Design Document: Best Travel Apps

Class Description

Learn how popular travel apps such as Priceline, Trip Advisor, Uber and even First Aid can help you enjoy your next trip.

**Curriculum Track**

Software & Apps

**Audience**

Adult, Senior

**Course Length**

90 minutes

**Training Method**

Lecture/Demo

**Purpose**

To inform patrons of useful apps that will allow them to plan and enjoy a vacation, business trip or other traveling experience.

Equipment Requirements

Laptop, LCD projector, screen, iPad

Software Requirements

Microsoft PowerPoint, all apps listed below installed and updated

Material Requirements

Pens or pencils, handouts, participant surveys

**Learning Objectives**

At the end of the session, learners will be able to:

* Identify apps for finding hotel and flight rates
* Identify apps for finding things to do in another city
* Identify how to find local transit apps
* Understand when and how to enable “Location Services” on their mobile device
* Understand how to stay connected via the internet while away from home

**Assessment Technique(s)**

Question and Answer

Content Outline

***Agenda (3 mins)***

* App Availability
* Location Services
* Planning Your Adventure
* Takin’ a Roadtrip
* Don’t Get Lost
* Always be Prepared
* Over the Border
* Connecting While Away
* Questions

***Talking Points, Topics, and Activities (85 mins)***

Go through the PowerPoint Presentation and explain a little bit about each app. If customers have questions, it is best to save them for the end when you can open the app on an iPad (preloaded with all the apps) to further explain.

* App Availability
  + Explain that the apps featured in today’s class are just a few of the many resources that can be used for planning travel.
  + Explain that the apps featured today are available for both Android and iOS smartphones and tablets. Some may have accompanying websites (especially flight and hotel booking sites) that you can interact with as well.
* Location Services
  + Explain that in order to use some of the apps featured today, you will have to enable Location Services, your smartphone/tablets’ GPS feature. This will provide the app with real time coordinates and allow features such as mapping, navigation and destination searches.
  + Location Services are found in Settings on both Android and iPhone.
    - For Android users, swipe down from the top of your screen to access the Quick Settings/Notifications screen. Location Services should be shown as one of the options. Simply tap the button to enable (turn on) it (it should appear highlighted) and tap the button again to disable it (turn off). If Location Services is not shown, access it through Settings (cog wheel icon)
    - For iOS users, access Settings (cog wheel icon). Tap Privacy, then Location Services. You must enable the service for each app you want to use. Simply tap the toggle button to turn it on (it should appear green when enabled) and tap it again to turn it off.
    - Note that you’ll explain more about how Location Services work once you introduce the apps that require it.
* Planning Your Adventure
  + Roadtrippers
    - Explain that Roadtrippers is an app for planning. Use it to discover dining and places to visit along your route. Then share your route with family and friends and even receive input. Note that this app is designed for phones, not tablets. The formatting may not be ideal.
  + Priceline
    - Explain that Priceline is just one of many price comparison apps based around travel. Use it to compare the cost of hotel, airfare, and rental cars. Special deals are also featured.
  + TripAdvisor
    - Share that TripAdvisor is somewhat of a combination of the two previous apps. The apps features dining, hotels, things to do along with reviews. The app also has hotel price comparison and immediate booking.
  + Hopper
    - Explain that Hopper is a unique app, which uses past data and information about current bookings to make pricing predictions about airfare. The visual representation makes the pricing very easy to read, letting you pick the best dates for travel. A nice extra feature is the price-drop notification so you can get the best deal.
  + TripCase
    - Explain that sharing your itinerary is an important part of travel. Close family and friends need to be able to reach you in case of emergency. This app helps you keep your itinerary organized and share it with others.
  + Airlines & Hotel
    - Share that most chain hotels and major airlines have an app of their own. This example is from United Airlines. Flight check-in can be completed through the app and then the boarding pass is loaded. In case of changes or delays, notifications are sent through the app. Hotel apps often include perks beyond viewing your reservation, such as WiFi access.
* Takin’ A Roadtrip
  + GasBuddy
    - Explain that GasBuddy is an app designed to track gas prices, with user input. This user input is called “crowdsourcing” because it uses the power of the crowd, or community, to be accurate. Some people use GasBuddy frequently simply to locate low gas prices, but it is also a great travel tool. This app will work best if Location Services is enabled.
    - Explain Location Services and that it uses GPS to locate where you are.
  + iExit
    - Explain that the iExit app uses GPS to locate nearby services including food and gas. This app is ideal for travel and areas you are unfamiliar with. Location services must be enabled for this app to work.
  + Road Trip Travel Games
    - Share that the App Store and Google Play store are filled with fantastic classic car games including BINGO and I Spy. Search using terms like “travel game” or “roadtrip game” to find apps. Many apps are free and some are for more than one player.
* Things To Do
  + Time Out
    - Explain that Time Out is a collection of apps. You will find Time Out apps for many major American cities in addition to the general Time Out app. These are essentially travel guides that share information about restaurants, attractions, and more. What makes this app unique is that it also features special events, such as concerts.
  + Travel Guides
    - Share that many specific travel guides are available in addition to the Time Out app. Many cities and towns have their own app that were created by the city or visitors and convention bureau. Some of these city-specific apps have transportation information or maps, which require location services to be enabled. Some of these apps are designed for phones, not tablets. The formatting may not be ideal.
  + National Park Service
    - Explain that the National Park Service has its own app, which features audio tours about most parks. Click the play button on the slide so attendees can hear an example. Some National Parks, such as Yellowstone and the Statue of Liberty, have their own app.
* Don’t Get Lost
  + City Mapper
    - Explain that City Mapper is a great map option because it includes public transportation options information for walking, biking, or taking a cab. The ability to view details about public transportation while in an unfamiliar city is beneficial. Setting a saved location is easy so travelers can set their hotel location. Location Services must be enabled. Note that this app is designed for phones, not tablets. The formatting may not be ideal.
  + Uber
    - Explain two transportation apps: Uber and Lyft. This slide shows a screen shot from Uber. Uber and Lyft are alternatives to taxi service. Average citizens drive their own cars and transport people to make money. By setting a pick-up and drop-off point, you can get a cost estimate. No cash or credit cards need to change hands because you pay through the app. If you are traveling with a large group, just upgrade your car size.
  + Metro example
    - Share the Metro San Francisco app and explain that it is one example of a transportation app that is specific to a city. Many large cities have similar apps to help people navigate their public transportation systems. Location Services must be enabled.
* Always Be Prepared

