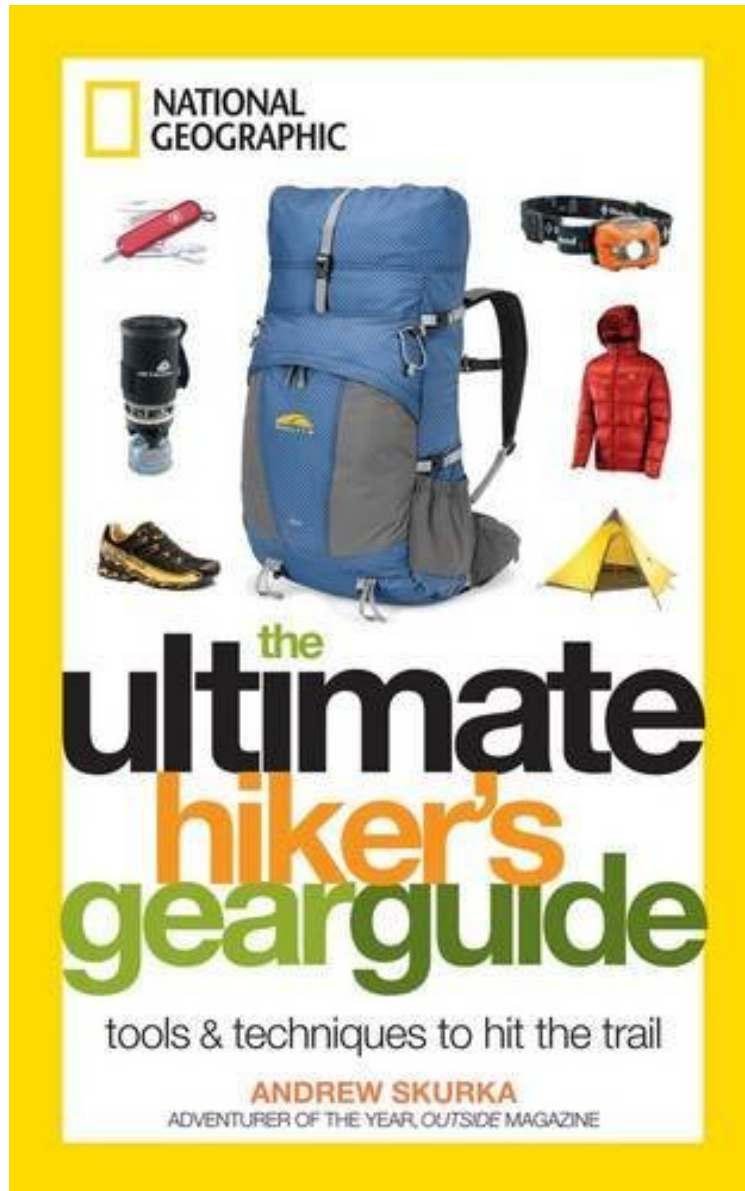


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# The Ultimate Hiker's Gear Guide: Tools and Techniques to Hit the Trail

Andrew Skurka

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#99787 in BooksColor: Paperback National Geographic 2012-02-21 2012-02-21Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.37 x .50 x 5.241, .75 #File Name: 1426209207224 pagesUltimate Hiker's Gear Guide | File size: 71.Mb

**Andrew Skurka : The Ultimate Hiker's Gear Guide: Tools and Techniques to Hit the Trail** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ultimate Hiker's Gear Guide: Tools and Techniques to Hit the Trail:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Ultra-lightweight Hiker's Gear Guide" would be a better title. By Celia Troth Skurka is extremely well credentialed in hiking, especially long distance, ultra-lightweight backpacking. As he honestly points out at the beginning, you have to decide if you are a hiker or a camper (or somewhere in between). Most of us are somewhere in between, and aren't the gram counters that Skurka is, but you can learn a lot from his 1000s of miles and years of trail travel all over the world. Each section (clothing, footwear, etc.) starts with good, basic up-to-date information on what decisions you need to make, the current technology available (old and new), runs the comparisons, then tells you his personal choices for a variety of conditions he's been in. Skurka is a fount of knowledge, but doesn't overwhelm you like a Spring Gear issue of Backpacker magazine might. There are lots of great sidebars and charts. He's a minimalist too, and not all his ideas are off the shelf. You won't be able to walk into your favorite outdoor retailer and buy everything he recommends. You will have to shop around. I found this book helpful in recommending gear list for a party of 10 for a Wonderland Trail backpack trip a month ago, as well as fine tuning my own gear list and made me get serious about leaving some junk behind.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A wealth of information By Susan Duffy in the past few years I have really gotten into hiking. I have always enjoyed going on nice long walks it's just now i'm getting into backpacking. I found Andrew Skurka experience and advice to extremely helpful. When ever I have a question related to hiking Skurka is my go to man for advise. I should say that I am not a ultra light hiker but at the same time I don't really carry that much weight. Skurka gives advice for all types of hikers.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Explains the theory and makes specific recommendations that are still current By Damion this book is great because it explains the theory and then links the theory to skurka's specific product preferences and recommendations. A lot of other books explain theory but leave readers bewildered as to how to apply them in evaluating the myriad of marketed outdoor goods. Skurka's analysis is transparent and helps explain his specific choices by focusing and analysing the technology behind the labels and jargon. In short, this is the first book I've felt clearly explained how the theory of layering and shelter choices, among many other topics, relates to the choices we can make in equipping and preparing for different hikes. This book has helped me evaluate product claims and choose equipment, even when such analysis leads me to a different product than the one Skurka prefers for his own trek.

