

# Travel App-titude

Apps offer a world of **new options** for those on the road. ::

BY TROY ANDERSON

**P**ETER SHANKMAN BELIEVES SO STRONGLY IN THE idiom “time is money” that he carries two smartphones loaded with travel apps whenever he’s on the road.

A business traveler who logs more than 250,000 miles annually, Shankman uses one mobile phone for use in the United States and another that he can insert a SIM card into so that it functions in foreign countries.

“I’m always looking for new travel apps that can save me time and increase the time I can be working,” says Shankman, an entrepreneur, speaker, business consultant, and author of *Nice Companies Finish First*.

The problem is that winnowing through the head-spinning number of options can be very time consuming. The iPhone App store alone offers thousands of travel-related apps. One note: Not every app is available for every phone. Here are the ones travel experts consulted by Newsmax have found most useful:



**FLIGHTSTATS** [*FlightStats.com*]

■ Chosen as “Best Mobile Travel App” in 2012 by Business Traveler, FlightStats is one of the easiest ways to track whether a flight is on-time, the gate location, etc. For many travelers, this app is indispensable on bad-weather days when airports get backed up.



**TAXIMAGIC** [*TaxiMagic.com*]

■ Connecting riders with 100,000 taxi drivers in more than 55 North American cities, Taxi Magic allows users to book, manage, and pay for rides with their mobile devices.

“We like to call it ‘magic booking,’” says Sanders Partee, president of Taxi Magic. “We know where all the taxi fleets are and we find the closest taxi, book it and have it come to you. At the end of the ride, you type in how much you want to pay and we’ll charge it to your credit card and pay the driver on your behalf.”



**GOOGLE TRANSLATE**

[*Translate.google.com*]

■ Google Translate is the most popular translation app for three reasons: It’s accurate, fast, and free. It covers 63 languages (20 with voice recognition, and 43 with text to speech only). It also has language dialects. This can be very useful with Spanish or Chinese, for example, which can vary a great deal from region to region.

Using it is simple. When somebody is speaking in a language you don’t understand, the voice recognition feature can translate it into English for you. Or, if you want to say something in the local tongue, speak it or type it into your phone and you’ll get the spoken and written translation.



**BING TRANSLATOR**

[*Bing.com/translator*]

■ Baffled by a foreign traffic sign or menu phrase? Take a picture of it with your phone and Bing Translator will present it to you in plain English.



**TRIPIT** [*TripIt.com*]

■ For helping organize all your travel plans in one place, TripIt is indispensable, experts say. “We take all your confirmation emails from hotels, restaurants, and rental cars, and organize them into an easy-to-read itinerary,” Edith Harbaugh, TripIt’s director of strategy, tells Newsmax.



**EVERNOTE** [*Evernote.com*]

■ Touted as the app that is “helping the world remember everything,” Evernote helps travelers keep track of all their itineraries, scanned travel documents, and maps. For those who work in-flight, Evernote allows them to collect information from anywhere into a single place — from text notes to Web pages to files. □