

ZONING AUTHORITIES

WATCHES THAT CROSS TIME ZONES WITH STYLE AND EASE

BY KEITH W. STRANDBERG

Mentally calculating the local time when arriving at a foreign destination after a long journey can be challenging, especially taking into account jetlag. It can also be hazardous: even a small miscalculation could cause a traveler to miss a connection, for example. That's where time zone watches—also known as GMT, UTC, dual time, multiple time zone, or world time watches—come in. These watches feature complications that display two time zones or more. With a time zone watch, you have a much better chance of mastering the globe's time zones, no matter how many of them you may cross. These traveler's timepieces do the calculations for you, so the most difficult decision you'll have to make is which time zone watch to wear.

FIRST CLASS Breitling Transocean Chronograph Unitime

Chronograph and universal time functions come together in this reinvention of Breitling's famed Unitime models of the 1950s and '60s. The watch's Caliber 05, entirely developed and produced in-house, features a user-friendly setting system that adjusts the local hours, the city disc and the 24-hour display simultaneously, while the minutes and seconds hands continue uninterrupted.

\$11,200–\$28,575
800.641.7343
breitling.com



GMT

GMT watches use a separate pointer hand to indicate Greenwich Mean Time or Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) on a 24-hour dial. If you know the GMT offset of your target time zone [e.g. GMT+1 for Switzerland], the time there is easily surmised based on this indication.



POINT OF ENTRY

Maurice Lacroix Pontos Décentrique GMT

Architecture and high technology come together in Maurice Lacroix's stylish and contemporary interpretation of the GMT timepiece. An off-center subdial displays hours, minutes and day/night in Greenwich or another time zone via two hands and a sun-and-moon disc. The function is powered by self-winding Caliber ML 121 and adjusted via a quick-set pushbutton at 2 on the caseside.

\$5,200–\$18,900
609.375.2293
mauricelacroix.com

MILLION MILER

Chopard Mille Miglia GMT Chrono

The 2012 edition of this race-inspired watch is made for the wide open road. Sporty and elegant, the 42-mm watch uses a secondary hours hand, tipped in white, to indicate time in a second zone on the peripheral 24-hour dial. Production is limited to 2,012 examples in steel and 250 in rose gold.

\$6,610–\$20,880
800.CHOPARD
chopard.com



GLOBAL TIME

The road toward instituting a worldwide universal time standard has been a long and convoluted one. In England's maritime heyday, Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), determined by the Royal Observatory in London, helped navigators find their longitude at sea. However, GMT wasn't adopted as the official time zone of the UK until 1880. In 1884, the International Meridian Conference, held in Washington, DC, selected Greenwich as zero degrees longitude and established the 24 time zones based on this new Prime Meridian.

By 1929, most countries around the world had started keeping time by this system. In 1972, the majority of the world adopted Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), and now official time zones are indicated by +/- UTC. There are, however, some parts of the world that divide up time differently from most. Newfoundland, Iran, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Burma, the Marquesas, as well as parts of Australia use half-hour deviations from standard time, and some nations, such as Nepal, and provinces, like the Chatham Islands, use quarter-hour deviations.

HIGH FLYER

Bulgari Papillon Voyageur

The dual time display of this limited edition watch exhibits simplicity and refinement. Powered by an in-house, self-winding movement, local time is displayed through a combination of jumping hours and the watch's namesake device—twin retractable hands that traverse a large, arcing minutes scale. Meanwhile, a blued central hand points out reference time on a 24-hour dial.

\$51,000
212.315.9000
bulgari.com





TIME TRAVELER

Breguet Classique
Hora Mundi 5717BR

In either rose gold or platinum, this mechanical tour-de-force uses automatic Caliber 5717, which features a dual time complication with jumping display for the second time zone. It allows the traveler to change instantly from one zone to another by pressing a button and without disturbing the operation of the watch. Date, day/night and city indications are synchronized with the second time zone.

\$78,900
866.458.7488
breguet.com

Dual-time watches typically use two separate time displays: one indicating “home time” and the other indicating “local time.”

