

RHAPSODY IN GREEN

Communicating While Traveling



Using Your U.S. Cell Phone



Roaming with your cell phone outside the U.S. generally comes with extra charges, whether you are making voice calls, sending texts, or accessing data (going online over a cellular network rather than WiFi, a.k.a., "data roaming"). If you plan to bring your own phone to Europe, start by assessing how you will use it — whether you will be making a few or a lot of phone calls, sending and receiving text messages, and how freely and frequently you'll want to get online to check email, look up websites, access maps, get driving directions, or use other mobile apps.

You can pay as you go on your normal plan for all three services, but the costs can add up (on average, about \$2.00/minute for voice calls, 50 cents to send text messages, 5 cents to receive them, and \$20 to download one megabyte of data). To reduce your data charges, always check for the availability of WiFi. Most hotels and many restaurants offer free WiFi, but remember, these are often unsecured networks.

Travelers who want to stay connected at a lower cost can sign up for an international service plan through their carrier. Most offer some sort of global calling plan that cuts the per-minute cost of phone calls and a flat-fee data plan that includes a certain number of megabytes. Some providers now offer unlimited per-day plans for a minimal daily cost and it's possible that your normal plan may already include international coverage.

Contact your mobile phone provider to determine if your phone is global ready and can be used in Ireland. If so, ask to have your mobile phone ENABLED for international use. Depending on your provider, you may be able to add this service online. Plan on doing this at least 1 WEEK before departure.

Calling/Texting the U.S. from your U.S. Cell Phone

Hold the "0" button down until the + sign appears, then enter 1 (area code) number.

Example: +1-555-555-1212

Internet & Computers

All hotels on the main tour and the Belfast/Scotland extension provide free WiFi.

