



Gift ideas for travellers

from the Indie Travel Podcast

G'day,

This is the time of year where gift buying comes to an unadulterated head, so we want to help out the travellers in your family with this catalogue of gifts chosen by travellers.

Like the look of anything in this guide? Just click the picture to go online and find prices and more details. Click again and securely purchase and ship your gifts without fighting the traffic. Wherever we have been able to, we've sourced discounts to make things even easier on your pocket, so make the most of the the coupon codes scattered throughout the guide.

We've been living "on the road" since February 2006, so we know the importance of cutting down and packing light. While we recommend these products, we don't recommend buying them all! Choose carefully and remember that you may have to wear or carry all this equipment on your back.

This is a free document, so feel free to forward it on to your Mum. Maybe with a tasteful note to check out the nice laptop on page five? It can be downloaded from our site, the Indie Travel Podcast, where you can also find two years of travel tips from full-time travellers. Have a great Christmas. We're spending ours on the beaches of Western Australia. Yes, it's summer here.

Yours,
Craig and Linda Martin



Get packed and get moving

Packs and daybags

Find the right pack for your needs – but remember to pack light! Choose a pack that's 55L or smaller, like one of these.



A lightweight daybag can be worth its weight in gold. Use it for day trips, carry-on luggage or as a pillow if necessary. Choose one that packs small when it is not in use and is comfortable when it is.

Packing cubes



It's much easier to find stuff in your bag if there's a bit of order to your packing. These packing cubes help keep like items with like and can even help you fit more in your bag.

Pack cover

No-one likes it when it rains while you're travelling, still less when the water seeps through your bag and all your clothes get wet. Insure against the weather with a pack cover to keep your valuables dry.



Laundry bag

Keep smelly clothes separate from clean ones with a functional laundry bag. It compresses well so it doesn't take up a lot of space, and it makes trips to the washing machine that much easier.



Clothesline

It's often hard to find somewhere to hang your freshly washed clothes.



This lightweight clothesline can be put up almost anywhere and doesn't require pegs.

Detergent

Afraid your kid's bags will stink out the hostel? Slip this in their stocking and give them a good chance to keep their only t-shirt smelling OK.



Click any image for prices and shipping options

Be secure wherever you go

Padlocks



Since you want to keep your stuff, take a few padlocks away with you. Use them to lock your bag shut or to secure lockers in hostels. Combination locks are a good choice – you can't lose the key!

Document wallet

Travel involves a lot of documentation – passports, tickets, itineraries ... the list goes on. Keep it all together in a stylish document wallet.



One thing you don't want to do is advertise where you store all these vital documents. Try to keep your document wallet and moneybelt out of sight most of the time.

Global bag tags



No-one wants their bag to go missing, but if it does it'd be great to get it back again quickly. Global bag tags are a great investment towards being reunited with lost luggage.

Use the code "ITPC" for a 10% discount.

Money belt

In the immortal words of Gandalf: "Keep it secret, keep it safe." Keep money, passports and credit cards out of sight under your shirt.



Moneybelts got a serious lampooning in the comedy film Eurotrip. The idea is to keep these out of sight, so put everything you need for the day in your pockets before heading out the door.

Travel insurance

There are many insurance companies out there, but few specialise in travel insurance. World Nomads have partnered with a worldwide network of providers and negotiated special travel policies and rates.

We (Craig and Linda) actually use them whenever we get travel insurance.



You can buy, extend and claim online from anywhere, even after you've already left home! Recommended by Lonely Planet, World Nomads travel insurance is designed for adventurous independent travellers and covers overseas medical, evacuation and luggage such as iPods and digital cameras.

Sleep or play?

Lightweight sleeping bag



It's usually worth having a sleeping bag with you, especially if you're planning on spending a lot of time in hostels or sleeping on floors. Lightweight is key, but get one with a reasonable temperature rating.



Note: Hostels in Europe often supply their own linen, a practise that isn't so common in other areas of the world.

Ear plugs

Drown out the unfamiliar noise of traffic and dorm guests with a set of foam ear plugs; or step things up a notch and buy a more comfortable, better quality set.



