

Spokane Weekend • Warm Wear • Winter Trails

Washington TRAILS

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Northwest Exposure!



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By Cassandra Overby



Smartphones aren't just for angry avians and hunting zombies. Put your device to work on your hikes with any of these mobile apps. Get links at wta.org/bestapps.

Hiking

WTA TRAILBLAZER Explore 1,000s of Washington's trails and the latest Trip Reports without being tethered to your computer. Bonus points: This app can read your GPS location and suggest trails near you.

Best for: iPhone, Android, Windows; Free

First Aid & Survival



RED CROSS FIRST AID Access basic first aid for common emergencies, as well as instructional videos, interactive quizzes and step-by-step advice. Once downloaded, can be used without cell service.

Best for: iPhone, Android; Free



SAS SURVIVAL GUIDE Learn survival skills through the full text of the best-selling book, instructional videos and interactive quizzes. Bonus points: This app offers extensive photo galleries of animal tracks, medicinal and poisonous plants and more.

Best for: iPhone, Android; \$5.99

Field Guides



SKYVIEW Point your smartphone at the sky to identify stars, constellations and satellites. Once downloaded, can be used without cell service.

Best for: iPhone, iPad; Free. *Have an Android? Try **SkyMap** instead; Free*



AUDUBON BIRDS PRO See high-quality pictures, read in-depth descriptions, listen to calls and log sightings for more than 820 unique species of birds. Bonus points: This app is as thorough as a traditional field guide.

Best for: iPhone, iPad, Android; \$3.99–\$4.99



WA WILDFLOWERS Browse plants or search by characteristics for more than 870 common shrubs, wildflowers and vines found in Washington. Once downloaded, can be used without cell service.

Best for: iPhone, Android, Kindle Fire; \$7.99

Navigation



MOTIONX GPS Download custom road and topo maps before your next hike—then see your progress on the map and track elapsed time, distance, average speed and more while you adventure. Once downloaded (with maps), it can be used without cell service.*

Best for: iPhone, iPad; \$0.99. *Have an Android? Try **BackCountry Navigator TOPO GPS** instead; \$11.99*



PEAKFINDER Point your smartphone at a mountain landscape and instantly find out the names of the peaks you're looking at. Once downloaded, can be used without cell service. Select from Western U.S., Eastern U.S. and Canada.

Best for: iPhone, Android; \$3.99



HALFMILE'S PCT

Mileage counter and GPS locator for PCT hikers.

iPhone, Android



POCKET RANGER

Maps and guides to all of Washington's state parks.

iPhone, Android



CHIMANI NAT'L PARKS

Guide to 401 U.S. national parks, sites and monuments.

iPhone, Android



GEOCACHING

Searchable database of geocaches around the world.

iPhone, Android

*Even with a mobile device map, WTA strongly encourages hikers to carry a traditional paper map and compass on all hikes.