

WIFI WONDERS

A TRAVEL ROUTER'S GUIDE FOR WANDERERS



WIFIONTOUR.COM

© Copyright 2019—All rights reserved.

This document is geared toward providing exact and reliable information in regard to the topic and issue covered. The publication is sold with the idea that the publisher is not required to render accounting, officially permitted, or otherwise, qualified services. If advice is necessary, legal or professional, a practiced individual in the profession should be ordered.

-From a Declaration of Principles which was accepted and approved equally by a Committee of the American Bar Association and a Committee of Publishers and Associations.

In no way is it legal to reproduce, duplicate, or transmit any part of this document in either electronic means or in printed format. Recording of this publication is strictly prohibited and any storage of this document is not allowed unless with written permission from the publisher. All rights reserved.

The information provided herein is stated to be truthful and consistent, in that any liability, in terms of inattention or otherwise, by any usage or abuse of any policies, processes, or directions contained within is the solitary and utter responsibility of the recipient reader. Under no circumstances will any legal responsibility or blame be held against the publisher for any reparation, damages, or monetary loss due to the information herein, either directly or indirectly.

Respective authors own all copyrights not held by the publisher.

The information herein is offered for informational purposes solely, and is universal as so. The presentation of the information is without contract or any type of guarantee assurance.

The trademarks that are used are without any consent, and the publication of the trademark is without permission or backing by the trademark owner. All trademarks and brands within this book are for clarifying purposes only and are owned by the owners themselves, not affiliated with this document.

Table of Contents

Introduction

A Brief History of WiFi

Chapter 1: The Need for Staying Connected

What Is a Travel Router?

Why Do You Need One?

Different Digital Devices That Can Use a Travel Router

Chapter 2: Different Travel Routers

Different Types of Travel Routers

Different Travel Router Modes

Which One Do You Need?

Chapter 3: Travel Router Use and Maintenance

A Quick Guide on How to Use a Travel Router

Can You Connect Multiple Devices?

Travel Router Maintenance

More Tips to Make the Most Out of Your Travel Router

Conclusion

When to Stay Online and Offline

Introduction

Can you still imagine what the world was like before the internet? There are millennials who weren't even born that time yet. Yes, internet use is certainly ingrained in our daily lives already. We can even imagine how many businesses and government offices would fail if the internet would take a break for even a couple of days.

It's not just the offices too. There are a lot of people who rely on the internet for employment, especially various freelancers like content writers, digital artists, and web developers. This is also the reason why wireless connections are vital. It's for everyone's convenience!

A Brief History of WiFi

So how did it start? The technology was invented way back in 1997 to make wire broadband connections wireless. It started with a speed of only two megabytes per second. The internet itself was not that fast yet, so it wasn't really that slow compared to today's standards.

As the years passed and technology progressed, the data transfer speeds increased as well. Today, the fastest wifi can even transmit several gigabits per second. That speed is still being improved on even as we speak. We expect to experience this type of wireless data speeds in the following years.

For now, though, let's talk about current technology, particularly about wireless travel routers. In this eBook, we will talk about what those are, why you need one, its different types, and more. We have a lot to cover, so let's begin!

Chapter 1: The Need for Staying Connected

We already talked briefly about the internet and wireless connection during the introduction. However, we haven't really talked about the main topic of this book, which is the travel router.



There are, after all, various ways to connect to the internet both wired and wireless, *but what is a travel router? Why do we need one? And most of all, what are the digital devices that we can connect to the internet using it?* These are but some of the questions we are will shed light on into this chapter.

What Is a Travel Router?

Let us first talk about what a wifi router is. A wifi router is a device that connects to the wired connection of your modem and it translates it into a wireless one.

It allows your various devices at home to connect to the internet minus the inconvenience of being tangled up by multiple wires. You will also not be hindered by your location and you can connect from any room in the house as long as it is within the perimeter of your router.

Now, take this technology and make it portable. You now have a travel router. Instead of being connected to a wired modem, though, you will be connected to a more powerful wifi network.



Think of this network as being a map, being connected by different roads that lead to all the different digital devices. Having a travel router is like having a highway all to yourself with your digital devices passing on a more controlled and definitely more private lane.

Why Do You Need One?

Having a travel router on hand definitely brings a lot of benefits, but there are three that stand out, which are:

1. Convenience

Having a travel router is beneficial for those who travel with multiple digital devices. Let's

say you have a smartphone, a tablet, and a laptop. If you want them to be online, you have to register and connect each of them to the public network.

With a travel router, though, you would only need to connect one. With the proper settings, all your digital devices can connect automatically and simultaneously once the travel router has successfully connected.

2. Privacy

Another major benefit is security. With an efficient travel router, the public network won't be able to view your digital devices since it will only be able to recognize a single connection: the one made by your travel router.

