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In this article, we explore the latest and absolute best CarPlay apps for 2025, offering an insightful glimpse into the top applications that enhance the driving experience with seamless integration and innovative features. In the ever-evolving landscape of automotive technology, one paradigm shift stands out as a testament to the seamless integration of our digital lives into the driving experience – Apple CarPlay. As we usher in 2025, the automotive industry finds itself at the intersection of innovation and connectivity, and Apple CarPlay emerges as a frontrunner in redefining how we interact with our vehicles. This transformative technology bridges the gap between our smartphones and the car's infotainment system, bringing forth a host of applications that promise to enhance the driving experience in unprecedented ways. So, Apple dropped this awesome thing called CarPlay, and it's like a game-changer for making your car a safer and more tech-savvy space. It's all about hooking up your iPhone to your car's infotainment system, and turning your dashboard into a smartphone extension. And the connection? Well, you can go wired or live that wireless life – your call. Also read: 10 Best Wireless CarPlay Adapters To Convert Wired CarPlay What's really nifty about CarPlay is how it puts safety first without sacrificing the cool stuff. Picture this: your iPhone's features seamlessly blending with your car's touchscreen. It's like magic, but tech magic. And here's the cherry on top – you get to interact hands-free, thanks to Siri, Apple's voice wizard. So, while you're cruising, Siri's got your back. You can make calls, shoot off texts, and even DJ your favorite tunes, all without giving the road the side-eye. That's the brilliance of CarPlay – it's like having your iPhone and your car become best buds for a safer and more fun ride. As our lives become increasingly fast-paced, the importance of CarPlay becomes more evident. It's not just a tech gadget for your car; it's a transformative tool that enhances safety, convenience, and overall driving experience. Here's why CarPlay has become a staple in modern vehicles: CarPlay's design prioritizes safety by minimizing distractions. With a simplified interface and voice commands powered by Siri, users can navigate, communicate, and access information without taking their eyes off the road. This emphasis on hands-free interaction contributes significantly to reducing accidents caused by distracted driving. The seamlessness with which CarPlay integrates with your iPhone is a key factor in its success. Once connected, it feels like a natural extension of your device, creating a unified digital experience. Contacts, music playlists, and apps seamlessly transition from your iPhone to your car, making the entire driving experience more intuitive and enjoyable. CarPlay's dynamic nature ensures that it stays relevant and up-to-date. Regular updates from Apple bring new features, improvements, and compatibility with the best apps with CarPlay support. This commitment to continuous enhancement reflects Apple's dedication to providing users with the best possible in-car experience. CarPlay allows users to customize their in-car experience according to their preferences. From rearranging app icons to selecting preferred navigation apps, users have the flexibility to tailor CarPlay to suit their individual needs. This level of personalization contributes to a more user-centric and enjoyable driving experience. The benefits of integrating CarPlay into your vehicle extend far beyond mere convenience. Let's explore some of the key advantages that make CarPlay a must-have feature for modern drivers: CarPlay brings a new level of connectivity to your driving experience. By seamlessly integrating your iPhone with your car, you can access your contacts, messages, and media with ease. This connectivity ensures that you're always in the loop, even when you're on the move. Gone are the days of fumbling with paper maps or struggling with a GPS device. CarPlay's navigation apps provide real-time updates, live traffic information, and intuitive guidance. Whether you're exploring a new city or navigating familiar roads, the enhanced navigation features of CarPlay make every journey smoother and more efficient. Long drives become more enjoyable with CarPlay's entertainment features. Access your favorite music, podcasts, and audiobooks effortlessly, turning your car into a mobile entertainment center. With voice commands and an intuitive interface, you can focus on the road while enjoying your preferred entertainment. CarPlay simplifies communication on the road. Hands-free calling, messaging, and voice commands through Siri ensure that you can stay connected without compromising safety. The integration of messaging apps allows you to respond to messages without taking your hands off the wheel, fostering a safer and more responsible driving environment. Transform your commute into a productive time with CarPlay's productivity apps. Manage your calendar, set reminders, and jot down notes—all while keeping your attention on the road. This productivity boost is especially valuable in today's fast-paced world, where every moment counts. At the heart of CarPlay lies its ecosystem of apps, designed to cater to a diverse range of needs and preferences. CarPlay apps are essentially extensions of their iPhone counterparts, optimized for the in-car environment. Whether you're looking for navigation, music, messaging, or other functionalities, there are Apple CarPlay third-party apps for virtually every aspect of your digital life. One of the standout features of CarPlay is its navigation capabilities. The listed apps seamlessly guide you to your destination with turn-by-turn directions displayed on your car's infotainment screen. Real-time traffic updates, alternative routes, and voice-guided navigation make these apps that offer CarPlay app invaluable companions for every journey. CarPlay transforms your vehicle into a mobile entertainment hub. Music apps let