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Roundup: Hardcore Travel Gear

Reviewed by Joe Brown • June 26, 2009



Photo: Jens Mortensen

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Editors' Ratings — what do they mean?



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On the Road With Hardcore Travel Gear

1. Black Diamond Ion
Blinding, tiny, and tough, this headlamp is impervious to almost any abuse and cheap enough that you won't care if you lose it (until you need it).

\$20, blackdiamondequipment.com



2. Leica Ultravid 8 x 20 BR
The best compact binoculars we've ever used: water-resistant and burly, with a bright, clear image.

\$700, leica-camera.com



3. Keen Powerline
These kicks handle hours of foot pounding on tough trails and urban streets. But flashystyling screams, "I am a rich tourist. You should rob me."

\$100, keenfootwear.com



4. Osprey Atmos 35
Well-designed pack lets you comfortably carry more crap than you probably should. Too bad the front pocket's stretchy skin

Part of WIRED's **Summer Test 2009**



Rejected By Apple, iPhone Developers Go Underground

Sprint, Samsung Launch Biodegradable Phone Made of Corn

Sprint Launches New Personal WiMax Routers

Watergate Keeps Politicians and Passengers in Line

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5. SteriPEN Adventurer

This purifier uses UV light to make even polio-infested water Evian-safe in 48 seconds. The optional solar-paneled case, however, takes up to five days to charge the batteries.

\$180, [steripen.com](#)



6. ExOfficio Clothing With Insect Shield

The bug-proofing built into apparel from socks to shirts keeps mosquitoes away, but the retirement-chic aesthetic repels people under 50.

\$36, [exofficio.com](#)



7. Spot Satellite GPS Messenger

Uploads your location to an online map every 10 minutes, letting friends (or rescue teams) follow your moves. Warning: The 911 button is easy to hit by mistake.

\$170, [findmespot.com](#)



8. Iridium 9555

This sat-phone always gets a signal (outside), but the grayscale screen, belabored SMS (no T9!), and lack of Web access make a local SIM a better option.

\$1,595, [iridium9555.com](#)



9. Canon Powershot D10

This dunkable and droppable digicam falls down when faced with indoor shots. Unpocketable shape was the real deal-breaker for us.

\$330, [canon.com](#)



10. Timex Expedition WS4

What's worse than not having a compass? Having a compass that is consistently wrong. Like the one on this otherwise very cool watch. Thanks for getting us lost, Timex.

\$200, [timex.com](#)



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Roundup: High Tech, Eco Friendly Backpacks

\$90



Eagles Nest Outfitters Double Nest Hammock

\$65



Gerber Metolius Fixed Blade

\$35



Roundup: Hybrid Golf Clubs

\$150

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Posted by: PopeRatzo 30 days ago 1 Point

The Ex-Officio clothing isn't "retirement chic" at all. I guess if you're really, really, really concerned about looking "cool", you might not like some of the colors they make, but if you are that concerned about looking cool, what are the chances ...

[Permalink](#)

Posted by: Choad_Namath 14 days ago 1 Point

Could you honestly see anyone under 50 wearing that hat? It's not so much about looking cool, it's about not looking like a moron. Something neutral would be fine.

[Permalink](#)

Posted by: coffeewriter 37 days ago 1 Point

Yes Ed...the link promises "hot stuff for a cool summer" and then the reviews proceed to tell us how crap everything is. That's just a little stupid!

[Permalink](#)

Posted by: timfrench 37 days ago 1 Point

Is this supposed to be a list of things I would want or things to avoid buying? Out of ten items, nine have negative comments in their blurbs, even if it has a high rating, so I'm a little confused as to the point of this list.

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