

A vibrant pink background featuring various travel-related items: a woven straw hat, a pair of sunglasses, a spiral notebook with an orange pencil, a large seashell, a white toy airplane, and several starfish. A red airplane icon is shown flying from the bottom right towards the top right, with a dotted red line trailing behind it that forms a heart shape around the text.

10 ESSENTIAL APPS
TO DOWNLOAD
BEFORE TRAVELING!



I. Unit Converter

This free app, simply named "Unit Converter" has been one of my **MOST** used on trips. In addition to translating weight, length, and cooking measurements, it also has a real time currency converter. Simply plug in your home country's currency and choose the currency you wish to translate it to! It's really that simple. It came in so handy while shopping - simply open the app and plug in the numbers. No need to pull up Google and wait for sites to load!

2. City Mapper

In my opinion, CityMapper is an exceptional app that has consistently exceeded my expectations, outperforming even Google Maps. The app is designed to help users get from point A to point B, providing real-time updates on traffic and public transportation. It has been an essential tool for me during my travels, allowing me to navigate cities like Berlin, NYC, and London with ease. What sets CityMapper apart from other navigation apps is its ability to provide turn-by-turn directions, even alerting you with a gentle buzz on your phone when your train stop is approaching. The app also compares the cost of various transportation options, such as trains, taxis, and even scooter and bike rentals! With over 80 cities available on the app, CityMapper truly is an all-in-one solution for navigating new places. Personally, I would feel lost without it!



3. Google Translate

It is important to download Google Translate before traveling because it can help you communicate with locals who speak a different language. This app allows you to translate text, speech, and even images in real-time, making it easier to understand signs, menus, and other written materials. It has come in so handy in cities where English isn't an option.

You can also use the app to have a conversation with someone in a different language by speaking into your phone and having the app translate your words for you. Google Translate supports over 100 languages, so it can be a useful tool for travelers going to many different destinations. Having this app on your phone can help you feel more confident and independent while traveling, and can make your interactions with locals more meaningful and enjoyable.



4. WhatsApp

WhatsApp - the app that will save you TONS in long distance and international fees! Think of it like a universal phone company.

Anyone can call another WhatsApp number anywhere in the world. You won't get the annoying operator that says your call can't be completed, and you won't pay ridiculous amounts to make an overseas call. The best part is that text messaging AND video messaging are both available through this app. Many hostels, hotels, and tour companies use WhatsApp to connect with their guests, so having the app on your phone can help you stay informed and connected during your travels.

[@WanderlustingHippie](#)





5. The Local Version of Uber/Lyft

Now I'm sure we are all familiar with Uber and Lyft, and those are great to have for when you first arrive in a new country. However you're going to realize right away that many countries have their own local version of a ride sharing app, and it tends to be much cheaper! Whether that's DiDi in China or Grab in Southeast Asia, many countries are doing their best to compete with these larger companies.

When I was in Bali, for example, I loved using Go-Jek, a service that picks you up on a motorbike! It is by far the quickest and easiest way to navigate the island! By all means, if you feel more comfortable with the standard Uber/Lyft, those are generally still an option. But hey, isn't traveling about experiencing some of the "local" flavor?

6. Secure VPN

Maybe you've heard of a VPN (Virtual Private Network) before, but why exactly are they so important?

- **Security:** When you connect to a public Wi-Fi network in a hotel, coffee shop, or airport, your personal information and online activities can be vulnerable to hackers and identity thieves. Using a VPN can help protect your data by encrypting your internet connection and masking your IP address.
- **Access to blocked content:** Some countries restrict access to certain websites or services, such as social media, news sites, or streaming platforms. By using a VPN, you can bypass these restrictions and access the content you want.
- **Privacy:** Using a VPN can help protect your online privacy by preventing your internet service provider (ISP), government, or other entities from tracking your online activities.
- **Cost savings:** Some online services, such as airline tickets or hotel bookings, may offer different prices depending on your location. By using a VPN to change your location, you may be able to find better deals or avoid price discrimination.
- **Convenience:** Using a VPN can make it easier to access your home country's internet and online services, as well as maintain access to your home country's content libraries for streaming platforms.

7. Hotels.com/Hostel World

Whether you're a solo adventurer looking for an affordable place to stay, or you prefer the comforts of a hotel, these apps have got you covered.

First up, Hostelworld is the perfect app for solo travelers seeking budget-friendly accommodations. It features ratings and reviews from previous guests, making it easy to find a reputable hostel. The app also offers straightforward pricing, ensuring that you get the best value for your money.

On the other hand, if you're like me and prefer staying at hotels, then Hotels.com is the ideal app for you. It has now combined its benefits program with Expedia and VRBO, giving you more options for earning points towards their rewards system. I've personally used Hotels.com to book accommodations all over the world, and I've always been impressed with its ease of use and comprehensive selection of hotels. With these two apps in your arsenal, you'll be ready to tackle any travel adventure with confidence!

8. Wise (Formerly Known as TransferWise)

I wish I had known about this app sooner! It charges only 0.41% of the total amount being transferred, making it one of the most affordable options out there. Plus, most transfers are completed within one business day, so you won't have to wait long to receive your funds.

I learned about Wise the hard way, unfortunately. When my card information was stolen while I was traveling in Bali, I had no backup plan. My family was able to send me money via Western Union, but they charged a full 1% commission, and I had to physically pick up the money. If I had known about Wise and downloaded the app in advance, it would have made my life so much easier.

One thing to note is that it does take a few days to get initial approval and set up and link your bank account, so it's important to plan ahead. But once you're all set up, sending money internationally has never been easier or more affordable than with Wise.

9. Air BnB (for experiences!).



I'm sure we are all familiar with Air BnB at this point. But an often overlooked part of the app is the Air BnB Experiences area. This is perfect for solo travelers, because it gives you a new group of people to meet and do something memorable with. And it's great for groups because it takes the guesswork out of having to find something enjoyable for everyone to do. I used it to find a walking food tour in Columbia, as well as to book myself a traditional Sank Yant tattoo in Thailand.

Even if you think you have the perfect itinerary planned, give it a quick look. I bet you'd be surprised by the amount of very original experiences that people in other countries are offering. I've seen salsa dancing lessons available in Spain and horseback riding through the countryside of France. The opportunity to have an unforgettable experience is only a few clicks away.

Make sure you check it out on your next trip, you just might book yourself into an unforgettable adventure!



10. Skyscanner

If you're a fan of "slow travel" and enjoy taking mini-trips within your larger travel itinerary, then you'll love the Skyscanner app. It's perfect for travelers who are flexible with their time and destination, as it offers a unique feature called "Here to Anywhere."

Simply input your departure airport and desired travel dates, and Skyscanner will generate a list of the cheapest flights to destinations around the world.

I personally love this feature because it's ideal for both spontaneous travelers and those who prefer to plan ahead. Whether you're looking for a quick weekend getaway or a longer adventure, Skyscanner makes it easy to explore new destinations and discover exciting travel opportunities.

So the next time you're planning a trip, be sure to download Skyscanner and take advantage of its "Here to Anywhere" feature. You never know where it might take you!