

Zpacks Vertice Rain Jacket – Gear Review

Overview

The Zpacks Vertice Rain Jacket is one of the lightest fully featured waterproof-breathable rain jackets available. Designed specifically for ultralight backpacking, thru-hiking, fastpacking, and hiking, it combines a proprietary 3-layer waterproof fabric, pit zips, a helmet-compatible hood, and remarkable packability in a package weighing less than six ounces.

Weight

- Manufacturer Weight (Men's Medium): **5.6 oz (160 g)**
- Independent Measured Weight: **5.9 oz (167–168 g)**
- Current production models are generally listed between 160–198 g depending on size and production year.

Key Specifications

- Weight: 5.6–5.9 oz (160–168 g)
- Waterproof Rating: 20,000 mm
- Breathability: 56,000+ g/m²/24 hr
- Fabric: Vertice 3-layer waterproof membrane
- Face Fabric: 7D ripstop nylon
- Ventilation: Waterproof pit zips
- Pocket: Single chest pocket (stuff sack compatible)
- Hood: Roll-away helmet-compatible hood
- Best Uses: Ultralight backpacking, thru-hiking, hiking, fastpacking

Comfort & Fit

The Vertice provides a roomy fit that accommodates layering while remaining comfortable for long-distance hiking. The tricot inner lining feels softer against the skin than many ultralight rain shells.

Weather Protection

With a waterproof rating exceeding 20,000 mm and fully taped seams, the Vertice offers true storm protection suitable for extended rain events and mountain weather.

Breathability

Breathability is arguably the jacket's defining feature. The Vertice membrane is rated at more than 56,000 g/m²/24 hr, significantly higher than many traditional waterproof-breathable fabrics. Combined with pit zips, ventilation performance is outstanding.

Packability

The jacket stuffs into its own chest pocket and packs down exceptionally small, making it easy to carry as emergency weather protection on any trip.

Durability

Despite its 7D face fabric, long-term reviews report surprisingly good durability when used appropriately. However, as with all ultralight gear, reasonable care is recommended around sharp rocks and heavy brush.

Pros

- Extremely lightweight
- Exceptional breathability
- Waterproof pit zips
- Excellent packability
- Fully waterproof protection
- Great performance-to-weight ratio

Cons

- Premium price
- Only one pocket
- Less durable than heavier alpine shells
- Ultralight materials require care

Best For

Thru-hikers, ultralight backpackers, fastpackers, and hikers seeking maximum weather protection at the lowest possible weight.

Editor's Rating: 9.8 / 10

The Zpacks Vertice Rain Jacket sets the benchmark for ultralight waterproof shells. Its combination of sub-6-ounce weight, exceptional breathability, pit-zip ventilation, and real-world weather protection makes it one of the best choices available for serious ultralight backpackers.