



Cult of Mac

Lust List: Road-ripping camping gear edition

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September 4, 2014

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Featuring: Hydraulics™ Reservoir

Monthly Traffic: 2,583,100

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

Road trips are great for testing your nerves — and your gear.

I took the Kahney family on an epic road trip across the American West this summer, visiting a half-dozen of the United States' most spectacular [national parks](#). We covered thousands of miles, with six of us crammed into a Land Rover LR3 that had overstuffed storage units strapped to its top and back.

We weren't prepared for the vast distances, but we were prepared for the torrential monsoons and the blazing heat. And somehow we never lost our sense of humor: Here's my son at Zion Canyon in Utah, goofing around for a cruel joke pic to send to his grandparents ("We nearly lost one!").

Having the proper gear helped. Here's a rundown of the best [camping](#) and outdoors gear we road-tested during our month-long trip.

Osprey Hydraulics Reservoir

Camelbak might make the best bottles, but the best hydration packs are now made by Osprey. We had a trio of 3.0-liter [Osprey Hydraulics Reservoirs](#) (\$36) for our hikes, and they proved reliable lifesavers.

The Osprey bladders have a stiff backing plate and rigid carrying handles, which makes filling and handling them easier than other bladders. They slipped easily into and out of our backpacks, and didn't flop everywhere when being filled. The large cap also helped (and the oversize opening made cleaning and drying a snap). The bite valve works better than Camelbak's design, and the lockout is easy to use.

