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Gear Review

Featuring: Escapist 30

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/7b7frdq>

A trend to create the ultimate do-anything, go-anywhere pack has been surfacing among the top manufacturers. Osprey Packs latest entry is the Escapist. We had the chance to bring it along to Hawaii for a couple of weeks and, man, do we like...

We tested the larger of the two sizes, 20 & 30 liter. From heading to the beach to hiking the trails around the 7 sacred pools in Hana, this bag had room to spare for any day outing we had. Two large top-zip compartments handle the bulk of the gear, but the base pocket came in handy more than once stashing wet stuff away and keeping the rest of the bags contents protected. The pack rides tight to your back, while still providing ample air circulation. Super light vented harness and hip belt along with the AirScape back-sheet make it light and stable. The fit and load distribution make this a great climbing and bike pack, while still making many hiking specific packs hide from shame. There is a "Lid Lock" helmet attachment and organizers inside to keep your bike tools handy, for the bikers out there. Side mesh pockets, a zipped stash pocket at the top and several internal organizers make this a commuter friendly pack too. Let's not forget your hydration system, the Escapist comes ready for them all.

I love to see this from a technical pack maker like Osprey. The "one pack to rule them all" methodology is usually impossible, but unless you are planning a serious multi-day trek this pack will handle whatever you have cooking. Light and nimble enough for an afternoon hike, yet capable of carrying everything I need for a long weekend deep in the woods. As usual it was bomber built and backed by the Osprey "All Mighty Guarantee", one of the best in the business.

