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The Ultimate Backpacking Outfit

Featuring: Argon 85

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Backpacking gear was my original obsession with technology. For even the most minor update to my kit, I read dozens of reviews, talk to my expert comrades, and then finally try it out myself.

After a decade of testing and updating the core set of gear, this particular list shows the best backpacking products available in 2012. I took it all on a brutal five day trip full of rain, hail, wind, and sand, along with several shorter trips in between. Here are the 35 best items for spending a nice night on the trails.

Core Gear

Backpack: Osprey Argon 85

This thing swallows gear like a python. It's a top and side loader with a gigantic sleeping-bag compartment, and a removable top-lid that works as a day pack. It has six exterior pockets for keeping your little things organized. The hip belt can be custom molded to fit you, and it has a pouch for a hydration bladder. The best part, though, is that it's incredibly comfortable and does a great job distributing weight. For a week-long trip with a ton of extra gear, it made an 80-pound pack feel a lot closer to 50. [\$400]

THE OUTFIT

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