3. Cost

Finally, having a travel router handy will help you save a lot of money while you're staying at any paid lodging that charges any device connected to their network. Don't worry, we share with you a guide on how to set-up a travel router in a hotel, which you can also use elsewhere, later on, so just keep on reading.

As mentioned, these are not the only benefits of having a travel router, though. We will leave you to discover the others as you're using it already. For now, let us move on to the different digital devices you can connect to your travel router.

Different Digital Devices That Can Use a Travel Router

As we mentioned above, you can connect your smartphone, tablet, and laptop to a travel router. Basically, though, as long as a digital device can connect to and requires a wireless internet connection, then it should be able to recognize your travel router and use it without any issue.

Anyway, if you're convinced that a travel router can significantly benefit your hectic online life, then let us now move on to the next chapter, where we will talk about the different types of travel routers.

Chapter 2: Different Travel Routers

We finished talking about what a travel router is. As promised, we can now move on to talk about the different types of travel routers. In this way, you can choose the one that best suits your needs and preferences.

Aside from that, we will talk about the different travel router modes that you can use, and finally, help you determine which one to use.



Different Types of Travel Routers

Their speed, the number of devices that they can accommodate, and the different connections that can perform by using ethernet, USB, and more, define travel routers. That said, one of the main categories that define a travel router is its antenna, and there are two main types, including:

1. Internal Antenna Travel Routers

These are travel routers with no discernible or movable antenna because it is built within the body of the router itself. This type of travel router is very popular and is the most

commonly used since it is easier to keep inside your pocket.

2. *External Antenna Travel Routers*

These travel routers, on the other hand, are those with visible antennas. They are usually folded for convenience, but you can always easily unfold them when needed. This is the type of travel router that we recommend if the extra inches are not an issue on your mobility and portability.

To better help you decide, here are the main similarities and differences between the two:

- External antenna travel routers are better for outdoor use or for places where there are not a lot of physical objects that can hinder the wireless signal.
- The signal strength of an internal antenna travel router is just as strong as an external antenna one, especially when used indoors.
- Finally, there is no notable difference between the two in terms of the number of devices that they can accommodate. This depends on the brand and model of the unit you have.

One factor that can affect your travel router's performance, though, is the mode that you have chosen.

Different Travel Router Modes

There are various travel router modes, and the mode that you have set will determine how your device will function. Some travel routers are equipped with multiple modes while there are a few that only come with one or two. Remember, the more modes your travel router comes with, the more it will be equipped for different circumstances. Anyway, here they are:

- **Router Mode:** The first mode is the router mode. It is the one we are most familiar with and the most basic. It allows the unit to connect to a wireless network so that we can connect our digital devices to it privately.

- **AP Mode:** It is the mode that allows the device to connect to a non-wireless connection with the use of an ethernet cable and turn it into a wireless connection for your digital devices to connect to. This is similar to the router that we use at home.
- **Repeater Mode:** As the name suggests, this repeats the wireless signal to extend its range. This is great to use at home if your other rooms are beyond the range of your first router.
- **Bridge Mode:** This is a more advanced mode. It connects to the original network and creates a new one secured with its own password. You can even say that it splits the signal into two different ones.
- **Client Mode:** Lastly, there's the client mode that turns a wireless connection into a wired one for your devices that require a wired connection.

Which One Do You Need?

Now that we know the two different types of travel routers and its various modes, the question is, *which one do you need?*

If you're only going to use it at home, then you can certainly get one that has an internal antenna. It must have an AP mode and repeater mode for added efficiency. A bridge mode would not be necessary. For those who are always staying at a hotel, then a travel router equipped with an AP mode will surely come in handy.

If you always find yourself scrambling for a signal at an airport or any other open space, then we recommend getting a travel router with an external antenna. You should also consider the type of digital device that you are always using. For instance, there are older laptop models that require a client mode in order to connect to a wireless connection.

Otherwise, we recommend getting the highest quality that your budget can afford. Travel routers need to be powerful to help get those signals and turn them into your own private network that your digital devices can connect to securely. They must also be durable, especially if you're going to take it with you as you're on-the-go.

Chapter 3: Travel Router Use and Maintenance

So, were you able to choose the best travel router suited for you? We sure hope so because we are going to move on and talk about how to put it to good use already.

In this chapter, we will share with you a quick guide on how to use and set-up your travel router, how to connect multiple devices, and how to care for it, as well as offer you more tips on how to use it more efficiently.



A Quick Guide on How to Use a Travel Router

Before we start, let us first be clear on what this guide is going to be. Since most [travel routers](#) can easily connect to a hotspot and they are actually very straightforward to use, we will instead share a guide on how to connect it to your hotel's wired connection.

In this way, we can share with you how to make a more complicated connection while also helping you save a ton from connecting to overpriced hotel internet access. Here's how.

