

Ask the Readers: How Do You Score Free Wi-Fi While Traveling?

Written by

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by Jacqueline Lawson
Managing Editor

Email surveys are in and we asked you to share your favorite tricks for scoring free Wi-Fi while on the road. Now we're back to share the wealth; read on to see how your fellow readers stay connected while traveling.

By far the most popular technique was looking for restaurants and coffee shops that offer free Wi-Fi service. Five years ago the idea that every other establishment in the airport or down a busy street would offer free wireless internet would be a dream. Most readers had little trouble scoring free Wi-Fi from such establishments. Sandra writes:

In addition to the aforementioned McDonalds, I would add Dennys, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Panera Bread, and of course lobbies of Hotels w/ free Wi-Fi.

Nicolas shared a little tidbit that many people may be unaware of:

I have a Sprint phone, and when all else fails, I just call to activate the hotspot, use it for as long as necessary, and then call to deactivate it. Sprint is great in that respect because I only pay for the meager amount I use, not the whole \$29.99 package.

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When free Wi-Fi is near, I snag it. My favorite hot spots are cafes, book stores, hotel lobbies, and fast food joints where I seem to end up anyway when I travel! Also, the convention centers I attend usually have a Wi-Fi option, and it is usually free. I don't bother "looking" for Wi-Fi, I just let my iPad or my droid phone search for it, and when they find it, I enjoy it!

We had no idea that Sprint allowed you to activate the hotspot functionality on a need-to-use basis. They certainly don't publicize it.

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