

September 9, 2013

Featuring: SkyBox Pro 21

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/yakima-seattlebackpacker-0913>

In our family, space is precious and gear is often overflowing what space we do have. Between the dog, two kids, and gear (camping, biking, swimming, hiking, etc.) we sometimes feel as though we could easily pull along an extra trailer. While a trailer or camper would be nice for some instances, the daily use and just a couple nights of camping could never warrant the extra expense.

Instead, the **Yakima** SkyBox Pro 21 has become a rather permanent fixture on the top of our minivan. While there are a few things we think could be improved, it has drastically helped us travel with more, be more organized (by limiting gear in the actual car), and cut down on the gas mileage of driving a bigger car (or truck).

### Pros

- Opens from either side
- Gear pad helps keep things from sliding around.
- Included cargo net is great for a lot of soft gear that would slide around, but we have found that we don't tend to use it.
- Holds a ton of gear. We are able to get our Chariot Cougar 2 stroller, 6+ duffel bags and a framed kid carrier in it without any issues. Could easily accommodate enough space for "normal traveling" gear for a group of 6-8 people.
- Little to no road noise in most conditions (see "con" also)
- We haven't noticed any rain making its way into the box, even after driving through some major rainstorms. The seal works!
- While bulky, it is not heavy and easy for two people to manage.
- Stiff lid makes opening it easier
- The integrated locks (which require the key to be in it for locking too) make it easier to not lose a key and assure safety.
- While the box is wide (the widest **Yakima** makes), we were still able to squeeze in a bike on either side.



### Bottom Line

While the box certainly isn't cheap, it is an investment in expanding the room in your car without having to upgrade to a larger vehicle. It is well made, withstands a great amount of abuse and protects gear from both the elements and thieves. Best improvement we could see being made would be the ability to open it wider.