you access your favorite tunes effortlessly. With a simple tap on the CarPlay screen or a voice command, you can control your playlist, adjust volume, and discover new music—all without taking your eyes off the road. Safety is paramount while driving, and CarPlay recognizes this by offering hands-free communication through messaging apps. Siri, Apple's virtual assistant, can read and compose text messages for you, ensuring that you stay connected without compromising safety. Apps that are mentioned below seamlessly integrate with CarPlay, allowing you to stay in touch while keeping your focus on the road. CarPlay extends beyond entertainment and communication; it's also a productivity powerhouse. These apps help you stay organized, manage your schedule, and jot down important thoughts—all while on the go. The seamless integration with Siri makes it easy to set reminders, check appointments, and stay on top of your tasks without missing a beat. Calendar/Dashboard Reminders Staying updated with the latest happenings in news and sports is essential while you are on the go. That's why these news and sports apps for CarPlay are a must have for any CarPlay user out there. Bloomberg NBA CNBC Audacy CBS Radio News NPR One NHL If you drive an Electric Vehicle with CarPlay, then these CarPlay EV charging spot finding apps can make your life easier. You can use these apps to quickly find charging spots while you are running low on juice. Apps to find parking apps can make your life easy when you are running late and want to find a good parking spot for your vehicle. These CarPlay parking apps are the answer to your parking troubles. Conclusion In the ever-evolving landscape of automotive technology, CarPlay stands out as a beacon of innovation, seamlessly blending the digital and physical aspects of our lives. The diverse range of CarPlay apps, coupled with its emphasis on safety and connectivity, makes it an indispensable feature for modern drivers. As we navigate the roads of the future, CarPlay ensures that our journey is not just a commute but a connected, enjoyable experience that reflects the transformative power of technology. So, buckle up, connect your iPhone, and let CarPlay redefine the way you experience the open road. Disclosure: iOSHacker may receive a commission if you purchase products through our affiliate links. For more visit our privacy policy page. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Instrumented TestVolvo's friendly little crossover is a dual-motor rocket that clears 60 mph in 3.3 seconds.Advertisement - Continue Reading BelowAdvertisement - Continue Reading BelowAdvertisement - Continue Reading BelowLatest NewsReviewsAdvertisement - Continue Reading BelowAdvertisement - Continue Reading BelowElectric and Hybrid Vehicles 101FeaturesC/D OriginalsAdvertisement - Continue Reading BelowThese models are rising in popularity among new-car shoppers.Buyer's GuideAdvertisement - Continue Reading BelowFrom the C/D ArchiveThe top car cleaning products, tested. For the Car-Obsessed MacFormat Magazine|Getty ImagesApple CarPlay can be a useful feature for connecting your smartphone to your car's infotainment system, but there may be times when you need to turn it off. We've created this guide to help you understand the Apple CarPlay feature and how to turn it off when you don't want it.Apple CarPlay Updated: Will Spread to Gauge Clusters and Display Driving DataWhat Is CarPlay?Apple CarPlay is a built-in feature of many newer vehicles. It's a convenient software that allows you to sync your iPhone with your car's infotainment system, working with features such as its touch-screen display, button panel, voice command, and audio system. Connecting your car's infotainment system with the Apple CarPlay software allows you to use certain iPhone applications through your car's integrated interface, like its touch-screen display. CarPlay syncs automatically when you plug your phone into your car or it connects using wireless technology. Types of CarPlay FeaturesCarPlay offers several useful features that make it simple to use phone applications while driving. These applications include virtual car keys, navigation software, voice commands, messaging options, and entertainment features.Virtual Car KeysThe virtual car keys feature allows you to unlock and start your car with your phone. You can start your car remotely and share your keys with friends and family. Virtual car keys also allow you to set restrictions on who can access your car and when they can have access, which can be a helpful feature for setting the access permissions for new drivers.For example, if you have a teen driver at home, you can set the virtual car keys to the teen's profile and restrict them to only have access during certain times of the day. Additionally, the virtual car keys application can work for up to five hours even after your phone battery dies.Navigation SoftwareThe Apple CarPlay software can sync your preferred navigation application from your phone to your car. While many cars have integrated GPS systems, your phone may have other options that you might prefer. By connecting your device to your car, you can display your preferred navigational tool on the car's interface. The application can play voice directions through your car's audio system, making them clear, loud, and easy to follow.Voice CommandsCarPlay syncs your phone's voice command system to your car. Voice commands let you navigate phone applications and request information hands-free. You can ask for directions, request music, make calls, and send messages verbally. This allows you to keep your focus on the road, improving safety while ensuring you have the access you need to your phone features.MessagingHands-free messaging is another valuable feature provided by CarPlay. It lets you send and receive electronic messages like emails and texts using voice commands and the car's audio system. You can listen to messages and dictate responses to send to your contacts. This is a convenient way to contact others and handle work-related correspondences while on the