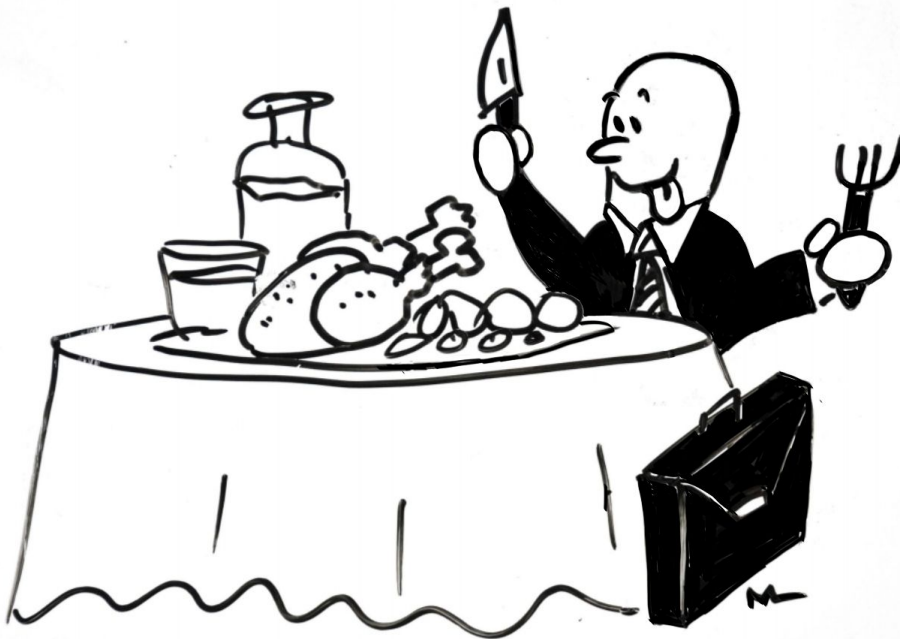




Business Trip Meal

Find a Restaurant with no smartphone?



Can you still do it?

About the author

Mario Alvarez

I am a mechanical engineer. As a technical support representative I travel a lot. Parallel to that I enjoy the Business Trip Meal experience.

I host a podcast about meals during business trips. You find it here BusinessTripMeal.com

I'm also on twitter

[@BizTripMeal](https://twitter.com/BizTripMeal)

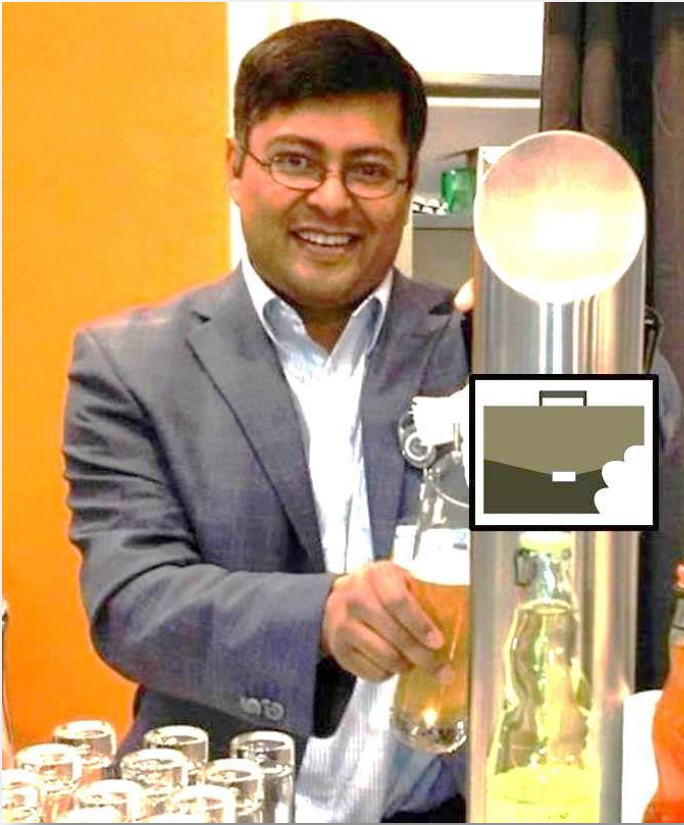
and Instagram

[@Businessstripmeal](https://www.instagram.com/Businessstripmeal)

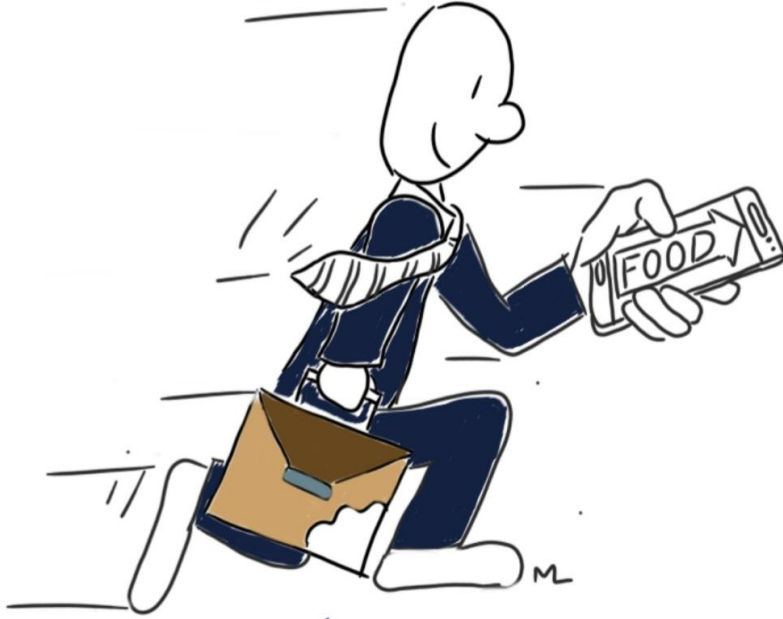


Jason Gutierrez

is a business traveler as well he was born on a whiteboard at the office, he represents you and me. He will help us illustrate the stories in this e-book.