- **Read the manual.** This guide is going to be a general one since it will be impossible for us to determine the brand and model of your travel router. Hence, just to make sure you get the specs of your travel router, we suggest you read the user's manual that it comes with, from cover to cover.
- **Make sure your travel router's recharged.** The router usually comes with a USB charging cable. Remember, most travel routers function best when they are all juiced up.
- **Connect your travel router to the wired connection of your hotel with an ethernet cable.** Don't connect your laptop to it just yet and sign up on your room's plan. Connect your travel router first.
- **Inform your hotel.** Once you've successfully connected your travel router, now's the time to inform the hotel. They are only going to charge you with the connection of a single device—your travel router.
- **Configure the settings of your travel router.** Connect your laptop to the travel router using the name of the device, usually found in a sticker as a guide. Open your browser and keep the manual handy. Each brand has a separate URL that you can access to configure your router.
- **Set the password.** If your router's not set with encryption, do so. Set a password that others won't be able to guess and change your password regularly. We suggest doing so every time you use your router in a new location.
- **Connect your gadgets.** Now that your travel router's all set, you can move on and connect your other digital devices. You won't have to worry about the hotel charging you for all the extra gear you're using since they won't be able to detect them anyway.

Congratulations, and enjoy browsing!

Can You Connect Multiple Devices?

Here's a question that we always get: "Can you connect multiple devices, and how many devices can a [travel router](#) accommodate?" The answer might surprise you, but honestly,

most routers are equipped to accommodate 250 devices at the same time!

The problem is, *how much can your connection handle?* Remember, a wired connection is meant to handle up to four devices only at a time. You should consider the bandwidth of your connection, as well.

How fast will your connection be if you connect all 250 gadgets to a single router connected to a network meant for only four devices? We're guessing that your connection will crawl to almost non-existent.

Therefore, the number of connected devices doesn't really depend on the type of travel router you're using, but rather depends on the speed and quality of the network that you are going to connect it to.

Travel Router Maintenance

Anyway, now that you already know how to use your [travel router](#), we're sure you are going to take it with you a lot. That's why we will share with you some maintenance tips to ensure its longevity.

- **Keep it away from food and drinks.** Treat your travel router just like any digital device. Make sure it doesn't get wet.
- **Keep it safe from the elements.** In connection to the previous tip, if you're keeping it inside your bag while traveling, make sure it won't get damaged by heavier objects. If your bag's not waterproof, keep it inside a Ziploc bag to keep it protected.
- **Clean it regularly.** Dust and dirt won't just interfere with your cable connections, but it will also make your device prone to overheating. Wipe your device regularly while it's turned off. You can use damp wipes for the exterior of the device, but we don't recommend that you open it. Power on your device only when it's completely dry.
- **Don't let it overheat.** Speaking of overheating, travel routers can heat up pretty easily, so place it in a location away from the direct heat of the sun and make sure it gets proper ventilation.

By keeping the tips we shared with you in mind, we're sure you can enjoy the company of your travel router for a very long time.

More Tips to Make the Most Out of Your Travel Router

To get an even faster connection, here are more tips on how to get your travel router performing at its best:

- **Change your password regularly.** We already mentioned this above, but allow us to reiterate. Choose a password that will be impossible for others to guess but easy for you to remember.
- **Check your cables regularly.** Cables are prone to tugging and stress. The problem is, they can significantly affect the speed and quality of your connection. If you suspect that your cables are not in good shape anymore, then replace them immediately.
- **Position your travel router in an open space.** Preferably somewhere without any big pieces of furniture that might hinder your connection.
- **If you're suffering from internet connection problems, then we suggest you try resetting your travel router to its factory settings and refreshing your configurations.** It doesn't take several minutes, and it will help you determine whether or not your settings are the cause of the issue.

If you simply cannot find a stable connection, then either contact your internet service provider or the service number of your travel router manufacturer.

Conclusion

Wow, we have finally reached the end of this eBook. Thank you so much for reading all the way through. We hope you have enjoyed reading this guide as much as we did preparing it for you.

We believe that we travelers are free-spirited and that we often encounter different challenges in our wanderings. That's why we love helping other travelers out whenever we can.

By the way, you might want to [check out our website](#) for even more tips and tricks on using travel routers and staying connected, even while you're out on an adventure.

When to Stay Online and Offline

Having said that, we would just like to remind you that there are simple joys on staying offline, as well. We understand a lot of us need to stay online for work purposes because sometimes the trip itself is connected to our line of job.

We also know a lot of people who love sharing their travel experiences online to help out and inspire other travelers. Finally, we can simply be bitten by homesickness and would want to keep our lines open to contact friends and family while we're out and about.

Nonetheless, don't forget that staying online can also keep you from getting the most out of your experiences. Humans are social beings, true, but we also need to spend quality time with ourselves and meet new people without the chains of home, which internet connection can sometimes be.

Hence, whenever you find yourself feeling the itch to take a picture of something instead of experiencing it, we ask that you resist the urge. Get out there and enjoy what the world has to offer, regardless if it's something "*Instagrammable*" or not. We bid you safe travels!