

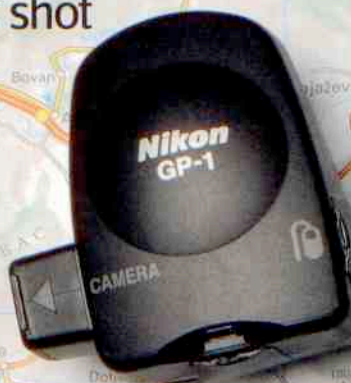
REVIEW ▶ GPS devices

GPS DEVICES

Enhance your photography with a precise record of when and where you took that shot

Thanks to your camera's EXIF data, you can find out everything from the date and time that you took a shot to the precise exposure, ISO sensitivity and white balance settings used. The one thing your camera doesn't tell you by default is where you were in the world when you took it. GPS devices like those featured on this page can help you keep track of the location of each of your shoots, making archiving easier and being of particular benefit for photographers who regularly shoot at a range of different locations. Some GPS devices can be connected to compatible cameras and embed GPS data in the EXIF data, while others are just carried in a pocket for example, recording location information. With the latter, you use a piece of software to match the time stamps in your photos with those recorded by the device, in order to map where you took each shot. Whichever you favour, you're sure to find something to suit your needs here:

"GPS devices like those featured on this page can help you keep track of the location of each of your shoots, making archiving easier"



NIKON GP-1

PRICE: £176

Web: www.nikon.co.uk

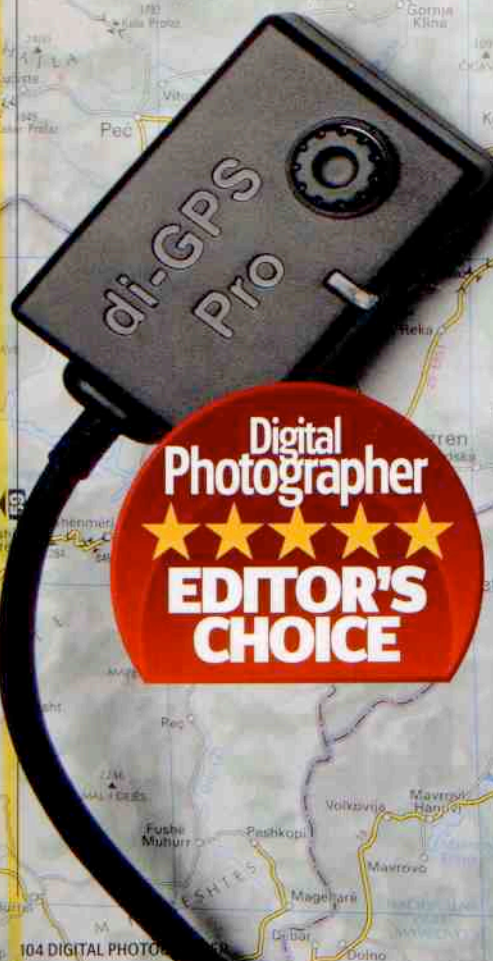
Power: Supplied from camera

Connectivity: Mini-USB, ten-pin terminal

Attaches via: Hotshoe/camera strap

Lightweight and discreet, the GP-1 sits atop your camera's hotshoe or attaches to your camera strap, keeping it out of the way, and plugs directly into your camera's ten-pin remote terminal. Switch your camera on and the GP-1 automatically starts searching for satellites, achieving a lock within a few seconds in most cases when on open ground. All the Geotag info this little device collects (latitude, longitude, altitude and time information) gets embedded directly in your EXIF data - there's no need for special software or other programs to sort out your images afterwards, although you can download Nikon's free ViewNX version 1.2 software to view picture positions on a map, or use Pictoretown. Compatible with the following Nikon DSLRs: D90 (via accessory terminal cable GP1-CA90), D3, D300, D700, D2X, D2Hs, D2Xs, D3X and D200, the GP-1 is an easy-to-use device that does an excellent job.

9/10



Digital
Photographer

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
EDITOR'S
CHOICE

JOBO PHOTO GPS

PRICE: £170

Web: www.intro2020.co.uk

Power: Supplied from camera

Connectivity: Ten-pin terminal

Attaches via: Hotshoe/camera strap

Sliding onto your camera's hotshoe, the diminutive Jobo Photo GPS works with just about any DSLR. It has an internal battery that charges every time you connect it to your computer via the included USB cable and should last you up to one month, according to Jobo. It comes with software that allows you to import the GPS data recorded by the unit and automatically matches up the right location data with your images, embedding it in the EXIF data. You're then ready to edit/share/organise your geotagged images using your preferred software. We found this unit straightforward to use, accurate and the ability to download extra data (via an internet connection using the bundled software) such as the country name, region, city, postcode, street name and nearby points of interest (POIs) as well as the usual latitude, longitude and altitude was a real plus.

10/10

WHAT IS GPS?

The technology, demystified

GPS stands for Global Positioning System. Managed by the US Department of Defense, the system uses a group of 24 satellites in permanent orbit around the earth to calculate your precise position anywhere in the world. Each satellite transmits messages to the earth, containing precise time and orbital information. The GPS receiver (your GPS unit) uses the information from each satellite to calculate its own position. By comparing the time that the data was sent to the time it arrived, the GPS receiver can determine how far away each satellite is, and needs to obtain a lock on at least four satellites to give an accurate 3D reading (latitude, longitude and altitude).



GPS devices



AMOD AGL3080

PRICE: £63

Web: www.storagedepot.co.uk

Power: 3 x AAA batteries

Connectivity: Mini-USB

Attaches via: N/A

■ This GPS device doesn't plug into your camera - you simply turn it on and stow it in a pocket, bag or use the supplied karabiner to attach it to your clothing or rucksack. It's a little bulkier than the other GPS units, but it's nicely finished and simple to operate. A set of three symbols on the front let you know what it's doing: a power LED illuminates to let you know it's on, a satellite symbol lights up when it's found a lock and a Memory Full icon indicates when it's used up its 128MB internal memory. It's driverless, showing up as a USB device when you connect it to your PC/Mac and comes with dual platform software for downloading and organising your photos and matching them with their corresponding GPS data. You can also view your logged route on Google maps, launched via the bundled software. A handy little unit that presents a cost-effective method of geotagging your photo collection.

8/10

Some GPS devices can be connected to compatible cameras and embed GPS data in the EXIF data

DAWN TECHNOLOGY DI-GPS PRO

PRICE: £268 (APPROX. £195)

Web: www.di-GPS.com

Power: Supplied from camera

Connectivity: Ten-pin terminal

Attaches via: Hotshoe/camera strap

■ This unit plugs into your camera's ten-pin remote terminal and fits onto your camera's hotshoe, or it can be attached to your camera strap using the supplied adaptor. Small and lightweight, we found the di-GPS pro to be incredibly simple to use: just flip the Power switch and it gets to work, finding a lock and automatically storing GPS information in your camera's EXIF data. Compatible with the Nikon D3, D3X, D700, D300, D2XS, D2X, D2HS, D200 and Fujifilm FinePix S5 Pro, the unit also includes an extra ten-pin terminal on top so you can still use your remote release cable at the same time if required. The only downside is that it takes longer than some other units to acquire a lock from cold - sometimes in excess of 30 seconds. You'd perhaps expect more considering the price.

8/10



Digital
Photographer
★★★★★
INNOVATION
AWARD

