

If you are traveling in the U.S. or internationally and want to check your email, there are many public libraries, web cafés, full-service copy stores and other locations, including cruise ships, that provide a computer and Internet access, usually for a per-minute or other incremental fee. You'll usually find it easier to access your email on a web page, rather than through your regular email program, to avoid set-up problems and possible long-distance charges. ISPs have free local access numbers across the USA. Check with your Internet Service Provider (ISP) on how to access web-based email. In some circumstances you may need to include your entire email address as your login, not just your "login name" (the first part of your email address before the @ sign). Or you can create a free email account before you go. Search the Internet for [Google Mail](#) , [Yahoo Mail](#) or [Hotmail](#) to find out how.

If you have your laptop with you, many hotels and motels provide free or low-cost broadband access. You should bring an Ethernet cable with you, in case one is not provided. If only dial-up access is available, you can use the telephone line from the phone. Some ISPs provide limited dial-up access if you have a broadband account. If your ISP does not, you can set up your computer with a free trial of America Online before you go (check for local access numbers in the cities you are visiting) or research other local ISPs. If your computer has wireless connectivity, there are a growing number of "hotspots" where you can find free or paid wireless (WiFi) access. Search for "[WiFi hotspots](#)" to find lists of locations around the world.

Most countries outside the U.S. use higher voltage for electronic equipment. You will need a transformer to reduce the voltage to your computer as well as an outlet adapter for the different plug shape.

Find some important cautions for wireless computing at Tech Republic: [Ten Wi-Fi Security Tips](#)