



Be the Log

Sack out in something snug, breathable, and packable

BY RYAN STUART

Marmot Ultra Elite 20 \$199

We'd never guess that the Ultra Elite 20 is filled with anything but down—it's that warm and compressible. But Marmot stuffed the bag with a mix of three cutting-edge synthetic fibers layered together in strips: one thin for thermal efficiency, another thicker for durability, and a third less compressible to preserve loft. Near the top of the bag, the insulation overlaps like shingles to optimize warmth and puffiness. On the bottom, it's in one big sheet, which minimizes seams and boosts comfort. The Ultra Elite packed down as small (and weighed about the same) as a down bag, but unstuffed it expanded into a pile of fluffy warmth that inspired gear envy in our tent mates. Zipping into it on a near freezing night—the bag is rated to 20 degrees—we felt instantly cozy. The anatomical foot box is roomy, the full-length zipper didn't catch, and the hood sealed out drafts. The Ultra Elite is best in summer, when you're more likely to encounter humid or rainy conditions that can compromise down's ability to insulate. 2 lbs