Sleeping bag liner



Increase your sleeping bag's rating and keep it cleaner with a sleeping bag liner. Or use it on its own in hot countries or hostels where the linen is a little dodgy.

Pillow

A blow-up pillow might mean the difference between sleeping and not, especially if the sleeping in question is upright on a bus. Save your neck and get some sleep.



Pack of cards

Never underestimate the value of a pack of cards. They're a great way to get a group together in a hostel lounge room, and if all else fails, you can always play solitaire.



Mini games

There are so many options...find the travel version of your favourite games.



Frisbee



We've never seen anything quite like this travel frisbee from Kiwi company Kathmandu. Its soft material folds down to a tiny size, but it's great for the beach or park.

Gadgets and Geekery

There's no escaping the fact that electronics are both heavy and reasonably expensive. We recommend taking as little as you can get away with. That way there's less to carry, less to worry about and less to insure.

That said, "flashpackers" are now carrying plentiful amounts of high quality electronics. Just because you're away from home, doesn't mean you have to be disconnected.

Music and internet?

An iPhone or iPod Touch (pictured) is the ultimate communication hub for travellers. Store music, games, photos and video plus use wifi to connect to the web.



Even though an iPod Nano has a smaller capacity than a classic iPod, the flash memory means it's more likely to handle rough treatment.

Light laptops



A "netbook" is a great compromise of weight and cost with full laptop capabilities.

We recently bought a Asus Eee 900 and, although small, is great for web surfing, email and Skype.

Camera time

We carry the waterproof Pentax Optio W30. The newer W60 gives better quality shots and can still be used underwater!



Wanting more than a point-and-shoot? The Canon xSi is a powerful DSLR for the hobby photographer. Don't forget some extra SD cards and batteries.



Podcaster's wishlist

Looking to podcast your way around the world? This is the gear we'd recommend.

A MacBook Pro is lightning fast and comes loaded with all the software you need to edit video and audio.



The "flip" is a small video camera which is excellent for internet-quality video.



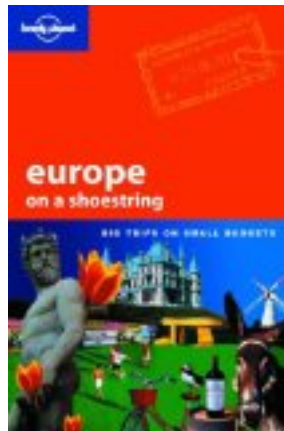
The Handy Zoom H2 has four mikes in the head for surround sound recording.



The LaCie Rugged hard drives are fast and furious, but padded with bright rubber to help them take the knocks.

Guidebooks: Love 'em or hate 'em, we all use them.

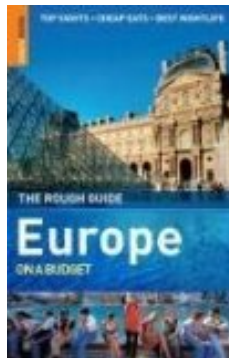
Europe



There's nothing quite like the stalwart classic: Lonely Planet's Europe on a Shoestring.

Its popularity, as is often the case, can also be a great weakness.

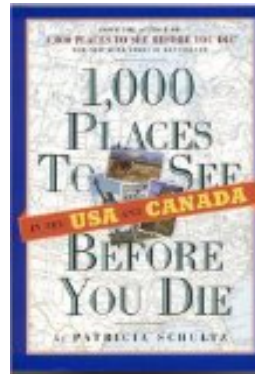
A comprehensive alternative is the Rough Guide to Europe on a Budget. Covering much of the same ground, RG seems stronger in Eastern European countries.



Craig's ebook is a beginner's guide to researching and funding your European trip.

Get 20% off with discount code "xmas"

North America



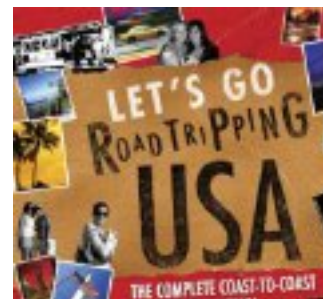
Know someone who lives in North America? This is their chance to explore. Can you convince them to visit all 1,000 places in Canada and the USA?

