

## How to Make an International Call when Traveling Overseas




There are several ways to make calls while traveling in China or elsewhere in Asia. Please review the information listed below and you can decide what will be best for you based on convenience and budget. As you can see, some options are very inexpensive but may require more work, such as creating a Skype account and having a good Wi-Fi connection. Other options may be more convenient allowing you to call from any location at anytime of day with good cell phone reception, but will be more expensive. However, it is important to note that good Wi-Fi is easily accessible in Asia unless you are in a very remote area and all hotels in or near cities usually have excellent connections.

### 1. Skype

The most affordable way to make a call when traveling in China and Asia is to use Skype. First, you will need to create an account at <http://www.skype.com/en/> and download the Skype app on your smartphone, tablet, and/or laptop. With Skype you can make free calls from anywhere in the world to someone else on Skype, but it requires a stable Wi-Fi connection or mobile data plan. You can easily call someone's mobile or landline via Skype at low per minute rates. The price depends on the country in which you are calling to, not the country you are calling from. There are two ways to put money in your Skype account, with credit (i.e. \$10 at a time) or a monthly subscription. Unless you are need to call overseas phone numbers on a regular basis, then Skype credit is the best option. You can set up your payment to automatically refill your account when it is getting low (i.e. another \$10) and therefore, you will not get cut off from someone you are speaking to. However, a one-month calling plan may be more cost effecting if you need to make lots of calls while overseas. Listed below are the rates for calling US numbers from another country.

#### Monthly Subscription Plan

Choose your United States mobiles and landlines subscription USD - American Dollars ▾

 Unlimited US & Canada* <a href="#">What's included?</a> \$2.99/month	 Unlimited North America* <a href="#">What's included?</a> \$7.99/month	 Unlimited World* <a href="#">What's included?</a> \$13.99/month
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## Choose billing period

Pay every month

Pay every 3 months **SAVE 5%**

Pay every 12 months **SAVE 15%**



You've selected calls to mobiles & landlines:

### Unlimited US & Canada

\$2.99, billed monthly\*\*

Buy Selection →

## Skype Credit (i.e. Pay As You Go)

Skype Credit rates to United States

USD - American Dollars ▼

From:

2.3¢/min<sup>†</sup>

Add Skype Credit

Send a text message to United States for just 11.2¢/message. [See all rates to United States](#)

Please click on the link below to find out more about Skype's international calling rates: [https://secure.skype.com/en/calling-rates?wt.mc\\_id=legacy](https://secure.skype.com/en/calling-rates?wt.mc_id=legacy). After choosing your Skype plan, simply click on "Buy Selection" or "Add Skype Credit" to purchase a monthly subscription plan or add credit to your Skype account.

## 2. International Calling Plan

If you are at all concerned about Wi-Fi connections or feel the need be able to make international calls anytime of the day, then you may want to consider purchasing an International Travel Package from your mobile phone carrier. However, it is important to note that this options is much more expensive than using Skype.

## AT&T International Travel Packages

### Cell phone packages

Package	Passport	Passport Silver	Passport Gold
<b>Charge</b> (One-time for 30 days or monthly recurring)	<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$60</b>	<b>\$120</b>
<b>Unlimited Texting<sup>3</sup></b> (Text, picture & video)	<b>Unlimited<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Unlimited<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Unlimited<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Talk</b> (Per minute*)	\$1.00	\$0.50	\$0.35
<b>Cellular data</b> (Includes email, Web browsing, social media posts, etc.)	120MB Overage: \$0.25/MB	300MB Overage: \$0.20/MB	800MB Overage: \$0.15/MB
<b>Wi-Fi access at participating hotspots<sup>5</sup></b>	Not included	<b>Unlimited<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Unlimited<sup>5</sup></b>

**Pay-per-use rates** apply without a package, when traveling in countries not included in a package, or when a package expires. Passport packages do not apply on cruise ships. See if a [cruise package](#) is available for your cruise line.

