



PracticalTravelGear.com

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Backpacker Classic

Featuring: The Waypoint 65

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/2ezy34q>

I've written in a few different places about the best backpacks for travelers and one name that always comes up near the top in both quality and popularity is Osprey Packs. If you go backpacking around the world, you'll see that Osprey logo on the backs of a lot of travelers, either in the Waypoint 80 size or this more manageable Waypoint 65 size.

But enough preaching—what about this backpack? Well, it has all the elements I look for in a travel pack, as opposed to a super-light top-loading tube used for hiking. It's got a comfortable handle on the top and another one on the side for all those times you've got to sling it onto the top of a bus or check it onto a plane. The straps zip behind a flap when necessary it doesn't get shredded in a luggage carousel. It's got cinch straps in all the right places plus side supports to keep it from bulging out. It has the all-important waist strap and chest clip for weight distribution. There's a removable daypack as well and although I'm not normally a fan of those because they make your load top-heavy, this one might actually get used: it's so small it won't tip you over even if you jam it full. Plus one of the compression straps for the pack goes through a flap on the daypack to keep it all tight.

It's all the little extras though that set this newly updated \$250-list-price Osprey pack from ones that cost half as much. There's heavy-duty ripstop nylon, quality metal zippers with good pulls, and a super-comfy padded mesh panel against your back when you wear it—which keeps your back from turning to a river of sweat. Hey, if somebody tries to rob you, there's even a built-in rescue whistle!

The design of this Waypoint bag makes it much slimmer than other 65-liter packs I've used, with the compression system seeming to make the weight distribute better as well. There are versions cut a bit differently to fit men and women.

You've got to like Osprey guarantee, which says, "Osprey will repair for any reason, free of charge, any damage or defect in our product – whether it was purchased in 1974 or yesterday." I've taken this on a couple trips already and planning on strapping it on for many more to come.

