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If you're planning an international trip, Apple just released a new how-to video on the Apple Support YouTube channel explaining how to stay connected using a [travel eSIM](#). Watch the video below to see the full walkthrough, then follow these steps to get started.

When you're traveling internationally, you have three main ways to use mobile

data:

- Use your carrier's international roaming plan if they offer one.
- Buy an eSIM from a local carrier in the country you're visiting.
- Get a prepaid global eSIM from a worldwide provider.

For this guide, Apple uses an international eSIM example on an iPhone 17 Pro with iOS 26, but it also works on any iPhone XS, XR, or newer that supports eSIM.

Some popular eSIM travel data offerings include [Saily \(from the makers of NordVPN\)](#) and [Airalto](#). It's way cheaper to buy eSIM data than pay daily roaming rates with a 'Big 3' carrier.

Setting up your travel eSIM

After buying a travel eSIM, you might be redirected straight to your Cellular settings to activate it. If prompted, tap **Activate**, then wait a few minutes. When setup completes, tap **Continue** and choose **Abroad** when asked where you'll use the eSIM.

Next, select **Voice and Data**, then tap **Continue** again. Your eSIM will now appear in your list of SIMs, ready for when you travel.

Turning on your eSIM abroad

When you arrive at your destination, you can activate your travel eSIM from a notification on your lock screen, or manually through **Settings** → **Cellular**. From there, you can:

- Turn on Travel eSIM only to use that line for calls, texts, and data.

- Or choose Travel eSIM and current line if you want to keep your home number active—but be aware this may incur roaming charges.

To conserve data, you can also turn on **Low Data Mode**.

Returning home

When your trip ends, simply turn off your travel eSIM in Cellular settings. Your iPhone may also switch back automatically to your regular line and alert you with a notification. Apple reminds users that eSIM functionality depends on carrier support and regional availability.

Check out their [full video tutorial](#) below:

