



“The morning cup of coffee has an exhilaration about it which the cheering influence of the afternoon or evening cup of tea cannot be expected to reproduce.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes,  
*Over the Teacups*

## Have Mug, Will Travel

**Six for the road** to suit everyone's style, from multitasker to klutz

A CUP OF COFFEE OR TEA first thing in the morning provides a buffer against a tough outside world, with its predawn gloom, gridlocked traffic, and alarmingly full in-boxes. But your own coffee mugs and those flimsy take-out cups leave you at the mercy of other hazards, from scalded fingers to stained shirtfronts to the lukewarm-brew blues. And with the average commute clocking in at about 25 minutes, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, you need a mug that's good for the long haul. So *Real Simple's* testers hit the road to find perfect travel mugs for every drinker on the move, from coffee snobs (hot or iced) to cuckoo-for-cocoa kids.

WRITTEN BY LISA ANN SMITH  
PHOTOGRAPH BY TINA RUPP

## Fill 'Er Up

Testers poured, sipped, overturned, and temperature-checked 25 mugs to find which are the best for long, cup-jostling commutes. The winners below scored highest with both right- and left-handed drinkers. One caveat: Since car cup holders vary in size, measure yours before you shop to be sure the mug will fit. (Note both diameter and depth.)



**BEST FOR THE MULTITASKER**  
**Oxo Good Grips LiquiSeal Travel Mug, \$20**

The spout opens and tightly shuts with the click of a button and is angled to minimize drips, so it's perfect for the commuter who *must* talk on her cell and tweeze her brows at red lights while getting her caffeine buzz. Hand wash.  
**SIZE:** 14-ounce capacity; 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-inch base diameter.

**TO BUY:** [www.oxo.com](http://www.oxo.com).



**BEST FOR SECOND-CUPPERS**  
**Planetary Design Double-Shot, \$28**

Prepare one for the road in this French press/mug combo, and store freshly ground coffee or tea leaves in a compartment at the base so you can brew up another when you get to work. It's top-rack dishwasher-safe and available in seven colors, and it comes with an extra lid.

**SIZE:** 14-ounce capacity; 2<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-inch base diameter.

**TO BUY:** [www.liquidplanet.com](http://www.liquidplanet.com).



**BEST FOR WANNABE BARISTAS**  
**Bodum Travel Press, \$30**

You don't have to switch caps to drink from this French press/cup; the press stays hidden under the lid. The large spout lets you savor the aroma as you sip without dribbling (though it didn't prove 100 percent spillproof when closed). Dishwasher-safe.

**SIZE:** 14-ounce capacity; 2<sup>9</sup>/<sub>16</sub>-inch base diameter.

**TO BUY:** [www.bodumusa.com](http://www.bodumusa.com).



**BEST FOR SLOW SIPPERS**  
**Thermos Nissan Leak-Proof Travel Tumbler, \$26**

Stainless-steel walls with a vacuum between keep drinks hot or cold for hours. Come winter, you'll bless the rubber grip for keeping hands far from metal. The carabiner can hold an ID in the morning and clip the mug to your bag at night. Hand wash.

**SIZE:** 14-ounce capacity; 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch base diameter.

**TO BUY:** [www.target.com](http://www.target.com).



**BEST FOR KLUTZES**  
**Copco Urban Professional Travel Mug, \$10**

If you trip on flat pavement, this mug's for you. You can turn it upside down and shake it without losing a drop, thanks to the spillproof lid. A dent-resistant rubber sheath makes losing your grip nothing to worry about, either. Hand wash.

**SIZE:** 16-ounce capacity; 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch base diameter.

**TO BUY:** [www.copco.com](http://www.copco.com) for stores.



**BEST FOR KIDS**  
**Thermos Travel Tumbler, \$15**

Kids can sip from any point along the rim of this mug (essentially one big, adjustable spout), thanks to a series of holes that open when the lid is twisted. The flow can be controlled, letting out a little or a lot, depending on kids' capabilities. Hand wash.

**SIZE:** 14-ounce capacity; 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-inch base diameter.

**TO BUY:** Target, [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) for store locations.

**tip** Many coffee or tea shops will fill a travel mug in lieu of a paper cup. Some even offer a discount when you use your own mug.