



No delays. I promise.

Like us on facebook to win FREE parking and more..



## SECTION I

INSIDE  
TODAY:

**Calgarian in Thailand**  
Web-show host explores Thai culture through western eyes  
See Page I-4

**MUSIC TO YOUR EARS**  
Salzburg tour for Sound of Music fans  
See Page I-8

# TRAVEL

LATEST NEWS AT [CALGARYHERALD.COM/TRAVEL](http://CALGARYHERALD.COM/TRAVEL)

EDITOR: LISA MONFORTON 403-235-7428 [LMONFORTON@CALGARYHERALD.COM](mailto:LMONFORTON@CALGARYHERALD.COM)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011

## GIFTS TO GO

What our travel scribes never leave home without when they hit the road

CALGARY HERALD

Travelling can be a frustrating experience, but we're lucky to live in a world of creature-comforts and gadgets galore, all of which can make just about any travel hiccup or

hassle more bearable. If you have someone who travels a lot on your holiday list, here are some ideas for any budget.

We asked some of the Calgary Herald's frequent travellers and freelance contributors what they absolutely cannot travel without.



**Mark Sissons**

**Travel essentials:** Size does matter. Especially when you spend so much time sleeping your gear in and out of planes, trains, automobiles and hotels. With ever-shrinking baggage allowances, every ounce saved is critical. That's why I love my Kindle. Instead of hauling around pounds of printed material, I can cram thousands of books, magazines, newspapers and even personal documents into an eight-ounce gadget. And pay a lot less per item. Plus, its built-in Wi-Fi means I can shop, buy and start reading in about the time it's taking you to read this.

It's E Ink screen reads like paper, with no glare. Battery life is amazing — up to a month on one charge.

And if it were ever lost, stolen or broken, everything is backed up online and can be downloaded onto a replacement Kindle.

Amazon Kindle, Wi-Fi, 6" E Ink Display, \$109. [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca)

MARK SISSONS IS A VANCOUVER-BASED WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER AND HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN NUMEROUS PUBLICATIONS.



**Joanne Sasvari**

**Travel essentials:** ■ Cashmere or pashmina shawl — This is the most versatile piece of clothing/ accessory you can pack. It keeps you warm on chilly flights, can be used as a pillow, can dress up any outfit and fits into a small purse. When I'm not wearing my shawl, I drape it over a chair in my hotel room to make it feel more like home. \$298 at Holt Renfrew

■ Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS10K Digital Camera — For when you want DSLR quality and point-and-shoot convenience (which for me is always). The big selling feature is the high-quality Leica lens, but this petite camera also offers 14.1 megapixels, 16x optical zoom and a 3-inch Touch LCD. It shoots video and stills, does a pretty good job in dodgy lighting, has a rechargeable battery AND fits into an evening bag. Genius. \$349.99, London Drugs

**2012 travel wish list:**

■ Gadget — I really want an iPad because I hate lugging so much gear around. The iPad combines the features of my laptop and e-reader in one convenient, perfect-sized package. And it just looks cool.

■ Destination — Argentina. I'm intrigued by South America right now, especially the culinary culture. I'd love to taste authentic "asado" (barbecue) and sip a glass of high-altitude Syrah. Argentinean cowboys would be a bonus, of course!

JOANNE SASVARI IS BASED IN VANCOUVER AND WRITES ABOUT COCKTAILS, TRAVEL, FASHION AND FOOD.



**Lisa Monforton**

**Travel essentials:** A recent acquisition has converted me from being an over-packer to someone who now has a lot more luggage space for important things — like shoes.

Lauren Bagliore has made this possible with one of her brilliant designs. The Calgary-based designer's Desiree "Endless" dress can be worn at least a dozen different ways. Made of weightless, washable Italian matte jersey which feels silky, the Desiree comes in black, cream or grey. I bought it in black. It's basically a dress with long sleeves, but the beauty of it is that it can be worn as a halter (the sleeves become straps), off the shoulder or strapless (the sleeves tuck secretly inside the dress). It can be worn knee length with boots, shoes or sandals, or hiked up as mini or tunic and paired with tights or skinny jeans.

Now when I pack, I'm carry-on ready.

Available at DuBe Gallery in Inglewood or at Lauren Bagliore's (laurenbagliore.com) studio, by appointment info@laurenbagliore.com. It's pricey at \$599, but I've worn it more than anything I've ever owned.

**2012 wish list:** The new Kindle Fire and a long-awaited trip to Thailand.

LISA MONFORTON, CALGARY HERALD TRAVEL EDITOR



**Mysha Theriault**

**Travel essentials:** As a mobile media professional, I really can't travel without my Tenba. The Tenba large messenger bag is the only gear bag I've found that can house both my 17-inch laptop and all of my camera gear. It has extra slots and pockets for things like my clutch wallet, sunglasses, tablet device and other incidentals like pens, tickets and press kits. It has a stable, water resistant bottom panel and heavily padded shoulder strap which is essential for long jaunts across airport terminals. The Tenba Large Engravaable Messenger Bag on Amazon for \$109.95. [www.amazon.com/Tenba](http://www.amazon.com/Tenba)

**2012 travel wish list:** The women's trench coat from Scottvest. Retailing at \$150 through the Scottvest company, it offers a comparable price point to most other mid-range trench coats but with greater travel functionality. Eighteen discreet pockets and wiring channels allow storage of items that would otherwise need to be carried in a daypack.

Smartphones, iPads, undergarments and more can be carried inside this jacket. It comes in a variety of colours suitable for impromptu television interviews and video shoots, making it practically tailor-made for people in my line of work. Scottvest Women's Trench, \$150. [www.scottvest.com](http://www.scottvest.com).

MYSHA THERIAULT, SPENDS A LOT OF TIME ON THE ROAD. SHE'S FOUNDER OF TREKHOUND.COM AND A SYNDICATED TRAVEL COLUMNIST.

**sunwing.ca**



**JANUARY'S  
BEST FOR LESS!**  
SAVE UP TO 50%

Call 1-877-888-8888 or visit [www.sunwing.ca](http://www.sunwing.ca) for more details. \*Restrictions apply. © 2011 Sunwing Travel Inc.

