

The internet speed and quality where you are relocating to isn't the same as you may currently experience in the US. You will be able to purchase a hotspot, portable router and even a landline router upon arrival if you desire a more efficient internet package than your mobile device or place of residence provide.

Additionally, as mentioned below, a VPN will allow you to access US sites internationally, as many US sites are blocked or restricted in some countries. A VPN will allow you to bypass these restrictions.

We recommend relocating with a US mobile number to maintain any business, government assistance programs or accounts that will require a US mobile number as a form of contact. However, do consider monthly fees, in addition to international roaming, data, and call/text charges, which can become quite costly over time. Below are some budget friendly suggestions to maintain a(n) US number. If necessary, be sure to update your new mobile number as the point of contact for all pertinent accounts, i.e., online banking, email access, billing information, work related, unemployment, etc.

- 1. Unlock your smartphone(s) or purchase an unlocked phone** – An unlocked phone is not tied to a specific phone carrier and can be used on any carrier you choose both domestically and internationally.
  - Mobile devices need to be unlocked to change or add an international SIM Card, to obtain an international number for communication in your new destination.
    - Carriers like AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon require a minimum of 6 months after purchase before you are eligible to unlock your mobile device, in addition, the device **MUST** be completely paid off.
  - For more information on unlocked phones, [click here](#).
  - For information on unlocking your current phone, [click here](#).
  - If purchasing a new phone, **consider a phone with dual or multiple SIM card capabilities**, this will allow you to access both an international and US number from the same device.
- 2. Apps and devices with WIFI calling options** – as an alternative to maintaining your current mobile contract in the states, these options will allow you to potentially keep your current phone number or maintain a US number for any business or accounts still requiring a US mobile contact number.
  - [Google Voice](#)
  - Skype Local Number
  - [MagicJack®](#)
  - For additional options, [click here](#)
- 3. Contract free mobile SIM cards** – another alternative to maintaining a US number without a traditional carrier is by purchasing a prepaid SIM card through a provider such as [Ultramobile](#) or [Lycamobile](#), which have low rate plans that allow unlimited talk and text, extended plan options as well as the option to upgrade or downgrade your plans as you need based on usage.
4. WhatsApp (privacy is terrible) or Telegram accounts will allow for communication with people state side for free (if each person is connected to Wi-Fi).
- 5. Setup a VPN** – a virtual private network, or VPN, is an encrypted connection over the Internet from a device to a network. The encrypted connection helps ensure that sensitive

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data is safely transmitted. This will allow you to continue to access US websites that may be restricted in your new destination. **Make sure to setup your VPN on your mobile device(s), laptop(s), tablet(s) and/or desktop computer(s) while still state side so you have a US IP address** (which is the set of rules governing the format of data sent via the internet or local network) **at the time of installation.** This will ensure you maintain access to any US jobsites and online banking.

- Surf Shark
- ExpressVPN™
- NordVPN®, *restricted in Egypt*

6. For online account management, **make sure to let the bank know you are traveling so they don't block your account access.**