



# Trip Planning Tips

## Phones

## and the UK:

## The Basics

[www.aNovelHoliday.com](http://www.aNovelHoliday.com)

# *A Novel Holiday* Travel Tips

## Telephones and the UK: The Basics

Learning about the many differences between US/Canadian and UK phones, and deciding what kind of phone to use while traveling in the UK, requires some research. To help with this task, *Harry Potter Places* authors and contributors have assembled a few of the best Internet resources available, followed by tips derived from our own UK experiences.

## Internet Resources

### **Tourist-Information-UK**

<http://www.tourist-information-uk.com/guides/tourist-information-advice/telephones-mobile-phones/>

This excellent webpage contains simple explanations and directions for several phone-related issues, such as: dialing the UK from another country, dialing another country *from* the UK, and calling within the UK, money-saving tips, best times to make calls, **SIM** cards, and using **Skype** while in the UK.

### **Rick Steves' Phone Tips**

As usual, Steves provides several webpages filled with helpful suggestions about phones and the UK.

**Please Note:** Some of Steves' European suggestions don't apply in the UK. Although he usually identifies non-UK-related info, read carefully.

### **International Calling Tips: UK and Europe**

<http://www.ricksteves.com/plan/tips/call-uk-europe.htm>

### **Public Phones, Hotel-Room Phones and Phone Cards**

<http://www.ricksteves.com/plan/tips/PublicPhones.htm>

### **Mobile Phones and SIM Cards in Europe**

<http://www.ricksteves.com/plan/tips/cell-phone-europe.htm>

### **Travel Smarter with a Smartphone**

<http://www.ricksteves.com/tms/article.cfm?id=289&extras=false>

### **About.com's Website**

Below is a link to a well-written series of articles. We suggest that you work your way through all 8 pages—unless you already know what kind of phone you'll be using. In that case, you can use the links at the bottom of each page to skip around.

<http://golondon.about.com/od/planningyourtrip/ss/telephones.htm>

## What to Dial

### Call a Number in the UK *from* a Phone in the US or Canada

- Dial **011** (the international access code for the US or Canada)
- Dial **44** (the country code for the UK)
- Dial the **UK number**—but, *skip the first zero (0)*!

**For Instance:** To reach the **Harry Potter WB Studio Tour Call Centre** at **08450 840 900** when calling from the US or Canada, dial **011 – 44 – 8450 – 840 – 900**. Do not dial the “0” seen before the **8450**.

### Call a Number in the US or Canada *from* a Phone in the UK

- Dial **00** (the international access code for the UK or Europe)
- Dial **1** (the country code for the US or Canada)
- Dial the US/Canadian **area code** and **phone number**.

**For Instance:** To call the **Wizarding World of Harry Potter’s “Need Help Buying Tickets”** number (**407 – 224 – 7840**) from anywhere in the UK, dial **00 – 1 – 407 – 224 – 7840**.

### Instructions for Calling Between any Other Countries and the UK Can be Found at:

<http://www.countrycallingcodes.com> or, <http://www.howtocallabroad.com>

### Emergency Numbers in the UK

999 is the UK equivalent of 911 in the US or Canada.

**Dial 999** if you encounter a criminal, medical, or accident-related emergency while touring in the UK. There’s only one exception to this rule.

When calling for emergency help **while on a UK motorway**, it’s best to use one of the **Emergency Call Boxes**: orange telephones with “SOS” printed on them, found at half-mile intervals. (There are **white and blue poles** placed every 100 yards that point in the direction of the nearest call box.) By using an Emergency Call Box, motorway center personnel will immediately know your location. You’ll not have to try to identify where-in-the-UK you are!

### Assistance Numbers in the UK

**Dial 100 to reach a Telephone Operator.** You may or may not be charged for this call, depending on what kind of phone you’re using.

**Directory Assistance (aka Directory Enquiries).** The number you dial while in the UK to obtain assistance for finding a phone number *within* the UK varies according to the service provider of the phone you’re using, and it isn’t a free call. The number will start with **118**, followed by another three digits. The directory enquiries number for British Telecom (BT) phones is **118 118**.

Don’t forget that you can use the Internet to find a UK telephone number—if you have a free Wi-Fi connection there’s no charge. <http://www.192.com/> or, <http://www.bt.com/directoryenquiries/>

**Dial 155 to reach International Operator Assistance.** This number is free if calling from a payphone, but charges apply when using other phones.

## **★ Program Your UK Phone's Address Book with All of Your Country's UK Embassy and Consulate Telephone Numbers *and* Location Information**

No matter what kind of phone you end up using, be sure to program its address book with your country's UK Embassy and Consulate information. Additionally, **bookmark** the **Internet addresses** for your Embassies and Consulates in every web-accessing device that you travel with.

### **US Travelers**

**The US Embassy in London** is located at 24 Grosvenor Square, W1.

**Business and 24-Hour Emergency Telephone:** 020/7499-9000

From within the UK, dial **020-7499-9000**

From the United States, dial **011-44-20-7499-9000**

Open Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 5:30pm.

<http://london.usembassy.gov/>

**The US Passport and Visa Citizenship Unit in London** is located at 55-56 Upper Brook Street, London, W1.

**Telephone:** (same as above), ext. 2563 or 2564

Open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 to 11:30am, and from 2 to 4pm.

[http://london.usembassy.gov/cons\\_new/acs/passports/index.html](http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/acs/passports/index.html)

**The US Consulate in Edinburgh** is located at 3 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BW.

**Telephone:** 0131/556-8315

From within the UK, dial 0131-556-8315

From the United States, dial 011-44-131-556-8315

**(There is no 24-Hour Emergency phone number for the Edinburgh US Consulate. Use the London Embassy's number.)**

Open Monday through Friday from 1 to 5:30pm.

<http://edinburgh.usconsulate.gov/>

### **Canadian Travelers**

Visit the link below to obtain phone numbers and addresses for the

**Canadian Embassies in London and Edinburgh.**

<http://canada.embassyhomepage.com/>

### **Travelers from Other Countries**

Consult your government's website to find the phone numbers and addresses for your Embassies and Consulates in the UK.