Introduction

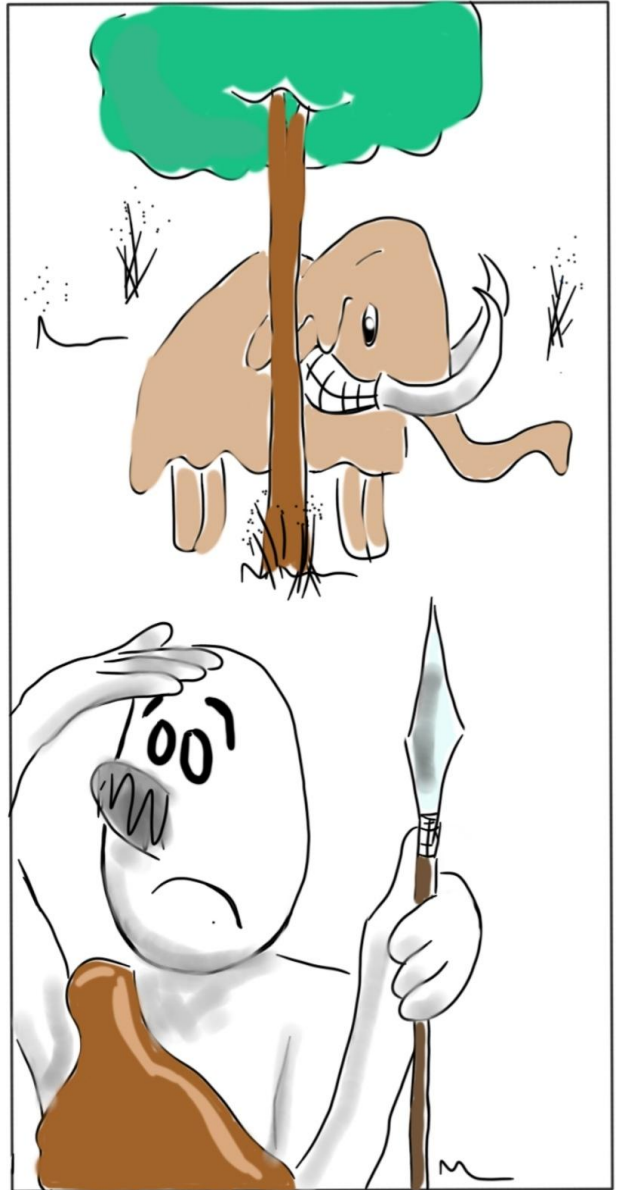


Jason is a sales representative; he is constantly on the road. He is what some call a road warrior. This very often means that, at lunch or dinner time he must find a restaurant in a place he is visiting for the first time. So what's the problem? He can just take his smart phone and click on that app that can find the best restaurant around. Normally, he will get a nice list of possible places, take a look at the price and quickly analyze the likes and dislikes of lovers and haters. Cool! Now just walk five hundred steps to the left, then turn right walk another thousand steps and voila! Jason has been doing this so many times that it became a routine.



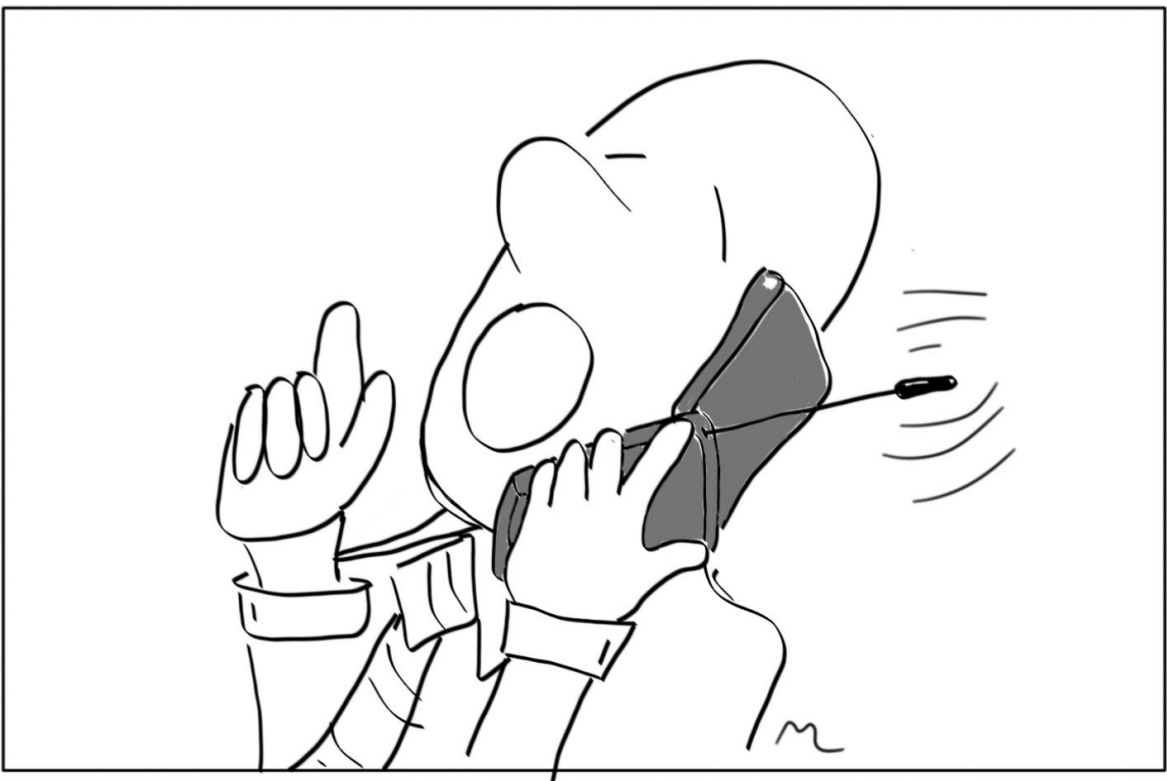
Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone

The consequence is that his tracking muscle got weak. A tracker will tell you based on the smell in the air in which direction you have to walk to find the mammoth; he will guide the crew in the quest for food. He will also know where to dig a hole in the snow where fish or seals can be found but if he catches a cold then you have a crisis. Let's help Jason recall the ten logical, obvious, primitive food finding reflexes he had before the smartphone era.



