

The Tatonka Bison in the 'big country'.
At 6ft 8in, Mark on the left needed a big pack!

Review on Tatonka Bison-90L

WRITTEN BY ~
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Earlier this year myself and two friends got the opportunity to hunt the Lugar Burn block for the first period of the Wapiti ballot

The next hurdle I faced was making sure that I had all the correct gear to handle the harsh Fiordland climate and steep terrain.

My old hunting pack had seen six years of hard work and abuse so as the time grew closer I realized it wasn't going to cut it - I was going to have to upgrade.

As luck would have it I was up in HB picking up more ammo from Greg. He offered me the latest Tatonka Bison 90L pack to take for a test-fire and the harsh Fiordland country was going to be the perfect place to put it through its paces.

When it came time to pack up all the gear, I had to fit nine day's worth of food plus a whole lot of necessary equipment into the pack. There were two sets of clothes, a jacket, sleeping bag and all my general hunting gear (a lot) as well as a tent and several litres of water. Then there were all the little things you end up throwing in - just in case. My usual target of a 25kg pack soon crept up to 30kg and there was still room to spare in the

big Tatonka Bison pack.

At 6 feet 8 inches tall I'm not the smallest person so I found the Bison to be the perfect pack for me. With a large, fully adjustable and well padded harness system, combined with strong, secure waist and chest straps, the X1 Tatonka handled the weight perfectly. In addition this system also distributed the load very well across the frame, minimizing the fatigue on the shoulders and lower back that some packs can cause.

The Bison's large front pocket and hood pocket proved to be extremely handy for storing all those things that you need regular access to, without having to pull your entire pack apart just to get to your camera! It's also good to see Tatonka has used great quality buckles and zips as there is nothing worse than buckles letting go and zips that won't do up.

After nine days of climbing some of the steepest country I've ever been faced with and pushing through wet Fiordland bush, the Tatonka pack came out with barely a scratch on it. Best of all for me though was that I never got a sore back or shoulders

the whole time, which I think is a tribute to how well designed this pack is.

The one bad thing I have to say about this pack is that you can fit too much gear in it. This is truly a pack for those big trips!

Features:

X1 carrying system for heavy loads. Back padding in various levels of hardness. Comfortable shoulder straps with chest strap. Lid compartment with key holder. Height-adjustable lid. Three contact points for the load control strap. Large zip-up front opening. Detachable base compartment. Front pocket with Thermo Fusion zip. Side pockets, one with zip and expansion pleat. Deflected hip strap adjustment. Handles on the front and back. Adjustable and detachable ice pick holder. Roll-up side compression straps. Base made of robust Cordura material. First-aid compartment. Rain cover and hydration system compatible.

Specifications:

Measurements: 90 x 36 x 31 cm

Capacity: 90 Litre

Weight: 4.10 kg

Carrying system: X1-system

Material 1: Cordura 700 DEN

Material 2: 420 HD Honey Cross

Rain flap: Included

