

Maintaining Electronic International Communications

While You Travel

Laptop Travel Tips

See [Taking Your Laptop Overseas](#) by *Volker Poelzl* for useful laptop travel tips.

Laptop Travel, www.laptoptravel.com, is an online store for those not communicating via an internet cafe, offering laptop mobility products as well as information and advice for laptop travelers.

Roadnews, www.roadnews.com, offers tips & tricks for laptop computer equipped travelers.

Internet Cafe Directories

See [Using Internet Cafés Abroad: Practical Tips for Safely Staying Connected in Public Places](#) by *Volker Poelzl* for a practical and detailed article which provides more first-hand information.

Cybercafes.com, www.cybercafes.com, is a database of of 4377 internet cafes in 141 countries.

The Cybercafe Search Engine, www.cybercaptive.com, an online database with over 6,000 verified listings of cybercafes, public Internet access points and kiosks in 167 countries.

WiFi Hotspots Worldwide

AnchorFree, www.anchorfree.com, lists free WiFi hotspots and hot zones around the world.

Hotspot Haven, www.hotspothaven.com, is a worldwide guide to free and paid WiFi hotspots.

Hotspot-Locations.com, www.hotspotlocations.com, is dedicated to Wireless Networking and has been founded to offer a global Hotspot Database of Wireless Access Points to the general public, and currently lists over 32,000 hotspot locations worldwide.

JiWire, www.jiwire.com, lists 148,179 free and paid WiFi hotspots in 135 countries, with maps and driving directions when available.

MSN WiFi Hotspot Locator, <http://hotspot.msn.com>, lists 130,251 free and paid WiFi hotspots in 98 countries, including a map feature.

WiFi 411, www.wifi411.com, lists over 41,000 unique WiFi HotSpot locations worldwide.

WiFinder, www.wifinder.com, lists over 14,000 WiFi free and commercial hotspots around the world.

Wi-Fi FreeSpot, www.wififreespot.com, is a worldwide guide to free WiFi hotspots.

International Dial-Up Internet Access

Internet Access Providers Meta-List, www.herbison.com/her_bison/iap_meta_list.html.

MaGlobe, www.maglobe.net, provides prepaid dial-up Internet access for travelers worldwide.

NetAway, www.netaway.com, provides pre-paid pay-as-you go Internet access in 104 countries.

Steve Kropla's Help for World Travelers, www.kropla.com, provides information about [ISPs and Global Internet Roaming Services](#) worldwide.

The List, www.thelist.com, is an online directory of dial-up and broadband Internet Service Providers worldwide.

Worldwide Dialup, www.worldwidedialup.net, is an Internet roaming service with worldwide Internet connections via WiFi, Ethernet, and dialup in over 150 countries.

E-mail

If you use your computer's mail program for your e-mail communications (using POP protocol), you should make sure that your e-mail account is also IMAP enabled, before traveling abroad. This way you can access your e-mail on the internet from any public computer.

Also keep in mind that certain countries filter internet content and that not all international websites are available locally. To make sure that you can access your e-mail while traveling it is best to sign up with an e-mail provider that has a global presence and has homepages in most countries worldwide. Among the most popular e-mail services are:

Gmail.com, mail.google.com, is Google's free webmail, accessible from any computer.

Hotmail.com, www.hotmail.com, offers a free internet e-mail account which may be used at any cybercafe or any computer.

Yahoo.com, www.yahoo.com, offers a free internet e-mail account which may be used at any cybercafe or any computer.

Telephones and Cellular Phones Abroad

Cellhire USA LLC, www.cellhire.com, offers international cell phone rentals, SIM card rentals, and satellite phone rentals in 170 countries.

Cellular Abroad, www.cellularabroad.com, offers international cell phone rentals and prepaid SIM cards.

ekit, www.ekit.com, provides a suite of travel communication services including mobile phones, SIM cards, global calling cards, Internet calling, voicemail, text messaging and email solutions. These services are accessible worldwide from more than 152 countries.

Go-Sim, www.gosim.com, offers international and global SIM cards for GSM mobile phones.

InTouch Smartcards GSM Store, www.intouchsmartcards.com, offers unlocked GSM phones, satellite phones, and prepaid International SIM cards.

