

GUIDE · CHECKLIST

The Remote *Setup* and Connectivity Guide

Every remote employer asks "what is your setup and what is your backup?" This is the answer, built to travel: two connections, a power plan, a security baseline, and a desk that fits in a bag.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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- Power, and the outage plan
- The security baseline employers expect
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Reliability is the whole job

A remote worker is trusted in exact proportion to how rarely they say "sorry, my connection". The good news is that reliability is mostly a set of purchases and habits that cost less than one missed client call: a second connection, a battery, a fixed routine before every meeting, and a security setup that takes ten minutes once.

This guide is written for people who move. Everything in it packs, works on a local SIM in a country you arrived in yesterday, and survives a power cut in a coworking space you found this morning.

THE RULE

Two connections, always. The one you are on, and the one you switch to in under a minute. A hotspot from your phone counts. A hope does not.

01

The two-connection rule

Primary

- Fixed broadband where you live, tested at the hours your calls happen (evening congestion is real in many cities).
- A coworking space with a measured speed and, ideally, a second uplink; EnRoute's directory lists measured speeds per space.
- Ethernet if the router has a port; it beats wifi in every shared building.

Backup

- A phone on a local SIM or eSIM with a data plan big enough for a day of calls (2–3 GB per hour of video).
- Tethering set up and tested before the day you need it; know the toggle.
- A second network from a different carrier if the first one is weak where you live; two eSIMs on one phone solves this.
- The nearest café or coworking space with wifi you have already used, as the third option.

TEST THE BACKUP ON A MONDAY MORNING

Once a week, join a call on the tethered phone for two minutes. The outage that matters will happen at 9:58 before a client call, and that is the wrong time to discover the toggle moved in an update.

02

SIMs, eSIMs and data, by region

What to expect, what it costs, and the trap in each place.

REGION	WHAT WORKS	COST FOR 20–50 GB	THE TRAP
Southeast Asia	Local SIM at the airport or any phone shop; tourist packages are generous; eSIM from the main carriers	\$10–\$25 / month	Passport registration is required; unregistered SIMs get cut. Speeds fall hard in the rainy season on islands.
South Asia	Local SIM with passport and photo; registration takes hours to a day	\$5–\$15	Tourist SIMs in some countries expire or cannot be topped up remotely; foreigners may need a local address.
Europe (EU)	One EU SIM roams across the union at domestic rates; eSIM plans abound	\$15–\$35	Fair-use limits on roaming data after several weeks outside the home country; the UK and Switzerland are outside EU roaming.
Balkans, Georgia, Turkey	Local SIMs are cheap and fast; not covered by EU roaming	\$5–\$15	Turkey registers foreign phones and blocks unregistered ones after a period; Georgia is effortless.
Latin America	Local prepaid SIMs; coverage excellent in cities, patchy between	\$10–\$25	Registration rules vary by country; some carriers are far better than others in a given city; ask locally.
Middle East and Gulf	Local SIMs with ID; fast 5G in the cities	\$20–\$40	Voice and video calling apps are restricted or throttled in some countries; a VPN may be needed and may itself be restricted.
Africa (major cities)	Local SIM; mobile data often beats fixed lines	\$10–\$30	Load shedding and power cuts affect towers; keep the phone charged and expect evening slowdowns.
North America	Prepaid from the big carriers; eSIM easy	\$30–\$60	Expensive by world standards; unlimited plans throttle hotspot data after a cap.
Australia, NZ, Japan, Korea	Airport SIMs and eSIMs, excellent networks	\$20–\$40	Japan's data SIMs may not include a phone number; some services need one to register.

Costs are indicative for 2026 and move with exchange rates. Global travel eSIMs are convenient for the first 48 hours and expensive after; buy a local plan once you have an address.

03 Power, and the outage plan

Kit

- A laptop charger with the right plug, plus a compact universal adapter with USB-C.
- A power bank that can charge the laptop (60–100 W USB-C PD), not just the phone.
- A small surge protector or a charger with surge protection where grids are rough.
- A short extension lead with two sockets; coworking desks never have enough.