**\*Please note:** If you add AT&T Passport to an AT&T Unlimited, Mobile Share or Mobile Share Value plan with the AT&T Mexico Roaming Bonus<sup>SM</sup> feature, Passport rates **will not apply** when traveling in Mexico. Mexico Roaming Bonus rates take priority. With Mexico Roaming Bonus, international long distance pay-per-use rates apply to calls made from Mexico to other international countries unless you have an international long distance package for your device. For more details, visit [att.com/mexicoroaming](http://att.com/mexicoroaming).

### Pay-per-use rates

Pay-per-use rates apply without a package, when traveling in countries not included in a package, or when a package expires.

Type of Service	Country/Location	Price
<b>Talk</b> (Per minute)	<b>Canada/Mexico</b> <b>Europe</b> ( <a href="#">View countries &gt;</a> ) <b>Rest of World</b> ( <a href="#">View countries &gt;</a> )	<b>\$1.00</b> <b>\$1.50</b> <b>\$2.50</b>
<b>Messages sent</b> (Text, picture & video)	<a href="#">View countries &gt;</a>	<b>\$0.50/text</b> <b>\$1.30/picture &amp; video</b>
<b>Cellular data</b> (Includes email, Web browsing, social media posts, etc.)	<a href="#">View countries &gt;</a> <b>Cruise Ships/Airlines</b>	<b>\$0.002/KB</b> (\$2.05/MB) <sup>6</sup> <b>\$0.01/KB</b> (\$10.24/MB) <sup>6</sup>

Standard domestic messaging rates apply to text, picture, and video messages received.

For more information, please visit

<https://www.att.com/shop/en/wireless/international/roaming.html> or call their customer service center.

## Verizon International Travel Packages

Monthly international travel pricing					
	Mexico & Canada			Other 140+ countries	
<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$15 /mo</b> per device	<b>\$25 /mo</b> per device‡	<b>\$10 /mo</b> per device	<b>\$25 /mo</b> per device	<b>\$40 /mo</b> per device
<b>Talk</b>	<b>100</b> minutes	<b>500</b> minutes	<b>\$0.99 /min</b>	<b>\$1.79 /min</b>	<b>100</b> minutes
<b>Text</b>	<b>100 sent</b> <b>Unlimited</b> received	<b>500 sent</b> <b>Unlimited</b> received	<b>\$0.50/sent</b> <b>\$0.05/received</b>	<b>\$0.50/sent</b> <b>\$0.05/received</b>	<b>100 sent</b> <b>Unlimited</b> received
<b>Data</b>	<b>100 MB</b> monthly allowance*	<b>1GB</b> monthly allowance**	<b>100 MB</b> monthly allowance***	<b>100 MB</b> monthly allowance****	<b>100 MB</b> monthly allowance†

For more information, please visit

<http://www.verizonwireless.com/landingpages/international-travel/> or call their customer service center.

\* It is important to note that not all carriers provide international calling and data service in every country around the world. Therefore, it is best to check with your carrier to make sure that you will be able to call home from the country you are traveling to before you purchase an International Travel Package.

### 3. Local SIM Card

You can also buy a temporary local SIM card upon arrival at the airport or at a convenience store. If you are using a smartphone then it is important to make sure that your mobile phone is unlocked before you depart the country. If you bought your smartphone recently, then it is already unlocked as this is now standard procedure. However, if your phone was purchased more than a few months ago, then please contact your carrier to make sure it is or will be unlocked. Make sure you take care of this at least two weeks in advance as it can take some time for your service provider to unlock your smartphone. Please review this useful article regarding unlocking a smartphone: <http://www.businessinsider.com/unlock-your-iphone-before-traveling-abroad-2016-3?amp>. The rate of calling the United States from China with a local SIM card is typically \$1.20 to \$1.30 per minute and must be paid with credit (i.e. pay as you go) in the local currency (i.e. Chinese Yuan) with set amounts at a time.

### 4. Hotel Room Phone

There will always be a phone in your hotel room and the vast majority of hotels in Asia allow for international calls. Please check with the front desk for instructions upon check-in. Rates will vary from one hotel to the next, but expect to pay anywhere from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per minute. International calls will be added to your bill, payable upon checkout. However, local calls are typically free of charge, so feel free to call you tour guide if you require assistance.