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ALL-NEW MAG!

DIARY OF A GLASS WEARER
Robo-eyes on, self-esteem off

Stuff



PLASTIC vs FANTASTIC

**GALAXY S4
vs HTC ONE
vs XPERIA Z**

REVEALED!

**GOOGLE'S PLAN
TO TAKE OVER
YOUR WORLD**

PLUS!

AWESOME BIKES,
NINJA BLOCKS
& THE XBOX ONE



**COOL
LIST
2013**

JAGUAR F-TYPE

THE WORLD'S
SEXIEST PHONE &
HOW IT WAS MADE

VINE'S CREATIVE
COLOSSUSES

THE WEB APP THAT
BRINGS KILLER GIGS
TO YOUR TOWN



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PROJECTS | 07.13

6 INSTANT UPGRADES CITY BREAKS

As Time and Money fight to be King of Things You Don't Have, urban weekends are the new two-weeks-in-Tonga. Savour every second with these short hop essentials...



Words: Mark Wilson Illustration: Jamie Smedley



1 LOGITECH UE 4000

With luggage space at a premium, you'll want something a little more discreet than a bulky, £300 pair of noise-cancelling headphones. These stylish on-ear cans come in a handy zippered pouch and are ideal for small doses of most music types, thanks to the warm mid-tone reproduction and deep bass. Comfy leather ear cushions keep your shell-likes happy, while sound isolation is on hand to help take the edge off engine noise, city bustle and that important departure announcement. Oops...
£80 / ue.logitech.com



2 INCASE HARDSELL ROLLER

Globetrotting geeks need versatile, gadget-friendly luggage. This sharp-looking, wheeled case has a dedicated tech compartment – protected by a natty polycarbonate cover and located on the top for easy access going through airport security. Inside it there's a padded sleeve for anything up to a 17in laptop, plus an iPad pocket and stowage for your cables and chargers. The main compartment expands from 31 to 40 litres and the bright yellow wheels are... well, pretty.
US\$300 / goincase.com



3 AIRSTASH

Ah, iPads – such lovely Retina displays, so lacking in format support and expandable storage. This clever stick solves all that. Ignore the fact that it looks like a USB pen drive – it's actually a stand-alone, battery-powered Wi-Fi server. Stick an SD card in it from your camera, or load one up with music and movies, and you can access it all wirelessly from your iPad, or up to seven other devices. It works with format-friendly video players such as the free Ace Player, lasts for up to seven hours and charges via that USB connector.
£80 / airstash.com



4 INNERGIE POCKETCELL DUO

City breaks are stressful for gadgets. To keep their energy pepped while you're out gawping at buildings, stick this in your pocket. USB chargers are nothing new, but this 133g marvel packs in a remarkable 6800mAh battery – capacity enough to re-juice an iPhone 5 four times. It has two USB sockets, so can charge two gadgets at once, and comes with a three-in-one cable – miniUSB, microUSB, and Apple 30-pin. Don't worry, it'll also work with a Lightning cable.
£100 / myinnergie.com



5 PANASONIC DMC-TZ40

Smartphone cameras are like a weekend in Milton Keynes compared to the skyscraping grandeur of dedicated snappers. The latest of Panasonic's travel-orientated TZ-series brings a 24mm, 20x optical zoom lens, GPS, image stabilisation and a full range of manual controls for you to exercise your creative flair. Does it have Instagram? No. But 14 creative filters, built-in Wi-Fi and NFC for tapping shots on to your smartphone or tablet will make sure you're revered as the Don McCullin of holiday photos on your return.
£300 / panasonic.co.uk



6 HIPKEY

Having ignored our advice (left) about getting a camera, you've now lost your phone... and all your photos. Oh, the memories! Those sordid, career-ending shots of you in the city's murky corners! Avert such disaster with this little Bluetooth widget, which emits a 90 decibel bleep when your phone goes beyond your preset distance – up to Bluetooth's 10m range, of course. You can also attach the HipKey to your rucksack/child/popcorn and your iPhone will alert you to them moving outside your zone or, if you like, moving at all.
£70 / store.apple.com/uk

HOW TO... TECH UP YOUR TRAVELS



1 CHEAPIFY YOUR FLIGHTS

Kayak.co.uk is fine for desk-based planning, but our usual knee-jerk flight bookings app is Skyscanner (Efree, iOS, Android, Windows 8). In the midst of a pub-based, drink-fuelled holiday planning session, it calmly gathers flight options in a pleasing graph form before linking you to the booking site where regrets are made.

2 FIND THE SEAT OF POWER

Smooth the ends of your city break by researching the seats on your plane. The recently updated app SeatGuru (Efree, iOS and Android) has a vast library of airlines' aircraft and their seating foibles, colour-coded by desirability. Just enter your flight number for an insider's guide to happy airtime. Well, hopefully; it can't tell you where the screaming babies will be.

3 MEET THE LOCALS

Use Vayable (vayable.com) to scout your chosen city's best guided tours. With a database of more than 500 cities and thousands of official guides, it has everything from bike tours to bongo lessons to hummus crawls. Even if you don't book through Vayable, it's a fine way to get a taste of your city's cultural treats and get in the mood on the bus from the airport.

4 GET POST-HOLIDAY KARMA

Website and app Gogobot (Efree, iOS and Android) is both a hive mind of crowd-sourced travel knowledge and a place to stake your claim as an Earth expert. Submit reviews and, if other users vote up your musings, you'll climb the rankings. There's no prize, other than the warm glow of being the Judith Chalmers of the internet.