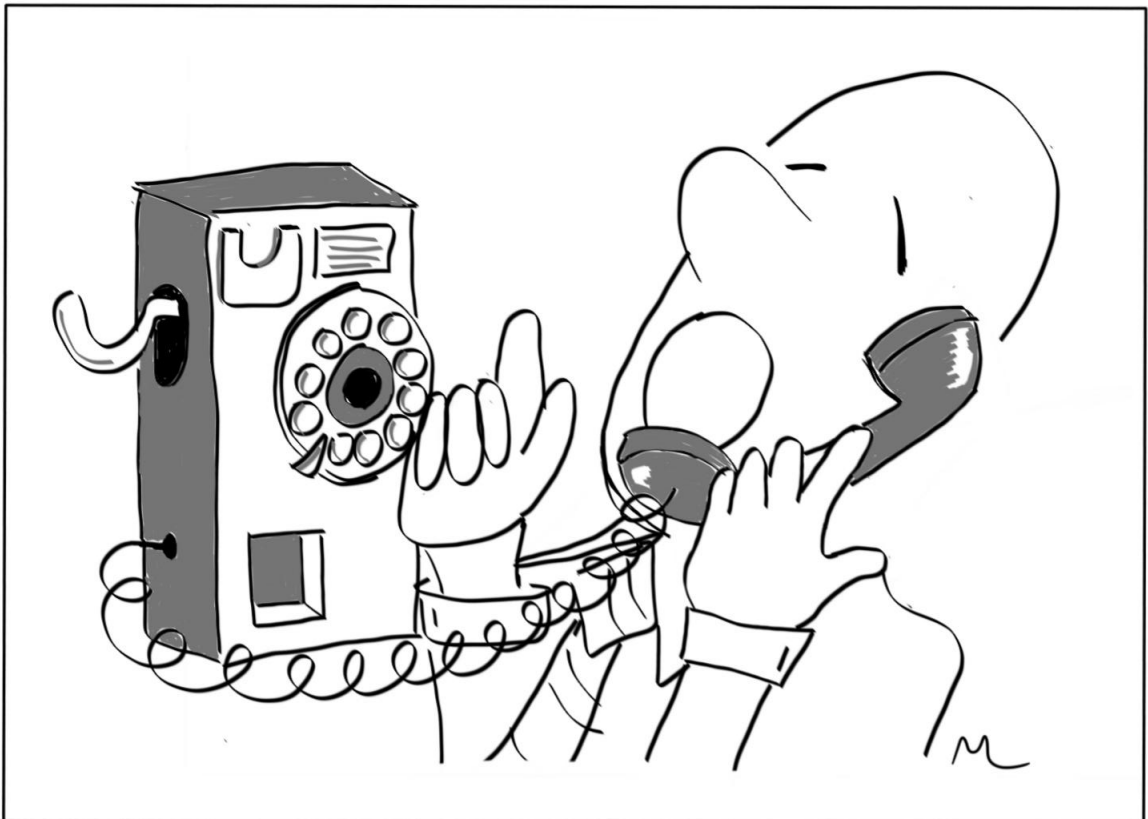
Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone

This is how you slowly lost your instincts: Jason was born in 1970, his first cell phone was a Motorola Startac, then came the Nokia, then another Nokia, later Jason lived the Blackberry era and today he has an Android device. The Motorola had an intelligent button, but the Android device belongs to the smartphone group. It does almost everything for you; from planning to looking for places, restaurants, and walking you there by the hand. The reservation was already made with a couple of clicks and when you live the payment and the sharing to your social groups is ready.



Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone

When for some reason your smartphone is out of reach or out of service then what? It's time for Jason to go old school; we can even call it vintage or prehistoric. Let's do a trip back in time and transform that state of the art phone of yours into an early nineties foldable dot matrix display cell phone with one intelligent button. Let's be more radical, let's go back to the Zig Ziglar era when no phone was mobile or wireless you worked from a phone booth and had to pay with coins for each call..



Part 1

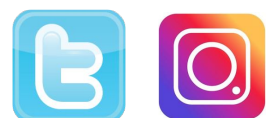
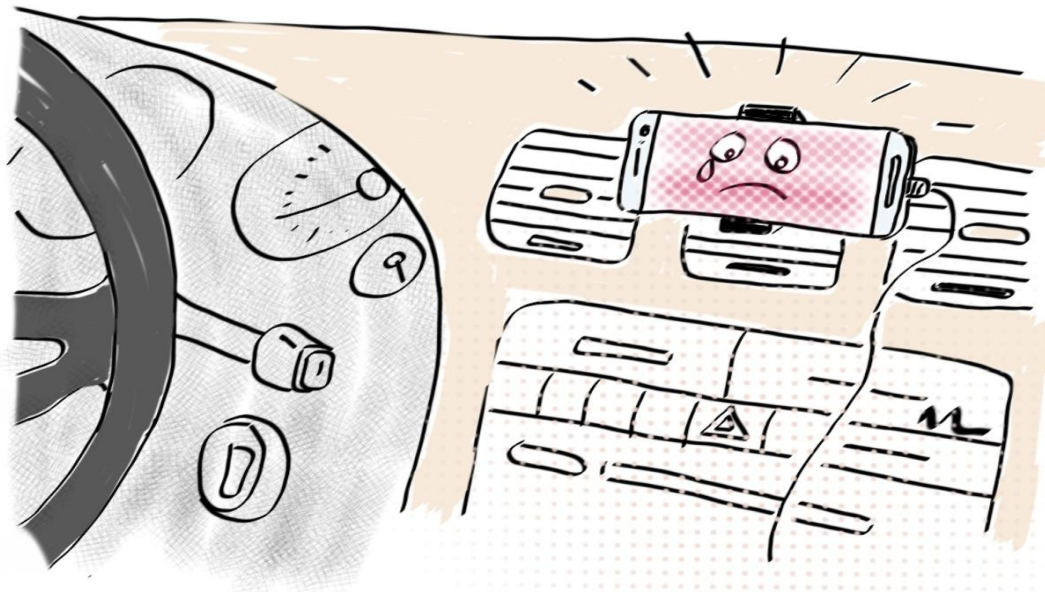
10 possible situations when you have no smartphone available

1 You left your smartphone charging at home. Jason never forgets anything until he does. After many years travelling he developed some rituals and reflexes which more or less guaranty that he will take everything he needs with him. As you might also have experienced there are some occasions when a particular event will distract you from the ritual and break the chain of actions you follow when you prepare to travel. In this occasion Jason's daughter needed some attention before he had to leave, she could not find her flute for the music lesson, Jason helped to find it and got late. He had to rush to the office and he forgot to take his smartphone from the desk were it was charging.



Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone

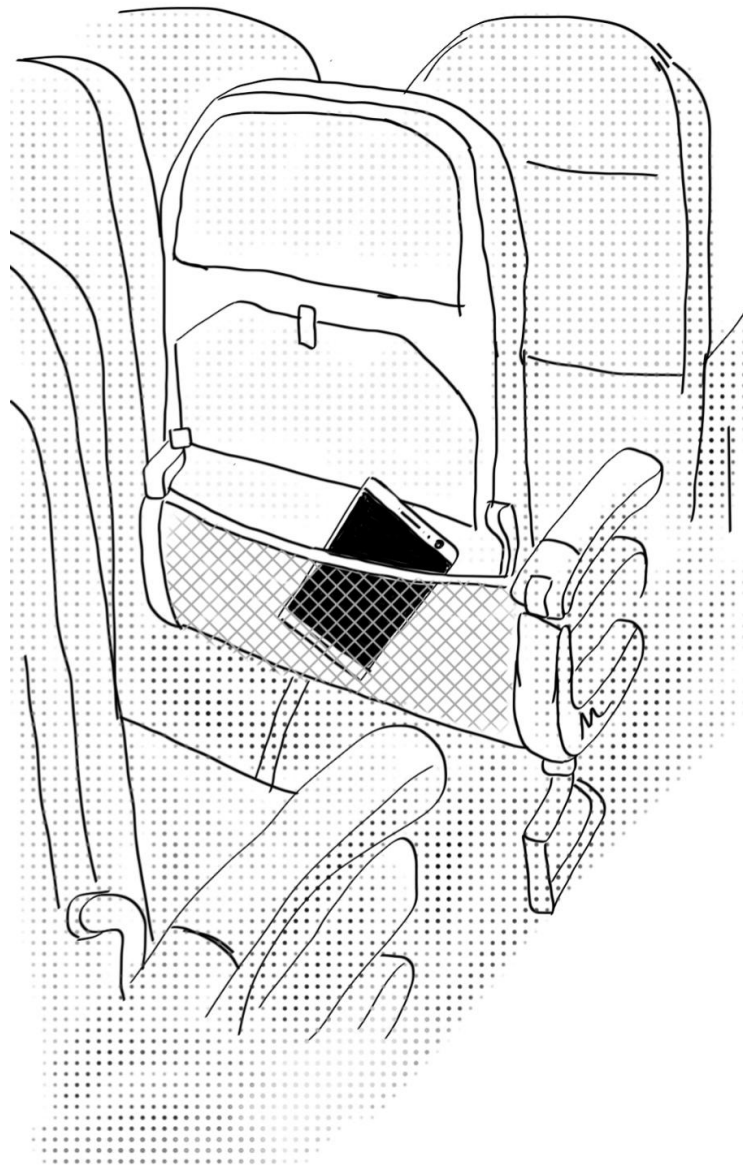
2 You left the phone in the car. Getting out of the car is like writing your signature. You have done it so many times that it became mechanical. The sequence is more or less like this: park, turn the key and pull it off, push hand brake button, pick your smartphone from the tray below the radio, disconnect the charging cable put your phone on a pocket in your jacket, get out of the car, pick your suitcase, close the car, activate the lock function with the key and walk inside the airport. What happens when somebody interrupts you when you are doing your signature, can you re start from the last line you made? Not so easy right? Result of any distraction, the smartphone stayed in the car...



Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone

3 Forgot it inside a tray at the security control. Jason arrived late to the airport because of a traffic jam. He ran to the check-in counter then to the security controls. He queued for fifteen minutes and when his turn arrived he put all electronics, liquids and suitcase on the trays before the x-ray machine. On the rush he picked up everything back but left his smartphone inside the last tray.





4 On the plane. "Please turn off all your electronic devices. Mobile phones should be on flying mode during the whole flight etc." You took your phone pushed the turn off button and you just left it inside the seat pocket in front of you. It will stay there as you go out of the plane on a hurry to catch the next flight...



5 At the rental car counter.

The first thing Jason does when he gets to the rental car office is empty his pockets. They need to see your credit card, driver license and passport. You need to check your wallet, portfolio, and pull out all those elements. One of the items you might put temporarily on the desk is your mobile phone after you are asked to sign aside

four X marks, two times your signature and twice more your capitals. While the lady on the counter was looking for your keys and navigation system your phone rang and your colleague who is waiting already for you for half an hour hurries you up. You hunged up quickly put the phone on the desk to sign and get keys, contract, GPS, a map of the way to the parking lot, the latest traveler magazine and of course your documents and card. The smartphone stayed at the counter.



RENT A CAR

Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone



6 At the customer meeting room. Jason was in a meeting and his phone rang. He answered quickly, explained he was busy and said he would call later. He apologized for the interruption and turned the phone down. It is common that during the presentation you will cover the table with samples and brochures, some are giveaways others not. When the meeting was over and the customer reminded him that he had to go to his next meeting Jason picked part of the samples and brochures and left the phone under the giveaways. He then greeted his host and went to the hotel.