road.EntertainmentCarPlay also gives you access to entertainment applications during your commute. You can play music, podcasts, audiobooks, and radio programs using your favorite phone applications. By using your phone's applications, you have access to more options than through your car's standard software.How To Choose When To Use CarPlayThere are times when using CarPlay may be beneficial and times when you may prefer it off. You might choose to use CarPlay when:Increasing Convenience: CarPlay offers many convenient features that provide access to phone applications while on the road. If you need uninterrupted access to your messaging systems or prefer your phone's applications to those installed in the car's system, CarPlay may be a convenient choice for you.Expanding Software Options: Using CarPlay can give you access to more options than your car's existing settings. For example, your car's internal navigation system might not offer as many options as your favorite GPS system installed on your phone.Controlling Access: CarPlay has options that allow you to restrict who has access to your car and its functions. The virtual car key feature lets you decide who can access and operate your vehicle and gives you control over when they can use it, which is a useful function for someone who shares their car often.You might choose not to use CarPlay when:Using Your Car's Integrated Features: Some drivers prefer to use their car's internal features over their phone features. Disabling CarPlay ensures your car uses its default features rather than prioritizing your phone's settings.Driving a Rental Car: Although CarPlay maintains your privacy and security, turning it off before renting a car can reduce the risk of the car accessing your personal data. Limiting Distractions: Since CarPlay increases your available options, disabling it can reduce the number of distractions it provides. How To Turn off CarPlayDisclaimer: The guidelines in this story are general and not meant to replace instructions for your specific vehicle. Please consult your owner's manual or repair guide before attempting repairs.There are two methods for disabling CarPlay—through your Settings, which lets you disconnect from a single vehicle, or through your iPhone restrictions menu, to prevent connecting to any vehicle.Turning off CarPlay Through Settings1. Open your Settings app.2. Scroll to the third section of options and select "General."3. In the "General" settings menu, select "CarPlay."4. The "CarPlay" menu shows the vehicles synced to your phone. To disconnect from a vehicle, tap on the option you'd like to forget. Selecting a vehicle takes you to the vehicle menu.5. In the vehicle menu, tap "Forget This Car".6. Confirm that you want to forget the vehicle by tapping "Forget" on the pop-up menu. This option allows you to forget a single car while allowing your iPhone to connect to other cars.Turning off CarPlay Through Restrictions1. Open your Settings app.2. Scroll to the second section of the application and select "Screen Time."3. In the Screen Time menu, scroll and tap "Content & Privacy Restrictions."4. Select "Allowed Apps." If your menu doesn't allow you to click this option, toggle the button to the right of the "Content & Privacy Restrictions" title to enable the menu. The button should be green when you enable the menu.5. In the "Allowed Apps" menu, scroll to the CarPlay option. Tap the toggle button to disable it. The button should be gray when you disable the app. Once disabled, the app won't activate in any car. You can tap the button again to turn the feature back on.Hearst Autos Research, produced independently of the Car and Driver editorial staff, provides articles about cars and the automotive industry to help readers make informed purchasing choices.Hearst Autos ResearchHearst Autos Research, produced independently of the Car and Driver Editorial staff, provides articles about cars and the automotive industry to help readers make informed purchasing choices. August 28, 2024 Tired of the limited options and functionality of your car's built-in infotainment system? Apple CarPlay has changed the way we interact with our cars, but did you know third-party apps can take it to the next level? In this article, we'll look at the top Apple CarPlay apps, including the best third-party options, that will enhance your driving experience and keep you entertained, informed, and connected on the road. Audible Audible is the Apple app for book lovers who love to listen to audiobooks while driving. With a huge library of titles and seamless Apple CarPlay integration you can browse, buy and listen to your favourite books hands free. T he app's simple interface and customizable playback settings make it a top choice for audiobook fans. Additionally, the Apple Books app offers a similar experience with its audiobooks feature, allowing users to purchase individual titles and enjoy literature read aloud without a subscription. BBC Sounds Stay informed and entertained with BBC Sounds, the app for the BBC's vast library of radio shows, podcasts and music. From breaking news to documentaries, BBC Sounds has everything to keep you occupied on your commute. The app's personalized recommendations and simple interface make it a must-have for BBC fans. Additionally, the Apple Podcasts app offers features like listening to your favorite series, personalized recommendations, top charts, and exclusive premium content, making it a valuable app for podcast enthusiasts. ChargePoint Electric car owners rejoice! ChargePoint is the app for finding and using EV charging points. With Apple CarPlay integration you can find nearby charging points, check station availability and even initiate and monitor charging sessions right from your car's screen. ChargePoint takes the guesswork out of EV charging so you're always powered up and ready to go. Chevron Fill up with the Chevron app on your Apple CarPlay enabled car. Find nearby Chevron gas stations, compare prices and even pay for your gas from your car's screen. The app's simple interface and secure payment options