

GEAR

GUIDE



ADVENTURE TO GO

*Checking a surfboard? Stowing a kayak? Hauling equipment is a hassle, but not with a new wave of **TRAVEL-READY GEAR THAT COLLAPSES AND COMPACTS** while still promising top-notch performance.*

IF YOU SHOWED UP AT THE LOCAL BREAK WITH A COLLAPSIBLE surfboard 10 years ago, you would've been laughed to the back of the lineup. Arrive today with a sleek black, three-piece carbon-fiber board and you'll not only draw a gawking crowd, you just might dominate the surf. That's because manufacturers of travel-ready adventure gear

swear that their portable wares can deliver just as much performance as anything else on the market. Sensing a challenge, we put their collapsible, inflatable, foldable products through nature's worst to find out if they could match the capabilities of their unwieldy counterparts or if they're just contortionist pretenders.

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■ **READY IN:**
20 minutes, if you're
handy with a bike



■ **RITCHEY TI/CARBON BREAK AWAY BIKE**

Most collapsible bikes are the two-wheel equivalent of clown cars, but the Break Away is a racer first, folder second. Spec'ed in Shimano's finest, the 17-pound, carbon-fiber and titanium racing steed features design smarts like threaded cable connectors that make assembly fast and simple.

PERFORMANCE: The frame stayed strong and creak-free through several New York crankfests. Great bike — if you can afford it.

PORTABILITY: The 9" x 26" x 29" wheeled case makes hauling it a cinch, and it holds a week's worth of gear. [\$4,995; ritcheylogic.com]

■ **POPE TRI-SECT SUP**

Stand-up paddleboarding's the hot trend in surfing, but the superlong boards don't pack easily. Luckily the 11.6-foot carbon-fiber Tri-sect splits into three parts that fit neatly in a 4-foot-long bag.

PERFORMANCE: The ride was smooth off San Diego's Ocean Beach, though skilled surfers may notice flex riding overhead waves.

PORTABILITY: Easily checkable, and fits in the trunk. [\$2,495; bisect.com]

■ **READY IN:**
5 minutes, thanks to
simple snap clips



■ **READY IN:**
20 minutes the first
time; 10 after that

■ **TRAK KAYAKS' T-1600**

As if fitting (disassembled) in a rolling bag isn't enough, the 16-foot T-1600 is also the first adaptable kayak. Hydraulics along the frame alter the keel shape — straight for speed, curved for handling and easy landings.

PERFORMANCE: A blast on Colorado lakes; the only downside is the price.

PORTABILITY: At 58 pounds, it incurs a fee at check-in. But...you can check in a damn kayak. [\$5,495; rethinkkayak.com]