The plan, in the first ten minutes of an outage

- Switch to the backup connection (under a minute).
- Message the meeting: "power/connection issue, back in 2 minutes" with the time.
- Turn video off, stay on audio; audio survives on a fraction of the bandwidth.
- If it is not back in ten, say when you will follow up and reschedule; do not sit in silence.
- Afterwards, write a one-line note in the hand-off so nobody wonders.

04

The security baseline employers expect

Ten minutes, once. Then it is just habit.

ITEM	DO	DONE
Full-disk encryption	Turn it on (FileVault, BitLocker, or the Linux equivalent). A stolen laptop becomes a lost laptop instead of a breach.	☐
Password manager	One, with a strong master password, for everything. No reused passwords, anywhere.	☐
Two-factor authentication	On email, the password manager, banking, cloud, and every work tool. Use an app or a hardware key, not SMS where you can avoid it; SMS breaks when the SIM changes.	☐
VPN	A reputable paid one, on by default on any wifi you do not own. Some employers require their own; some countries restrict VPNs; know both.	☐
Updates	Automatic, everywhere. The reason most breaches happen is a patch that was not applied.	☐
Backups	Cloud sync for work files plus an occasional encrypted copy elsewhere. Test a restore once.	☐
Screen lock and privacy	Auto-lock at a minute; a privacy filter for the screen if you work in public; never leave the laptop unattended in a café.	☐
Separate work and personal	A work browser profile or user account; the employer's data stays in the employer's tools.	☐
Recovery	Recovery codes for 2FA printed and stored separately; a trusted person at home with a way to reach your accounts if your phone and laptop vanish together.	☐
Border awareness	Know that some borders can inspect devices. Travel with what you need, encrypted, and logged out of what you do not.	☐

05 A desk that fits in a bag

Bad ergonomics show up in week three as a neck that does not turn. The fix weighs under a kilogram: a folding laptop stand that raises the screen to eye level, a compact keyboard and mouse so your hands stay down, and a habit of standing up every hour. In a coworking space, ask for a monitor; many have them at no extra cost.

- ☐ Folding laptop stand (or a stack of books, every time)
- ☐ Compact wireless keyboard and mouse
- ☐ Headset or earbuds with a microphone that other people describe as clear
- ☐ A webcam angle at eye level, a light source in front of you, not behind
- ☐ A chair with a back; a cushion if not
- ☐ A timer or habit: stand and move every hour

06

The pre-call checklist, and the travel kit list

Five minutes before every call

- ☐ Primary connection tested (a speed test or a quick call)
- ☐ Backup phone charged, hotspot ready
- ☐ Laptop on power, or battery over 50%
- ☐ Headset connected and selected in the app
- ☐ Camera framing and light checked
- ☐ Notifications off; unrelated windows closed
- ☐ The meeting link open and the timezone double-checked

The travel kit

- ☐ Laptop, charger, USB-C power bank (60 W+)
- ☐ Universal adapter with USB-C; short extension lead
- ☐ Phone with two eSIM slots or a spare unlocked phone
- ☐ Headset; a backup wired earpiece
- ☐ Folding stand, compact keyboard and mouse
- ☐ Ethernet cable and a USB-C to Ethernet adapter
- ☐ Privacy screen filter
- ☐ Printed: 2FA recovery codes, insurer number, emergency contacts

My setup statement (for interviews)

EXAMPLE

"I work from a fixed fibre connection at home in Tbilisi, 180 Mbps measured, on Ethernet. My backup is a Magti eSIM with 50 GB, tethered; I test it weekly. I have a 100 W power bank that runs the laptop for four hours, and a coworking space five minutes away as a third option. Disk encryption, a password manager and two-factor on everything are set up; I use a VPN on any network I do not own."

MINE

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- Choosing a Base: the city and coworking worksheet
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