make refuelling a breeze, saving you time and hassle on the road. ESPN Sports fans never miss a game or update with the ESPN app on Apple CarPlay. Get live scores, news and audio from your favourite teams and leagues all while keeping your eyes on the road. The app's customisable alerts and simple menus make it easy to stay up to date with the latest sports action. iHeart Radio, Music, Podcasts: iHeart is the one stop shop for all things audio entertainment. With Apple CarPlay integration, you can access your favorite radio stations, music playlists, and podcasts from the comfort of your car. Like Audible, the app's personalized recommendations and simple controls make it easy to discover new content and enjoy your favorite shows hands-free. Additionally, Apple Music offers a vast music catalog, curated playlists, original content, and access to digital radio stations, along with Dolby Atmos spatial audio support for compatible car audio systems. Google Maps While Apple Maps is a good navigation app Google Maps takes it to the next level with its many features and simple interface. With Apple CarPlay support you can get real time traffic updates, alternative route suggestions and even offline maps when you're out of cell range. Trust Google Maps to get you there efficiently and safely. MLB Baseball fans stay connected to the game with the MLB app on Apple CarPlay. Follow live scores, listen to game audio and catch up on the latest news and highlights from your favourite teams. The app's customisable notifications and simple interface make it easy to stay engaged with America's favourite pastime on the road. onX Offroad Off-road enthusiasts navigate the trails with onX Offroad on Apple CarPlay. This app has detailed maps, trail information and even land ownership data to help you plan and execute your off-road adventures. With real time location tracking and the ability to download maps for offline use onX Offroad is a must have for any serious off-roader. Overcast Podcast fans streamline your listening with Overcast on Apple CarPlay. This app has advanced features like smart speed, voice boost and custom playlists to enhance your podcast listening. With seamless integration and simple controls Overcast makes it easy to get into your favourite shows and discover new ones on the road. Additionally, the Apple Podcasts app offers personalized recommendations, top charts, and exclusive premium content, making it a valuable choice for those who enjoy podcasts. Spotify No Apple CarPlay setup is complete without Spotify, the world's leading music streaming service. With millions of songs, curated playlists and personalised recommendations Spotify ensures you always have the perfect playlist for your drive. The app's simple interface and hands free controls make it easy to navigate your music library and discover new artists. Additionally, Apple Music subscribers enjoy exclusive premium content within Apple Podcasts. TomTom GO Navigation For those who prefer an alternative to Google Maps or Apple Maps TomTom GO Navigation is a great choice. With Apple CarPlay support you can access TomTom's accurate and reliable navigation features including real time traffic updates, speed camera alerts and offline maps. The app's simple interface and clear voice guidance makes it easy to navigate unfamiliar roads with confidence. Waze Waze is one of the best navigation apps thanks to its community driven approach to real time traffic updates and road alerts. With Apple CarPlay integration you can access Waze's unique features like user reported incidents, police activity and road closures all while keeping your hands on the wheel. Trust Waze to help you outsmart traffic and get there safely. WhatsApp Stay in touch with friends and family on the road with WhatsApp on Apple CarPlay. This popular messaging app lets you send and receive messages, make voice calls, and even access your chat history all through your car's display. With seamless integration and hands free functionality WhatsApp makes it easy to stay in touch without compromising your safety on the road. The Message CarPlay app lets you display received messages and read them out loud using Siri, and you can send messages via voice command, keeping your focus on the road. Zoom In the age of remote work Zoom has become an essential tool to stay connected with colleagues and clients. Now with Apple CarPlay support you can join Zoom meetings and conferences from your car. The app's audio only mode and simple controls make it easy to be on calls while keeping your focus on the road, it's a game changer for professionals on the go. FAQs What are the best apps for offroad enthusiasts on CarPlay? onX Offroad is the top app for offroad enthusiasts on CarPlay. It has detailed maps, trails and tracking. Which app is good for podcasts on CarPlay? Overcast is great for podcasts on CarPlay, simple interface, smart speed and powerful playlist management. What app is best for music on CarPlay? Spotify is best for music on CarPlay, millions of songs, personalised playlists and simple interface. There's no sound on my Apple CarPlay when using these apps. What should I do? If you have no sound on Apple CarPlay with certain apps, check car audio settings and volume. If issue persists, reconnect your iPhone to CarPlay, which often resolves sound problems. Is TomTom GO Navigation good for CarPlay users? Yes TomTom GO Navigation is known for its reliability and customisability so it's a great choice for CarPlay users who need a reliable navigation. What makes Waze a good alternative to Apple Maps on CarPlay? Waze has community driven updates, real time alerts, alternate route suggestions and hands free operation so it's a great alternative to Apple Maps on CarPlay. How does Waze get real time traffic information? Waze uses crowd sourced data from its community of users to get real time traffic alerts, road obstacles and alternate route suggestions. Can I use WhatsApp on CarPlay? Yes WhatsApp is CarPlay compatible, you can receive message notifications, use voice commands and stay connected while