

KETL Virtue Hybrid Short 9" V.3 – Gear Review

Overview

The KETL Virtue Hybrid Short 9" V.3 is designed as a true do-everything adventure short. Built to hike, swim, travel, lounge, and even mountain bike, the Virtue combines lightweight quick-drying fabric, four-way stretch, secure zippered pockets, and a modern casual appearance that transitions easily from trail to town.

Weight

- Published Weight (Size Medium): **234 g (8.3 oz)**
- Fabric Weight: 128–144 gsm depending on colorway

Key Specifications

- Weight: 234 g (8.3 oz)
- Inseam: 9 inches
- Fabric: 53% Nylon / 35% Polyester / 12% Spandex (Heather versions)
- Stretch: Four-way stretch
- Pockets: Two front zippered pockets, one rear zippered pocket, one rear snap pocket
- Closure: Snap-button waistband with internal drawcord
- Best Uses: Hiking, travel, swimming, mountain biking, everyday wear

Comfort & Mobility

The Virtue V.3 excels in freedom of movement thanks to its highly elastic fabric and gusseted construction. Whether climbing steep trails, pedaling a mountain bike, or spending a day in town, the shorts move naturally without binding or restricting motion.

Trail & Travel Performance

One of the strongest characteristics of the Virtue is versatility. The lightweight fabric dries quickly after creek crossings or swimming, while the clean appearance allows the shorts to blend into casual settings. Many users describe them as a "one-short solution" for travel and outdoor adventures.

Pocket Design

Version 3 adds zippered closures to both front pockets, improving security during travel and active pursuits. The rear zipper pocket offers secure storage for a wallet, passport, or phone.

Durability

Despite the lightweight construction, the nylon-rich fabric feels robust and durable. KETL backs the product with a lifetime warranty and repair program, reinforcing confidence in long-term durability.

Pros

- Excellent versatility from trail to town
- Lightweight at 234 g (8.3 oz)
- Quick drying and water friendly
- Four-way stretch comfort
- Secure zippered pockets
- Attractive casual appearance

Cons

- Athletic fit may feel trim for some users
- Heavier than ultralight dedicated hiking shorts
- Limited technical mountain-specific features

Best For

Travelers, hikers, mountain bikers, paddleboarders, campers, and outdoor enthusiasts seeking a single pair of shorts capable of handling nearly any warm-weather activity.

Editor's Rating: 9.4 / 10

The KETL Virtue Hybrid Short 9" V.3 is one of the most versatile shorts available today. Combining quick-drying performance, excellent mobility, secure storage, and everyday style, it earns high marks as an all-purpose adventure short.