



## Men's Journal – Gear Lab Special

Winter 2015/2016

Outside: Backpacks

Featuring: Kode ABS Compatible 42

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**OUTDOORS**

**GEAR LAB**

**BEST FOR BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURE**  
**Deuter Rise Pro 34+**  
 \$175; deuter.com  
 Designed for getting out into big, dangerous terrain, this light hauler includes a roomy front pocket that can hold an avalanche shovel as well as carry straps for skis, a snowboard, snowshoes, and ice axes. The three-pound, 11-ounce pack also features a suspension system that keeps the load on your back stable.

**BEST FOR DAY TRIPS**  
**Klymit Stash 18**  
 \$65; klymit.com  
 Klymit found a way to add just a little extra technology to the basic day pack: The company borrowed the system it uses in inflatable sleeping pads to create an air suspension in this 18-liter pack. Load it up, then simply push the bulb on the shoulder strap — the back panel fills with air to provide both stability and padding.

**BEST FOR URBAN EXPLORATION**  
**Fishpond River Bank**  
 \$150; fishpondusa.com  
 This stylish pack is surprisingly big inside — it will swallow enough gear to serve as a carry-on for long weekend trips as well as low-key hikes and cruiser-bike rides. A padded laptop sleeve makes it ideal for carting your work around town; it's also apt for streamside use, with room for extra reels, fly boxes, lunch, and layers.

## Backpacks

Inventive ways to haul stuff comfortably — from the backcountry to the city limits.

**BEST FOR HUT TRIPS**  
**REI Traverse 48 Pack**  
 \$169; rei.com  
 A classic overnight backpacker, the Traverse has the space to carry all the essentials and an effective suspension system that relies on the load-lifter compression straps to pull the weight close. Add that up and you get a pack that does well in the winter for trips to huts and yurts as well as on warmer weather adventures.

**BEST FOR RESORT SKI/RIDE**  
**Ortovox Freerider 24**  
 \$189; ortovox.com  
 Not only will this hydration-compatible pack haul all the goodies you need for a day at the resort (including avalanche-safety gear if you decide to head out to the gates), it also offers extra protection in case you take a tumble: A removable TÜV-certified spine protector comes included.

**BEST FOR BACKCOUNTRY SKI/RIDE**  
**Osprey Kode ABS 42**  
 \$220; ospreypacks.com  
 An avalanche air bag can improve your chances of survival if you ever get caught in a slide: Inflated, it means your mass becomes big enough to pull you to the surface of the snow. Osprey's design allows you to put an after-market ABS air-bag system in the pack when you need it, and remove it when you don't.

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