

# TRAVEL KARMA TOP 20

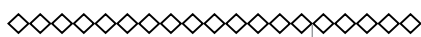


## BEFORE YOU GO



### 1 Plan ahead and travel at times when the best weather is guaranteed.

Check out the best time of year to travel to your chosen holiday spot by checking the stats on [Weather2Travel](#).



### 2 Travel mid-week to avoid weekend congestion.

If you can, try to book your flight 8 weeks in advance for the best deals. To avoid delays, book the first flight of the day. This is less likely to be disrupted by problems with other flights. Visit [flightstats](#) for the low down on the reliability of your chosen flight.



### 3 Get yourself insured.

Visit [money saving expert](#) to find the best deals. Handy Hint: If you think it's likely that you might be jetting off again during the year, compare the price of Annual Cover - it often works out cheaper than a Single Trip.



### 4 Book your airport transfer well in advance.

With Silver Shuttle you can save up to 50% on normal taxis, especially if you opt to share your journey. There's a journey calculator to help plan your schedule, as well as regular SMS and email updates. Visit [Silver Shuttle](#) to find out more.



### 5 Change your money before you fly.

Airports have high commission fees and poor exchange rates. Check out your local Post Office for some of the best deals. You can even order online and get it delivered to your door. Visit the [Post Office website](#) for more information.



### 6 Airside or Landside?

If you've arrived with plenty of time to spare, don't rush through security. Some airports, including Heathrow and Gatwick, offer lots to do landside. Have a bite to eat with friends, pick up any last-minute essentials for your suitcase or, if you're lucky, take in some award-winning art in spaces such as Heathrow's T5 gallery.



**7 Breeze through security.** Security can have the longest queues. Make sure you wear comfy shoes that are easy to slip on and off. Put any jewellery, watches and gadgets in your bag. Make sure your passport is easy to locate but safely secured. Don't pack any liquids exceeding 100ml or sharp objects. You can purchase items after you've gone through security.

**WorldMate app**

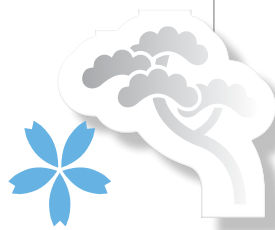


**8 Travel smart.** The closest thing most of us will ever have to a personal assistant, albeit a lot cheaper. The **WorldMate** app plans and organises your trips on your smartphone or tablet. Simply forward your various confirmation emails to [trips@worldmate.com](mailto:trips@worldmate.com) and the app instantly generates an itemised itinerary covering your entire trip. **Available on iPhone and Android (both free).**



**9 Always find an internet connection.** With high data roaming charges,

knowing where to find a decent Wi-Fi hotspot is essential. Never worry about finding a connection again with the **Wi-Fi Finder App**. Simply follow the directions to your nearest Wi-Fi spot. Best of all, the offline mode means you can download maps before you go, helping you avoid any massive bills. **Available on iPhone and Android (both free).**



**10 De-stress before you fly.** Click [here](#) to check out some great de-stressing apps. Perfect to help you keep calm and relax during your flight.

**FOR THE FLIGHT**



**11 Manage the skies.** Play the highly addictive, multi-award winning **Flight Control** app. This air-traffic-control strategy game lets you manage planes' flight patterns by dragging them along the screen. You can also choose two-player or play online anywhere in the world. **Available on iPhone and iPad (£2.99).**



**12 Retreat into your own world and listen to some music.** Invest in some noise-cancelling headphones to eliminate the racket of that child throwing a tantrum. Check out the best models at [PCmag](#).



**13 Nervous flyer?** Make your flight as relaxing as possible with the new **Flying Without Fear** app. Created by Richard Branson and his team, the app gives you handy hints and tips on how to keep calm during your flight.



**14 Watch a movie.** Watch full-length Hollywood movies and TV series with the free **Crackle** app. From *Snatch* to *Seinfeld*, there's something for everyone. Get comfortable and enjoy your own in-flight movie. **Available on iPhone and iPad (both free).**



## 15. **Make the most of your time on-board and read a new book.**

If you have a Kindle, make sure it's stocked with all the latest reads. Why not check out the Kindle Library available to all Amazon Prime members? You are guaranteed not to run out of reading material, however long your flight. Check out [The Guardian](#) for a list of all the best holiday reads of 2013.



## 17. **Convert your currency for free.**

If you need a free currency calculator, then look no further. The **XE Currency app** is slick and easy to use. Best of all, it uses live currency rates, so is completely accurate. It's been downloaded more than 5 million times to date, so don't even think about hopping on a plane without it. [Available on iPhone, iPad, Android and Windows Phone \(all free\).](#)



## 19. **Avoid the traffic.**

Download the **Waze app**, the world's fastest-growing traffic and navigation app that's entirely community-based. Get travel alerts from road closures to hazards as well as automatic re-routing when conditions on the road change. A must-have for anyone planning on lots of vehicle travel. [Available on iPhone, iPad and Android \(all free\).](#)

## ARRIVAL



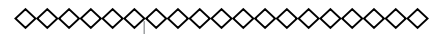
## 16. **Learn how to tip.**

Leave 10% on the table after a meal in Tokyo and your generosity will cause offence; do the same in New York and you will be considered a scrooge. Luckily, there's the **Tipulator app**, the nifty tip calculator that helps the mathematically challenged split bills and tips while neatly sidestepping any social embarrassment. [Available on iPhone \(69p\).](#)



## 18. **Futuristic translation apps.**

The **World Lens app** is real sci-fi stuff. It instantly translates foreign text via your phone's camera in real time! Though the app is free to download, you'll need to shell out £6.99 (in-app purchase) for one of the language packs, with English and French currently on offer. A tad pricey, but worth it purely for the expressions of awe you'll draw from bystanders. [Available on iPhone, iPad \(both free\) and Android \(£2.99\).](#)



## 20. **Explore the world through your phone.**

Stumbled across a building and want to know more about it? The ingenious **Google Goggles app** can help you out. Point your camera at a famous landmark, painting, image, barcode, or just about anything and Goggles will find you everything you need to know. Goggles can also read other languages and translate for you too! It can also solve Sudoku puzzles. Just in case you're wondering. [Available on Android \(Free\).](#)

