



App-ly here for your best mobile guides



Travel advisory Josh Martin

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America: Land of the free, home of the doughnut. There is too much to see in one visit, and too much to chew in one bite. The United States is increasingly on the radar for Kiwi holidaymakers, despite the general offensiveness of its perma-tanned president.

As the epicentre of consumerism and frazzled, efficiency-seeking tech-heads, the US is a hotbed of apps fighting to be the next Airbnb, Instagram or Booking.com, which means you can better make use of travel, navigation and budget-busting apps that don't work as well as in other countries or back home.

Here is a selection to make your Stateside sojourn easier.

GasBuddy

If you're doing the Great American Roadtrip, driving a Route 66 segment or the Pacific Coast highway, you'll want GasBuddy on your phone.

In its simplest form it tracks petrol prices at thousands of stations coast to coast, and notifies you of the cheapest pumps along the way, thanks to crowd-sourced pricing information. Prices fluctuate quite a lot, so there are real savings to be made. Available on Android and Apple.

Roadtrippers

Set up the Roadtrippers app with your starting point and destination. Then plug in your driving dates and interests, and the app will produce a suggested route with pit stops. This way you'll make the most of your holiday with plenty of offbeat attractions, campsites, nature spots, weird landmarks, and waist-expanding diners.

When you find a site worth detouring to, just add it to your mapped journey, and Roadtrippers updates your route accordingly.

Turo

Described as "Airbnb for cars", Turo is a marketplace for vehicle owners to find potential people to rent their cars. Thankfully, Turo covers the insurance on the owner's behalf (and presumably is worked into the day rate and fee you pay). Because it's person-to-person, you can find some quirky cars, classic rides and budget-friendly options. It's also handy if you are looking for a mid-town pick-up rather than an airport.

Set up an account before you leave home as the app will have to check your driver's licence and passport.

iMoova

If you're wanting to go one-way, without the hassle of returning to the city you flew into, a car relocation app is a budget-friendly option.

Car rental companies spend a lot of dough on truck haulage to return their fleet to home base, so use websites and apps such as iMoova to offer cheap rates to relocate rental cars for them. Popular routes include Las Vegas to Los Angeles or vice versa, and "hire rates" start at \$2 a day, though you often have only a few days to get the vehicle from A to B.

Resy

If you're headed to foodie hot spots such as New York, San Francisco, LA, or New Orleans, you're going to want to download Resy. The app lets you pay a small premium to guarantee a table at hard-to-book restaurants. It can even alert you when last-minute availability occurs.

Tip Calculator

A tip on tipping: It's mandatory in the US. Tip Calculator does what it says on the tin, based on your preferred tip percentage, and the size of your group if you want to split it.



Nailed it!

Do you have a holiday snap that you'd like to share with the world? Send it to us and be in to win a Fujifilm camera!

We'll showcase the best images each week on Stuff Travel and in the *Sunday Star-Times' Escape*. Thanks to Fujifilm, every two months, our favourite image will be in to win a Fujifilm X-T100, valued at \$1299.

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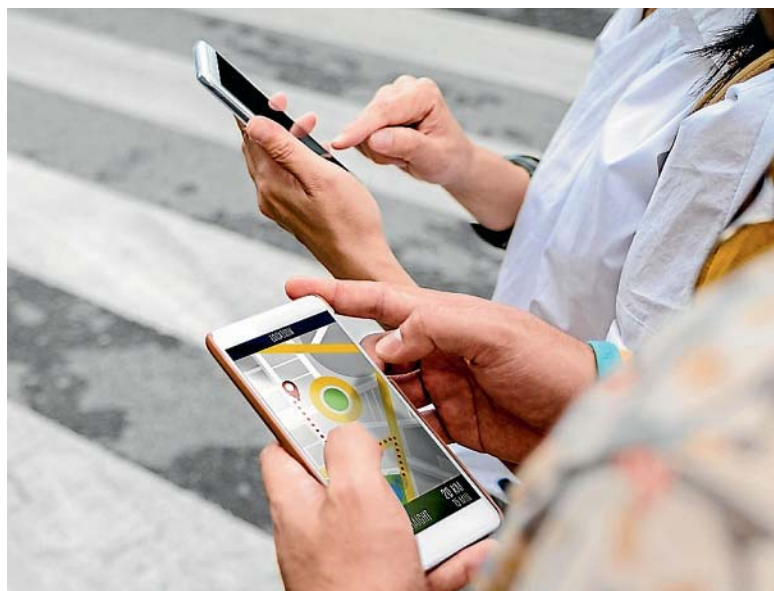
About the prize

Features include:

- Durable anodised aluminium coating and extended battery life;
- 24.2-megapixel sensor;
- High-speed Bluetooth*2 capabilities for quick image transfers;
- Faster, more precise focusing;
- Eleven Film Simulation Mode and 17 Advanced Filter variations;
- High-magnification electronic viewfinder and three-way tilting touch screen.

How to enter

Email your photo to travel@stuff.co.nz with "Smugshot" in the subject line. Photos must be in jpeg format, and at least 1MB. Include a description of where the photo was taken, who is in it, and anything else you'd like to say about the image. Entries must include the name of the person who took the photo and contact information: name, email, phone number. Entries that don't comply won't be eligible. For full T&Cs see stuff.co.nz/smugshot.



Travelling to the home of Silicon Valley, you can make good use of all those apps that don't work as well back at home.



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**"My wife Kathy,
and our dog Bruce,
cruising around
the amazing
Monument Valley
in Arizona."**

SHANNON ASTON