

Women Business Owners Digest

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5 Must-Have Gadgets for Summer Travel



Whatever your travel plans this summer – whether business or leisure – here's the essential technology you need for getting around, staying in touch or simply working out of your office.

1. GPS Navigation System

You can stay on track with the Garmin Nüvi GPS Navigation series. All Nüvi GPS systems come with preloaded maps of North America (and maps of other countries are also available to download). Garmin GPS systems also have Bluetooth capacity. "The Nüvi 765T helps me travel lighter," says H. Victoria Myers, President of Shop Gadget Girl (ShopGadgetGirl.com), an online electronics guide for women, based in Edmond, Oklahoma. "The Nüvi design makes it easy to slip in my luggage or purse without being bulky. It saves me the cost of adding a GPS to a rental car, and allows me to pre-plot my route/locations as needed."



2. Smartphone

Savvy business owners use both the iPhone 3G and the BlackBerry® 8830 World Edition smartphones for their globe trotting. The BlackBerry® 8830 World Edition allows its owner to conduct voice phone calls and access wireless email internationally and it has a maps program. The iPhone 3G also offers international roaming, as well as maps with GPS and access to an application store with

applications ranging from business to productivity. Georgette Pascale, CEO and President of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania-based Pascale Communications (www.pascalecommunications.com), a P.R. firm dedicated to healthcare, uses an iPhone because it saves time and allows her to balance her personal life with her business. "I have everything in one place," says Pascal. "GPS, email, calendar, great camera to take pictures of my travels, and photo library so I can see my three children."



3. Portable External Hard Drive

Western Digital produces portable, external hard drives like the WD Passport Essential that allow owners to transport mass information on the go. This external hard drive weighs less than half a pound and is about the size of a wallet. It's ideal for traveling because it stores massive amounts of files and emails like a PC, but can be accessed via USB port from any laptop. "My second business is photography, and this drive allows me to carry my complete portfolio of over 10,000 high resolution photos, and edit them," says Carole Fiedler, Managing Director and Founder of Innovative Settlements (www.InnovativeSettlements.com), a life insurance settlement company in Greenbrae, California.



4. Mini Laptop

Traveling with a large laptop can be a hassle. That's why WBOs like Susan Jabbusch, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Carolina Advanced Digital, Inc. (www.cadinc.com), a computer networking services company in Siler City, North Carolina, recommend the HP Mini 1000 laptop series. "It's great on short trips when you might need a PC, but don't want to travel with your desktop replacement laptop," says Jabbusch. The HP Mini features a 10.1" screen, 92% keyboard, and even a webcam.



5. Video Recorder

Whether you're traveling for business or pleasure, something always happens that makes you wish you had a video recorder. Now you can -- with the small, easy-to-transport Flip Mino. The Flip Mino features 4GB of internal memory, a flip out USB arm for an easy transfer of data from the recorder to a PC, built-in microphone and speaker, video editing, and still photo capabilities. "Just plug the built-in USB into your laptop to upload video to your website, YouTube, etc. in minutes," says Wendy Shill Kurtz, President of the Orlando, Florida-based management consulting and advertising company Elizabeth Charles & Associates (www.ElizabethCharles.com). Kurtz uses her Flip Mino for unexpected action and spur-of-the-moment interviews.



These terrific, lightweight gadgets will help you stay calm, cool and connected during your busy summer travels!