New York for New Year's?



If you know someone heading to the Big Apple this holiday, this might be the perfect city guide for them.

We recently had "Let's Go Road-Tripping USA" recommended to us. Seems like a fine way to travel the country.



Central and South America



There are so many great guides to Central and South America, but recently I've been looking at the Moon guides to each country.

Once again Lonely Planet's "on a shoestring" guides give comprehensive overviews.

Great for multi-country trips and for planning stages.



(Want to be a) Frequent Flier?

The unconventional guide to discount airfare will help you fly more often for less money and maximise air miles.



Guidebooks. There's still more of the blighters!

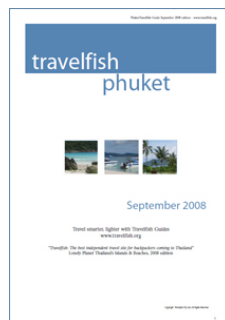
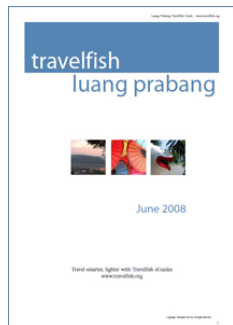
Asia



Asia is the region that started Lonely Planet's meteoric rise to guidebook domination, and this North-East Asia guide certainly deserves a look.

Travelfish guides

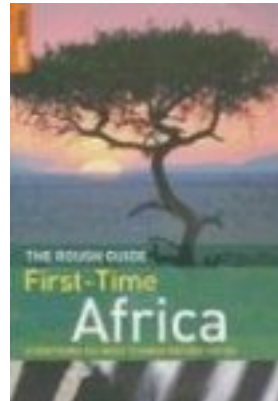
With thousands sold since its recent inception, Travelfish guides are the most up-to-date guides to the South East Asian region. Each downloadable guide comes at an amazingly low price, so you can afford to scoop up city guides for each place you visit.



Africa

Not too sure about travelling to Africa? Seems risky? Or just too foreign?

Rough Guide's "first time" series is designed to alleviate your fears and give you the beginning information on how to plan and budget your trip.



Of course, there are also specific titles for each country with more detailed information.



Australasia



If New Zealand is just too far away the Lord of the Rings location guidebook will be a perfect coffee table book for the Kiwi-loving Tolkien fan.

Many people choose to spend a few months in Australia followed by a few months in New Zealand.



Don't forget to explore the Pacific islands! Check out where to go for the best diving, partying and relaxing.



Eat, drink and be...hygienic?

Orikaso dishes

Never get caught without a cup again. Orikaso's Flatworld dishes pack flat and light, and take up very little space in your bag.



Sporks



A perfect stocking-filler. Sporks are lightweight and well-designed, and are the only eating utensil you need on the road (well, a pocket knife would come in handy too).

Picnicker pocket knife

The Picnicker has all the attachments you could reasonably need, and none of the extras that make a pocket knife uncomfortably bulky. Plus, the long blade means that you'll actually be able to cut things with it.



Travel power adapter + USB



You don't have to leave all your electronics behind. But lighten up on accessories by taking just one adapter – this one.

Maglite

You never know when the lights will go out, or when you'll be somewhere where there are just no lights to begin with. Light your way to the loo with a slimline Maglite.



Travel towel

Towels are bulky. And heavy, especially when they're wet. Lightweight travel towels are super-absorbent, and dry quickly as well. But best of all, they pack small so that you have more space in your bag for other essentials.



First Aid kit

Don't leave home without a first aid kit – get a basic one and personalise it with your own medication and favourite band-aids. Don't forget the extra painkillers.



Thanks

Thanks for looking through the Indie Travel Podcast's Gift Ideas for Travellers 2008. Do you think something's missing? You can add it!

Click our picture to visit the site and add your perfect travel gifts to the list. We'd love to hear your ideas.

Cheers,
Craig and Linda Martin

