

# The Best iPhone and Android GPS Apps for Navigating on Horseback

*By Nicole Vaugeois*

*Here are some useful apps that can help you navigate on horseback. I've compiled the list from an online search and culled down other reviews to those I feel would be beneficial on horseback. I am an iPhone user but it appears there are some very good ones with Androids too. See the references at the end for the full reviews.*

## iPhone

### AmAze GPS

[AmAze GPS](#) is a free turn-by-turn voice GPS app for the iPhone. You can view in 2D or 3D, and it offers many of the features of expensive GPS apps!

The graphics are decent, and the voice part is really helpful when you are driving.

Even though AmAze pops up a screen to buy the full version, there really is no need to do it. Simply tap on "keyword" or "local search" and you will get what you request!

### Free GPS

[This](#) is one of my favorite apps. This is a no-frills GPS system that works quite nicely. It is totally simple.

There are no bells and whistles, and that is just fine because my kids can't understand all the other twiddly bits anyway.

GPS is so simple; you can tag locations fairly easily by clicking on "Make Current Position New WayPoint." You can also enter in a WP manually.

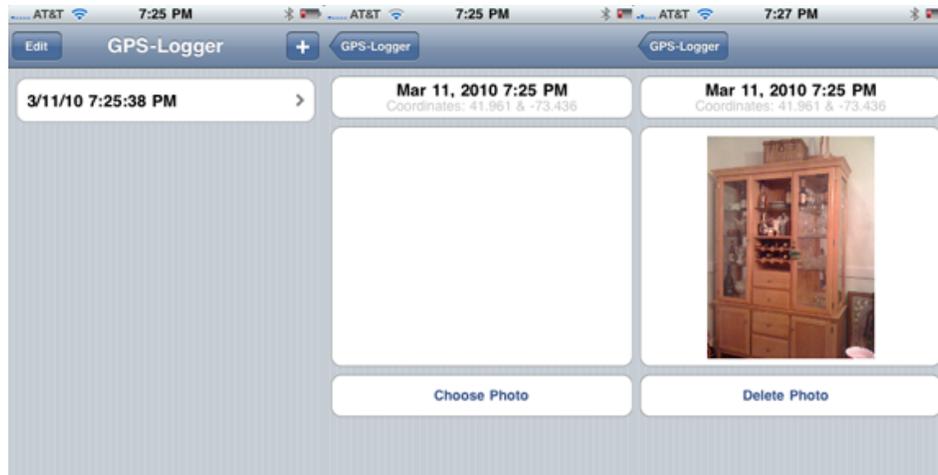


## GPS-Logger

This app is awesome for geocachers! I take a load of pictures out in the woods, and sometime (ye gads), I forget to lock in where the pic was taken. While it is true that lots of apps give the coordinates of a flashy snappy picture right on the spot, few let you go back in and ADD pictures that came off of other cameras or phones.

GPS-Logger is sweet because you can go back and ADD those photos taken on “un-smart” cameras.

GPS-Logger is a great app because you can take pictures or add them in later and connect them to a specific location on a specific date.

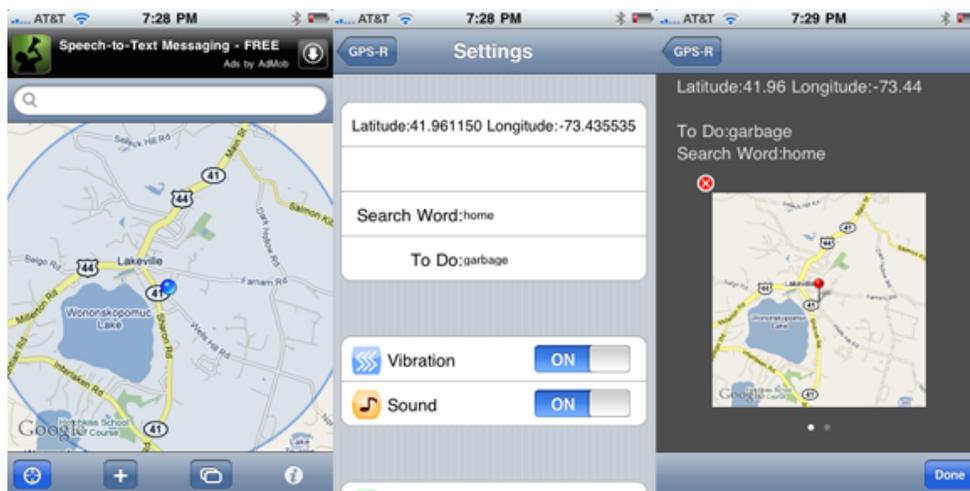


## GPS-R

This is the perfect app for my husband. Not only does it track where you are going, it also tells you when you are near something that you have to do...like buy milk or take back library books.