Explain that the Always Be Prepared section is for unlikely situations, but is important during traveling.

* + First Aid
    - Share the First Aid app, created by the Red Cross. This app contains easy to follow instructions and pictures for helping someone during an emergency. Also included is a hospital locator.
  + Zocdoc
    - Explain that Zocdoc is better for non-emergencies. If you just need to see a doctor while traveling, this is a good way to find one. The app can also check your insurance information against the doctor list. Read user submitted reviews and make appointments directly through the app. Note that this app is designed for phones, not tablets. The formatting may not be ideal.
* Over The Border
  + Google Translate
    - Show the Google Translate app, which is helpful when you need to translate quickly. For travelers who are leaving the country and are unsure about communicating, this is a very helpful app. If you find yourself using this app often, you may want to download the translation file to save data usage.
  + XE Currency
    - Explain that the XE Currency app is helpful for converting currency while you are traveling. Since exchange rates fluctuate daily, this allows you to track your spending in a way that makes sense to you.
* Connecting While Away

While you are away, you may want to connect with family and friends at home, or just check your email.

* + WiFi Map
    - Remind participants that phone/tablet data is used is they are not connected to WiFi and that planning ahead can be helpful. Share that WiFi Map will help you locate open WiFi networks nearby if you enable location services. This helps prevent over-use of phone or tablet data while you stay connected.
  + Skype
    - Share that Skype is a great app for keeping in touch with others. In some instances, you may only be able to use your phone or tablet with a wifi connection and will not have regular service. In this case, Skype allows you to connect with others through chat or video. Users will need to register with Skype and download the app or computer software, so it is best that travelers and their family and friends set this up and test it before traveling.

***Wrap Up/Closing (2 mins)***

* Highlight the upcoming technology classes and share the types of topics that will be covered.
* Ask if there are questions and answer any that were “parked” during the session.
* Thank participants for coming and ask them to complete the class survey before leaving.