

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

# MOBILE PHONE SERVICE

The Philippines boasts of a sophisticated cellular phone industry that offers various pre-paid and post-paid mobile phone and mobile internet plans. The major mobile phone and internet service providers are Smart, Sun Cellular and Globe. Smart and Sun Cellular are owned and operated by PLDT, the Philippines leading telecommunications company while Globe is owned by the Ayala group. Pre-paid SIM cards from these companies may be bought at a minimal price from various cellphone shops while cellphone or internet credits are available in the numerous loading stations and even in small yet ubiquitous “Sari-sari” (general merchandise) stores.



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Please take note that in the Philippines, only the account or phone making the call or sending the text message is charged for the call or the message. Therefore, do not be surprised nor offended if a local resident you are calling will decline your call and then call you right back, especially if their plan includes unlimited phone calls to other mobile phones. The local resident is only trying to save you some credits.



# INTERNET SERVICES

Internet service in the country is generally considered slow compared to other developed countries with download speeds of 2 - 5 mbps for most commercial establishments offering Wi-Fi internet connections. However, mobile internet service providers Smart, Sun Cellular and Globe offer mobile LTE connections with speed of up to 42 mbps, depending on your location. Mobile internet service may be availed of by buying these companies pre-paid internet SIM cards for tablets at a minimal price. Please take note that the internet SIM card for LTE- and non-LTE-ready devices are different.

After loading credits onto these SIM cards through various loading stations, an internet surfing plan may be selected from the myriad of plans available through text. Surfing plans include unlimited internet surfing for one, seven or thirty days.



# INTERNET SERVICES

While these plans are termed as unlimited, please take note that this only means that the amount of surfing time is unlimited within the prescribed period but these plans have a limit as to the amount of data that you can download at the advertised speed within the prescribed period. If you exceed the maximum data limit, the speed of your mobile internet connection will be reduced to a much lower download rate. *In Cebu, Smart offers LTE signal in more areas compared to Globe or Sun Cellular's coverage.*



# INTERNET SERVICES

Most of the hotels, restaurants and coffee shops in Cebu also offer free Wi-Fi internet connections if you avail of their services or buy their products. Just ask an employee for the Wi-Fi password for the day as passwords are changed daily.



# MAKING CALLS

The country code of the Philippines is 63 and the area code for Cebu is 32. Landline phone numbers in Cebu are composed of seven digits. Please take note of the following instructions in placing calls in Cebu:

1. To place an international long-distance call from Cebu in particular or from the Philippines in general, dial 00 + country code + area code + phone number.
2. To place a call to an area outside of Metro Cebu, dial 0 + area code + phone number.
3. To place a call to a landline phone within Metro Cebu, just dial the seven-digit phone number.

