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GREENLAND WITH PAUL ZIZKA

Last year's The World We Live In grand-prize winner Paul Zizka is leading two Offbeat photo tours in 2019: Greenland Grandeur—Iluissat (September 5-10) and Disko Fever—Disko Island (September 10-13). These trips are a great chance to photograph the beauty of the Arctic while taking your images to the next level through the opportunity to work in the field and classroom with Paul Zizka. offbeatphoto.ca/next-stops/greenland-2019

MATADOR CAMERA BASE LAYER

Though I have several dedicated camera bags, most of the time I prefer carrying my camera in my regular backpack. To protect it a bit without adding too much bulk, I'd been covering it in a fleece toque since I hadn't found a minimal solution that I liked better...until Matador.

The idea is simple and effective: it's basically a grey puffer jacket for your camera. The Sorona synthetic down filling (600+ fill equivalent) helps protect your camera from bumps and jostles. It has an integrated Waterproof 30D Cordura rain cover, a Hypalon rolltop, and YKK closures. Lightweight (85 g) and adjustable to fit a range of sizes, it should work with most DSLRs and Micro Four Thirds cameras (30.5 x 21.5 x 5 cm).

I tested it for three weeks while travelling in Norway with a 38L backpack. Being able to stick my covered camera right in with all my other stuff made packing simple, especially during the first two weeks when we were flying and changing locations almost every day. Whether playing with huskies in the Arctic Circle, looking at prehistoric rock carvings in Alta, exploring the Lofoten Islands, or appreciating Lysefjord from a boat, I loved how fast I could remove it and not miss a photo—just squeeze the top buckle and pull it off. Since the cover isn't bulky, it's easy to bring your camera along with you almost anywhere. My only two complaints are that the rain cover slipped out of its pocket sometimes (adding a safety pin fixed that) and that I wish it came with a tether. Even so, the Matador Camera Base Layer is now my go-to camera cover (US\$59.99 + a safety pin).

—Jenny Montgomery



SANDISK EXTREME PORTABLE HARD DRIVE THE IRON MAN OF HARD DRIVES

Solid-state external hard drives (SSDs) don't have any moving parts, and they store information on flash memory chips. This makes them faster, more reliable, and more resistant to physical shock. Years ago, they cost an arm and a leg (in 2010, a 256-GB SSD was \$1600), but now they're much more accessible—and the SanDisk Extreme Portable SSD proves it! It's resistant to dust and inclement weather (CEI 60529 IP55), drops (up to 2 m on a concrete floor), vibrations (5 g RMS, 10-2000 Hz), and extreme temperatures (operational between 0 °C et 45 °C, and nonoperational between temperatures -20 °C et 70 °C). With up to 550 MB/s read speeds (and around 520 MB/s write speeds), this small marvel is an equal opponent to the Samsung Portable SSD T5, considered one of the most fierce SSDs. Compatible with PC and Mac, it has a USB 3.1 (Gen 2) Type-C connector, a USB Type-C to Type-C cable, and a Type-C to Type-A adapter. This gem is available in four capacities: 250 GB, 500 GB, 1 TB and 2 TB. sandisk.com

—Jean-François Landry