driving. How do I enable WhatsApp on CarPlay? To enable WhatsApp on CarPlay make sure your app is updated, connect your iPhone to CarPlay and grant permissions in CarPlay settings on your iPhone. Is Waze owned by Google? Yes Waze is a community sourced navigation app owned by Google, it provides accurate and timely navigation through user contributions. Can I watch Netflix on my Apple CarPlay? You can't watch Netflix directly on Apple CarPlay due to safety reasons while driving. However, you can listen to audio from the Netflix app on your iPhone through CarPlay. While there might be some workarounds to watch Netflix on Apple CarPlay, please be advised that it's not safe to watch videos on your car's display while driving, and it may be illegal in many areas. Download These Apps on BOSS Audio's Apple CarPlay Third party apps on Apple CarPlay give you more functionality, entertainment and convenience for your drive. From navigation to audio entertainment these apps work seamlessly with your car. Additionally, the Apple apps installed, such as communication, music, podcasts, audiobooks, and navigation, provide valuable tools for drivers on the road. Get your car's infotainment system upgraded with a BOSS Audio head unit with Apple CarPlay. Our Apple CarPlay systems provide high-quality audio. You can enjoy crystal-clear sound when listening to your favorite music and podcasts. You've got Apple CarPlay—great! Now, how do you use it to its fullest? The App Store is a maze, and figuring out which apps work seamlessly with your car can be frustrating. Whether you've just purchased a new car with built-in CarPlay or added an aftermarket system, understanding which apps are compatible can help you maximize this powerful in-car technology. This guide cuts through the confusion, highlighting the best CarPlay-compatible apps for navigation, entertainment, and more. Since its introduction, the CarPlay ecosystem has expanded significantly, from navigation tools that get you where you need to go to entertainment apps that make traffic jams bearable. Key Takeaways CarPlay supports over 600 compatible apps across navigation, music, messaging, podcasts, audiobooks, and more Core Apple apps like Phone, Messages, Maps, and Music are pre-installed with CarPlay Third-party navigation apps including Google Maps, Waze, and TomTom offer alternatives to Apple Maps Music and audio apps (Spotify, Amazon Music, Pandora) provide extensive entertainment options Voice-controlled messaging through Siri works with Messages, WhatsApp, Telegram, and other communication apps Setting up CarPlay requires either a USB connection or wireless capability, depending on your vehicle The CarPlay interface can be customized to prioritize your most frequently used apps What Is Apple CarPlay? Apple CarPlay is a smart interface that mirrors select iPhone apps onto your car's built-in display. It allows you to safely use what you love about your iPhone while keeping your eyes on the road. According to Apple, "CarPlay is a smarter, safer way to use your iPhone while you drive," essentially bringing the core functions of your iPhone to your vehicle's dashboard. When connected (wirelessly or via USB), CarPlay transforms your car's infotainment system into an iOS-like interface with large, driver-friendly icons. The Apple CarPlay screens heavily use Siri voice control, allowing you to make calls, send messages, get directions, and control media playback while maintaining your focus on driving. Compatible with iPhone 5 and newer running iOS 7.1 or later, CarPlay is now available in over 98% of new cars in the US. The technology has evolved significantly since its 2014 introduction, with the most significant enhancement being wireless connectivity in newer vehicles and aftermarket receivers. CarPlay isn't just a convenience feature; it's designed with safety in mind. Its simplified, driver-optimized interface and voice control through Siri reduce the temptation to pick up your phone while driving. Top Apps That Support CarPlay With over 600 CarPlay-compatible apps available, here's a closer look at the standout options in each major category: Apple Maps – The default navigation option has improved dramatically with detailed maps, lane guidance, speed limit indicators, and EV routing options. Google Maps – Many users prefer Google's robust mapping data, widespread coverage, and features like Street View that make destinations more recognizable. Waze – Owned by Google but offering a different experience, Waze specializes in crowdsourced traffic data, police locations, and hazard warnings. TomTom GO Navigation – Known for excellent offline maps and precise traffic prediction, TomTom offers premium features like lane guidance at complex intersections. Sygic GPS Navigation – With 3D maps, lane assistance, and speed limit warnings, Sygic stands out with its offline functionality and realistic junction views. Maps.me is an excellent option for travelers. It offers detailed offline maps for remote areas without cellular service. ChargePoint and PlugShare – Essential apps for electric vehicle owners, helping locate and navigate to charging stations. Entertainment And Music Apps For CarPlay Apple Music – Deeply integrated with CarPlay, offering 100+ million songs, curated playlists, and Siri control. Spotify – The world's most popular streaming service brings personalized playlists, podcasts, and recently improved CarPlay integration. Amazon Music – Featuring HD audio options and integration with Amazon's ecosystem for Prime members. Pandora – Pioneer of algorithmic radio stations creates personalized music experiences based on your preferences. Audible – Amazon's audiobook service offers a vast library of books, original productions, and podcasts. Pocket Casts – A podcast power user's dream with playback speed controls, trim silence feature, and volume boosting. SiriusXM – Satellite radio service offering exclusive content, sports coverage, and news without commercials. iHeartRadio – Combines traditional radio stations with streaming capabilities and podcasts in one interface. Productivity