



## Gear.com

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Backpack Review

Featuring: The Aether

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Backpacks over the years have changed quite drastically. I remember my first pack was made by MEI and the hip belt was about 5 inches thick. I used it for a couple years then moved up to a Dana Designs. After two Rainier trips, numerous week long jaunts, the Dana was ceremoniously retired. My backpack buying journey has stopped with the Osprey Aether. Nothing beats the comfort and technology of this pack. The lifetime guarantee sets Osprey a part from the other guys. Gear gets trashed, they get it. Their price may be a little high but the construction and comfort make it worth it. Osprey also focused on cutting weight on this pack which you can tell when you first try it on. There is nothing extra but everything you need.



If the person you are shopping for this season has everything, upgrading to the Aether might be a safe bet. The bells and whistles on this pack will impress even the uber tough outdoorsy peeps. My favorite part of this pack is the lycra stretch pouch on the mid section for stuffing a rain jacket or lunch. I use this pouch for EVERYTHING and I'm amazed it hasn't worn out. This is your step above the minimalist option. Notice the pack doesn't have the cute little hip belt pouches or water bottle pouches on the side. This is for someone who has been around the block and knows what they like. Having a dedicated sleeping bag pouch separates this from a Gregory Z packs or other minimalist options. The Aether's slimmed down design also makes it great if you get into thick bush or have to scramble sections of a hike. I really liked how I could move easily because the pack sits very close to the body. The outside of the pack doesn't have excessive straps or pockets that snag on branches. Airscape is a design Osprey is using on most of their packs, including the Aether. The Airscape was amazing how much less sweat showed up on my back and others that tried it.

