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Gear Guy: What's the Best Affordable Mountaineering Pack?

Featuring: Variant 52

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## Q: What's the Best Affordable Mountaineering Pack?

**A:** Exercise caution when you look for an inexpensive mountaineering pack. Remember, a well-built pack is going to last a lot longer than a cheap one, and you want to make sure it won't fail at a crucial moment.

Got it? Good. Now here are three (relatively) inexpensive alpine touring packs Stuart recommends.

### Osprey Variant 52, \$200

The **Osprey Variant 52**, like the Alpinisto, will be too small for weeklong alpine mountaineering trips, but if your main concern is versatility, this is the pack for you.

"It can do a lot of things well, if you're good at packing it correctly," says Stuart. "It can be a backpacking pack, a mountaineering pack, or a ski pack in the winter." The Variant is built from super strong 210-denier Cordura and it will accommodate a large range of users since the hip belt comes in four sizes.

