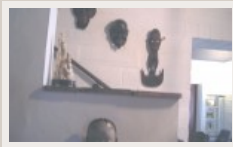




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Apps make great gifts

December 22nd, 2010 9:23 am PT

By Sandy Sims

With all those [iPhones](#), [iPads](#), and [iPod touches](#) in the hands of our friends and loved ones, a good gift this year would be one or more apps. They're cheap, or free, and you don't need a smart phone yourself to give one as a gift. To find the one or two that fit your giftee, you can sift through them by category in the [iTunes](#) store. Just be prepared; there are thousands. But to make things a little easier, here are four great apps for San Francisco Bay Area and Northern California. And at the end of this article are detailed directions for ordering a gift certificate from the iTunes store, start to finish.

These four apps were created by top travel writers and photographers:

[San Fran Waterfront](#) (\$2.99) A guide to the San Francisco waterfront from Golden Gate Bridge to AT&T Park, including fun histories, colorful facts, restaurants, parks, plazas, museums, historic ships, as well as details about Fisherman's Wharf, Pier 39, Alcatraz Island, Fort Point, Ghirardelli Square. In some 200 entries and 2,000 color photos you will also find Google maps to these destinations, the ability to make reservations and book tickets from your iPhone.

[Silicon Valley Roots & Shoots](#) (\$1.99) (A great app for techies) This app offers histories and guides to the sites, the people and the companies that kick-started the tech revolution, including the famous Palo Alto garage where William Hewlett and David Packard got their start. Some 125 locations and resources from Stanford to San Jose include the birthplaces of the computer chip, disk drive, video games, video recorder, Ethernet, Apple, Google, HP, and numerous others with more than 600 photos, descriptions, maps and links.

[San Francisco Travel Photo Guide](#) (\$1.99) This app shows where to go to get the best shots of San Francisco. You can also use the app as a visual guide to the city's best views. There are more than 500 photos for 100 top views, from broad vistas to iconic details. The app shows you precisely where to aim your camera, what time of day and year offers the best light, settings according to weather conditions, and so on, and why a particular view is significant with links to more information about the site. (Lee Foster has also created a Washington DC Travel Photo Guide.)

[California Coast North](#) - (\$2.99) More than 200 entries, cover Redwood country, Mendocino, Eureka, Bodega Bay, Half Moon Bay and beyond, including beaches, family attractions, National & State Parks, lodgings, historical sights, hiking trails, shopping, restaurants and more. And you can search by name, town, cost and distance from your location.

Here's how to buy these apps or others as gifts for the [iPhone](#), [iPad](#), and [iPod touch](#):
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Internet browser and download it. Then you need to set up an account (free) by going to <http://store.apple.com/us> and clicking on account in the upper right hand corner. A menu will drop down. Click on Account information and then click on new account and follow directions.

1. From your computer, got to www.apple.com/itunes
2. croll all the way down to the column headed "iTunes Store" and click on "Browse App Store."
1. Next you'll see a list of categories that you can browse through. Since the apps above are on travel, click on "Travel."
2. At the top of the next page you'll see a horizontal line of alphabet letters. Simply click on the beginning letter of the app you want. For example, for any of the first three apps I've listed above, you'd click on "S." For California Coast North, click on "C."
3. The next page will give a description of the app, the price, screenshots and maybe user ratings. Click on the blue button on the left that says "View in iTunes."
4. On the next page, you can read more about the app. But to get to gift giving, click on the little arrow to the right of the "Buy App" button. A menu will drop down. Click on "Gift this app."
5. A green gift window comes up. You need to select your choice of delivery (email or print out) and fill in the form with your gift message to the person. Click on continue.
6. You'll get a window asking for your iTunes account number and password. Fill that in and click continue.
7. If you opted for a print out, a nice gift certificate will come up for you to review. If it's okay, click on buy gift. The gift coupon will come up and you can print it out and put it in someone's stocking. If you opted for sending it by email, follow those instructions.

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David Laws 5 hours ago

Excellent, easy-to-follow explanation of a sometimes frustrating process for the uninitiated. Thanks and a Merry Christmas Sandy!!.

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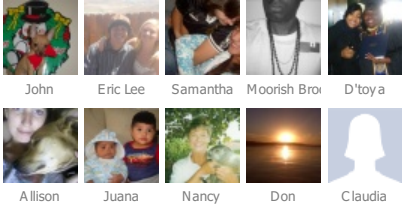
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