

# 12 considerations when choosing a vanlife phone plan

## 1. Cost and Plans:

- Compare the cost of plans across various providers. Look for plans that offer a good balance of data, talk, and text based on your usage.
  - Verizon is frequently the go-to for Vanlifers in the USA - it has the best coverage of any provider in North America.
- **Explore MVNOs:**
  - Consider Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNOs). These are carriers that use the infrastructure of major carriers but often offer more affordable plans.

## 2. Coverage and Network Quality:

- Evaluate the coverage of different providers, especially in the areas you plan to travel. Consider the reliability and speed of their network.
- Use the **Opensignal** app to get detailed maps of cellular coverage, including signal strength, network speed, and carrier availability. It helps you choose the best network for your location.

## 3. Unlimited Plans:

- Consider providers offering unlimited data plans, which can be crucial for those relying on mobile data for work, navigation, and entertainment.

## 4. Mobile hotspot (tethering):

- Some network providers allow tethering, while some don't, so make sure to check that. For example, [Verizon Wireless](#) allows 15GB per month tethering at the time.

## 5. International Roaming:

- If you plan to travel internationally, look for providers with reasonable international roaming options and rates.

## 6. Data Speeds and Deprioritization:

- Some unlimited plans may have deprioritization during times of network congestion. Understand the data speeds you can expect, especially in crowded areas.

## 7. Prepaid (pay as you go) vs. bill-pay:

- Prepaid plans often offer flexibility and no contracts, and they can be cheaper.

## 8. Family Plans:

- If you're traveling with others, family plans might offer cost savings. Check for providers with good family plan options.

## **9. 5G Availability:**

- If your device supports it, check for 5G availability. This can provide faster and more reliable connections in areas where 5G is deployed.

## **10. Data Rollover:**

- Some providers offer data rollover, allowing you to carry unused data from one month to the next. This can be beneficial for intermittent use.

## **11. Streaming Services and Perks:**

- Some providers offer streaming service perks or other extras. Evaluate these additional benefits based on your preferences.

## **12. Bundling:**