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Featuring: Escapist 30

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/7bt5vvs>

I am eternally searching for the perfect pack. My latest find is the Osprey Escapist 30 Daypack. This model is styled for cyclists, but I saw enough potential in the design of this that it looked like it would make a really good hiking daypack. Mostly, it does! First let it be said that I have never heard a complaint about an Osprey pack. Generally they make a quality product, and since packs are basically all they do, I'd expect that they have honed their art. Their materials, zippers and components are all solid and clever. I always appreciate cleverness in design. Extra effort in making the zipper pulls hide under protective covers was not lost on me.

They have done a great job with placement of the compartments. I have always been annoyed about the "key and wallet" compartment (they call it a "slash pocket") on most packs. They are usually on the top, outside of my daypacks. When the main compartment is stuffed, and I get something out of the small pocket, valuables spill out on to the trail easily. The Osprey Escapist pack solves this by tucking the slash pocket behind the main compartment. It sits against the back of the pack and hangs into the main compartment. Very smart. Since this pack is designed for bikers, there is a water reservoir pouch which rests right on the back. Since I am not a reservoir person, this pocket serves little purpose for me, but a savvy packer could take a small laptop, tablet or couple of books if they were creative. The bottom compartment zips all the way open into the one above it, making one main compartment dividable (just like larger packs). I found the bottom compartment perfect for my traction foot gear. It even fits crampons, leaving the larger compartment free for everything else - lunch, jacket, gloves, etc. The straps are comfortable and easy to adjust and there is ample back padding. Osprey added a rain fly that somehow magically takes up no room, tucking nicely under the pack. When I used it I was pleased that it covered everything except my ice axe. There is a handy quick clip for helmets which is awesome if you climb or need a helmet for other uses.



Final thoughts: As daypacks go, this one is creative and stylish. If you are a dayhiker and biker, I can see this pack working for both. The overall size was perfect for my day-sized excursions, and it was easy to find everything due to the layout of the pockets. A solid pack I'll definitely take with me again!