



## Outside Online

January 10, 2011

Gear Guy

Featuring: The Talon 44

Monthly Traffic: 75,600

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/4snxntl>



### Gear Guy

#### What's the best pack for hiking to Machu Picchu?

I'm going to Peru for a week-long hike to Machu Picchu. I think the tour guides carry the large gear (tents, food). What backpack should I get? My local store suggested an Osprey 40 but I really have no idea what to get. Help! Thanks.

Well, Chris, first thing I'd do is double check to be sure the guides really carry the tent and food! That would have a significant impact on what you need, pack-wise.

That said, I would think that a pack with a capacity around 3,000 cubic inches would give you enough room for your gear—clothing, camera, and the like—as well as a little extra space in a case you need to pitch in a help with the party's load.

Your shop may have been referring to the Osprey Talon 44 (\$159), a light backpacking pack that's suitable for trips where you're not carrying all of your own gear. It's a lightweight (2 pounds 10 ounces), comfortable pack that has 2,700 cubic inches of space inside. So, not a real big pack. But then, nature abhors a vacuum, and will find a way to fill whatever space you have.