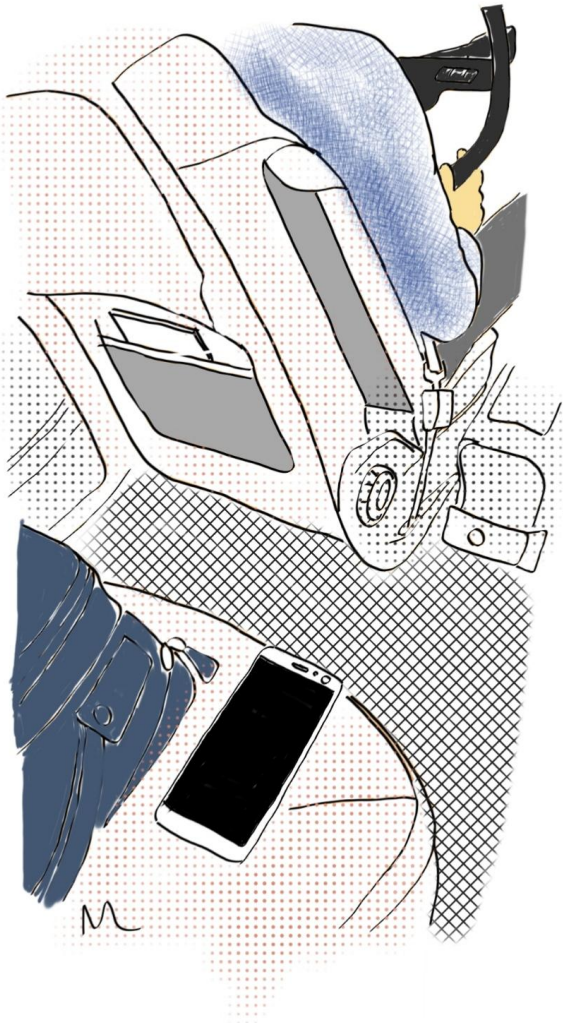


Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone

7 At the hotel room. The most forgotten object in a hotel room is the charger of the smartphone, not the phone itself. But how many times you reach the hotel by the end of the day and have to charge the almost empty battery? May be you did not forget the phone at the hotel room but had not choice and had to leave it there charging and went for dinner with no compass.



Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone



8 In the taxi. Very often calling a taxi, getting inside and out of it can turn into a stressful situation. Imagine you are using your smartphone to verify the address of your customer or to call your contact and find the way to his location. You will need both hands to pay, take your luggage and samples and then run to your meeting. If you are late, in that kind of hurry, there is a chance you will leave something on the back seat, yes your phone can be that thing.

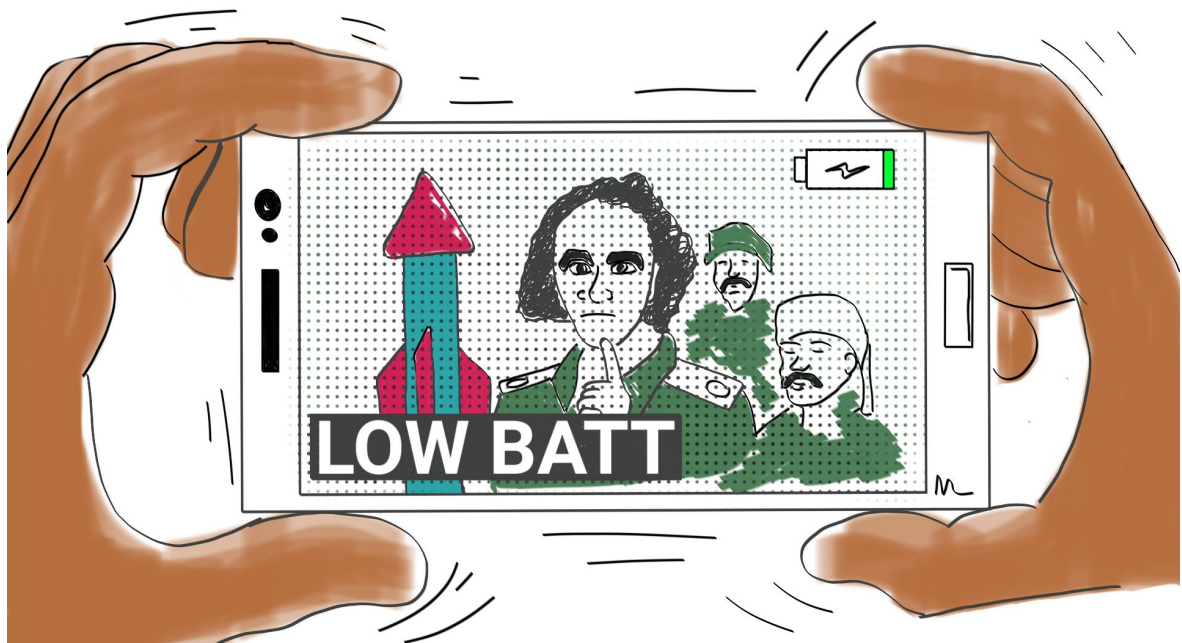


9 You do not know where it is or it was stolen. You do not know where your phone is. At least all the previous cases have one thing in common, hope. In any of those cases you know where you might have forgotten your smartphone. The most stressful and scary event is when you have no clue where it might have ended.



10 “Battery Aziz”.

One scene of the film True Lies with Arnold Schwarzenegger shows a terrorist been recorded as he sends a menacing message to the USA authorities. The guy who is holding the camera gets the low battery blinking alarm and cold sweats pour from his front. Suddenly the handy cam blacks out, then the guy lowers the camera and says “battery Aziz” with the most fearful possible expression in his face. That cold sweat has been experienced by anybody needing his smartphone which shows an almost empty battery icon or just something like 5%, 4%, 3%, 2%, 1%, and then blacks out.

