

Piranha Mobile

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[Mobile Free roaming - Don't be fooled;](#)

There is no such word in business as **FREE**, someone always pays, and the same applies to free roaming.

Don't be fooled by the fancy adverts for "UK mobile numbers" when these numbers are actually Isle of Man (IOM) numbers or for adverts such as "more free roaming countries than any other operator" or "free to receive in more than 90 countries". There's always a catch in these sorts of adverts.

With free roaming – you don't pay, but your caller pays over and over again. Your friend's family or business will find that their outgoing bills soar as they call your "free roaming" phone. For most operators, the UK numbers whether Jersey or IOM are not in a monthly call allowance because they're classified as overseas calls and overseas operators class these numbers as premium, meaning it costs a lot more to call than the standard UK number costs.

The truth is that calls using Free Roaming Sim cards are billed at a much higher cost than those that you pay for. See our table below which shows illustrations.

[Free Roaming explained;](#)

Roaming charges apply whenever you are roaming and someone has to pay for these. There is no such thing as free roaming. Some companies advertise "Free Roaming" meaning that the phone owner does not pay to receive calls when roaming, but they can only do so because they pay the cost of the incoming call charge levied by the operator in the country you are roaming in and then they recover it from the caller because the caller is paying a very high calling charge. That very high calling charge pays your own operator a proportion of that call charge.

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Average costs France to UK for a 1 minute call:

FREE ROAMING	PAY AS YOU ROAM
Caller pays average 50p to Call IOM/Estonian mobile numbers	Caller pays average 12p to Call UK/US mobile numbers
Roaming network Charge per minute 8p	Roaming network Charge per minute 8p
Roaming user Network Charge 0p	Roaming user Network Charge 8p
TOTAL COST OF CALL 50p	TOTAL COST OF CALL 20p

The reason why the caller will be charged an average of 50p to call the number is because the network operator has chosen to use a high termination-rate number – typically a Estonian, IOM, Jersey or premium UK, numbers where the telephone operator of the calling person has to pay a high cost to terminate i.e. place the call onto the called operator’s network.

So if I am with Free Roam Ltd, an IOM virtual mobile operator, I may get roaming free, but if my family calls a Free Roam Ltd number, then my family’s phone operator must pay premium rate to Free Roam Ltd so they will charge 50p to cover their overheads and profits. Free Roam Ltd gets a cash rebate per minute. If I am in France, Free Roam Ltd will pay the French telephone operator where I am roaming 8p per minute. Between me and my family, we’ve paid 50p per minute – and in some cases, such as Pay As You Go, callers may not be allowed to call these premium numbers.

On the other hand, with Piranha it’s a whole lot cheaper. If I am in France, my family should be able to call within their monthly bundle (UK numbers landline or mobile) or pay the normal UK to US calling charge (typically 1p or 5p). Piranha will route the call to me in France, paying the French telephone operator where I am roaming 6p per minute and adding a few pence for Piranha’s routing costs and administration. I get charged about 8p. This means that the total Call Cost is around 8p to 13p and therefore a far better deal than paying 50p with Free Roaming.

Free roaming has another hidden “con” and this is the call set-up charge (different companies call this a different name to try to disguise it. From a landline, some operators charge 18p (or more) plus VAT per minute to ring a high termination rate mobile number such as IOM or Jersey but then also add a call set-up charge of about 14p so your first minute costs 32p for the first minute then 18p plus VAT.

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The cost to your friends and family becomes more expensive if they are calling you from their mobiles. For example calling a IOM number 07872 from a T-mobile (Contract or PAYG) will cost £1.00 per minute, but when calling a Piranha number you will only pay the standard or bundled rate. So with Piranha, the total cost of the call is between in-bundle and 30p, compared with the £1.00, that calling an IOM terminated “Free-Roaming” scheme from T-mobile will cost.

Calling an Estonian number (+372xxxxxxx) roaming in Western Europe will cost between 30p and £1.00.

Calling a Piranha phone roaming in the same country would be between 1p-12p. Some Difference!

Also – watch out for “Personal UK mobile numbers” as these could cost between 50p and £1.00 per minute to call!

Typical Examples:

“Free-roaming” in France on your 07872xx number?

You take a 3 minute call from your Family because you have paid nothing although your Family has paid (assuming contract landline) around 45p. Higher cost for calls if your Family is using a mobile, £1.20 Three Mobile, £1.50 Vodafone and £3.00 for T-mobile.

With Piranha, you can be within the free monthly minute bundles, so your family pays nothing and you pay just 8p per minute being a total of 24p. Far better than the £1.20, £1.50 or £3.00, you can even save on the landline cost, when calling your US number at 1p to 5p per minute!

The only way to get 100% true **Free Roaming** and without your friends family and business getting stung for high call rates is to use Piranha VoIP. There are many operators out there but very few who have this service linked to their roaming Sim cards and numbers and even fewer have this as a reliable service. You will require Wi-Fi access to operate this service.

At Piranha we have introduced the best possible rates for you your family and Business, however we have also introduced a free roaming Sim card with UK higher term rate numbers, giving you the customer the choice. Calling a Piranha free roaming card from your contract mobile will cost between 20p to 35p per minute.

This statement does not just apply to UK operators, you will find all overseas operators also charge a premium to call these numbers, so please be aware of the costs before you commit.