

Technology for the Road Warrior

By Dharmen Patel

In today's world, the road warrior's life as a business traveler is easier and more productive than a few years ago, thanks in large part to modern hotels and evolving technology, keeping travelers both connected and comfortable. Technology has become such a major and essential part in the business travelers life that when asked to select clean underwear or their smart phone, 64 percent surveyed by Harris Interactive indicated they would rather leave the underwear home and picked the phone. Scary thought but clearly indicates the dependency of the road warrior on gadgets.

A smart phone is a must have travel tool, coming in handy for more than just checking your emails or surfing the net. Rental car companies may charge up to \$20 a day for a GPS device, save the money and use the navigation on your phone instead. Another use of the smart phone is that many allow you to use it as a mobile hotspot allowing internet connections for laptops and tablets, a feature that comes in handy at the airport or on taxi ride to your meeting, many hotels offer free Wi-Fi but more and more are going the path of charging guests for service.

The obvious necessity is a good laptop that performs well but the use of an eBook reader or Tablet is a great light weight tool which can keep you both entertained as well as productive during your travel. Accessories such as noise canceling headphones can help you rest and Bluetooth headphones will allow you to listen to your music, take calls and attend conference calls with comfort.

Here is a list of some essential gadgets for the business traveler.

Cobra Phone Tag

What can be worse than losing your keys while traveling? Clip your keys onto this and use as a keychain and use your phone to locate your keys by "dialing" them up, you can also set the Cobra Phone Tag to lock your mobile phone if it is separated or even to ring your phone to locate it.

Pocket Projector

The 3M MP180 pocket projector lasts up to 4 hours on battery and can store 4GB of data internally and also additional storage available via a MicroSD card. In addition to hooking up to your laptop, this projector also has built in Wi-Fi allowing you to surf the web and making presentations at a client's office a simple task.

Mini Power Adapter

Leave the "brick" power adapter for your laptop at home. The Innergie mCube mini air adapter is light weight and about the size of your car keys. Available in a 64W and 90W model, the mCube will allow you to charge many gadgets.

With hundreds of Apps available for your mobile devices and gadgets galore, the business traveler has many options when it comes to using technology to their benefit. Make use of Apps that let you organize your travel plans and appointments and checking into flights and even make reservations via your smart phone is a smart idea. Most airlines now offer Wi-Fi service which gives you that extra time to prepare your presentation and link up with your office so definitely take advantage of these services.

Selecting the perfect laptop or tablet that fits your needs and pairing it with the right accessories will prove to give you that extra edge. Although making sure that your technological business tools are up to speed, it is also important to use technology to make your travel comfortable. From devices that will entertain you to gadgets such as personal massagers that provide comfort and services like Skype and Facetime which keep you connected with friends and family, technology can be used for more than just "getting work done".

Got Questions? Need extra Tips? Send me an email at tech@citymasala.com and have your questions answered in a future article.

Wallet Size Scanner

The SlimScan SS100 is so thin it can fit in your wallet! It provides you the tools to scan your travel receipts and business cards. The included software can also organize your scanned business cards as Outlook contacts.

Portable Power Pack

What good are all your gadgets without any power? Do find yourself searching for power outlets when your laptop or phone are about to go dead? With the Energizer XP18000 Battery pack you can power your laptop for several hours and connect smaller devices via the USB port. Weighing about a pound it makes the perfect companion to all your travel gadgets.

TripIt Travel Online Organizer

While more of an application and service than a gadget, it is definitely a technical tool which comes in handy. TripIt will store all your travel confirmations from hotels, airlines and rental cars and organize the information all in one place by simply forwarding all your confirmations. The Pro version will even alert you when travel changes are detected.