This is an awesome mashup between a to-do list and GPS!

GPS-R is sweet because it will remind you of certain tasks when you are near them geographically. My husband will chuckle when he drives home tomorrow and is reminded to take out the trash!



## GPS Tracker

[InstaMapper's GPS Tracker](#) is quite nice. While it is a little tricky because you have to apply for a free code, it is a nicely done app. Basically, it tracks your phone, so if you are lost in the woods, someone can find you. I hope to never need it, but it will be awesome if I do!

While InstaMapper's iPhone interface isn't all that exciting, the web tracking is very cool if you are a hiker or geocacher. The iPhone updates every few seconds so folks back home can see where you are on the map!



### [iMapMyRide](#)

Cost: Free

Map My Fitness is a big social networking site that allows you to upload and share training rides. Not my thing, but this iPhone app works with it seamlessly. Registration required.



### [iMapMyFitness](#)

Cost: Free

Map My Fitness is a big social networking site that allows you to upload and share training runs, rides, hikes, etc. Not my thing, but this iPhone app works with it seamlessly. Registration required.



### [Motion-X GPS Lite](#)

Cost: Free

There are dozens of apps that use the iPhone's GPS to record speed, distance, routes, waypoints, and all those other navigatory geekimetrics. But every time I use one, I feel like a doofus. Why carry the weight and risk the damage? But if you are gonna do that, here's your pick: MXGPS seems the most accurate of all the trail apps and plots pace, too. You can set waypoints and navigate back to them. And there's even a rudimentary map feature—it shows your track, but not terrain or streets.





### Trails

Cost: \$2.99

Trails runs neck and neck with Motion-X GPS Lite. Its emphasis is on tracking routes and waypoints, not speed and distance. Oh, it does the latter, but its mapping is superlative. Using Google Maps, it provides views of road, satellite, or topography. And you can email or upload your waypoints and track in the near-universal GPX format, which can be added to “real” GPS units.



### Trailguru

Cost: Free

If you want cheap mapping from your trail program, check this one out—it incorporates Google Maps. You can’t add waypoints and it seems consistently less accurate than Motion-X. But hey, there’s maps.



## Android GPS Apps



### Google Maps Navigation

Google Maps with navigation is available for Android 1.6 and higher. This suite has proven itself and is currently the most popular GPS app for Android 1.6 users and above. It includes many features that no other GPS apps are able to provide, such as Street View and Satellite views.

**Endomondo Sports Tracker** - Track your sport in real time and challenge your friends using the built-in GPS. Endomondo makes fitness more fun by acting as your personal trainer and social fitness partner - ideal for running, cycling, walking etc.

## **Backcountry Navigator: Android GPS Equestrian Trails**

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Backcountry Navigator is one of the most flexible and best navigation devices is the Android GPS phone. It can be a communication device as well as a GPS navigator.

For Android users, an in app purchase for equestrian trail maps is now available with BackCountry Navigator PRO. The map for equestrian trails is made available in partnership with US Trailmaps, one of the best creators of GPS grade digital maps and recreational trail systems.

BackCountry Navigator Android GPS equestrian trail maps can provide the horse rider added confidence to trek on trails without spending too much time in finding trailheads and horse camping areas. Aside from these, equestrian trail maps contain detailed information such as places to buy tack, supply and horse stables.

Equestrian trails also cover:

- 17,368 Trails covering 17 US States
- 21,667 total miles of trails
- 9,454 points of interest
- Points of interest includes parking areas, horse camping areas, watering holes, shelters, trailheads, restrooms and information centers.

Aside from recreation and new discoveries of nature's amazing places, horseback riding is also a good exercise. Horse riding stimulates the muscles in our body, which we do not get to use in our daily activities.

Only BackCountry Navigator sells equestrian trail maps for Android. It can be purchased from the Android Market together with [BackCountry Navigator PRO](#).

## **REFERENCES – FURTHER INFORMATION**

This handout is developed with content from three online reviews of GPS apps – I edited out the ones that are most useful for navigation by horseback. But to give credit to the original authors and to provide the original links – see below...

- 9 best iphone GPS apps: March 19, 2010 By Beth Ritter-Guth available at: <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/9-iphone-gps-apps-case-lost/>
- Review: The 25 Best Outdoor iPhone Apps by Steve Casimiro available at: <http://www.adventure-journal.com/2009/02/outdoor-iphone-apps/>
- Backcountry Navigator - <http://www.backcountrynavigator.com/content/android-gps-equestrian-trails-0>