

10 Great Travel Gear Gifts for \$20 or Less

A quickie guide to reliable, useful gifts for travelers that won't break the bank. From Practical Travel Gear.

If you want to buy your traveling friend or relative something they'll be happy to receive, take a look at these items the well-traveled contributors to Practical Travel Gear have used and liked. Or just use this to come up with your own wish list to pass on for yourself!



Money Hiding Undercover Pocket or **Undercover Leg Wallet** from Eagle Creek. These will keep valuables under clothing, so they're hard for anyone to get to. Think of either as a cheap insurance policy. The first costs \$13.50, the second is \$20. See the [details on both here](#).

Avex Brazos Autoseal water bottle.

There are probably 50 different water bottles you can buy, but a lot of them either don't have a wide enough mouth to insert a SteriPEN water purifier (all-important item for international travel) or they force you to bite something or suck on something (loudly) to drink from them. This \$15 Avex one has a trigger mechanism that you can operate with one hand to get a free flow of water when you want it, nothing when you don't. [See the review here](#), along with a couple other good alternatives in the same price range.

LuminAID or Luci solar lantern

Few things we've checked out at Practical Travel Gear are as downright cool as these solar-powered LED lanterns. Both are inflatable, meaning you can pack them down flat when you're not using them, plus they run for what seems like forever on one



charge. Great for adding to the dim lighting in cheap hotels or having a light at the ready when power goes out. Both cost less than \$20 or you can chip in a bit more and send one to a remote villager in a place with no electric grid. See the [LuminAID](#) and [Mpowerd Luci](#) detailed reviews for more info.



Sea to Summit Pocket Toiletries Tabs

These watertight little plastic cases contain 50 dehydrated tabs that look like thin sheets of paper. When you expose one to water, it turns into whatever the package indicates: shampoo, soap, shaving cream, or laundry wash. These are ideal for light-packing travelers, campers, and those who want to keep soap in their daypack for the inevitable unsanitary restroom or one that's just out of soap. These are great stocking stuffers since they retail for just \$4 or \$5 each. See [the full review](#) for a video demo and where to buy them online.

Jolt USB Rechargeable Mini Flashlight

A tiny LED flashlight you can fit anywhere in your bag is cool, but one that never needs batteries and can recharge in a laptop's USB slot is extra cool. Since most travelers are carrying around some kind of USB wall adapter as well, this can also get its infrequently needed power-up anywhere there's an outlet. This eGear Jolt light is the size of a thumb and is often on sale for about ten bucks. A great value and a gift that's sure to get a thankful smile. [More details here.](#)



Coffee Press Mug from GSI Outdoors

If your recipient likes—okay *needs*—good coffee when traveling away from home, the GSI Outdoors Coffee Press Mug is a well-designed way to travel with a French Press without bringing anything more than a mug. See inside the mug with covered sipping spout is a press part that snugly fits inside the mug. So you pour in coffee, add hot water, and then press down the inside cylinder after waiting

a few minutes. It has a built-in screen on the bottom. The whole thing packs up together with no extra parts and it makes a fine mug of coffee. It lists for \$20; [see the details here](#).

Gerber GDC Zip Driver

A Swiss Army Knife used to be in most every seasoned traveler's bag, but now anyone not checking a bag has to leave that at home. This \$12 list Gerber Zip Driver has items you can use for repairs that come up along the way with its four screwdrivers on a tiny keychain like device that will clip on anywhere. It has two flat heads and two Phillips ones of different sizes. Get it here [from Amazon](#).

Quick-drying Travel Underwear

It might not be the most glamorous gift, but it may be the one that gets use the most: travel underwear. Several companies make undies that are meant to wick moisture when active and dry quickly after a sink washing. This way the traveler on your list can pack lighter but still be good to go in a hurry when moving on to the next place. Two of our favorites are from [Tilley](#) and [ExOfficio](#), both \$20 or under even when not on sale.



Packing Cubes

Unless the person you're buying for is already a Container Store freak who is hyper-organized, gifting a packing cube or two from Eagle Creek will probably be an appreciated gift they were having trouble justifying buying for themselves. These cubes are basically super-strong fabric bags with a zipper that keep your socks, underwear, or t-shirts organized in a suitcase or backpack. They're especially useful if moving from hotel to hotel repeatedly as they speed up the packing and unpacking time. [Eagle Creek's Spectre ones](#) are some of the lightest around and they have one model that's a compression bag, allowing you to jam more inside.



Packable Water Bottle Carrier

Any traveler heading somewhere hot is going to be carrying a bottle of water around constantly. Holding it all the time is annoying though and a lot of small daypacks don't have a dedicated pocket for one. So whether hiking or hitting the city streets, this water bottle carrier from ChicoBag--which only costs \$10—can keep the bottle slung over a shoulder instead. When it's time to pack up and head out, this folds down into its own teeny tiny pouch that doubles as a change pocket when in use. [Get it from Amazon.](#)

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