



Running Gear The 10 Best Running Apps for Android for 2015

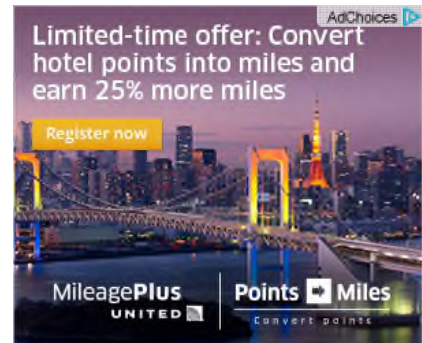
The 10 Best Running Apps for Android for 2015

What is the best running app for Android? Take a look at our selection of the best 10 for 2015.

December 26, 2014



Running Gear



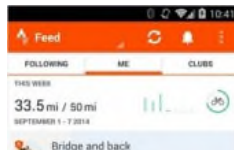
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With the New Year just around the corner, it's time for us here at RunningShoesGuru to revisit an old tradition – compiling the 10 best running apps that are currently on the market.

In previous installments, we opted to bundle both iOS and Android apps together into one list. This year, we're taking a detour from that approach; instead of listing all the apps for both platforms together, we're choosing to make one list each for Android and iOS.

For our readers on Android phones, here are the 10 standout running apps that have earned our stamp of approval as worthy running companions for your 2015 training runs and races. (The [list for iPhone](#) is here.)

1. Strava Run (Free, Paid version: \$5.99/month)



About a year ago, Strava was a relative newcomer to the running apps market but even then, it was already getting high praise from runners all over the world. One year on and



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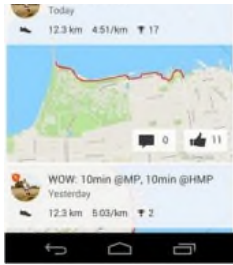


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Strava has cemented its reputation as one of the best options for runners using an Android phone.

From a features perspective, Strava is comparable to the other apps on this list. The free version already offers a wide array of running metrics such as pace, distance, route mapping, and historical workout logs perfect for both the recreational and serious runner.

One of the things that make Strava a crowd favorite is that running data is not limited to being tracked by your phone. Strava integrates with many GPS-capable devices like running watches from various brands like Garmin, Suunto, Timex, Tomtom and Soleus so data from your latest run automatically uploads to your Strava account for later analysis.

But perhaps the best feature that is loved by runners everywhere is the Strava segment! Strava users can create "segments" which are basically routes that are then shared to other users. The system then tracks who runs the segment in the fastest time and then displays the results into a leaderboard.

To climb up the board, you have to beat the time of other runners. Not that you needed any extra motivation but if you do, running on a Strava segment is always a fun thing to test your fitness and check the results of your training.

One common complaint against Strava is that the Premium version costs a hefty \$5.99/month (or \$59/year). The good thing is that for the most part, the free version is more than sufficient for everyday training needs. However, if you really want to analyze your data in more detail to make significant improvements, investing in Strava Premium is always an option that you can consider.



2. Runkeeper (Free, Paid version: \$9.99/month)



Runkeeper is one of the first running apps to hit the market back in 2011 and in the years since, it has only endeared itself to runners even more. It is one of the pioneers in introducing some innovative features that have since become common in many other running apps including mapped out routes and pace splits.

The interface is simple and intuitive allowing runners to record typical running metrics like instantaneous and average pace, and distance. The app also allows you to plot routes ahead of time so you can run in a foreign city with a pre-determined route in-hand to avoid the unfortunate hassles of getting lost.

Runkeeper is a great app for a variety of reasons but foremost because it is free without being limited in functionality. Many running apps

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nowadays have free versions with very limited uses because the best features are reserved for the paid version. Runkeeper Basic has more than enough features that purchasing the paid version is often not necessary particularly for recreational runners.

However, if you want to get more out of your running app as many serious and competitive runners do, the premium version known as Runkeeper Elite offers a more extensive array of features mainly geared for more effective training. This includes advanced workout reports and regular analysis of workout pace to show that you are getting faster (or slower) over time. Signing up to Runkeeper Elite costs \$9.99/month (or \$39/year).



3. Endomondo Running Cycling Walk (Free, Paid version for \$4.99)



There is no doubt that the most socially-aware running app on the market today is Endomondo. The app was developed with the clear goal of making running a social activity and so far, it has not disappointed on that front.

