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Gear Review

Featuring: Meridian

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Meridian bags come in three colors and retail at \$329.

I'm a Virgo. I need to be organized and put together, or else I get an itchy feeling in my brain. So imagine the dual pleasure and tension I feel whenever it's time to pack for a trip. Do I bring my rolling suitcase that I have to struggle with up stairs and on buses? Or should I go with my backpack that doesn't have room for my many pairs of shoes and pretty much screams 'Backpacker' when I'm trying to present myself as a professional? Then there are the additional questions of carry-on luggage, briefcase for the laptop, and daypacks. It's enough to make me wish I were born a more laid-back Libra. That is, until Osprey sent me their Meridian bag – a wheeled convertible backpack.

The Meridian is a hybrid of wheeled luggage and a backpack, easily pulled behind you by its retractable ergonomic handle. The bag has extra-large polyurethane wheels designed with a high clearance, so the wheels won't annoyingly get stuck on curbs. Once you've pulled the Meridian bag through an airport or hotel lobby and prefer to wear it on your back, it conveniently converts into the kind of backpack that Osprey is famous for by simply unzipping the padded shoulder straps and hipbelt that are tucked away in the back of the pack. A back panel and contoured lumbar pads provide enough support and distribution for a bag packed with a lot of weight. On the front exterior of the Meridian is an ingenious removable daypack that zips directly to the bag. At 20 liters, the pack is small enough to use as a carry-on for the plane and still roomy enough to use as a daypack for the beach. The daypack has two zippered side pockets, a neoprene laptop sleeve, and an internal organizer panel. The 55-liter main compartment of the Meridian has straps to keep sweaters separate from sandals. There is a side fabric pocket which is a great place to stash toiletries. An external zip top pocket is a handy place to store a passport, tickets, or cash. Additional features that make this bag ideal are a back-panel entry for easy addition and removal of items without having to open the whole bag, exposing your personal packed items. The bag itself is made to be durable, constructed out of ballistic nylon that is meant to be abrasion, moisture, and tear resistant.

