

**CAMERA WITH THE WORKS**  
**Panasonic Lumix DMC-TZ3**

- » Number of scene modes 31
- » Zoom 10x optical
- » Light sensitivity Up to 1250 ISO equivalent
- » Megapixels 7.2
- » Price \$350
- » Get it [panasonic.com](http://panasonic.com)

Essential wisdom from Gina Trapani, our solutions expert



## 5 Ways To...

### ROCK A ROAD TRIP WITH THE GIRLS THIS SUMMER

#### 1 Gather intel from truckers.

Nothing kills the mood like a fat ticket. Spare yourself by logging on to the Bear Trap Guide ([beartraps.com](http://beartraps.com)) before you hit the road. Written by and for truckers, this site lists exits on major interstates where radar guns are most likely to lurk.

#### 2 Fuel up on the cheap.

Don't let the pump screw you. Enter your city and state at [gasbuddy.com](http://gasbuddy.com) for the addresses of the lowest-priced stations in town. To find one from the road, text your city and state to [gas@fuelgo.com](mailto:gas@fuelgo.com) to get listings on your cell in just minutes.

#### 3 Let Honest Abe check your tires.

Stick a penny into one of the tire's grooves, top of Lincoln's head first. If you can see "In God We Trust," your tire has more slip than grip. Have a mechanic replace it, pronto.

#### 4 Never get lost.

Text GOOGLE (466453) with your location and destination separated by "to" (e.g., "Daytona to Miami") and you'll get directions within minutes.

#### 5 Cruise to your iPod.

Streaming a playlist through your car radio (via an FM transmitter that plugs into your iPod) seems brilliant—until static takes over lead vocals. Fuzz isn't a problem with the new-generation Griffin iTrip (\$50, [griffintechnology.com](http://griffintechnology.com)).

**wWw H Womenshealthmag.com/easyway**  
 Gina Trapani is the founder and editor of the blog *Lifehacker.com*. Submit topics to Gina today.



#### FIRE UP THE AUTOPILOT

**Spec to shoot for** Easy access to about 30 scene modes  
**Say what?** Modes like Sunset, Portrait, and Fireworks automatically optimize light sensitivity, flash, and focus for that shot.  
**Choose it over** 50-plus scene modes—90 percent of them are useless, and the cameras generally cost more.  
**Shoot like a pro tip** Switch to Night mode to snap great shots in a dimly lit bar.

#### PIXEL PERFECT

**Spec to shoot for** 5.1 to 7.2 megapixels  
**Say what?** These are the millions of dots that make up your pic.  
**Choose it over** Anything higher than 7.2. Unless you're a pro, it's not worth the extra money.  
**Shoot like a pro tip** Splurge on a big memory card—1 gig (\$20 to \$40) stores 300 high-resolution images—so you can click away without having to worry about running out of room.

#### GET A ZOOM

**Spec to shoot for** At least 5x optical zoom  
**Say what?** This type of zoom works like a film camera. When you press a button, gizmos inside move to capture the shot.  
**Choose it over** Digital zoom, which relies on an internal computer to manipulate images and often produces grainy pics.  
**Shoot like a pro tip** To steady your shot, lean against a tree or a wall when you're photographing objects from more than 100 feet away.

#### LIGHT RIGHT

**Spec to shoot for** An ISO equivalent of at least 800  
**Say what?** This indicates how sensitive the camera's sensor is to light. When the number is low, the shutter has to stay open longer, making a blurry shot more likely.  
**Choose it over** ISO equivalent under 800  
**Shoot like a pro tip** Flash zaps detail. An 800 ISO camera collects enough light that you shouldn't ever need to turn on the flash indoors.

## it's a snap

» Everything you need to know to pick a picture-perfect digicam

**MISSION: BYPASS THOSE** blue-clad Best Buy salesmen spewing technobabble and find an easy-to-use, easy-to-stash, affordable digital camera. We combed the massive annual Vegas-based photo trade show in March, where thousands of new cameras make their debuts, and spotted a few prime specimens, including the Panasonic Lumix DMC-TZ3 (pictured; \$350, [panasonic.com](http://panasonic.com)). To help you find more models like it, we created this cheat sheet with fashion photographer Bill Streicher and Mike Hodson, moderator on [thephotoforum.com](http://thephotoforum.com). It lists the features that will make your pictures really pop—without making your head spin.

#### Click Here Now [scanmyphotos.com](http://scanmyphotos.com)

Need a party favor for this summer's family reunion? Sort through your old photos—the ones collecting dust in a shoebox under your bed—and mail them to [scanmyphotos.com](http://scanmyphotos.com). For \$100, you'll get a prepaid box, which you can stuff with as many pics as you want. They'll scan them onto a CD and return the originals just as you sent them. We recommend omitting that one of you breaking your school's keg-stand record.

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