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12 Backpacking Essentials for Summer

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12 Backpacking Essentials For Summer

The arrival of spring signals the start of backpacking season. With a couple of quick Sierra trips already under my belt, I look forward to extended backpacking endeavors in both North America and Europe over the summer. Below you will find a few of my backpacking essentials. This list by no means covers everything (you still need gear like clothes, shoes, first aid kit, headlamp, compass, map, etc.), but will make a great base to start from for any backpacking adventure.

1. **Osprey Exos 58 (\$220)**: This backpack is roomy enough to swallow a bear can along with all the other essentials, but light enough (weighs less than 3 lbs) not to add to your burden. Removable straps at the base of the pack come in handy for securing your sleeping pad or even tent if it doesn't fit inside. As summer backpacking usually brings with it heat, the raised mesh backpanel keeps air circulating across your back. Truly versatile, the removable lid and numerous cinch cords mean the pack can be converted for day hikes around camp. A large front and two mesh side pockets offer up extra storage space for tent poles, water bottles, river crossing shoes, and gas canisters.

