



Adventure Monkey

Fall/Winter 2010

Adventure Gear

Featuring: The Manta 25



Wow. That's the best word to describe this daypack. The list of features of this pack is absolutely incredible. First the bad news – the price. Osprey has the MSRP at a penny under \$150, and to me, that is quite a chunk of change for a daypack/ cycling pack, UNTIL you look at all the features. Hands down this pack is probably the best daypack ever made so far. It has an integrated rain-cover, a dedicated sunglasses pocket,

helmet strap point, an outside stuff-it pouch big enough for a hard-shell jacket, four compression straps (on a 25 liter daypack, that's incredible!), the best 100 oz. hydration bladder I've ever seen (Nalgene specially makes it for the Osprey Hydraulics series), an attachment point for hiking/ski poles, a hip-belt with a pocket on either side of the buckle large enough for a pair of Smartwool socks, two water-bottle pockets, and a partridge in a pear tree. The suspension system deserves a paragraph of its own.

The suspension system on the Manta offers more support than an AA group. The Nalgene hydration bladder has a built-in hard plastic panel that provides rigid support, and is the frame of the pack. Outside of that there is a ridged foam back-panel, and then there is a mesh backing that keeps the pack about half an inch off your back, allowing for some major breathing. The foam in the shoulder straps is more than adequate, and is slotted to allow for breathing. The chest strap has a magnet on it, which is where the mouth-piece for the hydration bladder is held in place. The hip-belt is somewhat small, but transfers weight well, even on a bicycle.

The Manta 25 is too small to push it into an overnight bag, but for a day-pack/ cycling pack, this thing can't be beat. In mine, I keep a spare tube, 3 or 4 Clif bars, wallet, keys (it has a clip to secure keys), a couple of peanut butter sandwiches, 100 ounces of water, a rain jacket when necessary, and a few other miscellaneous items, and my shoulders have never felt tired after a ride, my back has never hurt, and I have never had hip-belt rash. If you put in a lot of miles in a day, and don't need to camp, and want the best daypack on the market, I think you would be hard-pressed to beat this pack. It comes in three different sizes, Small, Med, and Large, and also three different capacity sizes, the 15L, 25L, and the 35L. This particular review is over the 25L in a Medium. MSRP - \$149.99 www.ospreypacks.com

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