

The 2019 top tech picks

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TRAVEL TECH

Whether you are the kind that prefers to pass out in hotels for days on end, or out and about, soaking up every last attraction in the span of hours, there is always a tech for you. This section is all about the travellers and the tech that can make the trip just that much better or memorable.

CAMERA

Nikon D3400 (Tk 34,300)

Don't let the label 'Nikon's entry level DSLR' fool you into thinking this is a halfwit offering, or somehow a worse deal than some of the superzooms you will find in this price bracket. Despite being an 'entry level' offering, its sensor size is way bigger than most compact cameras, meaning a picture sharp enough to pick out the fine details on the feathers of a duck sticking its head in the water.

On top of that, a DSLR means endless opportunities to swap lenses to suit what-



Sensor does struggle under extreme low light handheld situations.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Sony DSC-W830 (Tk 9,500)

Most travellers are not that demanding in their photo taking, often settling for just selfies and group pictures by some touristy feature they think was cool while there. And if you identify yourself under this banner, this camera should serve you just fine.

Sony DSC-HX400V (Tk 40,100)

The quintessential travel buddy, this camera has zoom capabilities that are borderline CIA spying level. You'd be able to zoom in on a person's mole at the Farmgate intersection from Sonargaon roundabout with such detail, it'd look like you were right against their face. Quality is pretty good too, although don't expect miracles in low light. But if you ever wanted a close-up picture of the moon like in some NatGeo magazines, this is the one for you.

POWER BANKS

Xiaomi 20,000mAh (Tk 1,900)

Picture this — you are out at this remote waterfall, enjoying the bounties of nature, and right then, your phone suddenly decides it's out of power, leaving you with no way to save this memory, or call someone to gloat about your discovery. You will need a proper source to charge up, unless you or your phone have the undocumented ability of turning sunlight to power. And in such remote situations, a socket is rarer than a Tiger stalking you as its next meal. This is when a power bank, specifically these kinds of capacity come incredibly handy, because you never know when your next access to a socket is. Plus,



ever situation. Yes, you lose out on the versatility a superzoom camera provides, but the quality more than makes up for it, especially in low light situations, meaning pictures of your friends stuffing their face in restaurants will not be a noisy smudgy mess.

Yays

Quality is better than any other non DSLR camera in this price bracket.

Flexibility of swapping lenses.

Also a great pick for budding photography enthusiasts not wanting to break the bank.

Nays

The included lens isn't enough to cover all aspects of travel photography.

DSLR ecosystem is quite expensive, especially the extra lenses you would need.



the second output lets you barter with a friend to charge their device too.

Yays

Dual USB ports for charging two devices. Fast charging, both for charging devices and the bank, meaning its ready to go sooner.

Sleek design means easier portability

Nays

Plastic construction and a single white colour means it will show wear and tear.

Does not support the latest Quick Charge standards.

MicroUSB charging port is ancient in the day and age of USB C.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Anker PowerCore 13,000mAh (Tk 2,890)

While it is considerably more expensive, what you get for the money is a reputed bank when it comes to power banks, and the many accessories it ships with, and their own version of fast charging, compatible with more devices.

Baseus M36 10,000mAh (Tk 1,699)

Let's state the niggles first; microUSB charging is simply prehistoric in this day and age, and it is massively bulky given its capacity. The upside however, is that unlike many other offerings in the market, this can charge your device wirelessly, assuming your device supports it. On top of that, you get two full sized USB ports for charging two other devices. Quite the party trick!



PORTABLE SPEAKERS

Awei Y200 (Tk 1,400)

Before you raise your 'Bose' or 'Beats Pill' to voice your opinions on how those are infinitely better, let me just state two facts; these are 10Watt speakers, and they last for

weeks between charges! Yes, that's right, weeks! Also, 10watts as a number is hard to understand, so let's put it this way, put this beside any other Bluetooth speaker in this price range and start playing your tunes, and this will drown out everything else in an 8-meter radius, it is that loud.

Yays

Massive 2,500mAh battery means this will last for days between charges; the Nokia 3310 of the Bluetooth speaker world.

3.5mm line in connector if you don't want to use Bluetooth.

Well-bodied and very full sound.

Nays

Build materials reflect its price tag.

Unable to read contact names, stating whole numbers when a call comes in.

Unintuitive control surface.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Anker Soundcore Motion-B (Tk 3,499)

If you want all the benefits of the Awei, but want water resistance, then this is it. With a good balanced sound signature, a quality finish, big battery, and of course, that resistance to the elements, this is in a class of its own.



Xiaomi Mi Bluetooth Speaker Mini (Tk 1,300)

If what you are looking for is something very compact, and with a premium built, the mini is a good route to go. With a fully metal casing, hands-free ability, and a size tiny enough to fit shorts pockets.

By Intisab Shahriyar

Photo: Collected