

Adventure Digital Tours Gear Bag



Let's Focus on the Center Panel First...

I use a LowePro Nature Trekker II because it's hip belt balances the gear load and takes strain off my upper shoulders.

Interior panels are designed to do two things; fit any shape you need and constrain your precious gear. When you unzip the top, it lies down. I keep lens cleaner, batteries, and other sundries zippered there. On the covered front of the pack, another separate panel lets me store paper maps, etc.. A rain tarp can cover the entire backpack.

The blue REI straps are most helpful in allowing me to offload yet continue to carry layered clothing as the day warms or cools.

Gear

I shoot a Nikon D300 with a 24 x 12 or 70 x 300 Nikkor AF lens. A Gitzo tripod and Really Right Stuff pano head are accompanied by an Arco-Swiss type L-bracket for quick portrait/landscape capture. A Nikon remote control is an important part of capturing really stable Full Range HDR images.

A Garmin GPS 60CS contains predetermined routes and topo maps to help pre-dawn and post-dusk navigation.

I carry lots and lots of different sized spare batteries; after all, digital photography is an insufficient electrical world. Cell phone charger, camera battery charger, iPod Touch charger, 12 V DC/110 AC converter - a list grows.

Digital Darkroom in the Field

A dual CPU Dell laptop contains Lightroom 3, Photoshop CS4, Photomatix Pro, iTunes, Mapsource (Garmin software), Word, and Dragon NaturallySpeaking.

Image Backup

A Full Range HDR capture for a single image using a 12 megapixel camera can consist of 20 x 16 MB or ~ 350 gigabytes. If you're doing an HDR pano, multiplied by the number of individual positions. As you can see, pretty quickly, you're up in the gigabyte image range. In other words, it's not hard to fill in eight or 16 GB card quickly.

Most laptops have a limited internal drive size. To allow expansion, I use an external Western Digital passport with 500 GB of space. The USB connector draws power from the computer to spend the drive.

Off-Hours Computing

During off shooting hours, I can back up the shoot, pick keepers and do some global color management, begin a project where I dictate around pictures in a Word document, upgrade tracks from each days wandering, and upgrade iPod Touch with quick access images and maps.

I can use this panoply of tools to help clients learn how to do extraordinary capture even when they are far into the outback and not seeking new, exciting photographic sites.

Camping

For camping, I carry a down sleeping bag, an air mattress, and an old REI two-man tent. I have an ancient, very thick, very warm quilt for cold. In a sand or snowstorm, a tarp can be quite helpful.

For energy, I carry a 50 gallon cooler, highly nutritional bars, other long-term protein supplies, and between 10 and 20 gallons of water. I can consume up to 2 gallons of water a day when it's hot and I'm on a long trek.

For cooking, I carry a small REI Peak stove and a gallon of extra fluid.

Clothing

For clothing, I have a rain jacket, sweats, REI shirt jacks, a baseball cap, a knit wool headcover, long underwear, wool socks, and well broken-in ankle-high boots. I use a double glove set; light wool Manella's and elk skin leather. Foot warmers come in handy as well.

Extra gear and energy are packed in 2 flip-top plastic containers 25 x 21 x 12".

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