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Backcountry Ski Pack Review

Featuring: The Kode 30

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When the Osprey Kode ski backpacks were introduced just over a year ago, I must say I was impressed. With a slew of great features and the renowned Osprey fit, the Kode series (Kode 38, Kode 30 and Kode 22) was bound for greatness, right?

A great all around snowplay pack, the Kode 30 is great for a few hour to all-day side and backcountry tours. Unique features include front panel access to avy gear compartment, backpanel access to dry pocket, stowable helmet carry and a LightWire™ frame to support heavier loads with flex for dynamic movement.

My review timeframe for this pack has spanned nearly a full year with thousands of feet of vertical on backcountry ski tours spanning much of Utah's Wasatch Mountains. My initial tour with the Kode 30 and I was sold on the back panel design for its comfort and load-balancing abilities. After a season's worth of use, I can also appreciate some of the other creature comforts, like the helmet carry and fleece-lined goggle pocket. Tops on that list is the back-panel access allowing you to see and access anything in the pack—even at the very bottom. The pack skis well and carries weight with aplomb, yep, aplomb. I would simply cinch things down and proceed to farm the backcountry without feeling unbalanced—even when I was carrying the heaviest pack of the bunch.

The Osprey Kode 30 is a great ski pack for sidecountry or longer backcountry tours.

