

Travel Phone & eSIM Workbook

Choose connectivity before choosing a plan

A usable phone plan depends on the device, route and tasks you need.

Begin with the phone you will carry. Confirm eSIM support for its exact model and region, carrier-unlock status and the plan's supported destinations. Some plans supply data only; that may not provide ordinary calls or texts to your existing number. Work out what the traveler actually needs before buying.

1. List the tasks: maps, family messages, airline updates, local calls or account verification.
2. Ask the provider when validity starts: purchase, installation, activation or first network connection.
3. Check installation instructions and whether the QR code needs another screen or device.
4. Write a plan for the home line, roaming and any required verification messages.

Keep a working fallback

Offline details, a familiar contact and a provider support route are still needed. Do not delete an existing eSIM or change the home plan just because a new travel plan has been installed.

Worked example: two phones, two solutions

Fictional family trip; the device and carrier rules must be checked individually.

Traveler	Need	Decision to investigate
Pat	Maps and family messaging on an unlocked compatible phone	A data plan covering the destination, with clear activation rules.
Jo	Ordinary calls to the existing number on a locked phone	Existing carrier roaming options or another compatible arrangement.
Both	Reach hotel without mobile data	Saved address, booking and offline route information.

Pat does not assume that a data-only eSIM provides ordinary SMS. Jo does not buy a travel eSIM before checking the lock status. They compare the total trip cost and the tasks covered, not just the number of gigabytes.

The task my current plan does not cover

The compatibility answer I still need