



## 8 TIPS FOR BUSINESS TRAVELERS

By Johnny Jet

» I'm not one of those business travelers who says travel is no fun. When you really stop and think about it, being able to travel as part of your job is a pretty darned good perk, one that many would be grateful for. You get to see different places on someone else's dime, and it helps you to appreciate your family more. Hopefully these eight tips will help business travelers have the best possible experience while on the road.

### 1 Download flight apps

Alaska Airlines' mobile app notifies users of gate changes, flight delays and cancellations. It also helps you keep track of reward points so you can watch your miles grow. The app TripIt Pro also performs many of these functions. In addition, it notifies you when you're eligible for a flight refund and lets you know when the seat you want becomes available. The app costs \$49/year for the Pro version, but there's a free trial for 30 days.

### 2 Stay connected

Use Skype, FaceTime or Google Hangout to stay connected for free. How amazing is it that you can see and talk to your family, friends and colleagues (well at least some of them) as long as you and they have a Wi-Fi connection? Take advantage of technology to bridge the distance while you're away.

### 3 Buy inflight Wi-Fi

Although you can't use VoIP services like those mentioned previously on an airplane, you can text, email and surf the web with inflight Wi-Fi. I like to work during the flight so I can relax when I get to my destination. To save money, buy Wi-Fi passes in advance. It's cheaper than doing it on the plane. See [gogoair.com](http://gogoair.com) and [alaskaair.com](http://alaskaair.com). (By the way,

check out Alaska's Free Chat promotion—for details, see p. 205.)

### 4 Find the quickest route

Before I jump in a car, even if I know my way, I always consult Waze or Google Maps to find the quickest route. These apps work pretty much all over the world and have saved me so much time and aggravation. They also keep your taxi driver honest. No more long and unnecessary detours!

### 5 Use ride-sharing apps and public transportation

Depending on the destination, I often find it most convenient to use ride-sharing apps such as Uber and Lyft. I don't have to deal with driving, finding parking or over-the-top parking fees, and I can be more productive in the car. If traffic is bad, I take public transportation.

### 6 Sign documents digitally

I used to dread receiving emails asking me to sign contracts or

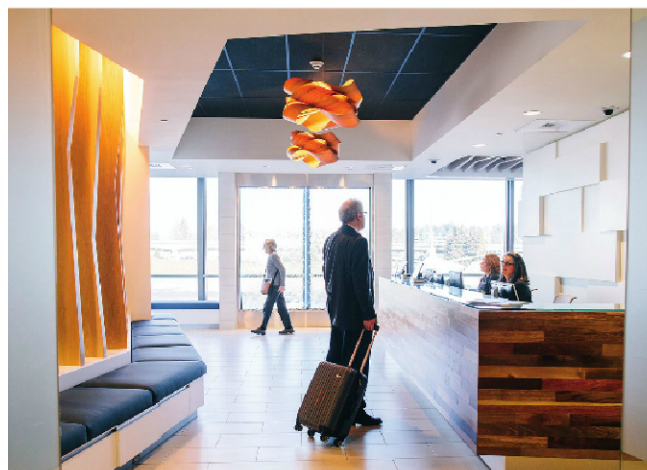
documents while on the road. But thanks to the SignEasy app, you can digitally sign and send documents from your mobile device in no time. SignEasy offers a 14-day free trial; then it's \$9.99 a month.

### 7 Use your phone as a remote control

Stayconnect is an app that lets you use your phone as a TV remote. Not every hotel offers the service, but many do. Just turn the TV on and press the menu button on the hotel remote; if the service is available, you will see instructions in the bottom left-hand corner of the TV. Once you're synced, you not only can change the channel and adjust the volume, but power the whole thing on or off, as well.

### 8 Appreciate the experience

Don't forget to remember how fortunate you are. The few days that I dread getting on a plane and leaving my family at home, I have to remind myself how lucky I am. I'm just going away for a short period, I'm going to get a good night's sleep, and the absence will make my relationship stronger. Instead of allowing business travel to cause a rift in your home life, find ways to use it to make your family stronger. ✕



*Johnny Jet is a Los Angeles-based travel expert who visits 20 countries each year. Read more of his travel tips at [johnnyjet.com](http://johnnyjet.com).*