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Gear Guide

Featuring: The Whisper

If there were ever a good place to test the new [KEEN Whisper water sandals](#), it's my mom's camp in northwestern Vermont, on the rocky shores of Lake Champlain.



My expectations were high. I'm a big fan of this company—half the shoes I own are KEENs (I'm wearing some as I write this blog)—but I've never left dry land while wearing a pair. The Whispers don't even look like "water shoes"; they look more like cute-but-rugged, wear-everywhere summer sandals. But enough about the looks—let's talk performance.

To start, they slipped on easily. A single tug on the elastic cord "lacing system" pulled the stretchy upper part around my foot for a snug, comfy fit. Then I took to the beach, running around, tromping in the water, hopping from rock to rock, scrambling up boulders, wading out until the waves brushed the hem of my shorts. The sandals had excellent traction—not once did I feel like I was about to slip—and that was especially surprising given the almost greasy feel of the underwater rocks.

In fact, my feet felt just dandy the whole time, proving that these don't just *look* like they'd be great all-around sandals—they *are*.

Pros: Comfortable and well-fitting (they mold to your feet), these shoes have great traction, good arch support, and protective toe guards, making them ideal for treks both in and out of the water. They come in several vibrant colors too.