

## Apps for smarter travel

Planning a trip and getting to your destination has never been easier with information and services available with a tap of your smart devices. Apps and websites can help you research your next holiday and improve your travel experience. There's an app for almost anything you can think of to do with travel, including flights, taxis, weather, and much more! Follow our safety tips and enjoy the many benefits that these apps can provide.

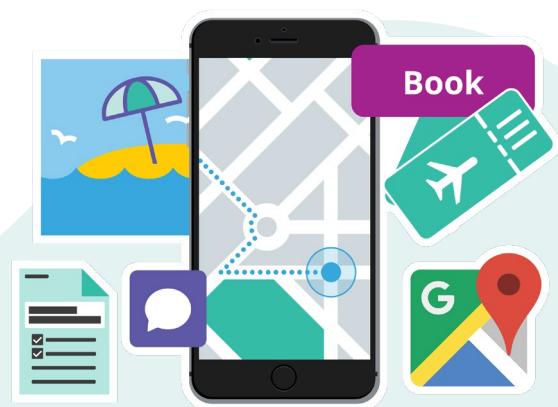


### Benefits of using travel apps

You can use apps for almost every aspect of travel, from researching, to booking, checking itineraries, and keeping electronic tickets. Many of the things you can do with apps - such as checking in for a flight - you can also do using a website, but apps are optimised for your mobile phone making them easy to navigate.

Apps can be used to:

- find information and reviews from other travelers on accommodation, tours, attractions and restaurants (Tripadvisor)
- book and pay for flights, accommodation and tours, and store your travel itinerary and booking information
- help you get around and navigate in a city, as well as find recommendations of places to visit or things to see nearby (Google Maps)
- instantly translate foreign languages and signage.



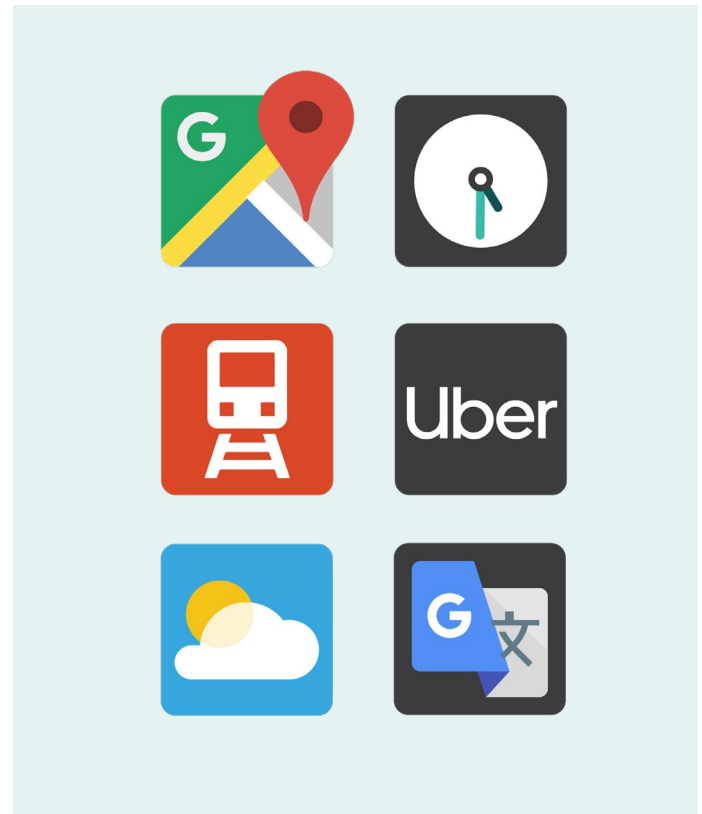
**Tip:** If you are planning an overseas trip, visit the Australian government's [Smart Traveller website](#) for important travel information and advice for overseas destinations to keep safe.

