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Verdict

For a minimalist approach that stands up to the elements, the Apidura Backcountry hip pack takes some beating. You get all the bells and whistles with the Evoc Pro 3, which gives more storage than you'd expect in a sturdy, well-designed package.

While the Alpkit Vora 6 seemed like a really promising, good-value proposition, unfortunately the fit lets it down. If you're considering this one, give it a try first in one of Alpkit's stores to see if it suits you.

Finally, the trendy Fjallraven x Specialized hip pack is a great middle ground for adventurous day rides as it also gives you the option to expand capacity, which will no doubt be popular with both bikepackers and post-ride supermarket raiders alike.



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1 Alpkit Vora 6

£39.99, alpkit.com

AT HALF THE PRICE of the next cheapest bag on test, the brightly coloured Vora 6 stands out as a great value offering. You get all the features of more highly priced hip packs: multiple compartments and mesh dividers, water bottle holders, compression straps, a key clip and routing for a 2-litre hydration bladder and hose. The hip pack itself has an enormous 6-litre capacity, giving more storage space than needed for most day rides. While the mesh back and hip panels offer good breathability, and generous straps enable the bag to be used by riders of most sizes, the shape of the hip strap isn't the most comfortable for those with a smaller frame.

▼ **Good value and neat features but lacks finesse with the fit**

2 Evoc Hip Pack Pro 3

£84.99, evocsports.com

DON'T BE FOOLED by the smaller, 3-litre capacity: this is a Tardis of hip packs that's loaded with cool features. The main compartment can easily hold all your spares, snacks and a pump, with the padded and highly ventilated back panel keeping items from digging into your back. There's plenty more storage, including zipped and mesh pockets on the front zip-down panel, two bottle holders and zipped pockets on either hip panel, plus an internal divider and port for a hydration bladder and hose. The padded hip strap and buckle strap give a comfortable and stable fit. With plentiful storage, a comfortable fit and multiple hydration options, it's a great alternative to riding with a backpack.

▼ **Well constructed, robust and well fitting, with ample space**

3 Apidura Backcountry Hip Pack

£80, apidura.com

WHILE APIDURA'S OFFERING may be the slimmest on test with a 2.5-litre capacity, there's still plenty of room for all your ride essentials from tools to snacks, though you may have to stow a jacket elsewhere. The wide hip strap is incredibly comfy, with a little stretch and a Velcro fixing secured with a compression strap. Apidura's signature dark grey fabric has been seam taped for enhanced weatherproofing. Inside, a key clip is handy, and there's a separate, padded pocket for valuables with a nifty chain-link-storage zipper pull. For comfortable storage on longer rides, the minimalist yet highly functional and durable Backcountry hip pack is hard to beat.

▼ **A compact, weatherproof package for day rides**

4 Specialized x Fjallraven Expandable Hip Pack

£105, fjallraven.com

EXPANDING FROM A 4.5-litre capacity up to 11.5 litres, the top section of the hip pack can be unrolled and shoulder straps revealed to create a lightweight backpack. The cheerful yellow hip pack boasts an external bottle pocket on either side, as well as two internal mesh pockets to help keep your tools and snacks stowed neatly. A top bungee keeps the upper secured, and can also be used to carry a jacket. The comfortable fit is completed with an asymmetric buckle strap and a fairly breathable padded back panel. This clever, dual-purpose design will no doubt be a big hit with bikepackers stocking up on food before heading to camp.

▼ **Stylish, comfortable and versatile, with extra capacity**