Aside from the usual running metrics like pace, distance, running routes, and a comprehensive training diary, Endomondo also offers plenty of features that allow runners to socialize with their friends even on the run.

The app allows you to take and photos and video as you run and share them to friends. It's also possible to check out your friend's training progress – something that is mostly private in other apps – so you can congratulate them on a recently completed goal. It's even possible to give a shout-out to a friend in the middle of his or her workout so you can encourage them to complete their daily goals.

Most of the apps on this page also encourage runners to form a tight-knit community of individuals who share the same passion for running but no other app does that better than Endomondo.



4. MapMyRun (Free, Paid version: \$5.99/month)



MapMyRun burst into the scene at about the same time as Runkeeper and it has continued to do well even in an increasingly crowded running apps market.

MapMyRun offers a comprehensive array of run data including pace, distance, route mapping, navigational tips mid-workout, and calorie counting based on health data that you input into the system. The app is built such that every workout is basically a “Press start

and go” affair making it highly popular with people who want an easy-to-operate system with no frills.

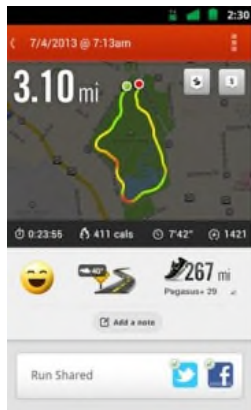
The app is also largely hands-free as it offers voice updates on distance, time and pace as you run so all you have to do is hunker down and power through while the app does all the dirty work for you.

MapMyRun supports integration with other fitness trackers and heart rate sensors so you can expand the run metrics that you can collect with each workout. The app can be also connected to Facebook and Twitter so you can post workout updates to your favorite social media site allowing your friends to check up on your progress and give you a much-needed pat in the back for a job well done.

The free version works well for everyday applications but if you want more complex data tracking and access to training plans, you can upgrade to MapMyRun MVP for \$5.99/month or \$29/year.



5. Nike+ Running (Free)



Before GPS became a standard feature in smartphones paving the way for GPS-powered running apps, Nike was already busy with the Nike+ app. Even without a GPS, the app promised runners access to important run data such as distance and pace by virtue of shoe sensors specifically designed for Nike running shoes.

Today, Nike+ remains a classic favorite by many runners. It offers the usual run metrics that you’ll find in other apps.

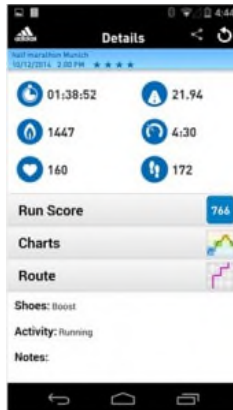
On top of that, the app does a fantastic job of letting you know you just did a “fastest” or “longest” run as a way to let you know that you’re progressing along in your training.

The app also integrates with your music library allowing you to choose a power song for that all important moment when you need a boost to get you over the hump.

And unlike the apps that we've already mentioned, Nike+ has remained free to all users since it was first introduced some years back. Combined with the goal-setting function and the coaching advice readily available, Nike+ remains a strong and practical choice amongst newbie and experienced runners alike.



6. Adidas MiCoach Train and Run (Free)



Nike+ was already an established running app long before Adidas ever thought of making its own but the most recent version of the Adidas MiCoach has definitely caught up.

The usual array of running data is there but the one thing that sets the MiCoach apart is its substantial library of exercises designed to help improve your running performance. From core to leg exercises, the MiCoach projects itself as a complete “fitness guide” to take your running to new heights.

And the best part: the widespread availability of GPS in Android phones has rendered the need for shoe sensors moot so anyone wearing other shoe brands can still download and use the MiCoach with no problems.

The app also offers integration support for other fitness gadgets like heart rate sensors making it a complete one-stop-shop for all your running needs.



7. Runtastic (Free, Paid version: \$4.99/month)



Runtastic is currently the only app on the market that offers integration with Google Earth so instead of looking at your routes on a map, you can see them plotted on Google Earth.

The app also connects with multiple music platforms including SoundCloud, Spotify, and Pandora so if you like to listen to your favorite songs while running – as many runners do – Runtastic offers a wider array of music integration than other running apps.

At its core, tracking and analyzing your run data is easy with the chart displays which can be correlated to the route

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