Rio:** Find the speediest route to your destination with step-by-step directions and instructions for public transportation.
- **Uber or Lyft:** Book a ride with these convenient ridesharing and transportation apps.
- **Waze:** Get community-based information while on the road about traffic, hazards, and fastest routes.

Other:

- **XE Currency Converter:** Calculate currency exchange rates for the top 170 currencies. For iPhone users, the calculator has a built-in currency converter. Open the calculator, tap on the icon that looks like a calculator, slide the “convert” button to on, and choose the currency you want to convert.
- **Clock:** Using the World Clock feature on your phone’s default clock app, add the cities you will visit to easily check the time difference back home.
- **Calm or BetterSleep:** Play guided meditations or a variety of sounds such as white noise or rainfall to help relax and sleep on the plane or in noisy hotels.
- **PackPoint:** Create a customized packing list based on your destination, length of stay, and activities and share your list with fellow travelers.
- **AllTrails:** Find the best hiking, biking and running trails, including details on s length, starting location, and quality.
- **Mobile Passport:** Fill out declaration forms and passport information to move through separate, faster customs lines.
- **Trip Advisor:** Search for accommodations, restaurants and attractions to see reviews and ratings.
- **Get Your Guide or Viator:** Find walking tours, fun excursions, skip-the-line tickets, private guides and more.

Do you have a favorite travel app? Email us at UCRetireesTravel@gmail.com and we may add it to the list.