



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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## FCC ANNOUNCES *WIRELESS WORLD TRAVEL WEEK*

*FCC and Wireless Providers Offer Money-Saving Calling Tips for Foreign Travel*

Washington, DC -- The Federal Communications Commission's Consumer Task Force has designated the week of June 21 as *Wireless World Travel Week* to coincide with the beginning of summer and a busy travel season. Americans make over 60 million international trips each year, and many take their mobile phones with them. Throughout the week, the FCC and wireless companies will offer tips to help travelers save money on international wireless use.

"International calling can be complicated and confusing, so we're devoting a whole week to help consumers become well informed," says Joel Gurin, Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau of the FCC. "With awareness, information, and help from their wireless provider, consumers can avoid billing surprises when they return from their travels."

*Wireless World Travel Week* will include daily tips on international calling from the FCC's "Savvy Traveler" blog posts and Twitter page, a video, and a Tip Sheet for consumers.

"People can become savvy travelers before their trips overseas by checking with their wireless providers to learn about international calling and data fees for their mobile phone plans. A little preparation and education can save consumers a bundle," advises Mindel De La Torre, Chief of the FCC's International Bureau.

The initiative will focus on many consumer tips during the week.

- **Consumers should check with their wireless providers.** Find out about the options and costs for using wireless phones outside of the US before traveling. Consumers should remember to turn off features such as automatic e-mail updates when taking wireless phones abroad.
- **Look for alternatives to using your regular mobile phone and plan.** Travelers should look into alternative calling options before leaving the US. It could be more affordable to rent a mobile phone, buy a SIM card for use in countries visited, or use calling cards when making calls from other countries.
- **Internet calling is a cheap (sometimes free) way of making calls.** Calling over the Internet with Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) is a good option where there is access to high-speed Internet or a Wi-Fi hotspot. VoIP calls are cheaper than traditional calls but

require a computer, a compatible smartphone, or a special VoIP phone when outside of the US (consumers should be aware of 911 capabilities and limitations of any VoIP phone before making a decision to purchase it). Also, while VoIP calls can be made from a wireless Wi-Fi hotspot, it's important to make sure that the phone does not automatically connect to an international mobile network, which can be more expensive to access than the Wi-Fi hotspot.

- **World phones are a good choice for frequent travelers.** Frequent international travelers should look into different plans and providers of world phones, which are less expensive to use internationally than standard wireless phones.

The *Wireless World Travel Week* is meant to offer consumers helpful information for their trips abroad. Each day of the week will address a different topic of concern, as outlined below:

### ***Wireless World Travel Week Schedule***

**Monday:** *Wireless World Travel Week* Kick-off  
**Tuesday:** Getting Ready for an International Trip  
**Wednesday:** Calling Options from Overseas (Wireless and Landlines)  
**Thursday:** VoIP – Calling Over the Internet  
**Friday:** Returning Home

For more information, the Task Force has published a tip sheet entitled *Wireless World Travel Made Simple*, available for international travelers at [www.fcc.gov/worldtravel](http://www.fcc.gov/worldtravel). The tip sheet includes information for major wireless providers. Consumers can also view the “Savvy Traveler” blog posts at [www.fcc.gov/consumers](http://www.fcc.gov/consumers) for the “Do’s and Don’ts” of International Calling, the FCC’s Twitter page at [www.twitter.com/fcc](http://www.twitter.com/fcc) and a video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=tF54w9IHJ8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tF54w9IHJ8).