



Pack Tales Tips for selecting rucksacks

The happy balance of not too much money and the right features can be tricky achieve. For tips on selecting a good general use rucksack that will suit.

Please refer below for points to consider

<p>Cost</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no point in spending hundreds of \$ to purchase a rucksack if it won't get the use. • If you plan to use it for at least 2 AJs, for other uses or if you have more than one child then it is worth considering purchasing instead of needing to hire each individual time. • Under \$300 is about where you need to be, anything else is entering into more specialised needs beyond school student use.
<p>Size & Weight</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 60L especially if it may be used for Gold AJ's or for other expeditions then you really can't choose anything smaller. • Look for a pack that doesn't have too many side and other pockets, it's better for weight distribution to have everything all packed snug in the larger part of the pack. • A rucksack weight of about 2-2.5kg is good.
<p>Comfort & Adjustment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will need to be fully adjustable at the shoulder, chest, hip and lumbar to fit well and be comfortable, be suitable for growth and for different wearers. • Look for well-padded waistband and shoulder straps.
<p>Durability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fabric, buckles, seams, etc need to be good quality and well sewn and attached, etc as they will be under some strain and subject harsh treatment. Most packs will be made of a synthetic material, most likely nylon, more heavy duty ones may be cordura, both are quite fine and will be cheaper than canvas options. • Canvas packs will be more waterproof and generally more durable but will cost more (waterproofing is also achieved by the use of waterproof bags and plastic bags on the inside of the pack).
<p>Options through Somerset</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rucksacks can be hired from Somerset for each AJ at good prices. • All our hire packs are well maintained, up to 80L in size and are fully adjustable to fit each student. • Somerset also has a good quality rucksack for purchase at a great price. The Karrimor Cougar 70L is available from Somerset for just \$179 (rrp \$249).
<p>Care of your pack</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After you've returned from your hike. • Remove everything – one bit of rubbish will permeate the pack with its' smell and it is easy to lose a torch or spoon • Shake out any sand or dirt too. • Sponge off any marks or dirt • Hang in the sun to completely dry out and the sun will also disinfect, loosen all buckles and store flat.