## Helpful apps

There are many apps that can help with trip planning and improve your travel experience, these include:

- Travel apps: Tripadvisor, Flight Centre, Webjet
- Transport apps: 13cabs, Uber, Google Maps, Apple Maps, Waze
- Accommodation apps: Wotif, Stayz, Airbnb
- Weather apps: BOM Weather, Weatherzone
- Road trip apps: AllTrails, Petrol Spy, Fuel Map, National Public Toilet Map
- Entertainment apps: Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Audible, Spotify, TuneIn Radio, Kindle, Google Play Books, Apple Books
- Communication apps: WhatsApp, Messenger, Google Translate

Learn more about [Useful apps](#) and [Researching and booking travel online](#) on the Be Connected website.



## Using your device to get around

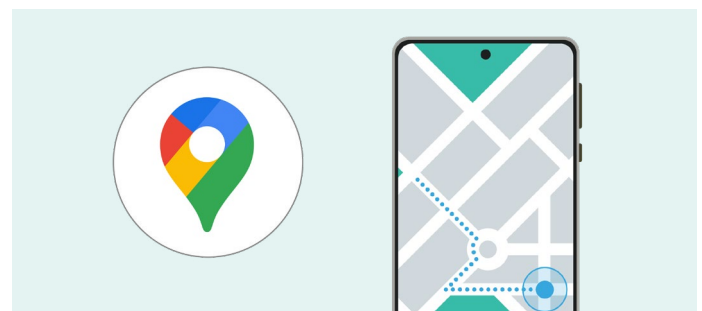
Your mobile device and its data connection can help you get around. Your smartphone has a mix of hardware and software that gives it the ability to work out its location and show this location on a map. This feature is called Location on some smartphones, or Location Services on others. You can find it in your phone settings, on both Android phones and iPhones. When your phone works out its location, it can share this data with apps that request it.

### Google Maps

Google Maps uses your phone's location to show your position on a map and to give you directions to a destination. The app helps you find things nearby. You can get directions to a street address, or you can search for recommended restaurants, events, things to see and do, and much more.

### Ride share apps

There are now apps that help you get a ride from a service that isn't a taxi. A ride share app lets you book a car to take you to your destination, and pre-pay for the trip. You can book a ride share trip using an app such as Uber. Uber connects private car owners with passengers. This app will let you rate the driver too, so there's incentive for them to keep their cars clean and to be punctual.



### Taxi apps

Instead of having to stand on a street corner and hail a cab or call on the phone and wait on hold, you can use an app to book a ride. Not all taxi services have apps, so you may not be able to use your preferred taxi company. The taxi company 13cabs has an app, and it works similarly to Uber. You can choose the type of cab (including wagon and wheelchair-accessible) and book and pay for your trip before the taxi arrives.

## Timetable apps

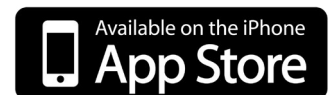
Timetable apps make catching public transport easy. Instead of relying on a static timetable fixed to a bus shelter, timetable apps update automatically when timetables change or if there are delays. They can also show you which service to catch and from where, when you enter your origin and destination.

One example of a timetable app is TripView. This app works in Sydney and Melbourne, so if you live outside these cities, you'll need to find an app suitable for your area. Other states have their own apps, such as My Translink for Queensland and TransPerth for Western Australia.

Find out more about [Google maps, rideshare and transport apps](#) on the Be Connected website.

## eSafety tips for using apps

- Only download apps to your smart device from either the official App Store for Apple devices, or the Google Play Store for Android devices.
- Before downloading the app, check its authenticity by looking at the:
  - app's publisher
  - star rating given to the app by others
  - reviews written by those who have downloaded the app.
- Review app permissions, especially those with access to your contact list, camera, storage, location and microphone.
- If an app needs access to your location data to function, think about limiting the access to only when the app is in use.
- Keep apps updated and delete any apps you no longer use.



## Take the time to discover Be Connected

Be Connected is a comprehensive website with free resources specifically designed to support older Australians to connect online safely and navigate the digital world confidently. The site is also useful for families and community organisations who want to help older community members access all the benefits of the internet.



[visit beconnected.esafety.gov.au](https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au)



This program has been developed by eSafety as part of the Be Connected initiative.

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