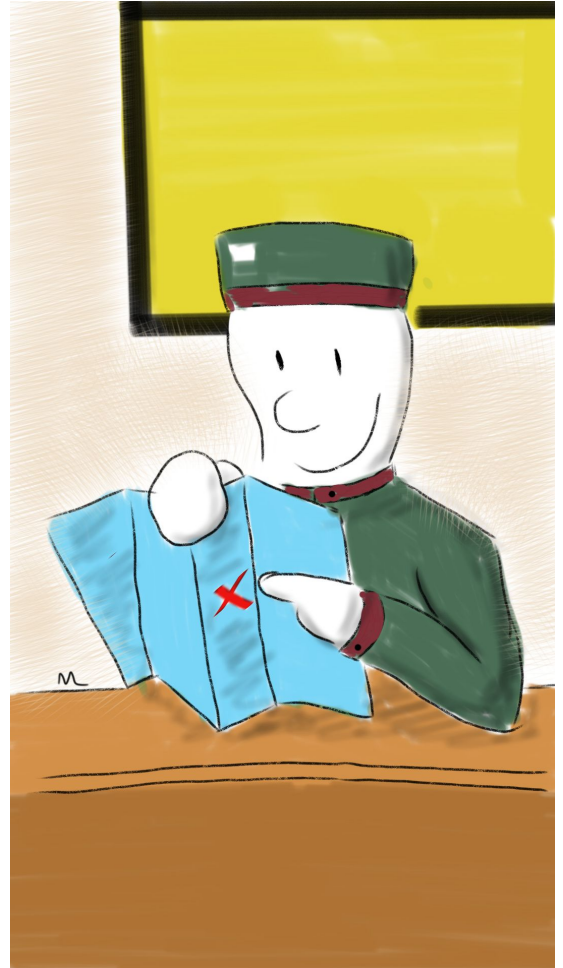


Part 2

10 options to find a restaurant without a smartphone

1 Ask the good old clerk. At the hotel reception the crew always has several recommendations for good places to eat. They even have a map on paper from the area and they will kindly point your current location and two or three specific recommendations.

Sometimes the cities we visit have a restaurant area where you can walk and make your choice; it's likely you will be sent there. Some restaurants will ask to be recommended or will leave their business cards in a visible spot for you to notice when you check in.



2 Ask somebody on the street. Asking a person on the street is an emergency option.

Some modern hotels do not have reception, well they do but it is an electronic device with a touch screen that after you write your code will spit a key for your room. Last time I used one it could not recommend any restaurant, may be in the future. Ask several people on the street, don't be shy.

Some might answer "sorry I'm not from this area", but others will be happy to recommend their preferred restaurant. If you are lucky they might even come with several options.



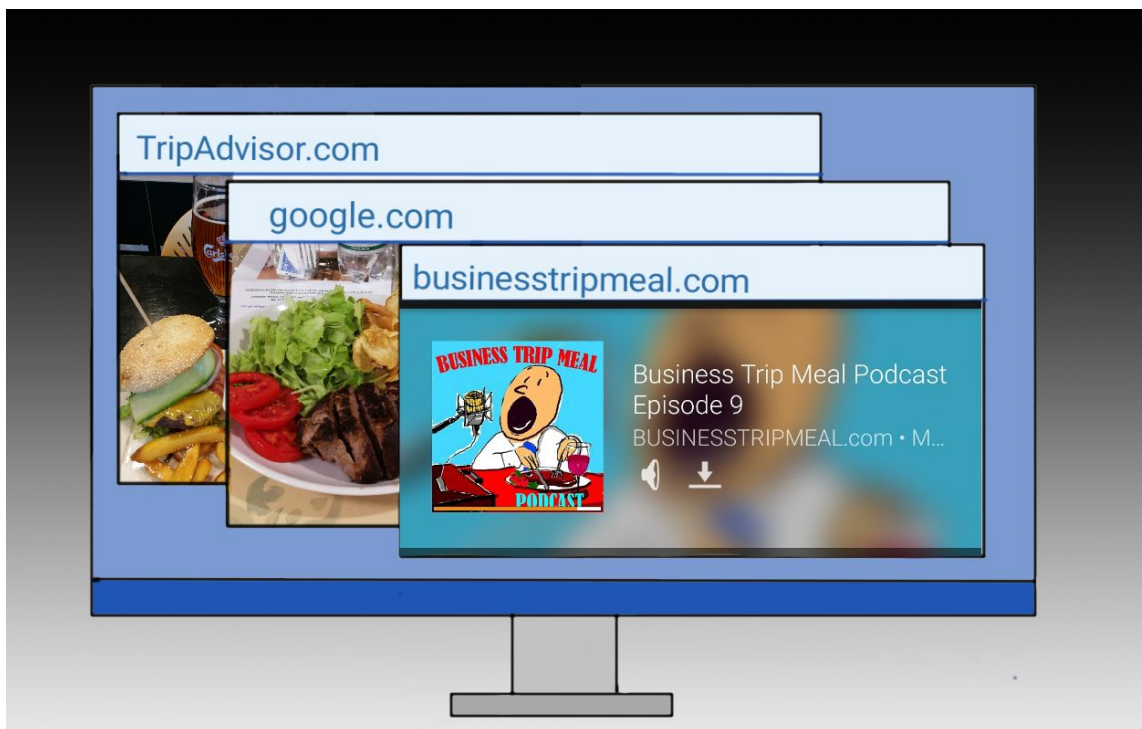
Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone

3 Take the risk walk down the street. I always try to book my hotel close to the downtown, it allows me to discover anew city and a little bit of its history. It also makes easier to find a restaurant, normally they are close to the central square or the cathedral. When I do that, I take care to look at the menu on the door, I check if the place is crowded or not, if the tables are nicely decorated and if people seems to be enjoying their meal. The risk of eating close to the downtown is to get food just good for tourists. I was disappointed several times and pleased some others. In any case I never starved.



