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October 2013

Gear Review

Featuring: Viper 13

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/nxqcyas>

Gear Review: Osprey Viper 13 Hydration Pack

Selecting the right backpack for your outdoor adventures can be a tricky affair. You want something that is comfortable to wear and provides plenty of storage, but isn't so large and cumbersome that it hinders your movements on the trail. A good pack should be designed to be versatile enough that it can be used in a variety of activities and durable enough to withstand the punishment that comes along with regular use in demanding conditions.

The Viper 13 hydration pack from Osprey fits that description nicely. It is a well designed and built backpack with features that will appeal to hikers, trail runners, and mountain bikers alike. It also happens to be a very affordable option for those who want just a single pack for use in all of their outdoor endeavors.

The Viper 13 is an excellent pack with plenty to offer the active outdoor enthusiast. Its' generous storage options and included 3-liter hydration bladder make it a popular option for day hiking, trail running and mountain biking. The pack is comfortable to wear, extremely lightweight, durable, and when properly fitted to the torso, it stays firmly in place even during vigorous activities.

Osprey prices the Viper 13 at \$109, which is a relative bargain for how good this pack actually is. Because it is so versatile and offers a high level of performance across a variety of activities, this will be the only pack you need for all of your favorite outdoor sports.

There is a lot to love about Osprey's Viper 13. It is comfortable to wear, provides plenty of storage for carrying all of your gear, and it includes features that make it useful in a variety of activities. In fact, this pack is so well designed that it could eliminate the need for multiple packs that are designed for specific sports such as trail running and mountain biking.

The Viper is lightweight yet still very durable. Osprey has a long tradition of building great backpacks for a variety of uses and that legacy comes shining through in this pack as well. I used the Viper 13 numerous times on simple day hikes, long trail runs, and demanding mountain bike rides while preparing to write this review, and even after putting it through its paces, the Viper still looks like it is brand new.





Osprey included an excellent 3-liter water bladder with this pack and even it has some nice features. For instance, the bite valve includes a magnetic tip that locks into place with a second magnet that is integrated into the torso strap. This keeps the valve in place while on the go but also makes it easy to access whenever you need a drink.

The water bladder holds plenty of water for a long day on the trail, allowing the wearer to stay well hydrated while on the go. It is also easy to fill, slides snugly into its specially designed pocket and is a snap to keep clean once you've finished for the day. Osprey's hydration bladder is so impressive that I would have gladly paid extra for it, but the fact it is included just extends the value of the Viper even further.

At \$109, this pack is a great buy considering everything that it brings to the table. Comfort, durability, and versatility. What more could you ask for out of a backpack?

