

SPLURGE SEASON

LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE

You might have to borrow a little money from the food budget, but it'd be worth it



ADVENTURER DRYSUIT

Peak UK—The only problem with drysuits is the putting them on part. Peak UK took care of that conundrum with their crotch-entry Adventurer. It cuts down on the time it takes to zip yourself off from the frigid water. Doing this, in fact, takes about 90 seconds, compared to more than two minutes for a rear-entry drysuit. Peak UK has also integrated shoulder, spine, and elbow protection into their whitewater suit. The sea kayaking version comes with a hood, fleece lined neck, and reflective striping. **Price:** \$799; www.peakuk.com



R2 JACKET

Patagonia—We know that Patagonia products are expensive—that's why some refer to them as Pradagonia or Patagucci—but as you can see with their R2 Jacket, there is a reason for it. It's bomber, fashionable, and legitimately sustainable. The R2 Jacket is a modern outdoor staple that your beloved mountaineer will appreciate for its aesthetics as well as its practicality. The stretchy polyester knit uses variable-length fibers to optimize insulation and compressibility, while affording outstanding breathability, warmth, moisture-management, and minimal weight. This means they can pack it in anywhere comfortably and can use it as a base-layer wicking machine or an outer layer in less extreme climates. It is also recyclable through the Common Threads Recycling Program.

Price: \$150; www.patagonia.com



NOMAD



Kokatat—While kayaking off the island town of Sitka, Alaska, my wife, the meticulous planner she is, told me I ought to swap my New Balance 920 water shoes—with drainage ports and siped soles—for a pair of Wal Mart rubber boots. Nah, I said, these are perfect. And they were. Until I decided to land on an island. At that point, while contemplating the surging tide and the frigid October air, I began wishing for something like the Nomad Mukluk, a waterproof, lightweight boot sewn with three-millimeter, double-lined neoprene. It has the same bootie as the Seeker, comfy and flexible. **Colors:** Black **Price:** \$120; www.kokatat.com



BOB SPECIAL KEVLAR

Nova Craft—For decades, the only sensible method of personalizing your canoe or kayak was to alter the way it felt on the inside. But Nova Craft is offering a rare opportunity to customize your canoe by the way it looks on the outside, with art. Think of the possibilities: Alligator skin. Cartoons lampooning those whitewater kayaking punks. Or your own face, as Paddler's Associate Editor Christian Knight decided. Nova Craft offers this opportunity with its Kevlar boats. After submitting your design for approval, Nova Craft will give you a quote prior to commencing the project. This nifty tie-dye canoe cost \$2,049. **Price:** Dependent upon project; www.novacraft.com

