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Daysacks Reviews

Featuring: Escapist 25

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/3lgdzuo>



The Osprey Escapist 25 is a beefed-up, more bike-friendly take on the established Talon daypack range and while it's slanted squarely at mountain bikers, it's also ideal for anyone looking for a neatly compartmentalized and generally tougher take on the Talon.

We actually got the Escapist in with an eye on a big hut-to-hut bike trip later in the year, but what weren't expecting is just how good it's turned out to be as an all-round, fast-moving outdoors pack. The ergonomics are spot on thanks to an adjustable back length - there are two sizes of the pack available - and a harness with just enough give to be snugged right down without feeling tight or restrictive. It's great on a bike, where the pack sits low enough not to foul a helmet on steep descents, but also spot on for running or fast walking where the pack feels absolutely planted with a confident, limpet-like fit on your back. As a bonus, the back system has a little venting, but crucially is non-absorbent, so won't turn into a soggy sponge as soon as the sweat starts to run.

There's plenty more to like too. Lots of pockets - easy zipped ones on hip-belt and one shoulder straps, which are ideal for snacks, gels, phone and anything else you want easy access to. Then there are three stretch mesh stuff pockets, which - in the case of the side ones - you can reach easily while wearing the pack, plus a front pocket with tool sleeves and the divided, panel-access main compartment. We like the option of a separate lower compartment, where you can stow, say, a waterproof jacket, some emergency insulation or even an ultra-lightweight sleeping bag and access it without half-emptying the rest of the pack. The same is true of the external hydration reservoir sleeve which means you can top up your water supplies without disturbing the contents. We can't fault the bike features either. Lid Lock is great if you're pushing up something steep and gnarly in the noon sun, tool stowage is easy and there's even a slot to hold a rear light.

We were expecting this to be a great bike pack, but we're blown away by its general usability too. It's comfortable, grips your back like a limpet and is beautifully made and well thought out too. That makes it a great option not just for those who ride mountain bikes, but for anyone looking for a tougher take on the Talon. Sure, there are lighter alternatives out there, but they're unlikely to be quite as durable. A surprisingly crackingly good fast-mover's daypack.

