

THE GREEN GUY'S
GROOMING GUIDE

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

No matter where your summer travels take you, make sure to pack these four handy gadgets for a more pleasant journey.

Your faithful Green Groomer travels

a lot—when he's not putting his face and body through the ringer in the name of eco-grooming, he moonlights as a travel journalist, after all—and that means he's on the road for magazines and guidebooks about 250 days a year. You can never guarantee eco-products will be available or accessible in some of the world's more up-and-coming economies, so it goes without saying the Eco-Dopp kit has become an essential travel aid for yours truly. The reasons for this are two-fold: In addition to accessibility, I don't take kindly to dumping chemical-laden soaps, shampoos, and other evil cosmetics down the shower drains into the Amazon rainforest, the Mumbai back alleys or the Scottish country-side. But there are loads of other eco-friendly gadgets and accessories one needs while globetrotting for a living, so this month we're taking a look at what the Green Groomer never leaves home without.

I often find myself in countries with less-than-desirable water sanitation situations. While I realize in Norway, Voss probably spits forth from the taps, the agua in India, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic isn't quite so clean. Since contaminated water can ruin your vacation in a heartbeat, most folks' first instinct is to grab for bottled water, but the plastic bottles have become major environmental issues throughout the world—landfills are inundated, and discarded plastic bottles are a monumental issue in the developing world. So, before I recently embarked on my three-month trip to remote parts of Northern India, I invested in a **SteriPEN Traveler Mini**. This little bad boy zaps the bejesus out of unsafe water with ultraviolet technology. \$69.95, steripen.com




Though it seems my life is quite glamorous, I'm not always curling up under Charlotte Thomas Bespoke bed sheets. I spend a lot of time in jungle hammocks, safari tents, and barebones guesthouses. Obviously, those are so comfortable that waking up is sometimes a chore. Enter the **Water-Powered Tango H2o Multi-Function Clock** that tells the time, wakes me up, and tells me how to dress for the day—all motored by a battery powered by portable power technology operated by water! All you need to do is refill the battery every few months, after your current supply has evaporated. \$24.66, nigelsecostore.co.uk

Before I was an eco-grooming guy and a travel journalist, I was a music journalist, so music ranks right up there on my list of personal devotions alongside food and water. My iPod never gets left behind, even on a short jaunt to the corner store. At the time of writing, it currently houses 15,275 songs and is attached to my hip. But rather than deal with weird Vietnamese power

By **Kevin Raub**

surges and a worldwide shortage of available hotel outlets, I grab the **Solio Mono Charger** which compacts 27 hours of playtime in a little power pod smaller than a dress shirt pocket and weighs in at just 78 grams! Best of all, I can juice it up in sunny Brazil, where I live, and off I go—it maintains the charge for up to one year. \$59.95, solio.com

The joys of travel are numerous: New flavors! New beers! New people you can't communicate with but with whom you will gladly go home! But if there is one downside, it's mosquitos. Nothing is more dreadful than that impending buzz around your ear in the middle of the night in a foreign land. That's why when I saw the **Solar Mosquitos Repeller** in the duty-free in-flight magazine on a recent British Airways flight, I was all over it! This little miracle worker repels mosquitos via solar-powered high-frequency sound waves. Does it work? Yes, sort of, if you are in an enclosed space, like a tent or hotel room, which is better than nothing. Best of all, it has a convenient, ascender-style hook, so you clamp it onto your backpack and it's constantly charging as you stroll from town to town. And just to make sure it's awesome—there is also a small compass built-in. So in case I get lost and can't find my way back to an Internet café to write this column, I'm all set. \$20, mosquitorepelleronline.com 

Kevin Raub is a travel and entertainment journalist and a Contributing Writer at Organic Spa Magazine.