

Using Your Cell Phone in Israel

Today's technology gives you the opportunity to stay connected while traveling—ensuring you get that memorable call, photo or message from your loved ones. In addition, mobile phones provide convenient access for emergencies and confirming travel plans. Some basic guidelines and tips will help you save money, keep your phone working effectively, stay on time and in touch.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Spending some time contacting your cell phone carrier in advance of your trip will help ensure you can call friends and family back home and eliminate any surprises on your phone bill when you return. Let your carrier know your travel plans, including how you plan to use your phone on your tour. You'll want to make sure you understand all of the potential charges before you travel. Contact your carrier for specific details. Below, we've listed several common mobile phone carriers.

[Verizon](#)

[AT&T](#)

[T-Mobile](#)

[Sprint](#)

CHECK WITH YOUR CARRIER FOR INTERNATIONAL DIALING ACCESS

You'll want to make sure international dialing access is active on your mobile phone plan, and remember that international and roaming rates will apply to calls placed during your trip (charges will appear on your phone bill). Because roaming rates can be high overseas, it's a good idea to check with your carrier for specific cost details before you leave.

SMARTPHONE TIPS

As one of the most popular communication devices today, smart phones have revolutionized the way we connect with each other and the world. We know it's difficult to leave your smart phone behind for an hour, much less multiple days. The following tips will help you save your phone's battery life and get the most out of your smartphone while on tour:

Before your trip, you'll want to disable any applications that give you regular updates, such as sports reports and weather updates.

When you board your flight, remember to set your phone to Airplane Mode. This suspends all calling and texting functions but still allows you to play games, use your camera and listen to music, etc. The flight attendants will request you to switch off your phone completely for take-off and landing. They will announce when it is okay to switch it back on while in flight.

On the trip, you'll want to charge your phone every night to ensure you'll have enough battery life for the next day. Make sure you bring the proper adapter to charge your phone in Israel, see [Using Electronics in Israel](#).

Try to turn off your phone when you're not using it. Leaving your phone on all day drains the battery, so it's a good idea to turn it off while you're touring a site, eating, or reading.

Disable the Data Enabled or Data Roaming option on your phone and keep it off until you reach your destination. Turn off the function for "Automatic" checking of emails and change the email settings to "Manual" to reduce data roaming charges. During your trip, you can check for email messages when you're connected to a free, wireless Internet connection, such as in a hotel lobby or Internet cafe.

PHONE CARDS AND RENTAL

If you choose to not bring your mobile phone, there are various ways to stay in touch with others during your travels. Here are three options to consider.

Phone cards purchased at home.

Phone cards purchased in Israel.

Phone Rental.

Hotel room phones