

# Practical Travel Gear

Travel gear reviews, gadgets for the road, and travel clothes that pull their weight.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007

## ➔ A Couple's Round-the-world Gadget Packing

My friend Derek Hughey and his new wife Shanna just began a round-the-world journey. Since they were living a few miles from my house before storing their possessions into storage and hitting the road, I checked in to see what travel gear they were packing.

The contents of these backpacks were a gadget-lover's dream, mostly because our newlyweds were able to register for lots of cool but useful wedding gifts. They registered for gear at [REI](#) and [Amazon](#), picked up their packs from [Backcountry](#), and even had relatives give them splurges through [TravelersJoy.com](#). Their big challenge then was not deciding what to spend money on but rather what was worth packing and what was going to provide mostly extra weight.



Here are a few of the useful highlights:

[Portable speaker for iPod Nano](#). Derek checked out a bunch of these and found this JLab one to have the best customer reviews for quality sound.

[150-country electrical adapter with surge protection](#).

[Eagle Creek packing cubes](#). I tend to just roll things and stuff them in my pack, but some travelers swear by these cubes as it helps them keep everything organized.

[Convertible travel pants](#) - a must-have to cut down on bulk.



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### About Me



Tim

Tim has circled the globe three times and travels internationally several times per year. He is author of *The World's Cheapest Destinations* and *Make Your Travel Dollars Worth a Fortune*, as well as being co-writer of *Traveler's Tool Kit: Mexico and Central America*. He writes for a variety of publications and is editor of [PerceptiveTravel.com](#). Have a gear item that's right for the Practical Travel Gear blog? Contact Tim [here](#).

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[Quick-dry travel towel](#)

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The last one only makes sense if you're carrying your own laptop, which Derek is. Carrying a laptop is not my preference when traveling for pleasure only, but he is a digital photography buff and they intend to document their trip through this blog: [One Year on Earth](#).



Here's what's really cool about this couple: they quit real career jobs to go travel the world. Fearful sorts-especially American ones-constantly fret that they are afraid to take off and go traveling because they'll derail their job prospects for the future. For the most part, this is bunk. I know more people who have been out of work for six months just hanging out at home doing a job search after a layoff than I do people who have had a hard time getting a good job after a year of travel.

Derek and Shanna are attorneys. She already has a job waiting for her when she returns--she worked it out in advance. Derek doesn't, but that's the last thing he's thinking about as he goes out and sees what the world has to offer. He knows he'll be fine. They will both return wiser, more educated, and better able to deal with change and adversity. Dream candidates for any organization.

Posted by Tim at [7:05 AM](#)

Labels: [gift ideas](#), [packing aids](#), [travel clothing](#), [travel communication](#), [traveling music](#)

## 2 comments:

[Paul](#) said...



A few years ago, my wife and I both quit our jobs to travel round the world for 6 months.

Neither of us had any problems getting back into work afterwards, in fact we were both re hired by our old companies.

I remember trying to negotiate my return via email while travelling up the Amazon in Brazil. It took sometime as I used to have to sign off my emails with phrases like "going to the Jungle today back in email contact in 6 days"

We certainly found you improved your job prospects by travelling, it proved you had a bit more "get up and go" than

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[Vera Bradley Large Duffel in Medit...](#)

This travel bag has long handles and loads of room, yet is still carry-on compliant. One ~~easy~~ ~~Brooks~~...

Chitika | [Select](#)

most people.

3:10 AM

 [Tim](#) said...



Paul, thanks for adding your personal experience. I traveled around the world three times and never had much trouble getting gainfully employed when I got back either. If nothing else, the traveling makes you more resilient when you hit an obstacle in your search!

11:15 AM

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