

## Goal Zero Yeti 400 Portable Generator

**\$459.99 / GOALZERO.COM**



Taking a road trip doesn't necessarily mean leaving technology behind. When I'm traveling, I use a creative combination of products to keep my spaces bright and my devices charged.

My go-to is the Goal Zero Yeti 400 Portable Generator. This device holds up to 400 watts at a time, weighs 29 pounds, and runs silently; this means it isn't very portable, so better left with #vanlifers. It can be charged from your vehicle's standard 12V outlet (around 13 hours), an AC wall outlet (around 5 hours), or a solar panel (times vary, but up to 80 hours). Charging from solar can take a while, but all such products do; yet, with a constant stream of energy from a panel, it's possible to never run out of juice. With the Yeti 400, you can charge multiple devices simultaneously, and control which power output is active at any given time. Be mindful of the settings so you don't waste energy. It charges everything from my laptop to my GoPro to my ceiling fan. The display screen tells you exactly how much power you're pulling in and putting out at any given moment. The main downside is price—at \$459.99, it might break your bank, but it's worth its weight in gold for extended time on the road.

—Tasha Rivard



## Sea to Summit X-Pot, X-Kettle and X-Pan

**\$134.95 for set / SEATOSUMMIT.COM**

**PROS**

- Space saving: collapsible, nests together
- Strainer lid
- Measurement marks on X-Pot and X-Kettle

**CONS**

- More delicate than all-metal cookware
- Food sometimes sticks to pan
- For stoves only, cannot be used on open fires

Cooking well on the go is essential to climbing road trips, and Sea to Summit's X-Series of collapsible hybrid silicone/aluminum cookware is a nice addition to any car-camping kit. The X-Set 32, which includes the 2.8-liter X-Pot (also comes in 1.4L and 4L sizes), 1.3 liter X-Kettle and X-Pan, nests together to the size of a fat Frisbee, saving you space for more gear—or food—in your van or trunk. All three can be bought as a set for \$134.95, or as individual items.

The X-Pot (2.8L) I use the most out of the X-Series, from boiling water to cooking pasta or rice and beans. It's a good size for two to three people, but would likely be too small for larger groups. The X-Pot comes with the all-crucial strainer lid, which can be locked down with the pot's silicone handles, so there's no risk of dirtying your macaroni when draining the water.

The X-Kettle is a smaller version of the X-Pot, with tapered sides, plastic handles and a pour spout, like, well, a kettle. It's great for boiling water and heating up the sauce/side for whatever's cooking in the big pot.

The X-Pan completes the set for all of your cooking needs (read: bacon and eggs). Since it is eight-inches in diameter, just larger than the X-Pot, it would be difficult to make a large stir fry in the pan without losing a portion to your tailgate, but the aluminum pan is great for smaller tasks, such as frying eggs, grilled cheese or quesadillas.

The biggest plus to the X-Set is its space-saving efficiency. With it, I can fit all of my cookware into a single milk crate, with room to spare, so it's always packed and ready to go at a moment's notice.

—Hayden Carpenter



## Big Kahuna Portable Shower

**\$134 to \$174 (depending on size)**

**BIGKAHUNASHOWERS.COM**

Time on the road often equates to sacrificing cleanliness for adventure. While you can get away without showering on weekend road trips, anything longer than a couple days will graduate you to true smelly dirtbag status.

Big Kahuna Portable Showers offer an elegant solution to the grime and a great alternative to gravity-dependent bladder bags and awkward "pressure systems." These portable shower units come in 4.7, 8 and 13-gallon sizes. I roll with the 4.7-gallon version because it is the most compact (12" x 12" x 9") but if you're planning extended, mostly off-grid trips, go bigger.

It's simple, really—the power cord simply plugs into your vehicle's 12V outlet, then squeeze the handle and *voilà*. At max nozzle squeeze I'm able to spray about 12 to 15 feet. At full blast it uses about a gallon a minute, so there's time to take a full roadside shower if you feel so inclined. Once you're done, the power cord and the 8-foot hose clip to the container for storage. Tip: since the tank itself is UV absorbent, leave it outside or in-line with a window while you're out climbing to allow the water to warm up. A compatible water-heater kit is also available for \$139, but this requires a non-standard 110V connection.

The only issue I ran into was when I completely filled the tank and drove off-road. I found a tiny drip leaking from the small gasket connecting the power cord to the pump as the water sloshed around inside. According to Big Kahuna, this feature is intentional to allow the pressure to equalize inside the tank when using the pump. I opted to coat the gasket with aquarium-grade silicone and just unscrew the lid when using the pump. Success ever since.

—TR