

The Smart Travel Guide

TIPS FOR TRAVELING IN THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE



7 Must-Have Apps for International Travel

Travel Smarter, Not Harder



The Seven *Must-Have* Apps for International Travel

1

TripIt

TripIt puts all your trip info in one place. It's the #1 rated trip planner and flight tracker. It organizes ALL your travel plans. And let me tell you, I loooove my TripIt! All you do is forward your airplane, train, rental car, or hotel reservation confirmation to plans@tripit.com, and voilà! TripIt creates an itinerary for you.

And if you've booked activities on your trip—like visiting a museum or seeing a play—you can manually add that info into TripIt. You can use it on your desktop, tablet, or phone, and there's a free and paid version. I highly recommend the paid version, but start with the freebie and see what you think.

2

Your Airline's App

Your airline's app is a must-have for being notified about flight changes, same-day delays, last-minute gate changes, etc. And hey...check in on your phone, and you'll have no more lost paper boarding passes.!

Most airline apps let you see arrivals and departures and also book flights. So if you see your flight is going to be delayed and you have a connection, you can figure out if your connecting flight is also delayed or if you'll have to rebook.

And always be sure to check your app before you leave for your flight. This tip comes from one (OK...me) who left for a 5:15 AM flight before checking to see that it had been cancelled. Yep.

3 Trip Advisor

Trip Advisor provides the latest crowdsourced reviews of hotels, food, activities, etc. When I search by traveler ranking rather than whatever the algorithm presents, I've rarely had Trip Advisor steer me wrong, whether I search for hotels in Bakersfield, restaurants in Istanbul, or a photography tour in Mexico City.

If you use this free app, share the knowledge, and leave a review for your fellow travelers.

4 Rome2Rio

Once you're at your destination, you'll want to get out and explore. ***The free app, Rome2Rio, shows you bus, train, air, tram, ferry & rideshare schedules.*** You can find the quickest, cheapest, or most interesting way to get from Point A to Point B. Check it out in your own town and see what you think.

5 Google Translate

Google Translate lets you say "Hi!" (and "Help!") in over 100 languages. You can translate text, handwriting (usually), images, websites, and speech. It's so very cool, and it's super helpful when you're in a country where you don't speak the language. Plus, it's free, so there's that!

6 Xe Currency Converter

This free app keeps you from getting ripped off when you're exchanging your hard-earned \$\$ for another currency.

While you'll usually get less for your money than at a currency exchange place in town, using [Xe Currency Converter](#) will let you know that the money you do get back is in the right ballpark.

It's also perfect to use when shopping. I bought a new sarong in Bali recently which was priced at 180,482 rupiah. What? Xe advised me that my new, gorgeous green sarong would only be about \$12. And you can use it to transfer money at a decent rate just in case you have to have that villa in Italy!

7

Express VPN

And speaking of getting ripped off ... don't go anywhere without a VPN (virtual private network) set up on all your devices!

A VPN uses advanced encryption to create a secure connection to the internet. This means you have privacy and anonymity so you can avoid being tracked and hacked.

A VPN also hides your location. Here's why that matters. If you're in, let's say, Australia, and you want to log into your bank in the US, the bank's firewall may know that you're in Australia and not let you log in.

All you have to do to get access to your bank is to set your VPN to log in to a server in the US, and bingo! You're in ... well, 99.9% of the time. I have had a few times when I've had to call rather than take care of business online.

I've tried the most recommended VPNs and found [Express VPN](#) to be the fastest and the easiest to use. This whole VPN thing may sound complicated, but it's pretty simple. And they have help 24/7 in case you need assistance.

There you have it! Your 7 must-have travel apps for international travel.

*Happy travels!
Peggy*