

ZOLEO winning rave reviews from international experts

The **Beam Communications'** designed and built ZOLEO messaging solution is winning rave reviews from experts in Australia and North America since its launch earlier this year.

Several journalists and outdoor/sports celebrities got a chance to put ZOLEO through its paces, and the feedback is overwhelmingly positive.

US camping publication *50 Campfires* rated ZOLEO [4.5 out of 5 stars](#) in its review and said that the communicator "worked flawlessly" in its field test.



50 Campfires putting ZOLEO to the test out in the great wilderness

While it's common advice to tell someone where you are going and when you'll be back, the article said many do not and they can get into trouble if out of cellular coverage.

"This is where the ZOLEO Satellite Communicator comes in," wrote *50 Campfires*. "Setup was easy, and the lightweight design made it easy to use. Weather updates via satellite are a nice feature."

Adventure athlete and writer, *Andrew Skurka*, compared the ZOLEO with two leading satellite communicators and he wrote that [ZOLEO wins](#) when it comes to messaging.

He said that one of the key advantages of the ZOLEO is that all messages come through the free ZOLEO app, unlike the competition where the user has to use different apps depending on whether they are on WiFi, mobile or satellite.

This means conversations are not disjointed and there's little risk of the user missing incoming messages.

Unsealed 4X4 also tested the ZOLEO out in the scrub and said it worked [exceptionally well](#).

There are also a number of reviews on YouTube, including from [Backcountry Exposure](#) and professional adventure athlete [Dave Norona](#).



Dave Norona's YouTube review on his snowmobile

Some of the other publications that featured ZOLEO are [The Australian](#), [Fishing World](#), [Gear Junkie](#), and [Tech Guide](#). Find out more about ZOLEO at <http://www.zoleo.com>.

Getting back to the great outdoors with Beam

Australians are increasingly looking to re-connect with nature and feedback from some outdoor equipment retailers is pointing to a strong rebound in interest in bushwalking.

Venturing into the great outdoors makes sense as we emerge from COVID-19 restrictions as this is one social activity that will allow us to practice social distancing without taking away any of the fun.

The best way to get the most out of the experience is to come prepared. Below is a list of items you should be carrying at a minimum:

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Backpack: A comfortable weatherproof backpack is one of the key items you should have with you. But also pack your items into Ziploc bags even if the backpack is waterproof.

Food and water: Packing something easy to consume on the go, like sandwiches and energy bars, are usually your best option. You shouldn't even think about going on a hike without water. Most hikers will carry one or two litres for a day trip.

Protective clothing: Carry a waterproof jacket even in sunny weather. It's also recommended you have a change of clothes, including socks. Just remember to put all these into a Ziploc bag.

Personal items: These include sunscreen, lip balm, your favourite hat, insect repellent and toilet paper, along with any medication that you may require.

Comms and emergency: A first aid kit and your mobile phone are the obvious things you need, but you should bring a satellite device of some kind as you will likely be out of mobile coverage on parts of your hike. Carrying the Beam-designed Iridium GO! is one good option as it allows you to make calls and use some mobile apps. A ZOLEO device is a good alternative for cost conscious adventurers as it allows you to text and message anyone from anywhere you can see the sky. Both ZOLEO and Iridium GO! have a SOS button on the unit to call for help too. While ZOLEO has 200 hours of battery life and Iridium GO! 24 hours, it's a good idea to pack a power bank for your mobile phone.

First impressions from an Australia ZOLEO user

Philip Jiricek is a father of two living in Melbourne's outer east suburb who became an avid bushwalker when he and an ex-colleague started tackling a number of popular trails in Victoria and Tasmania.

He took a ZOLEO on his latest hike through the Bungala State Forest where he left designated walking tracks.

Q: What made you want to try ZOLEO? Did you look / think of other options?

A friend told me about ZOLEO and it sounded perfect for what I was after. A way to stay in touch with my wife and family while I was on a solo-hike and likely to be out of normal phone reception.



"A friend told me about the ZOLEO product and it sounded perfect for what I was after" - Philip Jiricek

Q: Did having a ZOLEO make a difference to the type of activities you did on your hike?

I was hiking in the bush and setting up my campsite. Being that I did not have any other travel partners with me, my wife felt a lot more comfortable knowing that I would be able to communicate with her to let her know I was safe, and if needed, activate an SOS alert through the ZOLEO unit.

Q: What were the main benefits and features for you?

Mainly that I could use SMS to check-in and chat with my wife while I was out of normal coverage. I didn't need to talk, just to touch base and let her know I was ok.