

[Note: This information sheet is generated by ChatGPT after my prompt.]

Wi-Fi Calling — quick summary

Wi-Fi Calling lets your carrier route calls and carrier SMS/MMS over a Wi-Fi network so your phone behaves (for calling & texting) like it's on the cellular network. That means SMS-2FA usually works while you're on Wi-Fi — but you must configure it correctly and test it before you travel.

1) Before you travel — checklist (do these at home)

1. **Confirm carrier support** — check your carrier's website or call support to confirm they support Wi-Fi Calling and whether they allow it while **roaming internationally**. (Major carriers usually support it but rules vary.)
2. **Know which number/line you need to receive 2FA for** — your home number or a travel (eSIM) number? Decide which SIM/line must receive SMS/calls while abroad.
3. **Keep the home SIM active if you want its number reachable** — do NOT remove the physical SIM if you want to receive texts/calls for that number. (You can keep roaming turned **off** to avoid charges.)
4. **Update device OS** — make sure iOS / Android is up to date.
5. **Save emergency address if prompted** — some carriers/phones require an emergency (E911) address for Wi-Fi Calling.
6. **Get alternate 2FA methods ready** — set up an authenticator app or store backup codes for critical services as a fallback.

2) Device & SIM setup — step-by-step

iPhone (iOS)

1. Open **Settings** → **Phone** → **Wi-Fi Calling**.
2. Toggle **Wi-Fi Calling on This iPhone** → confirm and follow prompts. If asked, enter your **emergency address** (E911).
3. If you have **Dual SIM (eSIM + physical SIM)**: go to **Settings** → **Cellular**, tap a line (e.g., “Primary” or the carrier name) and confirm Wi-Fi Calling is enabled for the line that you want to receive calls/texts on. Also check **Settings** → **Cellular** → **Default Voice Line** to see which line is used for outgoing calls/SMS by default.
4. **Leave your home SIM inserted** (if you want your home number reachable). Set **Data** to use the eSIM if you want local data, but keep Wi-Fi Calling enabled for the home line.
5. Reboot the phone after enabling Wi-Fi Calling.

Android (general) — common paths (exact wording varies by OEM)

1. Open **Settings** → **Network & internet / Connections** → **Mobile network**.
2. Look for **Wi-Fi Calling** and toggle it **On**. (On Samsung: **Settings** → **Connections** → **Wi-Fi Calling**. On Pixel: **Settings** → **Network & internet** → **Mobile network** → **Advanced** → **Wi-Fi Calling**.)
3. If you have dual SIM, there will usually be a setting to enable Wi-Fi Calling **per SIM** — enable it for the SIM/line whose number must receive SMS/calls. Also check **Default SMS app / Default voice line** settings and set them appropriately.
4. Reboot the phone.

eSIM / dual-SIM specifics (practical rules)

- **If you want to keep receiving your home number’s SMS/2FA**, keep that SIM/line active in the phone and enable Wi-Fi Calling on it. You can disable cellular data or set data to the local eSIM to avoid data roaming charges.
- **If you remove the home SIM or deactivate the line**, you won’t receive SMS or calls for that number.
- **If you set the eSIM as the “default” voice line**, SMS/calls might route to that line — check defaults carefully.

3) Test it (do this before you leave)

1. Connect phone to a reliable Wi-Fi network.
2. Enable **Airplane mode** (this disables cellular radios) then manually turn **Wi-Fi back on** and reconnect the same Wi-Fi (this simulates being out of cellular range).
3. Check status bar for a Wi-Fi Calling indicator (may say “Wi-Fi Calling,” show a small phone+Wi-Fi icon, or text in the Phone settings).
4. From a separate phone, **call** your number and see if your phone rings.
5. Ask someone to **send an SMS 2FA** (or request a test code) to your number; verify it arrives while in Airplane+Wi-Fi mode.
6. Check voicemail (call your voicemail) and try sending an SMS to someone.
7. If everything works, you’re set. If not, run the troubleshooting steps below.

4) Troubleshooting steps (common causes & fixes)

1. **No Wi-Fi Calling indicator / calls fail**
 - Reboot phone.
 - Toggle Wi-Fi Calling OFF → ON.
 - Toggle Airplane mode OFF then ON, then reenable Wi-Fi.
2. **SMS 2FA not arriving but calls work**
 - Some carriers/apps treat SMS differently — test both SMS and call.
 - Ensure your phone’s Default SMS line is set to the correct SIM.
3. **Captive portal / public Wi-Fi**

- Make sure you've logged into the hotspot's captive portal (hotel Wi-Fi login). Wi-Fi Calling generally requires full internet access.

4. **Network firewall / strict NAT or blocked ports**

- Some enterprise or public Wi-Fi blocks SIP/VoIP traffic; try another Wi-Fi or use mobile hotspot.

5. **VPN interference**

- A VPN can sometimes break Wi-Fi Calling. If you use a VPN, try disabling it for testing.

6. **Carrier restriction while roaming**

- If Wi-Fi Calling still fails abroad, confirm with the carrier whether Wi-Fi Calling is permitted from the country you're in — some carriers restrict it when outside certain regions. If it's restricted, you may need to enable short-term roaming or use alternative 2FA methods.

7. **If still unsuccessful**

- Contact your carrier's support (they can check if Wi-Fi Calling is provisioned on your account) and ask them to verify provisioning for Wi-Fi Calling on the specific line.

5) **Billing, emergency calls, and 2FA best practices**

- **Billing:** Most carriers treat Wi-Fi Calling calls/texts the same as normal calls/texts (no extra charge), but roaming or inbound charges can vary. Verify whether receiving SMS while roaming is billable on your plan.
- **Emergency calls:** Wi-Fi Calling may use a registered address for emergency services — **register or update** the address on your device when enabling Wi-Fi Calling. In an emergency abroad, the emergency operator may not be able to locate you via Wi-Fi the same way they can via local cell towers.
- **2FA best practices:**

- **Primary recommendation:** use an **authenticator app** (Google Authenticator, Microsoft Authenticator, Authy) or hardware key where possible — they do not depend on SMS.
- **Backup codes:** store printed/secure backup codes for critical accounts.
- **Test 2FA methods before travel** so you're not locked out.

Quick troubleshooting cheat-sheet (short)

- Enable Wi-Fi Calling → reboot → Airplane mode + Wi-Fi on → call & request SMS.
- If SMS not arriving: verify default SMS line, captive portal, VPN, or carrier roaming policy.
- Fallback: enable temporary roaming *for a short window* OR use authenticator app / backup codes.