



BACKPACKER

Editors' Choice

2015 Editors' Choice Awards

The best new backpacking gear of 2015, hand-picked by our editors.

Backpacker.com

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Featuring: Atmos AG/Aura AG – Editors' Choice Award Winner

Monthly Traffic: 737,733

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

Osprey Atmos AG/Aura AG

\$230-\$260

4 lbs. 2 oz. (Aura 65 M)

OspreyPacks.com

Editors' Choice: Osprey Atmos AG/Aura AG

Hauling big loads can be a soul- and spine-crushing experience, but the Atmos's radical new AG (anti-gravity) suspension system throws conventional pack design out the window with stellar results (see page 36 for more background on how Osprey developed the AG suspension).

Unlike most big packs, there's no foam padding or plastic framesheet in the backpanel. Instead, nonstretch mesh (with pencil-eraser-size holes) spans a steel perimeter wire throughout the back and continuously through the lumbar and hipbelt. It's that lumbar and hipbelt contact that's key: "It wraps gently but firmly around my hips—like a dance partner's hands—with no gaps or rubbing," one tester says. With complete contact throughout the entire back of your body, you get no pressure points, excellent airflow, and superior load transfer. You also get good adjustability: The torso has 4 inches of play and the hipbelt extends up to 6 inches. Four compression straps (the lower two are V-shaped) connect directly to the frame, allowing you to squeeze down and stabilize smaller loads. Pockets aplenty kept us organized, and we liked the removable toplid (keep it attached for 9 liters of extra space or remove it and use the integrated flap cover, saving 6 ounces). Both the Atmos and Aura (the women's version) come in 50- and 65-liter models.

