

OPERA NEWS

Travellers share their data roaming charges horror stories

Peko Wan / July 2, 2016

 (8)

Vacations are time to relax and enjoy, not for worrying about bill shock after you return. Data roaming charges for using your phone abroad can make your post-getaway mobile bill much higher than you expect.



Image credit: <http://90s90s90s.com/post/125432353919>

We interviewed four frequent travelers who became victims in roaming data charges horror stories, and examined how it happened. Even the most seasoned travelers can be caught unawares by data roaming drama!

Joe and Brandon: roaming in a country that their data package did not cover

Joe from the JTPR in UK roamed in Turkey and thought that his mobile data usage would be covered under European Union's lower prices for data roaming. However, it was not because Turkey is not a member of the EU. Also, [Brandon](#), Digital Analyst at [TekBoost](#) in the US, thought that the mobile data he used in Mexico could be part of his USD 85 plan unlimited texts, calls and data. But it wasn't because operators almost always charge separately for roaming, outside a customer's regular mobile package – even if it's an "unlimited" one." This roaming data usage that Brandon has ended up was \$341.09.

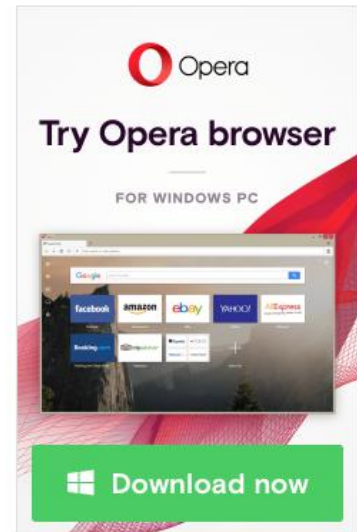
Elizabeth: "data roaming" accidentally switched on

Elizabeth from [SoloTrekker4U](#) said, "Make sure that international roaming does not switch on inadvertently when you make a phone call, or even when snapping a photo with your phone." She was the one who got a "have a nice trip" SMS message from Santo Domingo after snapping a photo with her phone. Although it does not mean data roaming is switched on but it is always good to make sure your data roaming is off whenever your phone connects to the local operator and starts roaming.

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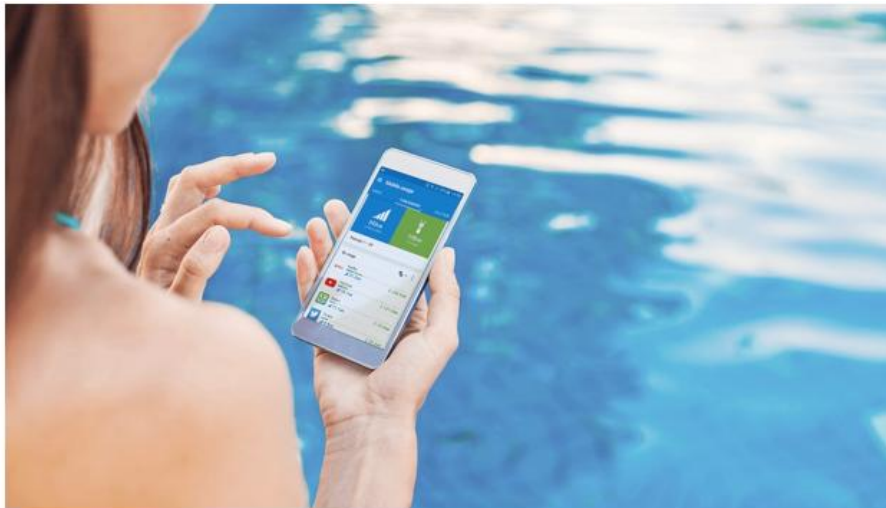
Melanie: background data usage from push notifications, email and web browsing

Melanie from [Rare Finds Travel Design](#), turned on data roaming when she was waiting for her flight home. All she did was empty her inbox and check how many emails she had. She got an SMS warning of the data charges, and the message kept popping up. She scrambled back to the settings button but not before more than \$200 worth of data has been gobbled up by hungry apps and incoming mails. Like most people, she had no idea how much data she used. Those hungry apps that use data in the background had started syncing and updating as soon as she had turned on roaming.

From one traveller to another: Tips in keeping your data-roaming costs in check



So how do you get around the high fees? Most travellers interviewed prefer getting a country-specific SIM card or accessing free Wi-Fi network to avoid data roaming charges. However, there are risks to connecting through free public Wi-Fi network. Russell Hannon from [Break the Travel Barrier](#) suggests to protect your online activity from unauthorized viewing with applications like VPN. Melanie thinks [Opera Max can track your data usage and make your Wi-Fi connection safer](#).



If you have to roam, make sure your data roaming package covers the regions that you are traveling to. Russell adds, "The best way to get the most for your dollar from your international roaming plan is to go with a data-only plan, then use Skype or FaceTime with audio only, or use email or social media in lieu of SMS. Also, beware of video. Video is becoming much more commonplace online, especially Facebook. Try to restrict video watching to when you are connected to Wi-Fi."

Brandon shared a trick if you're being charged by the minute for service, i.e. being on a cruise ship- the copy and paste method. It's particularly useful when sending an important email. He composes the entire email in his Notepad with Airplane Mode turned on. Then, when he is ready to send the email, he will turn Airplane Mode off, open up his email, quickly paste the message, send it, and turn Airplane Mode back on.

Hope you find these tips helpful. We have prepared some apps for you to [roam without fear](#). Don't forget to pack them into your smartphone before the trip!

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Emily Hoggins · 4 months ago

Thanks for the article. I'm also using Opera. And I agree with Russell Hannon from who suggests protecting your online activity from unauthorized viewing with applications like VPN. I have a good paid vpn service

<https://myipservices.com/vpnra...> and it makes my life much easier and safer. And using it with opera browser that's all I need.

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I remember once my roaming plan switched on when I didn't want this and I lost great deal of money then :) Had to change my provider on another (now I use PondMobile , by the way).

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<http://kgnexportshouse.com/> Thanks Peko i love opera

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Chas4 · 5 months ago

The gif is from a cartoon called Reboot <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/...>

I don't have any data roaming stories, tho here in this country you can kinda get it with most cell companies data plans

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Peko Wan → Chas4 · 5 months ago

Thanks for info of the gif. Looks like Reboot is going to re-launch the site :-). If you have any tips and trick of how to save data, pls feel free to share. We always hope people can save data and do more on the web.

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i love opera browser so much and now since from the last 1 month i am using opera i want to share my website also here we have diffrent pakistani suits on our website for sell online also we have we sell online pakistani suits on our website and also we sell pakistani suits in dubai, maria b, gul ahmed, asim jofa, khaadi dubai, khaadi, khaadi lawn, pakistan fashion 2011, pakistan clothing fashion, pakistan latest fashion, pakistan new fashion clothes, pakistan fashion dresse , latest fashion in pakistan for women, pakistani clothes online, pakistani bridal clothes, cheap pakistani clothes, buy pakistani clothes online, pakistani clothes for women, pakistani clothes for men, new pakistani clothes, pakistani clothes website, pakistani clothes fashion, buy pakistani clothes online from dubai, pakistani bridal dresses, in uae so visit our website today [maria b](#)

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