

ON TEST DAYPACKS



DEUTER FUTURA 32L/30SL

Weight 1,620g/1,600g, £70

© 0191 296 0212
www.deutergb.co.uk

- +** Excellent ventilation to the back. Very effective side compression straps and a pull-forward closure on the hip belt that's easy to tighten. Includes a rain cover, pole attachments and a good selection of pockets.
 - The trampoline-style back system makes it unwieldy. Padding on hip belt soaked up sweat and took a while to dry.
- Verdict:** A well thought-out top-loader, but can feel cumbersome.

walk RATING 3.5/5



OSPREY ATMOS 35 & AURA 35

Weight 1,160g (both models), £90

© 01202 413920
www.ospreypacks.com

- +** Clear access to big main compartment. Easy-to-use zip pulls. Very comfortable hip belt with pull-forward straps that make it easy to tighten.
 - The aluminium and titanium frame makes it feel like a much bigger pack.
- Verdict:** A capacious main compartment and an excellent harness make heavy loads comfortable to carry.

walk RATING 4/5

LOWE ALPINE Airzone 35/ Airzone ND32

Weight 1,100g/1,000g, £50

- www.lowealpine.com
- +** Breathable back system with shoulder straps and hip belt. Walking pole attachments and rain cover.
 - We're still looking for flaws!
- Verdict:** A good three-season daypack.



BEST IN TEST

walk RATING 4.5/5

SALOMON XA 20/ XA 20 W

Weight 440g (both models), £50

www.salomon sports.com

- +** Additional extras mean you can customise the pack. Great stability and a comfortable fit.
 - If you add the optional front pocket, you won't be able to see your feet.
- Verdict:** Lightweight and really moves with your body.



walk RATING 4/5

VANGO WANDERER 35L

Weight 1,060g, £30

© 0844 811 0535
www.vango.co.uk

- +** Relatively inexpensive. Top lid with single buckle closure and a detachable rain cover.
 - The foam padding is bulky and the shoulder straps wide, so it may be unsuitable for a female frame.
- Verdict:** This is an okay entry-level pack.



walk RATING 2.5/5

More daysacks on test, plus hydration systems ►

Buyer's guide Daysacks

Capacity: A 35-litre rucksack should be large enough for a day's food and drink, map, waterproofs and spare clothing.

Fit: Loosen all the straps and mount the pack over your shoulders. Position the hip belt and tighten over the hip bones, not over the stomach. Then tighten the shoulder straps (most of the load should be carried on the hips). Close the sternum strap to improve the fit of the shoulder straps. Any pack will feel comfortable when it's empty, so it's worth loading it up with a realistic weight. Does anything dig in? Is there enough padding in the right places? Is it stable? If you are tall, a pack with an adjustable back may be better. Female-specific rucksacks tend to feature

more shapely hip belts, shorter-length backs, and shaped shoulder straps that curve away from the chest.

Hip belt: Your hips are much better at supporting weight than your shoulders or back, so look for a good harness system with a padded, load-bearing hip belt and adjustable shoulder straps.

Compression straps: If your pack is only partially loaded, compression straps will batten down any excess fabric.

Hydration compatibility: Most decent packs allow hands-free drinking on the move (all of the rucksacks featured here are hydration-system compatible).

Back system: A system that allows good airflow to your back will help to reduce sweat. A sturdy frame will help transfer weight and maintain the shape and stability of the pack.

Waterproofing: Packs are not usually waterproof, although some come with a rain cover. Alternatively, invest in a waterproof liner from Podsacs. © 01773 601870, www.podsacs.com.

Opening: A zip-entry pack is easy to access, but a top-loader with compression straps is more weather-tight.

Attachments: Ideal for attaching walking poles, ice axes and monopods.

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