

Editor's Choice: Best New Hiking Gear for 2015

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2015 Eruption Anniversary

Hiking with Wildlife

**Traverse the Southern Olympics
Hiking Weekend in the Tri-Cities**

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Editor's Choice

BEST GEAR

2015



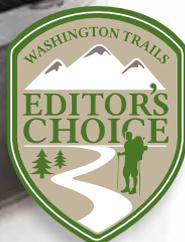
Camp Kitchen

Knowing how you plan to eat on trail can help you select the proper type of cook kit.

- ▶▶ Canister stoves are lightweight, compact and easy to use, while requiring little maintenance.
- ▶▶ Integrated canister systems are ideal for the quick cooking of pre-packaged foods, soups and hot drinks.
- ▶▶ Liquid fuel stoves are more versatile and dependable in below-freezing and high elevation environments.
- ▶▶ Supplement your cook kit with tiny containers of salt, pepper and other favorite spices to add more flavor.

TOP PICK: Jetboil MiniMo

When it comes to backcountry cooking, there are usually two camps: the backpacking gourmets, who pack in fresh or home-prepared ingredients, spices and tiny bottles of olive oil, and the rest of us, who prefer their meals light, fast and easy. I definitely fall into the latter category. That is why I am, and continue to be, and avid fan of the Jetboil. You just can't beat the Jetboil's ease and efficiency. And with the new MiniMo, the Jetboil just got better—now it simmers! When you want to do more than just boil water and add it to your freeze-dried chili mac—say, simmer soup, cook pasta, or scramble eggs—the MiniMo's new regulator allows you to control the burner just right. And, of course, true to Jetboil fashion it comes with an insulated cup sleeve, sippy lid and fuel canister stand, all of which pack neatly into itself for a lightweight, compact cook kit for any backpacking trip. The MiniMo also claimed a *Backpacker* 2015 Editor's Choice Award. \$130



MSR Pocket Rocket

The very first backpacking stove I bought was an MSR Pocket Rocket. I still have that little guy, and it still works as good now as when I bought it 15 years ago. This little powerhouse has been around for a long time, and is still one of the best-selling, most reliable portable canister stoves available. Even with all the newer, integrated cook systems available, you just can't beat the light, compact convenience the Pocket Rocket continues to offer. \$60



Optimus Elektra FE

This compact, all-inclusive cook system has definitely covered the bases for camp cooking. It starts with the fuel-efficient (FE) Crux Lite stove combined with a heat-exchanger cooking pot. This let you control the burner for everything from boiling to simmering. Add to that a piezo lighter and handy lid/bowl. But the best feature is the durable, snap-on windscreen for consistent cooking performance in any camp conditions. \$95



GSI JavaPress

Coffee drinkers rejoice! The popular GSI Commuter JavaPress is now available in a vacuum insulated stainless steel model. So forget those little packages of instant "coffee" and treat yourself to your favorite blend with this durable, spill-proof coffee tumbler. The new stainless design ensures that your favorite 15 ounces of coffee will stay hotter longer whether you're traveling to the office or the trailhead—or kicking back in camp. \$33



Hydro Flask Growler

So you want to go camping and take along some of your favorite microbrew or kombucha—but don't want to deal with a bunch of container trash? No problem. Put your favorite beverage in this 64-ounce, vacuum insulated bottle and you're good to go. The BPA-free, double-wall construction will keep your cold drinks cold and bubbly, and your hot drinks hot and steamy. The wide-mouth opening makes it easy for filling and cleaning. \$55