And Communication Apps For CarPlay Phone and Messages – Apple's core communication apps offer a streamlined experience for calls and texts. WhatsApp – The world's most popular messaging app supports voice message playback and Siri-dictated text messages. Telegram – A Secure messaging app with CarPlay support for voice messages and Siri integration. Microsoft Teams – A business communication platform with calling capabilities for on-the-go professionals. Calendar – View upcoming appointments and meeting details at a glance. Weather apps (CARROT Weather, The Weather Channel) – Get current conditions and forecasts with voice announcements. Evernote – Capture voice notes while driving that sync to your account. Food-ordering apps (including some food-delivery services) will begin adding CarPlay support in 2025. This will allow users to reorder their favorite meals while commuting quickly. Popular Categories Of Apps Compatible With CarPlay While not every iPhone app works with CarPlay, the ecosystem continues to grow with apps specifically designed or adapted for the in-car experience. Here's a breakdown of the significant categories supported: Navigation is perhaps CarPlay's most valuable function, offering turn-by-turn directions on your dashboard screen. These apps provide: Real-time traffic information that helps you avoid congestion Lane guidance for complex highway interchanges Points of interest to find gas stations, restaurants, and more Voice-guided directions to keep your eyes on the road Offline maps (in some apps) for areas with poor cellular coverage Apple Maps comes pre-installed, but Google Maps, Waze, TomTom, and numerous specialized navigation apps offer compelling alternatives with different strengths. Music And Audio Apps Entertainment remains a crucial part of the driving experience, and CarPlay supports a wide variety of audio apps: Music streaming services give access to millions of songs and curated playlists Radio apps connect you to local and national stations Audiobook players turn drive time into reading time Sports apps let you follow live games while on the road Beyond Apple Music, popular options include Spotify, Amazon Music, Pandora, iHeartRadio, and SiriusXM. These apps are designed with simplified interfaces for driving, featuring large artwork and minimal text. Messaging And Communication Apps CarPlay prioritizes safety by limiting how you interact with communication apps: Text messaging works primarily through voice dictation via Siri Voice calling apps provide large, easy-to-tap interfaces Voice memos allow you to record thoughts while driving Calendar integration helps you keep track of appointments While Apple's Messages app is the default, WhatsApp, Telegram, Facebook Messenger, and WeChat offer CarPlay support, though functionality is intentionally limited to minimize distraction. News And Podcast Apps For longer drives, staying informed and entertained with spoken-word content is popular: Podcast players with auto-downloading capabilities for uninterrupted listening News briefing apps that read the latest headlines Sports update services with live game broadcasts Educational content from lecture series to language learning Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Overcast, Audible, and NPR One lead this category, offering vast libraries of content that can be controlled safely while driving. Trusted CarPlay Screen Supplier If you're experiencing issues with your current CarPlay screen, it might be time for an upgrade. For a reliable solution, GetCarTablet is a trusted supplier known for its high-quality screens and exceptional customer support. Their commitment to providing top-tier products can help you resolve common CarPlay display problems. How To Set Up And Use CarPlay Apps Getting started with CarPlay and managing your apps is straightforward once you understand the basics. Connecting Your Device For wired connections: Ensure your iPhone is running iOS 7.1 or later Connect your iPhone to your car's USB port using an Apple-certified Lightning cable CarPlay should launch automatically on your car's display If prompted, unlock your iPhone and trust the connection For wireless connections: Enable Bluetooth and WiFi on your iPhone Press and hold the voice command button on your steering wheel Navigate to your car's settings menu and select "Add Phone" or "Connect Phone." Select your iPhone when it appears in the available devices list Confirm the pairing on both your iPhone and car display Some newer aftermarket units support wireless CarPlay with older vehicles. If your car only supports wired connections, wireless adapters that plug into your USB port can enable wireless functionality. Customizing Your App Layout CarPlay allows you to personalize which apps appear and in what order: On your iPhone, go to Settings > General > CarPlay Select your car from the list of available connections You'll see a layout of the CarPlay interface with all compatible apps Drag apps to rearrange their order To remove an app from CarPlay, tap the minus (–) icon To add available apps, tap the plus (+) icon in the app library below Your car will remember these settings for future connections, creating a personalized dashboard experience. Some newer CarPlay versions also allow customizing the dashboard layout directly from the car's interface. Remember that not all iPhone apps will appear in this list—only those specifically optimized for CarPlay compatibility can be added. Conclusion Apple CarPlay has transformed how we use our iPhones while driving, bringing essential apps to our dashboard in a safer, more accessible format. With hundreds of compatible apps across navigation, entertainment, communication, and productivity categories, the ecosystem will continue to grow in 2025. The most useful CarPlay apps balance functionality and simplicity, offering essential features without creating dangerous distractions. Navigation apps like Apple Maps, Google Maps, and Waze lead the pack in utility, while music services and podcasts provide entertainment for any journey. As vehicles