



## TRAVEL TIPS

### How to use Skype

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Everyone has heard at least once of Skype, the free communication system from the multinational Microsoft. Why use Skype instead of the phone to make our calls?



First, because Skype goes much further. It knows no boundaries nor computer limitations. It works anywhere in the world where you can find an Internet connection. It uses a technology called VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol), which means "voice transmitted over the Internet." And it also works well from either a PC running Windows or Linux, Mac, tablet, or a smart phone of some recent TVs. It even adds video to audio. In this sense, it is not only a solution for the free phone replacement, but a complete videoconferencing tool. As a bonus, it allows instant messaging and texting, so popular with the youth.

Moreover, Skype offers certain à la carte functions where you have to pay (eg. Skype To Go, which allows you to make international calls at low cost from mobile or landline). However, these supplement subscriptions do not work in all countries.

To use Skype, you must have a microphone and a video camera. Many portable computers, almost all tablets (iPad or others) and all smart phones have these small devices. As for desk top computers, it is affordable (expect between \$ 20 and \$ 80) and easy to connect a USB microphone jack, a headphone or a web camera (audio included).

You should also have a stable internet connection and the high speed option. It is possible to use Skype with a modem 56 kb / s, but the experience may be disappointing : delays, broken sentences, distortion, etc.. As for the video, you should forget it.

You're ready to go!

To use Skype, you must first download and install the software: [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)

Then you must constitute a list of correspondents. The software can import your contacts from Hotmail, Gmail, Outlook, Facebook, etc., to give you a hand. However, just to become familiar with Skype, it is best to go to one contact at a time; here, the only difficulty is to know the Skype name of the contact you wish to add to your list ...

Once you have set up your list of correspondents, an email is sent to warn him/her of our intentions. If he/she accepts your invitation, the connection becomes "alive"; you may then make a call. Should the correspondent be available (presence of a green checkmark to the right of its name), he/she can be



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reached by clicking the "Call" button. We want to start a video session? One only has to click on "Video Call". Simple as that!



Skype is a software which the basic can be mastered in the first half hour of use. Thereafter, in small doses, the rest occurs.

Good sessions!