

Montbell Tempest Jacket – Gear Review

Overview

The Montbell Tempest Jacket is a lightweight waterproof shell designed for hiking, backpacking, trekking, travel, and general mountain use. Built around Montbell's "Light & Fast" philosophy, it reduces seam count to improve weather resistance while maintaining low weight and excellent packability.

Weight

- Men's Medium: **8.1 oz (230 g)**
- Manufacturer published specification.

Key Specifications

- Weight: 8.1 oz (230 g)
- Waterproof / breathable shell construction
- Reduced-seam design
- Adjustable hood
- Water-resistant front zipper
- Hand pockets
- Adjustable cuffs
- Best Uses: Hiking, backpacking, trekking, travel, everyday rain protection

Comfort & Fit

The Tempest Jacket features an athletic mountain fit with articulated sleeves that promote unrestricted movement while hiking, scrambling, and carrying a backpack. The fabric feels softer and quieter than many traditional waterproof shells.

Weather Protection

The reduced-seam construction helps minimize leak points while maintaining strong weather resistance. The adjustable hood and storm-oriented design provide dependable protection during prolonged rain and windy conditions.

Breathability

The lightweight waterproof fabric offers solid breathability for hiking and backpacking. While it lacks extensive venting features found on some premium alpine shells, moisture management remains effective during moderate to strenuous activity.

Packability

The jacket packs down small enough for day hikes, travel, and emergency-weather carry. It strikes an excellent balance between low bulk and full-featured storm protection.

Durability

Montbell has built a strong reputation for balancing lightweight construction with long-term durability. The Tempest is more robust than many ultralight rain shells while remaining significantly lighter than traditional mountaineering jackets.

Pros

- Lightweight at 8.1 oz (230 g)
- Excellent weather protection
- Reduced-seam waterproof construction
- Comfortable athletic fit
- Good durability-to-weight ratio
- Packs easily for travel and hiking

Cons

- Fewer ventilation features than some premium shells

- Limited pocket storage
- Not intended for heavy alpine abuse

Best For

Hiking, backpacking, trekking, travel, everyday rain protection, and three-season mountain adventures.

Editor's Rating: 9.4 / 10

The Montbell Tempest Jacket offers an outstanding combination of low weight, dependable weather protection, durability, and value. At 8.1 oz (230 g), it is light enough for backpacking and hiking while providing the protection needed for serious outdoor use.