



## OSPREY ATMOS AG 65 – BACKPACK REVIEW

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Review

Featuring: Atmos AG 65

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Osprey is one of the premier backpack manufacturers in the US, and for good reason. Every 6 months when we attend the Outdoor Retailer show in Salt Lake City we see new innovation and thinking all over the packs in Osprey's lineup. The **Osprey Atmos AG 65** is one of the very latest designs and has a lot more than just some new pockets and straps.

### Suspension

The most obvious design aspect of the **Osprey Atmos AG 65** is the Anti-Gravity (the AG part of the pack's name) suspension. At first it appears to be similar to many of the newer backpacks with a tight mesh across the back panel. When examined further you'll see the same large mesh material that stretches across the back blend seamlessly into the waist belt. The shoulder straps are connected with the same mesh material but are attached at strategic suspension points on the pack to provide give and balance of weight. When you put the pack on you'll notice that the waist belt pulls in against the pack because of the taught mesh material, this can make it a tad tricky to get the pack on, especially when it's loaded with 50 lbs of gear. Once you figure out the right moves to get it on, trust us it's not that hard and was only a struggle the first couple of times because it's new and different, you'll feel the pack is hugging you. Getting the shoulder straps and upper suspension is important, and easy to do. The standard three sets of straps at the top of the shoulders, across the sternum, and bottom of the shoulder straps gave us plenty of options to get the weight and ride-height of the pack adjusted just right. Once the shoulders are set and comfortable you'll tighten the waist belt. This is an area that surprised me and one of our other testers. Because of the seamless connection to the back panel there is no real firm point of padding that snugs up to your hips. I did have to pull the straps to get the waist belt more snug than I initially thought necessary, simply because I wasn't used to the new design, but in doing so the waist gets more snug, but it almost never really felt too tight (I did crank it down once just to see how far you can go and though my hips stayed comfortable my stomach wasn't very happy about the tight squeeze). I mention this because I found, at first, that it was easy to feel like I had the waist tight enough only to realize a little ways down the trail that I was carrying most of the weight on my shoulders because I hadn't thoroughly connected the pack to my waist.



### Comfort

Because of all this mesh and well designed suspension the **Osprey Atmos AG 65** is honestly the most comfortable large pack that I've ever used. I personally tested this pack on a recent climbing trip to do the Exum route on the Grand Teton. My climbing partner (a very avid backpacker) began complaining about the weight of his pack on his shoulders well before mine began to feel the 50 lbs. of rack, rope, and gear. Not only that, but at rest stops he mentioned his sweaty back a few times while mine was mostly dry, a situation that I usually have to deal with as well. So, between the aptly named Anti-Gravity suspension, the very breathable back mesh panel, and a nicely curved lumbar support all of our testers found the **Atmos AG 65** to score high marks in the comfort category.

### Packability

Osprey packed (pun intended) the **Atmos AG 65** with loads of well designed pockets. My personal favorite is the large stretchy mesh pocket on the very back of the pack. I usually found myself using this as a place to store my rain shell in case afternoon thunderstorms rolled in, but more often than not it also got other stuff shoved in it when I forgot to put it all back inside the pack at rest stops. Similar fabric is found on the sides at the base of the pack for water bottle pockets that also work well for stowing tents, fishing poles, snow pickets, or trekking poles if you don't want to use the trekking pole attachment on the shoulder strap. Just behind the large mesh pocket are a pair of tall narrow pockets that zip down either side of the pack. Most of our testers loved these pockets for trail snacks, Steripen, and other items that you want to get quick access to. The lid of the pack is extendable to reach up to the full height of the pack if you are like me and always seem to stretch the limits of your pack no matter the size. There are two exterior zipper pockets on the lid, which scored big points with our testers for helping with organization – extra headlamps, batteries, first-aid kit, sunglasses, bug spray, etc. The inside is the typical large volume area, with a removable flap at the bottom to give you packing and organization options. The hydration bladder seemed a little odd to us. It worked fine, but the opening of the pocket seemed to start further down than typical making a few inches of the hydration bladder stick out the top. We didn't have any problems, and maybe it's not an issue, but we would have liked to see the hydration bladder fully enclosed to protect against abrasion from objects in the pack.

### Options

The **Osprey Atmos AG 65** comes in three color options, Green, Grey and Red, and 2 size options 65 liter and 50 liter. It also comes in a female specific version called the **Aura AG 65**, a 50 liter option is available here too.

More information at [www.ospreypacks.com](http://www.ospreypacks.com)