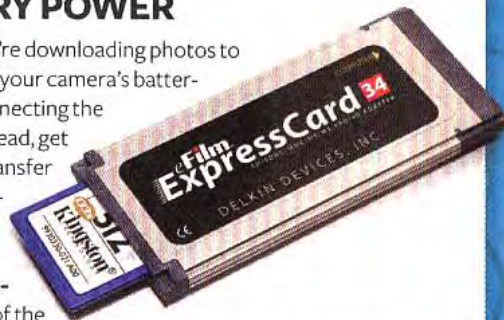


SAVE BATTERY POWER

\$\$\$ When you're downloading photos to your laptop, don't waste your camera's batteries (or your time) by connecting the camera's USB cable. Instead, get a card reader that can transfer files right from the memory card. If you have a MacBook Pro, Delkin Devices' **eFilm Express-Card 34** adapter is one of the fastest ways to get files off your card. Simply slip this slim adapter into your MacBook Pro's ExpressCard slot and then insert your memory card—it accepts six types of cards, including SD, xD, MMC, and Memory Stick (\$60; Delkin Devices, www.delkin.com).—KELLY TURNER



STASH YOUR PHOTOS

\$\$\$\$\$ There are plenty of devices and services that let you back up your photos from the road (for an overview, go to macworld.com/2714), but my favorite is Epson's **P-3000**. Although it'll cost you a pretty penny (at press time, Epson was offering a \$100 rebate), this picture viewer offers a beautiful 4-inch high-resolution screen, a rugged body, and a 40GB hard drive that can store movies and music, too. Intuitive controls make it easy to navigate your photos, apply ratings that you can use to quickly group your favorite shots, and set options for displaying the image's histogram or blown highlights (\$500; Epson, www.epson.com).

If you need more hard-drive space, check out Digital Foci's **Picture Porter Elite**. Although its menus and controls are a bit less intuitive, and its 3.6-inch screen isn't as sharp as the P-3000's, the Picture Porter Elite performs many of the same functions and offers much more storage space for your dollar (120GB model, \$489; Digital Foci, www.digitalfoci.com).—KELLY TURNER

Phone It In

Why wait until you get home to tell family and friends about your adventures? If you have a cell phone, you can update your blog with text, photos, or even podcasts, at the push of a button. Mobile blogging, or *moblogging*, is a great way to stay in touch when you're far from your computer. Just remember to set up an account before you leave.

Text Set up a free account with **Twitter** (www.twitter.com), the fun and frivolous Web site that lets you post short text messages to your blog, so you can tell your friends what you're up to. And you can set your phone to exchange SMS text messages with your Twitter buddies, so you can keep track of what they're doing, too. It's a great way to rope your friends into a never-ending conversation composed of shout-outs and snippets about life on the road.

Photos With a camera phone, you can also share snapshots of the people and places you find along the way. If you have a smart phone, check out **SplashBlog** (splashblog.com). Download and install its software on your phone, and you can begin posting directly to your free SplashBlog page (Pro accounts are \$30 per year). If you don't have a smart phone, try **Flickr** (www.flickr.com). Set up a free account (Pro accounts are \$25 per year), and send your photos to a Flickr-provided e-mail address. To make posting photos even easier, set up the e-mail address as a contact on your phone, and moblog to your heart's content—or at least until your phone's battery dies.

Audio If you want to share sounds from the road, try **Hipcast** (www.audioblog.com), an online service that lets you use your phone as a recording device. Pricing starts at \$5 per month, and you can call and leave messages that are up to an hour long. Once you hang up, your recording is posted to the blog of your choice—and voilà: instant podcasting via your mobile phone.—ERIC SUESZ

