



Off-Piste

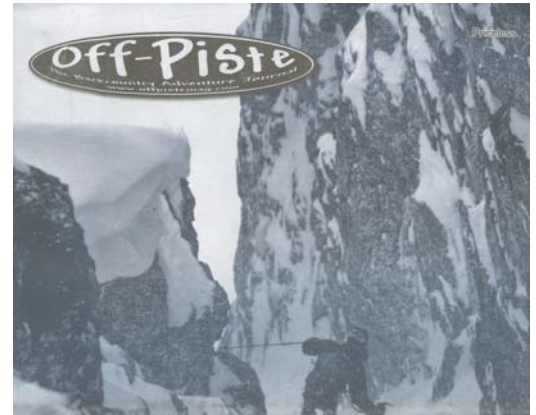
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Gear Talk: Ski Packs

Featuring: Kode 42

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Osprey Kode 42; \$170

Weight: 3 lb 14 oz; Volume: 42 liter

The Kode 42 is the flagship pack in Osprey's ski and snow line. Osprey has a reputation for designing packs that fit and carry as well as any bags in the business, and the Kode 42 does just that. It's a hybrid top-loader that adds a zippered back panel for unfettered access to your stuff. And, at 42 liters, there's plenty of space for a full day tour and then some – like the extra six-pack and burrito fixins that are sure to make the first night at the yurt more fun.



It's got everything a pack could offer: high-quality materials and workmanship, multiple access points, built-in organization pockets, dedicated avalanche tool and skin storage, generous hip belt pockets, built-in helmet carry, insulated hydration and versatile ski and snowboard carry options. Add glove friendly buckles / zipper pulls and you've got a bag that has your options covered. All of these features are delivered with only a modest amount of complexity. For the most part, the design and function is intuitive. We did find ourselves consulting the Osprey website to make sure we had it right, though.

We could rattle on about secure ski and board carry options and how well the pack handles a load, but anyone familiar with Osprey should know these guys do their design homework. You'll find burly straps and reinforced materials where needed. Despite being on the larger volume size for the packs included here, it compresses down pretty well when not fully loaded. That said. The compression straps, which serve as ski and board attachments, do inhibit zipper access. But the back panel access remains unobstructed.

Those looking for a full day touring pack that'll happily stretch into hut trip duty should put the Kode 42 on the short list. It's a full-feature pack with great organization built into the design. Need a little less volume, but still want the features and fit, check out the Kode 32.

Favorite Feature: It's got all the features you want.

Least Favorite Feature: All the straps, buckles and zippers that come with all the features.

Gear Talk

reviews, innovation and chatter

Ski Packs