increasingly come with built-in wireless CarPlay and aftermarket solutions become more affordable, this technology is becoming standard for iPhone users who drive. The interface continues to evolve with each iOS update, bringing minor improvements and occasionally significant overhauls. Whether you're a daily commuter looking to make traffic more bearable or a road trip enthusiast planning your next adventure, taking the time to set up and customize your CarPlay experience with the right mix of apps can significantly enhance your time behind the wheel—all while keeping your focus where it belongs: on the road ahead. Now that you know which apps support CarPlay in 2025, you can create the perfect dashboard experience tailored to your needs and driving habits. Happy (and safe) driving! Frequently Asked Questions Can I use Android apps with Apple CarPlay? No, CarPlay is specifically designed to work with iPhones and iOS apps. Android users should look for vehicles or aftermarket systems that support Android Auto instead, which offers similar functionality for Android devices. Why don't all of my iPhone apps appear in CarPlay? Only apps optimized explicitly for CarPlay by their developers will appear in the CarPlay interface. This is intentional, as apps need special modifications to be safe while driving. Developers must follow Apple's CarPlay app guidelines and receive approval. No, Apple intentionally restricts video playback and complex apps like social media from CarPlay to minimize driver distraction. The focus is on essential functions that can be safely used while driving. Will CarPlay drain my iPhone battery? When connected via USB cable, your iPhone typically charges while using CarPlay. Wireless CarPlay causes some battery drain, but most users find it reasonable. Many vehicles now offer wireless charging pads to address this concern. Apple CarPlay overrides your car's native infotainment system and promises to put a familiar, distraction-free interface right at your fingertips. It's also loaded with compatible third-party apps that give your car nearly the same level of functionality as your iPhone or iPad. We've put together a list of the best CarPlay apps available today. Apple Maps Apple Maps works seamlessly with CarPlay. When you open it, you'll see an overview of your location. Click on the Destinations link and the app will suggest places you can go to based on your location and what you've recently discussed in text messages and emails. The Search function allows you to quickly find eateries, gas stations, and more. Apple Maps gives you turn-by-turn directions that are easy to follow. You can also ask Siri to direct you to the nearest restaurant, gas station, and more. CarPlay also supports Google Maps and Waze. Phone Once you install CarPlay in your car, you'll be able to make and receive calls without using your phone. You can open the app, browse your contacts, review recent calls, open the dialer, or check voicemail. But we don't recommend scanning through a list of contacts while driving. So, it's better to use Siri to say something like "Call John." TuneIn Radio This app has one of the best collections of content in the world. Download it to access over 120,000 stations. You can stream radio and listen to sports, news, music, and other audio formats. To enjoy more perks, get the premium subscription. For only $10 a month, you'll get play-by-play access to different sports channels. You can root for your favorite NFL or MLB team while driving. You'll also be able to listen to more than 130 ad-free music stations. Audiobooks.com If you have a long commute, or simply like to listen to audiobooks every day, get the Audiobooks.com app. It allows you to download audiobooks directly to your iPhone. You don't have to sync the phone with your computer, and you can stream audiobooks through data connection or over Wi-Fi. The app has a huge library and you get your first 3 premium audiobooks for free. After you're done reading those, you can choose a new audiobook every month for $15 per month. Audiobooks also lets you access more than 700,000 podcasts. You can easily discover new audiobooks by following narrators, authors, and book series. The app also sends you notifications about new releases. Apple CarPlay supports navigation apps and many other apps on your iPhone. You can listen to your favorite songs through iTunes or Apple Music. Overcast If you like podcasts and you're looking for an alternative to Apple's proprietary podcast app, have a look at Overcast. This app comes with a myriad of welcome features, including voice boost and smart speed, the latter of which allows you to speed up conversations without distorting the audio. You can also search, browse, or download podcasts for offline use. The app features push notifications, too, so you'll never miss a new episode of your favorite podcast. It's currently chock-full of ads, though you can purchase a premium subscription for $10 a year for ad-free listening. Recent versions feature improved search and sync, shared clips up to 90 seconds long, and customized podcast downloading, deleting, and sorting. Conclusion CarPlay is one of the best things to happen to cars. Go ahead and customize your car experience with the best CarPlay apps! Apple CarPlay is an invaluable tool for drivers. It takes the best iPhone apps and features, and transforms them into a form that's safer to use while you're driving. Whether you want communication, music, podcasts or just need to figure out where you need to go, CarPlay puts all the essential apps front and center. So long as you know which apps actually work with it.There are a lot of apps out there that work with CarPlay, but it's not something every iPhone app supports. Plus not all the CarPlay-compatible apps are actually worth it. So, to save you that hassle, these are the top Apple CarPlay apps every driver should be using.Apple Apps(Image credit: Shutterstock)Your iPhone already has a bunch of Apple apps installed when you take it out of the box, and a lot of them are available on CarPlay when you're