

What To Do If Your Electronic Device is Stolen or Lost While Traveling

Step-by-step actions when your phone, laptop, or tablet goes missing on the road

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Lost or Stolen Device Action Plan

Immediate Actions (First Hour):

- Change all passwords — especially email, banking, and social media
- Enable remote wipe — erase data from lost/stolen device
- Contact banks and credit card companies — report potential fraud
- Notify mobile carrier — suspend service to prevent unauthorized use
- Report to local authorities — file police report for insurance purposes

Follow-up Actions (First 24 Hours):

- Monitor accounts closely — check for unauthorized access or transactions
- Update security questions — change answers to security questions
- Review connected devices — remove lost device from trusted device lists
- Contact insurance — file claims for device replacement
- Document everything — keep records of all actions taken

Communication Breakdown Procedures

- Have offline contact lists — important numbers stored offline
- Know emergency service numbers — local police, medical, fire services
- Carry physical maps — backup navigation when GPS fails
- Use internet cafes — alternative access points for communication
- Contact embassies/consulates — assistance with communication emergencies

Data Recovery and Backup Access

- Test backup access — ensure you can retrieve data from anywhere
- Have multiple backup methods — cloud storage, external drives, email
- Know account recovery procedures — how to regain access to locked accounts
- Keep recovery codes safe — backup codes for two-factor authentication
- Document recovery process — step-by-step instructions for emergencies

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Be Prepared. Not Scared.

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