# Product Review

**Product:** Carbon Fiber Poles

**Date:** 2023-11-19

**Customer Review**

Transitioning to backcountry touring meant scrutinizing every gram, and these Carbon Fiber Poles were central to my weight-saving efforts. After two full seasons exploring varied terrain in the Cascade Range, their long-term value is clear. The most significant benefit remains their minimal weight; the reduced fatigue on long ascents involving thousands of vertical feet is substantial and genuinely appreciated compared to heavier aluminum options. The light swing weight also contributes to a more natural rhythm while skinning.

Key touring features performed reliably over the extended testing period. The lever locking mechanisms remained secure and easy to operate even after repeated adjustments and exposure to Cascade moisture and temperature swings. The grips provided decent comfort for all-day tours, and having an extended grip section proved useful on steeper sidehill skin tracks.

Long-term durability held up reasonably well considering the demands of Cascade touring. While carbon always warrants mindful handling around rocks and tight trees to avoid impact fractures (which luckily didn't occur), the poles withstood typical use, including occasional awkward falls and extensive skinning, without structural failure. The stock baskets provided adequate float in moderate powder but struggled somewhat in the heavier, wetter snow sometimes encountered in the Cascades.

Overall, these Carbon Fiber Poles proved a worthwhile investment for consistent weight savings and reliable performance over two seasons of dedicated backcountry touring. For tourers prioritizing minimal weight above absolute robustness, they deliver significant benefits, though potentially swapping for larger baskets might optimize performance in specific regional snow conditions.