

5 tech-related things to keep in mind when packing for a trip

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5. Download entertainment content in advance when there is no network connection

Many of us have learned this lesson the hard way on countless long-haul trips where cell service is lost for hours at a time. There are few things like the disappointment of boarding a six-hour flight only to find your phone's download list empty while everyone else is binge-watching movies. It's even worse when you're left with an outdated 2015 movie catalog from the airline or terminal.

That's why it's important to download your entertainment while you're still connected to Wi-Fi and logged into your home network. Most major streaming services, like Netflix , Amazon Prime Video, and Disney+, offer offline viewing.

⚙️ Smart Downloads

Turn on Downloads for You

We'll download movies and shows just for you, so you'll always have something to watch.



Set Up

Find More to Download



Home



Games



New & Hot



My Netflix



← Categories



Available for Download ▾



H O U S E_{MD}

Provocative • Irreverent • Drama • Medical • TV

▶ Play **+ My List**

Asian TV Shows



Home



Games



New & Hot



My Netflix





Let's get started

Choose how many GB of movies and shows you want downloaded for you. You can always update this in Settings > Smart Downloads.



− 3.0 +

GB WILL BE USED


3.0 GB is about 12 hours of movies and shows. Downloading only happens on Wi-Fi.

TURN ON




← App Settings

Video Playback

 Cellular Data Usage
Save Data

Notifications


 Allow Notifications
Customize in Settings → Notifications

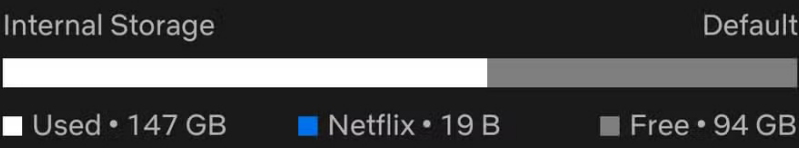
Downloads

 Wi-Fi Only

 Smart Downloads

 Download Video Quality
Standard

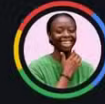
 Download Location
Internal Storage



4. Pre-install offline translation packages

Trying to figure out what coda alla vaccinara means while standing in a restaurant in Rome with spotty or no signal is not the ideal time to learn that Microsoft Translator relies on an Internet connection for most of its features. You've probably been in this situation more times than you'd like to admit, which is why it's important to remember to download offline language packs before you start packing.

Google Translate 's offline camera mode can translate printed text, such as menus, signs, and packaging, instantly, even when you're completely offline.



Enter text

 Paste

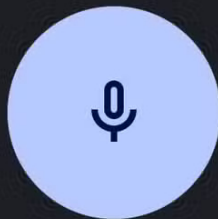
English



Spanish



Conversation




Camera



← Downloaded languages

When you download multiple languages, you can translate between them without an Internet connection.


Downloaded


English 

German 24.77 MB/58.05 MB 


Tap to download

Afrikaans 


Albanian 


Amharic 

Arabic 

Armenian 

Azerbaijani 

Basque 

Belarusian 

Bengali 

Meanwhile, iTranslate has a dedicated offline mode, although it is not included in the free features.

iTranslate



Start typing...

English (GB)



Spanish (Spain)

Offline Mode



Text



Camera



Voice



Phrasebook




More






Start typing...

Download to translate offline

 English 11 MB

 Spanish 38 MB

Cancel

Download

Offline Mode



Text

Camera

Voice

Phrasebook

More





Translate to



Updates for Offline Languages available

MAYBE LATER

UPDATE ALL

Detect Language

All Languages

Afrikaans



Albanian



Arabic (Egypt)



Arabic (Saudi)



Arabic (UAE)





Armenian



Azerbaijani



Download to translate offline

-  English 11 MB
-  Spanish 38 MB

Requires Internet connection

[Cancel](#) [Download](#)



3. Prioritize digital gear preparation like packing important luggage

Your phone is as essential as your passport when traveling, but most of us spend more time thinking about which shoes to pack than we do about our tech. But a little digital preparation can save you from those frustrating moments when technology fails you at the worst possible time.

Start with the basics: Update your essential apps and free up storage space for all those photos you're sure to take. Better yet, carry a portable storage device in your bag so you don't have to "delete old photos to free up space" mid-trip.

By the way, download offline maps for everywhere you go. You'll be thankful for it when you're wandering around a new city and suddenly lose signal when you need directions the most.

2. Prepare for App Store limits and content restrictions

Nothing ruins the mood like discovering your favorite apps have stopped working the moment you step off the plane. Unfortunately, this digital culture shock is more common than you might think. Some countries have strict restrictions on certain apps and services, which can leave you scrambling to find alternatives.

Geo-blocking is probably the most common problem you'll encounter. The Netflix library in Thailand looks completely different than what you're used to at home, and that's just the tip of the iceberg. In some places, entire services are banned. WhatsApp doesn't work in China, many Google services are restricted, and even seemingly innocuous apps like Skype can be restricted.

1. Load necessary emergency information before leaving

It's a situation no one wants to imagine: You're in a foreign land, something's wrong, and you need help fast. Your phone has little to no signal, you're stressed, and you don't know who to call or how to explain where you are. This is exactly when you'll be thankful you took the five minutes to load emergency information onto your phone before you left home.

Start by learning and memorizing the local emergency numbers for your destination. In many places, police, fire, and paramedics have their own lines. A quick Google search is probably all you need to find them.

Next, save your accommodation information somewhere you can access it offline. This includes the name, address, and contact number of your hotel or Airbnb, along with directions or a screenshot of the map in case you get lost or your GPS doesn't work. If you're traveling to a place where you don't speak the language, consider saving a translated copy of your accommodation address. It can be helpful to get help from taxi drivers or locals.

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