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10 Essential Summer Vacation Gadgets

by Jill Duffy

The average business traveler already has a solid roundup of tools and technology for the road, but there's a whole different bag of gear for leaving the office behind, donning a pair of flips flops or a luau skirt, and traveling for pleasure.

Smart travelers pack light, finding multi-purpose gadgets that help minimize how much stuff they try to cram into their carry-ons. The ideal schwag bag is filled with electronics that are high-tech, low-weight, and have true staying power (battery power, that is).

Who says getting away from it all means you can't stay connected? Certainly not us. In fact, the 10 products that we deem most essential for summer holiday travel are designed to let you enjoy your time off while staying connected—in the right way.

Lingo Xplorer language translator, \$250

What we like about the Lingo Xplorer is just how much one can actually do with it. The device, which is about as big as an advanced calculator, can translate 14 languages—English, German, French, Italian, Greek, Dutch, Korean, Chinese, Arabic, Portuguese, Hebrew, Japanese, Spanish, and Russian, as well as conjure up 840,000 words, utter 46,200 useful phrases, and convert eight currencies. Best of all, it contains eight mini games, like Sudoku, Mines, and Kakuro. Minus its protective case, the Lingo Xplorer weighs just 8 oz., making it light enough to stuff into a handbag or backpack relatively unnoticed.



Lingo Xplorer language translator