



Dirt Rag

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7 Packs for All-Day Epics
Featuring: Verve 10
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7 PACKS FOR ALL-DAY EPICS

We rounded up seven hydration packs that—with the exception of the Wingnut—have a 100oz. (3 liter) bladder and offer enough cargo space for an all-day epic.

OSPREY VERVE 10

Osprey's Verve line consists of female-specific hydration packs in a range of capacities, from 4L to 13L, with shorter pack lengths to better fit a woman's torso. The Verve's shoulder straps have some elasticity to offer a snug but comfortable fit, the sternum strap is vertically adjustable, and a hip-belt helps stabilize the pack. Overall the pack fit well and didn't shift too much or bump my helmet, although it sits high for my taste.

One main compartment held the essentials. It has organizer pockets inside—I appreciated the pump sleeve. A small, padded pocket on the outside top was perfect for glasses. A stretchy mesh pocket on the harness fit my little flip-phone perfectly, and an outer mesh pocket carried a small extra layer or wet gloves. The zippers have nice plastic loops to make them easy to grab. My favorite feature was an elasticized clip that secured a helmet to the outside of the pack.

The reservoir and pocket each have a rigid plastic plate, so that the reservoir fits securely in the pack and doesn't bulge into the cargo area when full, and is also lightly squeezed between the plates to aid in water flow. The drawback was that some of the pack's capacity seemed to be taken up by these structures, and they added a little weight. The reservoir was easy to slide out, and has a nice big opening for refilling, but the hose did not detach to make it even easier. I liked that the reservoir is free of bad-news BPA and PVC, and is treated to inhibit bacteria growth. The lockable bite valve has an outer soft nipple over a hard plastic center; I've ruined such valves in the past by biting the soft part against the hard part, but it is replaceable if that happens again. The valve also has a magnet to secure it to the sternum strap—drinking from this set-up never got intuitive for me, but others like it well enough.

Osprey offers an awesome warranty deal: free repair or replacement for the life of the product, for any reason. —Karen Brooks

PRICE: \$84 | WATER CAPACITY: 3 LITERS | CARGO CAPACITY: 10 LITERS | COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: VIETNAM | WEBSITE: WWW.OSPREYPACKS.COM

