

Telephone

Coin operated public telephones are widely available. Phones generally accept 5-cent, 10-cent and 25-cent coins. Local calls usually cost 25 cents and can be dialled directly after depositing your money. Some phones are equipped to accept credit cards. International Calling Cards are also widely available and some Tour Operators include them in their packages. The cards have a certain number of units and some can be recharged with a credit card.

If you have a problem getting through to your correspondent, dial "0" for operator assistance and ask to be connected. They will also tell you the minimum charge for your call. If you call an American company it is possible that you will hear an automatic answering service. You will have to choose between several options by pressing the appropriate number. Most hotels have a message centre for all their guests. If the light on the phone in your room lights up, someone tried to call you and left a message.

To call from the US to other countries, dial the International Access Code 011 - the country code (drop the first zero 0) - the city code and the local number.

Some country codes	
31	The Netherlands
32	Belgium
33	France
44	United Kingdom
49	Germany
352	Luxemburg

In the USA many companies have toll free numbers (1-800-numbers). In order to remember them some companies use their name as their telephone number. The firm GO TO USA for example could have the number 1-800-GO-TO-USA. This translates to 1-800-468-6872.

Try Internet Telephony (phone to phone) to call from the States to Belgium and Luxemburg:

Transmitting voice and fax over the Internet has become a tremendous catalyst in the continuing drop in international telecommunications rates. Internet Telephony has enabled customers worldwide to place phone calls over the Internet at rates up to 95% less than current phone rates.

How it Works:

Users dial either a local access number or a toll-free number which connects the call to a local gateway. The gateway digitizes the caller's voice and puts it onto IP backbone. The system then prompts the user to enter their account number and the telephone number they wish to call. The call is carried over the Internet to another gateway located close to the recipients area. The gateway switches the call onto the local telephone network, allowing real-time, uninterrupted, full duplex voice communication between two parties.