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Trump "Card"

March Break is coming and you deserve one. And with one of the busiest travel holidays of the year approaching, chances are many of us are planning a much needed getaway. Still, we can't all go, and that likely means we'll want to keep in touch with the folks back home.

Which is where a phone calling card comes in. They're available in all denominations and are good for use in different countries. But how do you know if your calling card will work in your vacation area code?

The trick, say experts, is to know what you're buying well in advance. Remember that any card bought locally is in Canadian funds and you may be charged more overseas. And don't touch that 'dial' until you consider even more options.

"Check the local access numbers and the toll-free listings to be sure that you can call from the country you are heading to," advises Carmine Tucci of Goldline, a pre-paid long distance carrier. Many only work in North America.

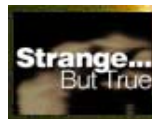
And beware of calling from your local inn. "Many hotels in places like Florida ... they block 1-800 calls to calling cards of all types," Tucci reminds. "In St. Martens, for example, there are a number of private or pay telephone companies and from those phones, you cannot place pre-paid calling card [calls]."

Best bet? Find out before you leave. Because when you reach out and touch someone, local operators may be trying to put the touch on you.

February 9, 2004



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