



# Outdoor solar power bank

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Our gear experts have been testing solar panels for well over a decade. We've tested well over 100 different portable solar chargers and best solar panels for camping to help you find the right panel for your next adventure. We hit the trails with them on backpacking trips, used them when car camping and working remotely, charged our cell phones on overnight adventures, and brought them with us while traveling by car, van, truck, train, and airplane.

Our favorite portable charger is the BigBlue SolarPowa 28. It provided consistent power, even in changing conditions. It even folds up small enough to fit in a backpack. The Jackery SolarSaga 100 proved to be the best overall solar charger for camping in our testing. It is lightweight and performs effectively in full sunlight and partial sunlight. We loved how easy it was to transport and the user-friendly design.

While these two models will fill the needs of most people, we also found the best ultra-compact models, the best charger and battery pack combos, and the most stable and efficient models in our testing. Read on to find the best option for you.

The X-Dragon folds down to the size of a notebook, so it isn't the smallest portable panel out there. But it unfolds into three panels to capture an impressive amount of sunlight for its relatively small size. If you're looking for a higher-capacity backpacking solar panel, a super portable panel to charge at base camp, or simply need an affordable solar panel to harness energy from the sun, you should check out this model. Don't bypass our favorite portable solar charger, the BigBlue SolarPowa 28, which is only a few dollars more for faster charging speed and better functionality.

The FlexSolar 40W is a high-output, easy-to-use charger that can quickly unfold from the size of a large book into six linked solar panels. This medium-capacity panel has a DC output that can charge portable power stations, as well as USB-C and USB-A outputs for smaller devices. For its medium-sized capacity, it is relatively portable and folds up quite small. It doesn't use any clasps, magnets, or velcro to secure close, which makes unfolding this into a large six-panel array a cinch. And those six panels put out a lot of power, then fold away just as quickly.

While the BioLite 100 has great portability features, it isn't the most efficient panel in terms of energy conversion. It'll definitely power your small devices better than many panels, proving itself just above average in our testing. This is also one of the more expensive panels we've seen. But it has tons of great user-friendly features and is super portable, which makes up for the just-okay charging speeds and the higher price tag. If you value performance over portability, the Jackery SolarSaga 100 and the EcoFlow 110 scored higher overall, and both offer better charging speed.

Of course, this durability comes at a cost, and for the Renogy, that cost is portability. Weighing in at over 21



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pounds, this is one of the heaviest portable solar panels we've tested. However, if you're setting up a longer-term base camp, putting this hefty panel in place once and simply rotating it to follow the sun, this may not be a dealbreaker. If you want a solar charger that can withstand the test of time and the raging of the weather, this is the one for you. Those who prefer a lightweight option without sacrificing a waterproof design should check out the EcoFlow 110.

Though the Hiluckey is a more efficient solar panel than many other battery bank/solar panel combinations we've seen and tested over the years, it's still not as efficient at converting sunlight into energy as any of the dedicated solar panels we review here. If you're after the convenience of having one device that charges and recharges via solar, then this is a great option. However, you may also want to consider carrying a dedicated solar panel like the Big Blue SolarPowa 28 and a separate battery bank.

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