These displays may be independently set to any time zones the user chooses. The dial or subdial for the more remote time zone may use a 24-hour scale or a 12-hour scale, sometimes supplemented by an am/pm indicator.

DUAL TIME

DUAL DUTY

Ulysse Nardin Blue Toro

Produced in a limited edition of 99 pieces, this is a perpetual calendar and dual time watch created for the ages. The calendar adjusts forward or backward via the crown, and this functionality is designed to last, even in the year 2100. Local time, displayed on the main dial, is also easily adjusted forward or backward by way of pushbuttons.

\$56,500
561.988.8600
ulysses-nardin.com



GUIDING STAR

Bovet Rising Star

A harmoniously arranged display includes three time zones, two day/night indicators, small seconds on the tourbillon at 6 and local time on the reverse. In addition, the 46-mm white gold or rose gold timepiece is reversible and converts to a pocket watch or a small desk clock without the need for tools.

\$328,000–\$338,000
888.909.1822
bovet.com

MULTIPLE TIME ZONES

Taking the dual-time concept a step further, some watchmakers have developed strategies for displaying three, four or even more time zones. These may use separate dials for each zone or a combination of dials, pointer hands and inner or outer rotating bezels.

TRAVELING LIGHT

Carl F. Bucherer Patravi
TravelTec FourX

Three time zone displays come together with chronograph functions in this titanium, ceramic, rose gold and rubber traveler's companion. A monopusher at 10 moves the rotating 24-hour dial flange in either direction, so that the red time zone hand can indicate time in two zones simultaneously. Automatic Caliber CFB 1901.1 drives these functions and offers 42-hour power reserve.

\$55,500
800.395.4306
carl-f-bucherer.com



085

WORLD TIMERS

This is the watch for the hardcore globetrotter.

World time watches attempt to display most or all of the world's major time zones simultaneously, often incorporating the names of key cities into the display. There are even a few that have the capability to indicate time in the world's half-hour time zones as well. And that's a complicated feat, indeed.



AHEAD OF THE CURVE Greubel Forsey GMT

Acknowledged as masters of the tourbillon, Robert Greubel and Stephen Forsey combine their signature complication with a time zone function in their first GMT watch. Prominently displayed at 8 on the dial, a "flying" three-dimensional titanium globe replicates the rotation of the earth. This is supplemented by an easily-adjusted 12-hour second time zone dial at 10 and a world time disc on the back, for setting the globe display.

\$650,000
310.271.0000
greubelforsey.com

NIGHT FLIGHT Girard-Perregaux WW.TC Dark Night

A dark version of Girard-Perregaux's iconic world timer, this ww.tc is a US exclusive edition of 25 watches, introduced this summer. Designed specifically for this new model, the self-winding Girard-Perregaux GP03387 movement displays the time in 24 time zones with day and night indicator, date and flyback chronograph. The mechanism is contained within a 43-mm black ceramic case.

\$18,900
877.846.3447
girard-perregaux.com





POLAR PERSPECTIVE

Vacheron Constantin
Patrimony Traditionnelle
World Time

Vacheron Constantin's world timer is designed to display the time in 37 of the world's time zones (including some with half-hour or quarter-hour offsets) via a city ring and a world-map dial that illustrates day and night using a tinted sapphire crystal. The watch's automatic manufacture Caliber 2460WT has earned the Geneva hallmark.

\$48,900
855.729.1755
vacheron-constantin.com

WORLD TRAVELER

Patek Philippe Ref. 5131
World Time

This classic world timer debuted in 2008. It features a permanent display of 24 time zones surrounding a cloisonné enamel depiction of the globe. With the main time display showing hours and minutes indicated by the city name positioned at 12, the pushbutton at 10 advances the hour hand, the city ring and the 24-hour dial by one-time-zone increments for easy adjustment during travel.

\$65,500
212.218.1240
patek.com



LOCAL TIME

Before the advent of time standards and world time zones, nearly every city and region in the world operated on local solar time (determined by the position of the sun), independent of any other city. Most communities had some sort of public time signal—a clock, a whistle or a bell—to which people could synchronize their clocks and pocket watches.