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June 17, 2011

Gadling Gear Review

Featuring: Stratos 24

Monthly Traffic: 697,400

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/4xz3urf>

As an active traveler, I have grown to have a certain affinity for backpacks. Over the years. With the right pack, an active trip can be a very pleasant experience, while the wrong pack can be an endless source of frustration. Recently, whenever I've been in the market for a new pack, I've found myself gravitating to those made by Osprey, a company that has been designing great outdoor gear for nearly four decades. A few months back, I added their Stratos 24 daypack to my gear closet, and after testing it out extensively on three continents, I can honestly say that I'm in love.

The first thing that you'll notice about the Stratos 24, or pretty much any Osprey pack for that matter, is the fantastic build quality. The Stratos has a belt that goes around your waist, as well as a strap that crosses your chest. When both of these are used in conjunction with the adjustable shoulder straps, you'll be able to accurately fit the pack to your body, making it comfortable to wear for extended periods of time. There are also straps for carrying an ice axe (handy for the serious climber) and a pair of external belts for strapping gear, such as a pair of snowshoes, to the outside of the bag as well. The Stratos includes a large internal compartment for carrying most of your gear, along with two zippered pockets on the pack itself. Additionally, there are two small mesh pockets on the hipbelt, as well as another on the right shoulder strap. Other features include a built in hydration sleeve that holds a two liter water bladder and an integrated raincover that helps keep your gear dry in inclement weather. One of the more impressive aspects of the Stratos is the ventilation system built onto the back of the pack itself. Designed to help keep you cool by allowing air to flow, between your body and the bag, this system proves to be a most welcome addition on trips to warmer climes.

The Stratos is quite possibly the best daypack I've ever used. Everything about this bag demonstrates refinement that only comes from years of evolving design and a clear understanding of the needs of your customers. Osprey has built a pack that is versatile, comfortable, and nearly indestructible. They even back it up with a lifetime guarantee. What more could ask for out of any piece of travel gear?

The Osprey Stratos 24 retails for \$99 and is also available in a 26, 34, and 36 liter sizes as well.