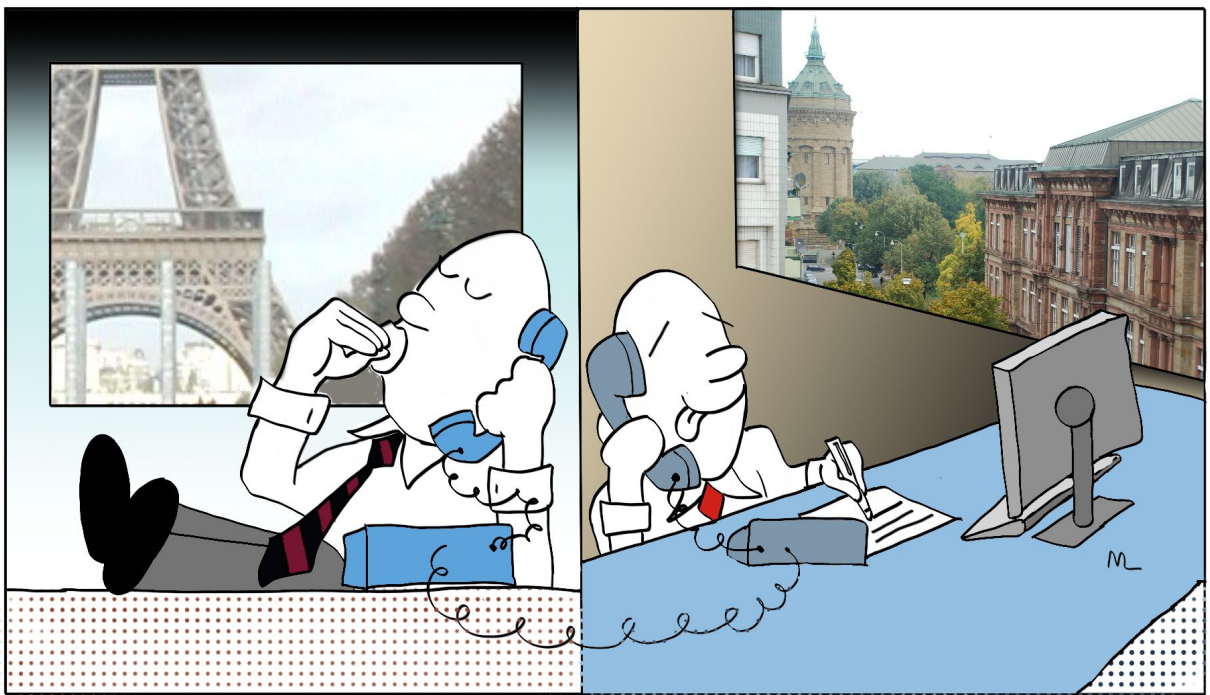
Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone

4 Do your research before you leave. Have your meal plan on paper. The best measure is to cultivate the habit of planning in advance, if possible of course. Then if your smartphone is not available you will be happy to have a printed travel plan and just read to the taxi driver the address of the restaurant you had chosen online at the office or by asking someone before you left for the trip.



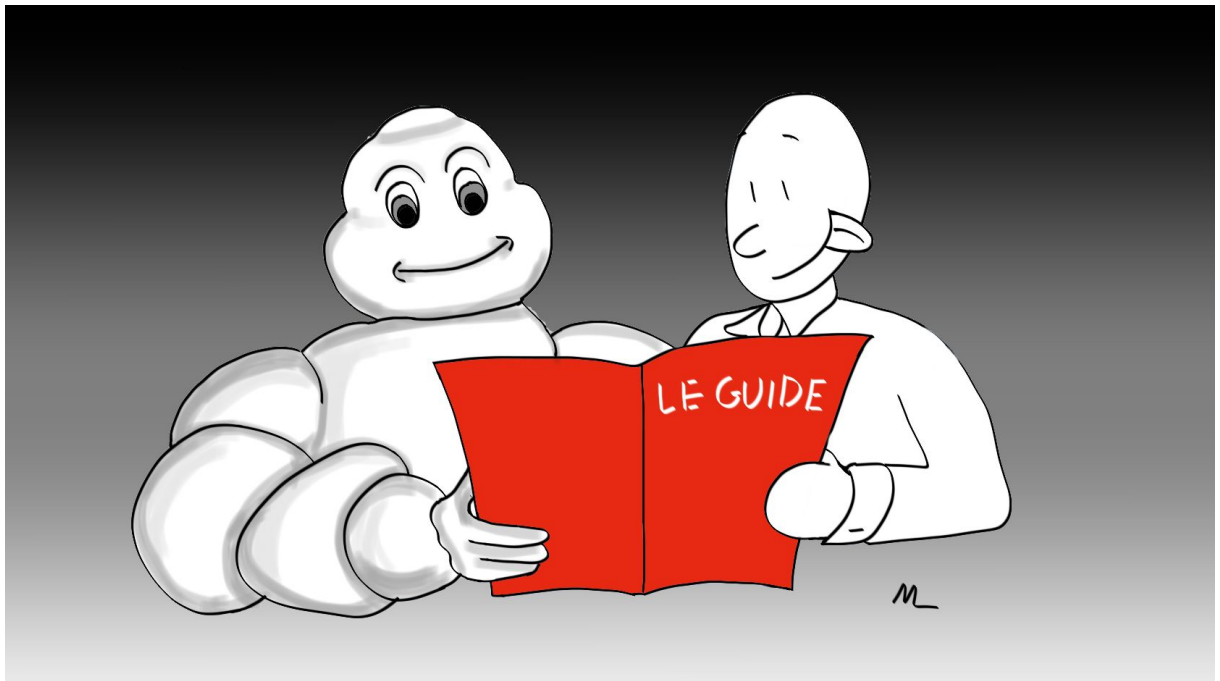
Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone

5 Ask the local sales people. This option is similar to that of planning in advance. Take the phone and ask your colleagues that know the area or work in that place to recommend where to go. We all have a couple of restaurants where we take customers or any kind of visitor. We also can recommend a special place which has not necessarily the usual format; it might be for example a food truck that makes the best Cuban sandwiches or Phò soup.



Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone

6 Le guide Michelin. Some colleagues I know travel with their guide in book format. Today they turned into apps and if you have no phone you have no guide. Anyway if you are still getting for example the Michelin guide or another of that kind you are served, just go to the list of recommendations for your area. Of course having a guide Michelin means you have a nice budget for dinners on a regular basis.



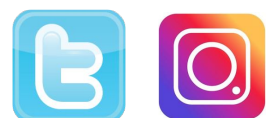
Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone

7 Ask your customer. Why not inviting the client for lunch or dinner, he will have to stand for his recommendation. Again, almost all customers have a special place to take suppliers or their own customers. In one occasion the customer I visited was the owner of the restaurant next door as well. He took his business partners there for lunch or dinner, the place was really good.



