



TUSA BCJ-1650 PASSAGE INTEGRATED

STORY LINE The Passage is not a new entry in the travel-BC market, but it's unique. It might be the pinnacle of simple functionality in our sample group (and definitely wins the price war), yet still offers integrated weights and more. **KEY FEATURES** A wraparound air cell provides lift on all sides of the diver, which enhances surface stability and allows for plenty of buoyancy (38 pounds, size L). Tusa's Integrated Stabilizing Harness significantly reduces weight and bulk. In fact, this unit tips the scales at only 5.39 pounds in its largest size. Two large zippered pockets and a full set of D-rings handle gear storage. Last but not least is the Passage Weight Loading System, with its ultrasleek and lightweight integrated-weight pockets. **DIVER IMPRESSIONS** We like the Passage, especially given its extremely modest price. And it packs amazingly flat. The integrated-weight pockets are simply pockets-in-pockets securely held in place by Velcro fasteners. We love that simplicity. Another plus for the Passage is its two large, zippered cargo pockets, which are easy to dig into while diving. In-water trim and topside stability are both solid. Underwater, the Passage prefers a horizontal, head-slightly-up position and would "encourage" the diver to that attitude if swimming any other way. **MSRP** \$359 **CONTACT** tusa.com **157**

ABOVE: JOHANNA MOWERO; STUDIO SHOTS: CARRIE GARCIA

LIVING LIGHT Here are a few tips to help with the switch from a wraparound air cell to a small, back-mount model: If you're missing the cushion, pair your travel BC with a good shorty or 3 mm wetsuit that offers a thicker spine pad. • If facing limited cargo space, wean yourself off all those diving accessories. • Feeling tipsy? Find a model that places weight pockets where your body needs them to help promote a more-vertical surface position. • With a little experience, it will come naturally.