



BIKING • SEA KAYAKING • HIKING • WILDLIFE TOURS

Using Cell Phones Abroad:

If you have a smart phone (iphone, Blackberry, Samsung, etc.), we suggest you contact your phone service provider and purchase an international contract for the month you will be traveling. You can purchase data, (100 MB is about \$25 with Verizon) which will allow you to get internet and email. Yes, adding international service is an extra cost, and we don't recommend surfing the web using international data, as your data allowance will be drained really quickly, but it's an invaluable tool to have just in case you need to consult google maps or call someone.

Even if you don't need data (internet) we strongly suggest activating international phone service for the month. You will pay per minute on incoming and outgoing calls which is usually over \$1/minute. You'll also pay for incoming and outgoing text messages. But if you don't make any calls, you won't pay anything, and it's good to have just in case. On your phone, you can turn off cellular service to avoid incoming calls or messages that you would be charged for, then you can turn on the service if you need to make a call.

The other great thing about bringing your smart phone / tablet with you is that wherever you have wifi, you'll be able to check emails and make (free or very cheap) skype calls to friends and family.

If you want to have a phone for calling within the country where you are traveling, we suggest purchasing or renting a phone while you are there. If you have an unlocked phone that will work with the frequency of the country where you are traveling, that is also a great choice. Then, you purchase a Sim card when you arrive. Local calls will be around 0.25/minute and **you do not pay when you receive a call (local or international)** So if you have a European phone, you could give your number to friends and family who could make the international call using skype, and you would pay nothing. Sim cards cost between \$5 – \$20, depending on the country. You purchase the amount of time you would like for your phone. Most folks will purchase about \$20 for a starter and then will recharge as needed.

In our Nichols Expeditions office, we have a couple European cell phones available for our guests to use. Just give us a call, and we will be happy to send you a cell phone with a charger prior to your tour. Then, you will just need to purchase the Sim card and minutes when you arrive in Europe. When you return home, you will need to send back the phone and charging unit.