

GEAR

Civilized camping

If sleeping in a trailer and going without television for 48 hours is your idea of roughing it, then consider this your packing list for your next camping trip.

No one has to leave behind the comforts of home, thanks to all of the high-tech gear and gadgets available. Even tent camping is no longer just about nature, not when you have tents wired for power.

Here are a few of our favorite camping trappings.

Tap the sun

JuiceBar Solar Charger — This compact device packs solar cells that are charged by sunlight or indoor light. It includes 12 commonly used adapters for cellphones, MP3 players and portable gaming systems. On average, it provides up to 15 hours of use for an iPod and holds a full charge for up to two months. You also can quick-charge it with a USB.

Available: \$42.83 at www.cableorganizer.com



PowerMonkey-eXplorer AC/Solar Charger (above) — If you want even more juice, try this solar cell charger. It can power an iPod for 40 hours or cell-

phone for 96 hours of talk time. Ten device adapter tips are included. A cellphone charges completely in just six hours of sunlight. Or charge it using one of four AC adapter tips (for use in 150 countries) or a USB adapter.

Available: \$149.21 at www.cableorganizer.com

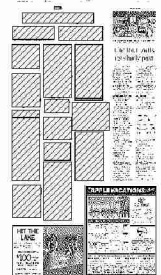
XPower Solar Portable PowerPack — A detachable solar panel on this light (18 pounds) and quiet generator converts sunlight into about 400 watts of energy. The PowerPack from Xantrex can operate and charge a 13-inch television, laptop, DVD player, blender and more. A display allows for monitoring of the battery's life. AC and DC chargers are included for sunless days.

Available: \$148.99 at www.amazon.com

Viewing pleasure

DirectTV Sat Go (below) — A better name for this would be the tote TV. A 17-inch LCD television, DirecTV receiver and antenna are packed into a 19.5-inch wide suitcase with a handle. Just pop open the case and watch your favorite shows. The mobile satellite TV system also has two speakers, remote control and rechargeable battery.

Available: \$499 at www.directv.com



Carryout MP1 Manual Portable Satellite TV Antenna — If you already have your own portable television, invest in this single satellite antenna from Winegard that supports up to two receivers, which are sold separately. The antenna comes with a 25-inch coaxial cable and is enclosed in a durable case. It works with standard DirecTV and standard and high-definition Dish Network and Bell TV.

Available: \$199.99 with free shipping at www.rvsupplywarehouse.com; \$179.99 for members at www.campingworld.com

Smart RV TV Post — Because nothing says camping quite like television around the campfire, this post mounts to the inside or outside of your recreational vehicle (mounting hardware sold separately). The post pivots and swivels so you can change the angle to keep your screen from entirely blotting out the stars.

Available: \$95.99 at www.thule.com

Added convenience



Icon Rogue 2 flashlight (above) — Billed as an almost indestructible flashlight, the Rogue 2 has an aluminum body with open grooves that provide a good grip while keeping it lightweight (3.8 ounces). The 6.5-inch flashlight survived being tossed around in a metal toolbox and dropped into a puddle. It delivers a powerful beam of LED light, even in the lower of two modes, and runs on two AA batteries.

Available: \$43.19 at www.amazon.com



AeroPack — More flexible and aerodynamic than a roof box, this cargo container straps to the back of your car, truck, van or SUV so it reduces drag. Created by Saratoga-based AeroPack, it mounts onto a vehicle quickly with no racks or rails needed, is storm-proof and folds after use. The three available sizes include one small enough to fit a Toyota Camry. Best of all, it leaves room in the trunk for your favorite tech toys.

Available: \$169 to \$209 at www.aeropackusa.com

Ultra Soles — Sure, any pair of sandals will do, but these nylon mesh slippers are ideal for campground showers (who knows what's on the floor?), wet decks and boating. They come in five sizes, each for men and women.

Available: \$10.85 at www.magellans.com

Cook's delight

Coleman Signature Series All-in-One Cooking System —

Coleman is a leader in portable cooking equipment, and its newest addition tops them all. The standard stove ring can be converted to a griddle or grill and can accommodate a 6-quart stock pot or slow cooker. The system is powered by a 16.4-ounce disposable propane cylinder and features a push-button electronic ignition. It includes an expandable carrying case. The stock pot-slow cooker is sold separately for \$59.99.

Available: \$99.99 at www.cabelas.com

EZ Grill — This disposable grill comes with charcoal fuel and a metal stand. An included starter sheet packed with charcoal easily lights with one match. It cooks for about 90 minutes. The grills are available in two sizes: regular (four grills to a pack) or party (two to a pack).

Available: \$19.99 at www.ezgrill.com

Coleman Rechargeable Portable Blender — You can buy a hand-crank blender, but this one is faster and easier. Powered by two six-volt, 4.5-Ah rechargeable batteries, it makes a 48-ounce pitcher of frozen drinks in less than a minute. In one test, the blender was used 22 times before its batteries needed recharging. A battery level indicator is included.

Available: \$49.97 at Walmart.com



Tent or house?

Eureka N!ergy 1310 Tent — Consider this the superhero of all camping equipment, which is why it gets a category all to itself.

The 13-by-10-foot rectangular dome tent sleeps 10 with a removable divider that separates it into two rooms. The tent has six windows, six mesh roof vents, two wall vents and clear skylights.

But this is no ordinary big tent. Concealed in the walls are wires connected to four 12-volt outlets. When you plug in a charged E! Power Pack (\$75), you can operate 12-volt accessories, including lights and fans, in those outlets. An on-off switch allows you to control each outlet separately.

The N!ergy tents also come in two smaller sizes.

Available: \$379.90 at www.eurekatent.com

*Ann Tatko-Peterson,
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