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The Best Day Pack Review

Featuring: Talon 22 (Editors' Choice Award) & Stratos 24

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Whether you are a frequent hiker, a student, or a weekend warrior, chances are you could use a day pack for one or more of your activities. We decided to put some top-of-the-line day packs to the test, using them for every activity we could. From hiking and climbing to biking and mountain boarding, and even carting around a computer as we worked on these reviews. We loaded each one side by side and made a close inspection of all the features to determine which packs are the easiest to use, and which ones were the most versatile. Each pack we tested had some standout qualities, but we narrowed it down to the most useful packs to hand out our awards.

What makes these day packs stand apart is the features. Each one has some features specific to hiking, but many of the packs also have other details to make them more versatile. Many of them have extra carry options to make hiking with them easier and more convenient. The **Osprey Stratos** and Talon and the Gregory Z30 all have extra bungees for storing trekking poles, and the **Talon**, Z30, and Deuter Speed Lite have extra attachments for an ice tool. Both the **Talon** and the REI Trail had a patch attachment for a blinking light for bike commuting and the **Talon** has the additional feature of a bike helmet attachment. The comfort of the day packs relies on adjustability, load carrying, and ventilation. As far as adjustability, the **Osprey Talon 22** has the easiest to adjust shoulder harness – you can simply un-Velcro the straps, move them where you want them, and stick them back on, allowing the pack to fit well on just about anyone. The Osprey **Talon**, a unisex pack, comes in two sizes, (S/M and M/L). The rest of the packs are one-size-fits-all. In terms of ventilation, the Gregory Z30, **Osprey Talon 22**, and **Osprey Stratos 24** each have a heavily designed back panel to allow for airflow on the back, which is much more comfortable while hiking in warm weather. We found the **Osprey Talon** to work best for the most athletic activities, being excellent for biking as well as hiking.

We compiled our version of the 10 essentials and tried packing each day pack with the whole collection of items to see how easily each pack could carry and organize it all. The smaller packs such as the Deuter Speed Lite 20 and the **Osprey Talon 22** still held all of the essentials perfectly.

EDITORS' CHOICE AWARD

Loaded with features, the **Osprey Talon 22** is amazingly versatile. It has features that are perfect for hiking (a trekking pole carry), biking (a helmet stow clip), or adventure racing (a tow loop on bottom). It also stands out for being remarkably comfortable and ventilated along the shoulders, waist belt, and back panel without the frame pushing the pack too far away from your body. This is a great pack for the athletic enthusiast who needs a smaller pack for multiple sports.

Top Ranked Day Packs		Displaying 1 - 5 of 6					<< Previous View All Next >>	
Our Ranking	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5			
Product Name	 Osprey Talon 22 Read the Review	 Deuter Speed Lite 20 Read the Review	 Patagonia Refugio Read the Review	 REI Trail 25 Read the Review	 Osprey Stratos 24 Read the Review			
Editors' Awards								

