

packs

weeklong

hips and prevented the weight from shifting on steep scree and gravelly slabs. Our fussy packer appreciated the ample side and mesh bottle pockets, the removable top-pocket/fanny pack, and the bungee gear sling designed for quick access to clothes and map cases. "It can manage gear for 3 to 10 days at a price cheaper than some daypacks," he wrote. Nitpicks: His ice axe kept flopping loose due to skimpy Velcro straps, and the stated capacity is overrated by 500 cubic inches. \$139; 4,577 cu. in.; 4 lbs. 6 oz.

Best All-Around Mountaineering

Mountainsmith Shavano 75 / Feather 65 ♀

Whether you're climbing ice gullies in the Sierra or heading into the Himalaya, these tricked-out expedition packs can haul it all—comfortably. The reinforced hipbelt, thickly molded backpanel, and X-frame aluminum framestays control brutal weights with ease by offering almost complete load transfer to the hips and by limiting sway in the shoulder harness. Our female testers raved about the Feather, which also features a perfect-fit suspension and smart features (ice-tool sleeves, reinforced quick-release compression straps, and waterproof zippers). Quick-stash pockets are everywhere—on the front, on the outside of the sleeping-bag compartment, on both sides of the hipbelt.



Mountainsmith
Feather 65