driving. While you always have the choice to use third party apps, these cover most of the basics and should prove to be valuable tools out on the road. You may like Phone: Possibly the one Apple app you'll use the most with CarPlay is the phone app. Phone calls are the best way to communicate with the outside world safely, since it means you can call anyone (or vice versa) and speak to them without the hassle of back-and-forth messages. The Phone CarPlay app has access to your full contacts list, favorites, recent calls, voicemail and your keypad. You can even talk to Siri and ask her to make a call for you, so you can keep your eyes on the road and avoid messing about with a touchscreen instead of concentrating.Messages: If phone calls aren't your style, then Messages can step into help. The Message CarPlay app lets you see all the messages you receive, and tapping them means Siri reads them all out to you — so your eyes don't deviate from the road. You can also ask Siri to send messages to your contacts with nothing more than a voide command.Apple Music: With more than 100 million songs, curated playlists, original content and access to digital radio stations, Apple Music is a great companion to have in your car. There's even Dolby Atmos spatial audio support if you're lucky enough to have a car that supports it. The only thing Apple Music doesn't have is Podcasts, which can be found in the Apple Podcasts app. Get instant access to breaking news, the hottest reviews, great deals and helpful tips.Just make sure you have a valid subscription, whether it's Apple Music or the Apple One bundle.Apple Podcasts: If you're more a fan of podcast hosts over radio DJs, then Apple Podcasts has what you need. You'll be able to listen to your favorite series as well as find new ones thanks to personalized recommendations and top charts in almost every category. Apple Music subscribers will also have access to exclusive premium content.Audiobooks: This is a version of the Apple Books app on your iPhone, but it cuts out everything with written words in favor of literature that's read to you. Because we all have hectic lives, and that backlog of books isn't getting any smaller, and there's no better time to make progress than when you're stuck in the car. Unfortunately there are no subscriptions here, and you'll need to purchase each individual title.Apple Maps: It had a rocky start but Apple Maps has evolved into one of the best navigation apps around. Better still, you don't need a separate user account, and Siri voice controls are enabled by default. Plus, with the addition of offline navigation with iOS 17, you should be able to find where you need to go no matter what the local cell signal is like.Music(Image credit: Shutterstock)Spotify: The big name in music streaming offers more than 100 million songs, either with ads or without — depending on whether you're willing to pay to subscribe or not. With personalized recommendations and sharable playlists, it's one of the better options if you'd rather get your music from someone who isn't Apple. There are also audiobooks and podcasts built-in, too.Tidal: If you're more interested in high-fidelity streaming, then you probably know about Tidal. The idea here is that subscribers get access to music in much higher quality than you would on other platforms, with up to 80 million songs on offer. Tidal also claims to pay better royalties to musicians than its rivals — in case you want to better support your favorite artists. YouTube Music: If you have YouTube Premium to escape the never-ending adpocalypse, then you have YouTube Music Premium thrown in as well. That means you don't need to subscribe to Apple or Spotify to listen to some ad-free tunes on your daily commute. Over 100 millions songs are available to listen uninterrupted, offline and while your screen is locked.VLC: If you're not into subscriptions, streaming and personalized features, then there's always VLC. It's the perfect app for listening to music and other audio files offline, without having to pay for ongoing access. The only downside is that you need to have sourced the files from some other source, be they ripped from CDs or purchased from non-Apple stores.Navigation(Image credit: Shutterstock)Google Maps: The biggest name in mobile navigation, and with good reason. Google Maps has just about everything you could want when you're driving. Real time traffic updates, offline navigation and the ability to search for businesses and locations along your route. It even works with Siri voice commands, albeit not quite as sleekly as Apple Maps does out of the box.Waze: Waze is a popular navigation choice thanks to its uniquely aggressive way of getting you around. The app may not be quite as data rich as Google Maps or Apple Maps, but its popularity stems from the fact will do everything it can to get your ETA as low as physically possible and actively changes your route to avoid as much traffic as it can find.Podcasts & Audiobooks(Image credit: Shutterstock)Audible: Amazon's audiobook service has a lot, especially if you have a subscription. Not only does that get you 1-2 audiobooks per month (depending on your plan), there's also a whole range of free podcasts to download and listen to. Plus-tier subscribers also get access to a library of free audiobooks with their plan, which means you shouldn't be running out of stuff to listen to in the car anytime soon.Overcast: Overcast is a great platform for those of you with an existing playlist of podcasts you love, but also want to discover some more. The app also feature Smart Boost to skip over silent spots and a Voice Boost feature for consistent sound throughout each episode; there's nothing more frustrating than having a host and guests who whisper interspersed with booming ads. Google Play Books: If you're a recent Android convert, you may still have some audiobooks tied to your Google account. Thankfully those are available on iPhone and CarPlay as well. Of course, like Apple Books, you'll be denied access to any print books when you're driving — which is definitely