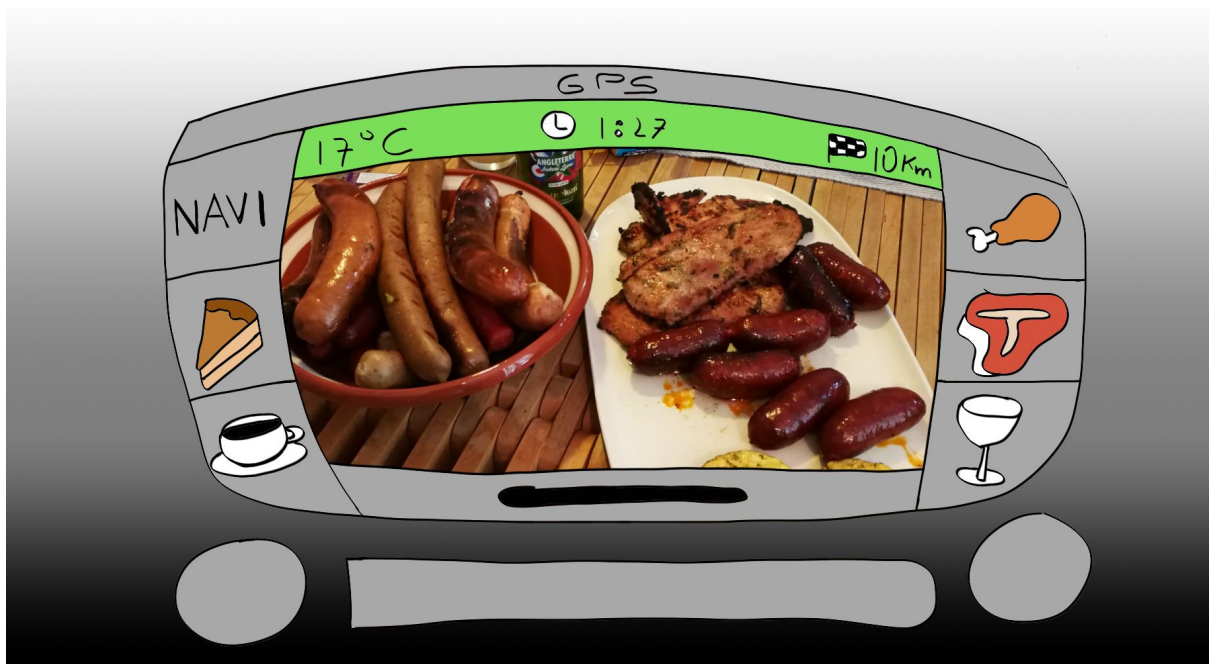
Find a Restaurant with no Smartphone

8 Gas Station, Pharmacy, Newspaper stand, other stores. The stores around you customer's facility are good sources of information, the guy at the gas station knows a place for sure, even the gas station might have some decent restaurant next to it. The newspaper stand is also a place to ask, the guy or lady in charge will for sure have a couple of tips for you, in many cases they have worked there for a long time.

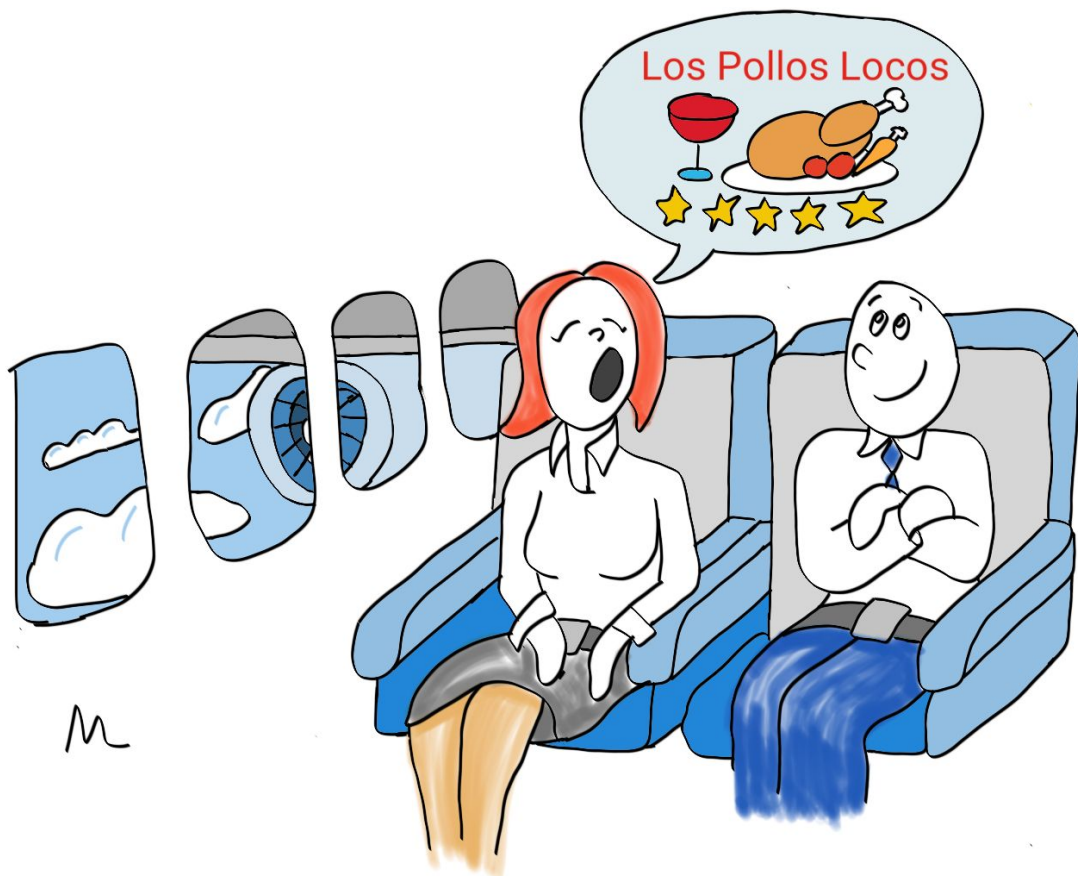


9 The navigation system.

Going back to the electronics, if you rental car has a GPS just look in the options for restaurants and there you go, the system will show a list of the closest places. This is also very risky, normally there are no ratings and you have to take your chance. I have several times been guided to a restaurant that does not exist anymore but after a couple of rounds to the block you find a place to have your meal.



10 Ask the person sitting next to you in the plane. That person could be a local going back home or another business traveler that knows the city and can tell you a couple of names of restaurants to try.



Conclusion

It was not that hard was it? Of course you knew all these options, Jason just wanted to remind them to you and have a little fun by doing so. Well now if you find yourself with no smartphone and hungry you are prepared.



Our first product is in preparation:

Office Tourist

tales by a business traveler

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