

# Delights of Passage

With seven digital cameras, their lenses, a multitude of accessories and a large laptop to take, John Henshall wonders if there's any alternative to driving to Glasgow?

**H**ow to get to Glasgow with a big load of digital camera gear and a big laptop was a challenge which faced me recently.

The reason for the trip was a day of seminars for Calumet – the UK's largest professional photographic dealer.

I needed to take five DSLRs – the hefty Canon 1Ds Mark II, Canon 20D, Fujifilm FinePix S3 Pro, Nikon D50 and Nikon D70s – and two compact digital cameras – the Fujifilm FinePix F10 and Z1. I also needed six zoom lenses for the DSLRs and one prime lens and adapters.

In addition I needed spare batteries

for the cameras and CompactFlash cards. Then there was the card reader and PCMCIA adapter, network cable and my laptop – together with its power adapter, mouse and display adapter.

Catalogues, for reference, and back issues of *The Photographer* for distribution completed the kit.

The big question was: with all this equipment, wouldn't it be easier to drive from Oxfordshire to Glasgow?

The problem was that, by car or train, a one day booking would need three days. Hardly cost-effective. By air, it seemed feasible to make the trip in just

one day. Much more cost effective.

Travelling by air with a load of fragile equipment is always difficult. The weight limit on hand baggage is usually so low that I'm usually afraid that I'll be told to check-in my camera gear. No way.

Jobsworth check-in clerks always make me nervous, so I aim to arrive at the airport in good time, so that I can re-pack some of the less fragile kit in my suitcase in an emergency.

But with all that kit, weighing 15kg? Surely travelling by air would be impossible without heavy flight cases?

It began to look more and more like

## The Challenge – All this kit to take to Glasgow



the car and a three day round trip.

Not a pleasant prospect.

The Canon 1Ds Mark II is potentially a difficult camera to carry in a backpack. The camera body is 16cm (almost 6.5 inches) tall and until recently no backpack was deep enough to take it.

The other four DSLRs, though much lighter and smaller, nonetheless add up to a considerable bulk and weight.

And then there are all the lenses.

My laptop is the beautiful seventeen inch screen (diagonal) Macintosh PowerBook G4 which has a large – 29 x 26cm (15.5 x 10.25 inches) – footprint, though it is only 2.5cm (one inch) thick.

The prospect of driving all the way to Glasgow – and back – definitely did not

appeal, so I decided to go by 'plane and just take as much of the gear as I could.

To carry the equipment I chose the capacious **Lowepro CompuTrekker Plus AW backpack** – the only one I have found which will take the Canon 1Ds II.

To my utter amazement the CompuTrekker Plus AW swallowed up all the kit I wanted to take – and still left room for a change of clothing and toiletries in the outer compartment.

A dedicated compartment housed my large laptop safely and snugly.

Calumet booked me on Easyjet from 'London' Luton Airport. I decided to travel up the evening before, in case a delay on the morning of the seminars caused me to be late. That still saved me

a day and a half compared with driving.

Once loaded, I weighed the bag. Sixteen kilograms – 35 pounds. But when I swung it onto my back and fastened the hip belt, the weight seemed to disappear. This really is the correct way to carry lots of heavy kit.

Easyjet is anxious to encourage carry-on baggage – to reduce aircraft turnaround times – so any reasonable weight is now permitted – as long as it will fit into the overhead locker. The CompuTrekker Plus AW fits with ease.

Design and construction is the classic quality for which Lowepro is famous.

The **Lowepro CompuTrekker Plus AW backpack** is highly recommended for carrying a full digital kit. In comfort, too.



**The Solution –  
The Lowepro  
CompuTrekker  
Plus AW backpack**