

Review: Charge your gadgets on the go with this cool backpack! | Skyscanner Australia

Confession time: I'm a gadget geek. Give me a snappy little camera, a tablet, smartphone, an even smarter watch and a laptop and I'm in geek heaven. Toss in a torch, earbuds and some cutesy USB readers and gadgets dominate my luggage. Travellers, [Skyscanner Australia](#) has found the answer to keeping them all charged when travelling.

Without power, gadgets are about as much fun as an empty wineglass and an empty-headed waiter. So when I came across the Hedgren Connect backpack designed for a travelling gadget geek, I was pretty excited.

[Compare flights to anywhere!](#)



It wouldn't surprise me if the design brief went something like this:

- Create a backpack capable of charging every single gadget within its interior
- Add a choice of heavy-duty power packs and store them securely in an internal pocket
- Include a retractable USB cord with increased reach on a self-winding 240v hub (yes, thank you!)
- Allow dual charge functionality for charging tablets and smartphones (or whatever other gadget needs juice) simultaneously (yep, that's essential)
- Toss in a RFID (Radio frequency ID) pocket to deter credit card identity theft (this is very cool & unique – identity thieves your career is over)
- Stash a firmly moulded (removable) guard pocket inside to protect precious tech gear from knocks



- Attach a clip-on pocket for easy-access smartphone storage (which doubles as a passport wallet)
- Stitch a robust headphone clip into the shoulder straps
- Tidy the whole lot up with an integrated cable system including discreet feed-throughs & Velcro tabs (you've made my OCD day)
- Secure the main compartment with a snap-safe zip lock (brilliant!)
- Package the whole shebang into a sleek looking backpack equally at home at the boardroom, on the trail or at the beach (fashion police there's nothing for you to worry about, move along please...)

The Hedgren Connect Backpack is quite simply some piece of luggage.

How the Hedgren Connect Backpack performed

I tested this backpack/charger in the unforgiving terrain of central Australia, hiking the Larapinta Trail in the MacDonnell Ranges west of Alice Springs. Then I took it out on the Great Barrier Reef. Giving it the full treatment I traipsed through the Daintree Rainforest before slinging it around Port Douglas for a few days. So, how did it perform as a travelling gadget charger? Admirably.



What I loved

I was able to keep my power-hungry iPhone6 (can't wait to test Apple's claims about iPhone7's battery longevity!) constantly charged 24/7 while it worked overtime as a travel writer's best friend on the road.



I used the RFID pocket to store credit cards and personal ID when travelling through airports (so far so good – no one has stolen my identity). The snap-lock zip kept the main compartment secure when left unattended on-board planes. The retractable 240v cord was in a handy spot to charge up the backpack while killing time in airport departure lounges. In fact, the inbuilt organisers are one of the things I really loved, with USB cables kept tidy and easy to find.

With a fully charged 12000 mAh battery I tasked it with keeping these gadgets charged:

- iPhone6
- iPhone5 (used as an ipod and a backup camera)
- Sony rx100 camera
- Epson P6000 Multimedia Storage Viewer (for viewing & storing images downloaded from cameras)
- LED torch
- I also lent it to a travelling companion to charge their iphone

What I didn't love so much

The main compartment could be more voluminous. I carry an DSLR camera with lens attached and there wasn't a lot of room to spare.

It would be nice to see external corners on the base beefed up to make it more robust. If this backpack does the amount of miles I expect it to (hellloooo Vietnam), it's going to get roughed up a lot.



The verdict

The Hedgren Connect Backpack is a sleek looking backpack whose good looks conceal some very clever features for gadget geeks. Highly recommended.

Essential Info

Volume: 16 litre **Dimensions:** 46 x 29 x 12cm **Weight:** 780g

[Compare flights to anywhere!](#)

Hit the road with this nifty backpack and book