

THE GOODS HIGH 5



**1. Gitzo GT-531 Mountaineer 6X Carbon Fiber**

\$370, street ■ [www.gitzo.com](http://www.gitzo.com)

If you're hiking long distances to shoot landscape or wildlife photos, the last thing you want is extra weight to lug along. This 0.9-pound tripod won't slow you down, but just because it's light doesn't mean it's not strong. The GT-531 can support camera rigs of up to 11 pounds, and its G-lock mechanism increases the strength of the leg lock when more weight is applied.

**2. Induro C313 Carbon 8X**

\$540, street ■ [www.indurogear.com](http://www.indurogear.com)

When you're braving the elements, this tripod is one to pack. The spring-loaded weight hook lets you add extra stability in high winds. Foam grips make it comfortable to handle in extreme temperatures. Its adjustable-angle legs and removable, spiked feet, along with a bubble level, help on uneven ground. And dust- and moisture-resistant leg locks come in handy when the weather turns nasty.

**3. Manfrotto 161MK2 Super Professional**

\$485, street ■ [www.manfrotto.com](http://www.manfrotto.com)

You don't have to climb trees to get an overhead nature perspective. Manfrotto's Super Pro tripod extends up to

8.75 feet and can support up to 44 pounds for big DSLRs and large-format cameras. This serious tripod also has a built-in level to keep horizons straight, and rubber feet with retractable spikes for extra stability in soft terrain.

**4. Slik The Professional**

\$355, street ■ [www.thkphoto.com](http://www.thkphoto.com)

Mount your large- or medium-format camera, or your DSLR with a big tele—it can hold up to 26 pounds. Twist-lock legs make it fast, sturdy, and easy to use, and the leg-angle locks let you set it to three different height positions for ground-level work. Each lock is independent, so you can set up quickly and easily on steps or uneven ground.

**5. Velbon Ultra Maxi-L**

\$130, street ■ [www.tocad.com](http://www.tocad.com)

Carrying a small pack, or spending the day shooting flower and bug macros? Velbon's Ultra Maxi-L is the perfect companion. It folds down to only 14 inches and weighs a scant 2 pounds. It's built for getting really low (all the way down to 6.5 inches), and you can reposition it quickly—the twist-lock legs let you set it up or break it down with a few simple twists.