PlanetFone, www.planetfone.com, provides international GSM cell phone rentals for more than 150 countries, with weekly, monthly and long-term rates.

Steve Kropla's Help for World Travelers, www.kropla.com, provides a [World Wide Phone Guide](#), and [World Mobile Phone Guide](#), as well as [International Dialing Codes](#).

Note: Phone cards let you call the U.S. from overseas using English-speaking operators. Call for details and a wallet-card of toll-free numbers to reach the operator-service in each country:

AT&T, www.consumer.att.com, offers an international access calling card for overseas calls to the U.S., and has direct access phone numbers in many countries.

Global Phone: www.gphone.com, offers a [Global Calling Card](#) for 80 countries.

MCI, www.mci.com, offers an international calling card and has MCI access numbers in 125 countries worldwide.

Sprint, www.sprint.com, offers an [international calling card](#) (FONCARD) for telephone calls from 120 countries.

Source:

<http://www.transitionsabroad.com/navpages/links/beststayingconnected.shtml>

Keeping in Touch While You're Abroad

Staying connected with your family and friends is a great way to battle homesickness while you study abroad.

With international calling cards, international cell phones, and international VOIP calls, you have many calling options to choose from.

Find out which international calling option is best for you and keep in touch while you're seeing the world.

International Calling Cards

International calling cards make calling the States almost as easy as dialing direct, and certainly make it much cheaper:

- When you purchase an international calling card from [Comfi Phonecards](#) or a similar provider, you are purchasing a block of international calling minutes that can be accessed from any phone, including traditional landlines, cell phones, and pay phones.
- You keep your phone costs to a minimum, since you'll pay in advance, versus waiting for a phone bill to see what damage you've caused to your [student budget](#).
- Not only do these cards provide a cost-effective way of calling home, they are also very easy to replenish with additional funds online or over the phone with your [student credit card](#).

Alternatively, if you lose your international calling card or spend all of your minutes, it's easy to purchase a new one on the road.

[Discover the benefits of using an international calling card.](#)

International Cell Phones

Although your cell phone may meet your daily communication needs at home, it might not work abroad, as the U.S. has not adopted the same wireless and cell phone technologies that are standard in many countries. Your current cell phone provider can tell you which countries your phone will work in.

- As an alternative, you can rent or purchase an international cell phone with GSM technology that should work in many more countries around the world from a company like Sprint, or purchase a phone someone no longer needs on e-Bay.
- These cell phones can be used to dial direct or can be used in conjunction with international calling cards to make less expensive calls. And when you're back from your travels you can make a few extra bucks by selling your international cell phone on a site like [e-Bay](#) or [Craig's List](#).

[Click here to learn about international cell phones.](#)

International VOIP Calls

International VOIP calls are quickly becoming the "next big thing" for international calling. This emerging technology, which is also referred to as voice over internet protocol or broadband telephone service, allows you to use the internet as your phone, as long as you have a high speed internet connection like DSL or cable.

- To access service you simply plug a phone into a special phone adapter style router that a VOIP company like [ViaTalk](#) can provide you with. Monthly plans are available as flat rates that include calls plus voicemail, call waiting, and other features. And [Vonage](#), for example, includes

international VOIP calls to many European countries as part of a monthly plan.

- VOIP can work two ways for international calling. Your parents can sign up as a customer and call you using the VOIP technology, or you can sign up as a customer and take the VOIP technology on the road with you.
- You should check with the provider you ultimately choose, but if you sign up for Vonage in the States and bring your Vonage internet connector and your U.S. phone number with you, you'll be able to access your account through a high speed internet connection.
- Before you count on this extremely efficient and exciting international calling solution working for you, be sure to find out exactly what your internet connection options will be. If you won't have your own high speed internet connection, this might not be the solution for you.

Keeping in touch with your loved ones is imperative when you are studying abroad. Be sure to consider all of your international calling options and weigh cost scenarios against convenience and ease of use before you pick one product over another.

Source: http://www.studyabroadomain.com/international_calling.aspx

Skype

Skype is software that allows users to make telephone calls over the Internet. Calls to other users of the service and to free-of-charge numbers are free, while calls to other landlines and mobile phones can be made for a fee. Additional features include

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skype>

For more information about Skype, visit their website at:

<http://www.skype.com/intl/en/getconnected/>