



Explore

Summer 2015

Gear Guide: The Best of 2015

Featuring: Atmos AG 50

Circulation: 25,000

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h.i.g. LIGHTWEIGHT BACKPACKING IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

1 BIG AGNES MTNGLO RATTLENAKE 2 \$455
bigagnes.com
Even before the sun set, we loved this tent. Colour-coded poles make setup easy and vertical walls create plenty of room for two, each with his or her own door and vestibule. Then it got dark, so we switched on the 32 LED lights stitched into the canopy of the tent. Powered by three AAA batteries, the highest of three settings shines enough light to read by. The whole system only adds a few ounces, and playing cards without headlamps is well worth the weight.

2 OSPREY ATMOS AG 50 \$260
ospreypacks.com
At first glance, the Atmos (Aura for women) looks heavily vented. But the soft mesh from shoulder straps to hip belt does more than encourage airflow. It spreads out the contact points between pack and body, reducing the chances of pressure points or hot spots. Rather than ride on the hips, the belt seems to hug our entire waist. It's different and awesome. Ditto for the shoulder straps. To further dial in the fit, the waist and torso adjust by up to 10 cm. The rest of the 50-litre pack has just enough room for light packers to lug up to a week's worth of gear.

3 SEA TO SUMMIT X-POT \$60
seatosummit.com
Cooking pots hog pack space. The three-litre X-Pot is the exception—it collapses into a disc. The secret: soft but heat-resistant silicone sides that fold together into a four centimetre disc for packing, then pop up for cooking. Keep the flames to the aluminum base and it can handle any camp stove cook-off. The added advantage of the silicone is that it doesn't conduct heat. Grab the pot from the two flaps that lock on their clear lid—with drain ports—and pour without gloves or a pot gripper.

4 THE NORTH FACE SUPERLIGHT \$500
thenorthface.com
In the Rocky Mountains, snow at just the right time, which you want a bag to plunge in to, but without the volume of a three-season bag, is less than a melon. Superlight's name, less than a melon, is down to the front, using a half-zip and the hood, it all like clothing.

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ospreypacks.com
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gear **h.i.g.** **Guide**

The Best of 2015

MATCHING THE YEAR'S BEST GEAR WITH CLASSIC CANADIAN ADVENTURES

By **RICH STANT**

Gear matters. So does our reputation. That's why we always conduct a hands-on evaluation of every item reviewed in this magazine. It's not slash-and-grab adventures. It's a gear guide, with real recommendations from enthusiasts who embody the outdoor lifestyle. I think this is our best guide ever. We've paired Canadian adventures coast-to-coast with the stuff you need for success and comfort afield. And it all got dirty before it made it on these pages. Enjoy. Then go forth and explore. —David Webb, editor

