

Houdini The Orange Jacket – Gear Review

Overview

The Houdini The Orange Jacket is an ultralight waterproof shell designed for trail running, hiking, cycling, ski touring, fastpacking, and mountain adventures where weight and packability matter. Built around Houdini's Emergency 3L fabric, the jacket delivers full waterproof protection while remaining exceptionally soft, quiet, and compact.

Weight

- Men's Large: **195 g (6.9 oz)**
- Independent testing measured approximately 188–196 g depending on size.

Key Specifications

- Weight: 195 g (6.9 oz)
- Waterproof Rating: 20,000 mm H₂O
- Breathability: 15,000–46,000 g/m²/24 hrs (depending on test method)
- Fabric: Emergency 3L waterproof laminate
- Atmos™ polyester membrane
- 100% recycled polyester face and backer fabrics
- One chest pocket
- Roll-away hood
- Best Uses: Trail running, hiking, cycling, ski touring, fastpacking

Comfort & Fit

The Orange Jacket stands apart from many traditional hardshells because the fabric feels unusually soft, quiet, and supple. The regular fit accommodates layering while maintaining excellent freedom of movement during high-output activities.

Weather Protection

With a waterproof rating exceeding 20,000 mm, the jacket is capable of handling prolonged rain and severe weather. The minimalist design focuses on essential protection while eliminating unnecessary weight and bulk.

Breathability

Breathability is one of the jacket's strongest attributes. The lightweight membrane allows moisture to escape effectively during running, hiking, and cycling, helping prevent overheating during intense efforts.

Packability

The jacket packs down to roughly the size of an orange—hence its name. It is easy to stash in a running vest, daypack, bike bag, or climbing pack for emergency weather protection.

Pros

- Ultralight waterproof design
- Exceptional packability
- Soft, quiet fabric
- Excellent breathability
- Fully waterproof protection
- Sustainable recycled construction

Cons

- Minimal pocket storage
- No pit zips
- Less durable than heavier alpine shells
- Premium price point

Best For

Trail runners, hikers, cyclists, fastpackers, ski tourers, and mountain athletes seeking a highly packable waterproof shell.

Editor's Rating: 9.6 / 10

The Houdini The Orange Jacket is one of the most impressive lightweight waterproof shells available. At just 195 g (6.9 oz), it combines true storm protection, excellent breathability, and remarkable packability into a jacket that virtually disappears in a pack until needed.