

Otter Connected: Phones Abroad, eSIMs, Roaming, Power Banks & Helpful Apps

Stay Connected While Travelling

Your phone can be one of the most useful tools when travelling. It can help you navigate, communicate, make payments, access emergency information, and stay in touch with family and friends. Knowing how to use it safely and efficiently can save you money and reduce stress.

1. Understanding eSIMs - How eSIMs work and why they're useful when travelling abroad.

What is an eSIM?

An **eSIM (embedded SIM)** is a digital SIM built into many modern smartphones. Instead of inserting a physical SIM card, you download a mobile plan directly onto your phone.

Benefits of an eSIM

- Keep your UK number active while using local data.
- Buy affordable data plans before you travel.
- No need to swap tiny SIM cards.
- Easy to switch between networks.
- Great for frequent travellers.



Before You Travel: Check whether your phone supports eSIM.

Popular compatible phones include many recent:

- iPhones (XS and newer)
- Google Pixel phones
- Samsung Galaxy S20 and newer
- Many newer Motorola and Huawei devices



2. Roaming Explained - How to check your phone provider's roaming rules.

What is Roaming?

Roaming allows your phone to use another country's mobile network when you're away from home.

Depending on your mobile provider, this may:

- be included
- have a daily charge
- charge per minute, text or MB of data

Before You Leave you should check:

- Is roaming included?
- Which countries are covered?
- Is there a daily charge?
- Is there a data limit?
- Can you buy a travel add-on?

3. Avoid Unexpected Charges - How to avoid expensive roaming charges.

Mobile data charges abroad can become expensive if you're not careful.

Save Money By

- Connecting to trusted Wi-Fi whenever possible.
- Turning off mobile data when you don't need it.
- Disabling automatic app updates.
- Downloading films, music and maps before you travel.
- Using messaging apps over Wi-Fi.

Watch Out For situations that use lots of data

- Streaming video
- Cloud photo backups
- Automatic software updates
- Social media videos
- Large downloads

4. Battery Saving Tips - Smart ways to manage your phone battery.

When travelling you'll often spend long days away from power sockets. Simple habits can make your battery last much longer.

Save Battery By

- Lowering screen brightness.
- Turning on Battery Saver or Low Power Mode.
- Closing apps you're not using.
- Switching off Bluetooth when not needed.
- Turning off Wi-Fi if you're nowhere near a network.
- Reducing screen timeout.
- Using Airplane Mode when there's no signal.

Poor signal can drain batteries quickly because your phone keeps searching for a network.

5. Using a Power Bank Safely - How to use power banks safely.

A power bank is a portable battery that can recharge your phone while you're away from mains electricity. Most airlines require power banks to be carried in **hand luggage**, not checked baggage. Always check your airline's battery size limits before flying.

Good Practice

- Charge the power bank before leaving.
- Carry the correct charging cable.
- Keep it dry.
- Protect it from extreme heat.
- Recharge it regularly.
- Store it safely in your backpack.

6. Helpful Apps for Travel - The best apps for maps, translation, weather and emergencies.

Navigation

- Google Maps
- Maps.me
- Apple Maps

Download maps before travelling so they work without mobile data.

Translation

Useful apps include:

- Google Translate
- Microsoft Translator
- DeepL

Many can:

- translate conversations
- read signs using your camera
- work offline if languages are downloaded beforehand

Weather

Useful weather apps help plan camping and outdoor activities.

Examples include:

- Met Office
- AccuWeather
- Windy

Emergency & Safety

Useful features include:

- Emergency SOS
- Medical ID
- Find My iPhone
- Find My Device (Android)
- What3Words (helps emergency services locate you precisely)



Staying Safe Online Abroad

Public Wi-Fi can be useful but isn't always secure.

Stay Safe

- Avoid online banking on public Wi-Fi.
- Use trusted networks whenever possible.
- Turn off automatic Wi-Fi connection.
- Keep your phone updated.
- Use a screen lock or biometric security.
- Enable Find My Device or Find My iPhone.

Quick Travel Tech Checklist

Before you leave:

- ☐ Check roaming costs.
- ☐ Decide whether an eSIM is worth using.
- ☐ Download offline maps.
- ☐ Download translation languages.
- ☐ Charge your power bank.
- ☐ Pack charging cables.
- ☐ Enable Find My Device/Find My iPhone.
- ☐ Save emergency contacts.
- ☐ Back up important photos and documents.
- ☐ Check your phone charger is compatible with your destination's plug type.

Key Takeaways

- eSIMs can make mobile data abroad simpler and often cheaper.
- Always check roaming charges before you travel.
- Use Wi-Fi and offline tools to reduce data costs.
- A charged power bank can keep your phone running all day.
- Offline maps and translation apps are invaluable when travelling.
- Keeping your phone secure and prepared gives you confidence wherever your journey takes you.

Why it matters: Modern camping and travel rely on smart, safe use of technology. Understanding your phone, connectivity options, and essential travel apps helps you stay connected, navigate confidently, save money, and respond effectively if something goes wrong.