



## Electronics

### Phones and Internet Access

- Most likely, your cell phone will not simply work as normal upon your arrival in Europe. Check with your cell phone provider in advance about their international use, as cost and the amount of data provided varies wildly amongst providers.
- If your provider makes it prohibitively expensive to use your phone abroad, one option is to buy a European SIM card to use in your phone when you arrive. These can be bought in London, but we find it's easier to purchase them in advance. You can find them for purchase on Amazon and other places—just search “European SIM.” In order to use a European SIM, your phone must be unlocked. (Not sure? Ask your provider.)
- Do you even want data? It may not be necessary. You could put your phone in airplane mode and use wi-fi for the duration of the trip. With services like WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger, you can make calls easily. Wi-fi will be available in the hotels, and in some restaurants and museums, though by no means all. (We find that wi-fi availability is a little more limited in Europe than in the U.S.)

### Converters and Adapters

- Outlets in the U.S. provide 120 V of voltage. Outlets in England and France provide 230 V. Therefore, in order to use American electronics, you must have something that will convert the 230 V to a usable 120 V for your device. Most devices--things like computer cords and cell phone chargers--have these converters built right into the cord. To check, look for tiny script with a voltage rating.
- Provided your device has a voltage converter built in, you will simply need an adapter, so your device's plug fits into foreign outlets:
  - English outlets are Type G.
  - French outlets are Type C.
  - Search for “European outlet adapter” and you should be able to find one to purchase that includes both types you'll need.
- If you have a device that does not convert voltage (typical examples include electric razors or curling irons, and certain older cell phone chargers), you will need a converter/adapter combo. These are typically a bit more expensive. Search for “voltage converter” and look for one that has the adapter types you need.

Let us know if you have any additional questions about electronics usage abroad!