Supreme long-distance hiker Andrew Skurka shares his hard-earned knowledge in this essential guide to backpacking gear and skills. Described by National Geographic as one of the best traveled and fastest hikers on the planet, and named Adventurer of the Year by Outside and Person of the Year by Backpacker, Skurka recounts what he's learned from more than 30,000 miles of long-distance adventures, most recently a 4,700-mile 6-month loop around Alaska and Canada's Yukon. Whether you're a first-time backpacker, an occasional weekend warrior or a seasoned long-distance trekker, you'll love this guide. Learn exactly what you need to carry both on your back and between your ears for all seasons and circumstances through a show-and-tell of clothing, footwear, backpacks, shelter and sleep systems, and more, as well as through detailed articles on foot care, campsite selection and hiking efficiency. Skurka's practical and priceless recommendations give you all the tools and techniques you'll need to hit the trail.

"[Andrew] Skurka, Outside magazine's 2010 'Adventurer of the Year,' packs his comprehensive guide with practical information about the best clothing, footwear, trekking poles, backpacks, sleeping bags, knives, shelter systems, and cooking gear that will help you plan your next trip." --Scouting Magazine About the Author A graduate of Duke University, ANDREW SKURKA is a sponsored long-distance backpacker, paid speaker, and writer. He has hiked 25,000-plus miles since 2002, most recently on a 4,700-mile loop around Alaska and the Yukon. Named "Adventurer of the Year" by National Geographic Adventure (describing him as "a Gen Y version of Thoreau") and "Person of the Year" by Backpacker Magazine, he was also featured in Outside and Men's Journal. Skurka has appeared in numerous newspapers and television broadcasts. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. I wrote this book from the perspective of an unapologetic Ultimate Hiker, which I define as a backpacker who simply loves to walk. We maximize our on-trail comfort by packing light; we move efficiently from dawn to dusk; and we consider the physical and mental challenges inherent in this style as part of our backcountry experience. Our antithesis is the Ultimate Camper, who hikes only a very short distance in order to do something else, like fishing, journaling, or birding. Neither approach is superior to the other it's simply personal preference but our contrasting styles have major consequences for our gear, supplies, and skills. My target reader is one who at least sometimes wants to be more like an Ultimate Hiker. You need not take this approach on every future trip or take it to the extreme that I do, but you must want to enjoy the hiking component of your back-packing trips more. This book may be most valuable for beginners and intermediates, who are too often relegated to the status of Campers-by-Default. These backpackers lack the knowledge and skills to pack lightly and move efficiently, which makes hiking more strenuous and less fruitful than it should be. To avoid a sufferfest, they instead opt to camp. I have intentionally refrained from describing this text as a lightweight backpacking book. Although weight is an important consideration for the Ultimate Hiker, we must also be concerned with the comfort, safety, durability, efficiency, and best use of our gear. Moreover, it's possible to go stupid light, whereby desperate weight savings can have adverse effects. My hope is that this book will become the go-to

manual for back-packing how-to, a modern successor to Colin Fletchers *The Complete Walker*. An original 1968 copy of that classic sat on the corner of my desk for inspiration while I wrote this manuscript. I wanted my book to be credible, informative, and occasionally just a good read. And while my recommendations are based on my extensive hiking experience, I'm not a backpacking guru remember that you must always exercise your own judgment in evaluating the applicability and utility of the information in this book based on your own ability, experience, and comfort level. I readily admit that there are alternative tools and techniques that will achieve similar outcomes. At the risk of outdating this text quickly, I felt that it was important to include specific brands, products, prices, and weights. On numerous occasions, I advocate the use of unconventional items like frameless backpacks, tarps and tarp tents, and alcohol stoves that are not made by conventional outdoor companies or sold by conventional outdoor retailers. But by focusing on the gear type not on the specific product I hope that the information in this book will remain valuable long after the product itself disappears from catalogs and store shelves.