

# Arc'teryx Gamma SL Short 9" – Long-Term Review

## Overview

The Arc'teryx Gamma SL Short 9" is designed for hikers, backpackers, scramblers, and travelers who want a technical short that feels nearly invisible while moving. Arc'teryx positions it as the lightest short in the Gamma collection, combining softshell durability with exceptional breathability and stretch.

**Overall Rating: 9.2 / 10**

## Key Specifications

- Inseam: 9 inches
- Fabric: Fortius™ 1.0 double-weave softshell
- Weight: Approximately 205 g (7.2 oz)
- Fit: Fitted athletic cut
- Pockets: Two zippered hand pockets, one zippered thigh pocket
- Weather Protection: Wind-resistant and water-repellent
- Stretch: Four-way stretch

## Lightweight Performance

At roughly 205 grams, the shorts feel noticeably lighter than most traditional hiking shorts while retaining excellent durability. The fabric is thin enough for hot-weather hiking yet substantial enough to resist abrasion on rocky trails.

## Comfort & Mobility

Articulated patterning, a gusseted crotch, four-way stretch fabric, and an athletic fit create outstanding freedom of movement. The integrated low-profile belt system remains comfortable under a backpack hip belt.

## Weather Resistance

The Gamma SL offers light wind protection, light rain resistance, fast drying characteristics, and excellent breathability. It performs particularly well in variable mountain conditions.

## Pocket Design

Two zippered hand pockets and one zippered thigh pocket provide secure storage. The thigh pocket works especially well for a phone, map, or energy gels.

## Durability

Despite its lightweight construction, the Fortius fabric withstands trail abrasion better than many ultralight shorts and is suitable for hiking, backpacking, travel, and climbing.

## Travel Performance

The clean appearance, wrinkle resistance, and quick-drying fabric make these shorts an excellent choice for travel and everyday wear.

## Pros

- Extremely lightweight
- Outstanding stretch and mobility
- Excellent breathability
- Weather-resistant softshell fabric
- Premium construction
- Zippered pockets
- Fast drying

## Cons

- Premium price point

- No rear pocket
- Athletic fit may feel trim for some users

**Best Uses**

Day hiking, fastpacking, backpacking, mountain travel, scrambling, and adventure travel.

**Final Verdict**

The Arc'teryx Gamma SL Short 9" is one of the best premium hiking shorts currently available. It successfully combines the comfort of an athletic short with the durability and weather resistance of a lightweight softshell. For hikers and travelers seeking lightweight performance, mobility, breathability, and premium construction, it is an excellent choice.