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## Flying with a laptop



**Saint Francis Church, Ranchos de Taos, New Mexico**

My last plane flight to Albuquerque, New Mexico was enjoyable since I passed the time in the airport and on the plane with my laptop. I wanted to share some of these tips to you so your travels will be more productive.

Flying since 9/11 can take up to a day to get somewhere and this is a long time for today's business traveler. There are a few things you can do to make use of this time if you need to use your laptop for work.

If you need to check your email or work on the web you cannot do this while flying. You can do this while waiting for your time to board. As long as your laptop has wireless capabilities you can take advantage of the wireless provided in most airports. Some airport terminals this is free. While traveling recently to Taos, New Mexico I discovered in the Albuquerque airport a free wireless

You can also work on documents, spread sheets or just watch a DVD movie on your laptop. But the largest issue with all this is power. Some laptops will last on a charge from their battery up to 6 hours, but most only last a couple of hours.

When you are in the market for a laptop you need to check out the battery life expectancy. One of the factors affecting the life of the battery is using wireless and the size of your screen.

Today's newer planes offer the ability to plug your laptop into power at your seat. There are generally two types of options AC and DC power. But you need to know which one may be available before you fly. How do you find this out? This is a great resource

[http://www.seatguru.com/articles/in-seat\\_laptop\\_power.php](http://www.seatguru.com/articles/in-seat_laptop_power.php). You need to know your aircraft. When you look at your reservation on the ticket there usually lists the plane you will be on. This can then be looked up by carrier provider to see where the power is located on the plane.



**North Building of Taos Pueblo, Taos, New Mexico**

Flying business class often includes

Georgia State University  
 Georgia Tech  
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 Hollywood Reporter  
 Home Channel News  
 Impact 360  
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 Merial Ltd.  
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 Ohio State University  
 Presbyterian Today  
 Princeton University  
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 Robert Rytter & Associates  
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 Russell Athletic  
 Sears & Roebuck  
 St. John & Partners  
 St. Joseph Catholic School  
 Southern Catholic College  
 Southern Methodist University  
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 Sports Illustrated  
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 Summit National Bank  
 Sunny Crest Publishing  
 SYNC Magazine  
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 Thione International, Inc  
 Travel Weekly Magazine  
 Union University  
 United Methodist News Service  
 University Of Alabama Birmingham  
 University of Maryland  
 University Of Michigan  
 University of Nations, Kona, Hawaii  
 University Of Tennessee At Martin  
 University of Virginia  
 Upper Deck  
 USC Upstate Spartans  
 Vindigo  
 Virginia Commonwealth University  
 Volleyball Magazine  
 Wake Forest University

connection provided by the city.

Most other airports provide connections which require you to pay by the hour, day or you can pay by the month. The advantage of these systems is usually they are high speed connections. The disadvantage is often their costs.



There is another option you can use with cell phone provider where you have two options. You can connect by using your cell phone with a USB connection or blue-tooth connection to your laptop. Some of these connections are faster than dial-up, but are much less expensive than connecting through the wireless systems of airports and coffee shops. Depending on your cell phone provider this can be prorated and only turned on as a needed basis. I use this option often and not just for when I am flying, but in the car as a passenger. The second option is to use a PCMCIA Card which allows you to use the GSM/GPRS voice and high speed data network. It does the same thing as the phone connection but is separate from your cell phone.



**Inverter**

While these systems will let you work on the internet while at the airport you cannot use this while actually flying. You can still use this time on your laptop if you choose. You can create the emails, just you cannot send them.

power as one of the upgrades for the ticket and almost always is a perk of the first class seats.

If the plane offers AC power then all you need to do is plug in your laptop as you do at home, however if it is DC power it is different. The DC power is usually like using your cigarette lighter connection in your car. You can buy the adapter for your laptop or buy an inverter ([http://www.seatguru.com/articles/in-seat\\_laptop\\_power.php#adapters](http://www.seatguru.com/articles/in-seat_laptop_power.php#adapters)).

The advantage of the inverter is your ability to plug in other AC devices you may travel with as well.



**Black Mesa Winery located in Velarde, New Mexico**

You can still be prepared and not be able to use the power due to it not working at your seat. If your cord is long enough maybe you can ask to use the one in the seat next to you. Another problem is the 75 watt limit of most of these DC power outlets. You can take the battery out of your 17" laptop while in flight, but be sure and save your work before landing, this is often turned off during the take off and landing of the plane.

I hope your next trip on the plane is now more enjoyable since you can choose to work on your laptop or watch a DVD or more on your next trip.

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