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Backpacking Backpacks

Featuring: Aether 60

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## Osprey Aether 60 Review

Backpacking Backpacks



The Osprey Aether 60 is our Best Buy winner in the backpack category. So if you like to go fast and light like we do, then the Aether is certainly the best value in backpacks. There are two other sizes of this pack, the Osprey Aether 70 and the Osprey Aether 85.

The Aether is one of the lighter packs we tested but doesn't give up much in the way of waist belt and shoulder strap comfort. It is nearly the top scorer for its suspension. It has great features like a stretchy back "Kangaroo" pocket, slick easy-to-grab water bottle pockets, Osprey's famous straight jacket™ compression straps and well designed articulated shoulder straps. The waist belt is comfortable and supportive without being too bulky. While many frameless or minimalist frame packs maybe lighter, the Aether 60 is one of the lighter fully featured packs on the market and was on the lighter side of our review. Unlike traditional packs where the compression straps simply crunch the sides, the Aether 60 compresses from the back, evenly flattening the whole pack. These compression straps can come all the way across the pack to shrink it up small enough to be a suitable summit or day pack. We liked the dual directional stretch water bottle pockets as well. The stretch pocket on the back was a nice place to dry wet clothing or just another handy pocket for sunblock or other small items. A nice additional feature is fact that the lid is removable and can be used as a fanny pack for small day hikes. We also liked how easy it was to adjust the height of the shoulder straps.

The Aether 60 is truly a jack of all trades and will be a good pack on almost any type of trip from backpacking to multi-day ski touring. It excels at backpacking, mountaineering and trekking because of its volume, comfortable straps and supportive and streamlined suspension. It is a relatively slim design with a slightly more flexible frame that allows it to move with your body better than many packs we tested. This makes the Aether a good option for ski touring and Alpine climbing. The Aether 60 will take most people out for two to five days but if folks know how to pack it could easily last them to seven or more days. The Aether 60 will excel for climbers and backpackers who can keep their load to under 40 pounds most of the time.

