

'Tis the season for celebrating—and spending. These free downloads can help you stay on budget.

App-y Holidays

BY LISA COXON



For sending good tidings: Red Stamp Cards
PLATFORMS: IOS AND ANDROID

This app lets you choose a holiday-card template and electronically deliver it to loved ones. Add a photo, change the colour scheme and compose customized greetings that can be shared via email, text message and Facebook.



For finding the best sales: Flipp
PLATFORMS: IOS AND ANDROID

Flipp uncovers great deals on gifts and food by bringing local weekly flyers to your screen from hundreds of stores, including Walmart, Loblaws, IKEA and Toys "R" Us. Save ads for on-sale items, and the app will notify you when those deals are about to end.



For tracking your spending: Santa's Bag
PLATFORMS: IOS

Handy for cash-strapped gift givers, Santa's Bag allows you to set a spending limit, store shopping lists and monitor whether you're exceeding your budget. You can enter information such as what stores you'll need to visit and how much an item costs.



For filling up the tank: GasBuddy
PLATFORMS: IOS, ANDROID, WINDOWS PHONE

AND BLACKBERRY

For most of us, holiday car travel is inevitable. With the option to sort by price or distance, this app displays gas rates geographically, allowing you to fill up—for less—before hitting the road.