



PracticalTravelGear.com

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Featuring: Sojourn 28"

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/7l57nx5>



If you go anywhere in the world popular with backpackers, you'll see a lot of Osprey backpacks. You'll also see a lot of their packs on hiking trails. They're tough, comfortable, and guaranteed for life.

A while back though a few companies realized they could sell more bags if they convinced people they could have the best of both worlds: a backpack when you need to walk long distances through rough terrain or in a crowded dirt-lot bus station, but a suitcase when you're in airports and cities with decent sidewalks. People bought the first ones in droves, so then everyone jumped in the game. I've been trying out Osprey's Sojourn 28-inch one to see if this idea really works well in practice. Can one of these be a good backpack and a good rolling suitcase? Yes and no.

First the good points, and there are plenty of those. This bag is just shy of 8 pounds, which is not bad at all for something 28 inches long with wheels and a strong chassis. It's a good aluminum chassis too, with a nice retractable ergonomic handle, a fiberglass base, and large polyurethane wheels with sealed bearings. It wheels like a dream, feels good in the hand, and didn't tip over when I stuffed it full. The Osprey Sojourn holds 80 liters, or 4800 cubic inches. Everything about it says "durable" and "high quality," from the rubberized zipper pulls to the inside and outside compression straps. There are handles to grab it by on the top and side, multiple mesh pockets inside, and a toiletries/small stuff pocket on the top.

Do you want a suitcase...or a backpack?

My real issue with this bag is not with Osprey, but with the category. Some double-duty travel gear works great: smart phones, Swiss Army knives, convertible travel pants, and iPad cases with a keyboard for instance. Other times the item feels like it has a split personality—like it needs to get off the fence and pick a side. Fortunately I could pick my side: Osprey attached the straps of this thing with snaps and a heavy-duty hook & loop system. So I pulled the straps out, stuffed them in a corner of the closet, and took advantage of the extra storage space. If you've tried one of these convertible bags before and really used it both ways, then Osprey's Sojourn version is a fine choice. If you like the idea of a removable daypack too, check the Meridian line instead.

