OutdoorGearLab.com
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Backpacking Backpack
Featuring: Atmos AG 65 – Editors’ Choice
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Overview
The Osprey Atmos 65 AG is our new OutdoorGearLab Editors’ Choice because of its ultra comfortable frame and suspension combined with one of our favorite overall pack designs. Once you put the Atmos 65 AG on you’ll be surprised how evenly the AG or Anti-Gravity suspension spreads the load out to create a fairly even, and pressure point free feel. The AG suspension takes the trampoline style suspension to a new level incorporating not only the entire back panel but also the waist belt that makes the Atmos with loads up to 40-45lbs the best feeling pack in our review. Not only is the Atmos an awesome feeling pack but it features a ton of very user friendly pockets that will keep even the most organizationally driven backpacker happy.

Best Applications
The Atmos 65 AG is extremely versatile and is a pack that nearly all backpackers can appreciate. Its wide array of pockets and decent access make it a good option for use as a travel pack. As one of the most well ventilated packs we tested (if not the most well ventilated) makes it a perfect choice for backpackers who travel in warmer climates. While we’d totally take this backpack on many very moderate, general mountaineering type trips the only downside of the trampoline style suspension is that it can collect with snow, and on a few June climbing trips in the Cascades snow worked its way into this space during breaks and be kind of a pain to deal with as it slowly melted.

Value
At $260 the Atmos 65 AG is pretty much medially priced and is comparable to most packs on the market. The Atmos 65 AG does pack in an above average amount of features and usability along with being one of the most comfortable packs out there. The Atmos 65 AG is over $100 less expensive than our second highest scorer the Arc'teryx Altra 65.

Conclusion and the Bottom Line
The Osprey Atmos 65 is a very comfortable and well ventilated pack that has all the features our testers are looking for at a very reasonable cost and weight. For moderate weights (less than ~40lbs) our testers thought the Atmos 65 AG was the most comfortable pack in our review and its AG system spread the pack load wonderfully across our hips, back, and shoulders. For warm weather hikers the Atmos also brings a near unprecedented amount of ventilation and is worth taking a look at if you log a lot of time in these types of climates. We also thought the Atmos had either the best or second best set of features as far as pockets and organizational ability, without much weight penalty. The Atmos’ only drawback: if you carry a lot of heavier loads (50+ pounds) either because your preference is for mostly extended trips or you just chronically pack heavy, we’d recommend a different pack. But for most people on 2-7 night trips, or longer for folks who pack lighter, the Osprey Atmos 65 should be a top consideration.