

# JACKET GROUPTEST

*Like it or lump it, we live in a pretty wet place here in ol' Blighty and despite having fully waterproof and breathable skin, we do need another layer on top sometimes. We've picked out a bunch of different jackets at the full range of price points, avoiding the super cheap binbags that we've all consigned to the bin pretty quickly. Which jacket for you? Well that all depends - are you the hardened outdoor warrior perfectly happy to face gales and driving rain in pursuit of your singletrack fix? In that case you'll probably want something a bit more durable. If you prefer to enjoy slightly drier climates or want that 'just in case' jacket - there's something for you too.*



## 1 SCOTT VIKOS

Cash money: £174.99 [www.scott-sports.com](http://www.scott-sports.com)

Scott's lightweight, packable, no-nonsense Vikos jacket has become an absolute 'don't leave home without it' for me. It's waterproof, windproof and is genuinely breathable meaning that I can wear it throughout a ride rather than having to constantly throw it on and off like the army of 'boil in the bag' jackets I've sweated my way through. The taped seams and waterproof zip on the chest pocket mean that it will hold off all but the gnarliest of downpours and the adjustable hood and velcro cuffs do a good job of warding off drips and cold gusts. It weighs in at just 300g meaning it's light enough for stuffing into your trail-bag and doesn't feel bulky on the trails. Reassuringly, despite being lightweight the material feels strong and sturdy and has stood up to loads of crashes, snags and scuffs. Feels like an absolute bargain considering how dry and comfy the Vikos has kept me.

**The Word:** *Your eyes might water at the price ... but the rest of you will be dry and comfortable. A very impressive - if very pricey jacket.*

**Tested by:** Jamie

## 2 ENDURA EMERGENCY

Cash money: £89.99 [www.endurasport.com/](http://www.endurasport.com/)

The first thing you notice about the Endura Emergency is the super bright colour which can work in your favour when the evening starts to come in. You'll easily be spotted! Although there is also a black option. You then notice that it is as light as a feather. The material is so thin it makes for easy packing into your backpack or even jersey pockets. The lightweight shell is both waterproof and breathable with an athletic fit. It may well be an 'emergency' jacket but the style of it is clean and simple and works nicely as an everyday jacket. Although when I say simple I mean very simple. There are no pockets or adjusters, it is simply a protective shell.

**The Word:** *Stylish yet simple jacket. There really is no reason to head out without it.*

**Tested by:** James W



## 3 GORE BIKE WEAR ALP-X

Cash money: £219.99 [www.goreapparel.co.uk](http://www.goreapparel.co.uk)

The Gore Bike-X is a serious garment. The top of the range Active Shell Goretex is very breathable and waterproof, throughout the test it kept me both warm and dry in the awful weather we've had lately. It's got a few pockets, all zippered, including the rear pocket - essential for that pot of lip balm. The hood is roomy but not enough for a helmet to fit inside, rather a hat or similar but you can zip it off too if needed. The fit is great - enough room to move about when riding but not overly baggy and still compliments curves, the sizing is a little weird as the XL on test is probably a UK12-14 so do check the size chart when buying. The only downside of this jacket is a big one, the price. However for the features you get it matches up with similar jackets designed for mountaineering and skiing - no bike premium pricing active here.

**The Word:** *All the jacket you'll need for UK riding if you can stomach the price tag.*

**Tested by:** Jan

## 4 SURFACE PERTEX

Cash money: £49.98 [www.surface-clothing.com](http://www.surface-clothing.com)

First impressions when this landed were first - that colour! It's definitely marmite but I bloody love it, and secondly how thin is this thing?! I've had a number of lightweight jackets in the past and they've all fallen into the 'bin bag' category but this is something else - it's got proper cuffs, a nice slim fit and a couple of decent sized pockets, although only the chest pocket has a zip. It's never going to be anything other than showerproof for its weight but it does this with ease and dries super quickly - perfect as a 'just in case' in summer but probably a bit out of its depth for deep winter!

**The Word:** *For the money and the choice of colours, this jacket deserves a place in your bag just in case the skies open.*

**Tested by:** Jim

## 5 FOX 'DOWNPOUR'

Cash money: £159.99 [www.foxhead.com](http://www.foxhead.com)

Calling a jacket 'Downpour' can be dangerous if it doesn't perform, Fox have positioned this right in the middle of the range we have on test and it delivers. It's suitable for all conditions, with a bit more waterproof ability than the super lightweights but isn't too bulky either. The 4-way stretch material is super comfy to wear although the cut is very tight so probably not ideal for downhill duties and more of a xc jacket. It's got a couple of pockets and a hood, the latter I zipped off right away as I'm not a big fan of hoods on riding jackets but it's there if you need it. I've yet to wear a jacket that can cope with the sheer amount of sweat my body seems to produce so to find a couple of nice vents under the armpits was brilliant - with sealed zippers just in case it really is hammering it down.

**The Word:** *Brilliant quality jacket punching above its £160 price tag, stylish and not too 'bike' to stop you wearing it out and about too.*

**Tested by:** John

## 6 GORE BIKE WEAR FUSION 2.0

Cash money: £199.99 [www.goreapparel.co.uk](http://www.goreapparel.co.uk)

The Fusion 2.0 GT is a great packable waterproof shell, its minimal design allows it to compress down to about the size of a couple of energy bars and it only weighs in at a smidge over 240 grams. Super light features can have their downside, as there is just the one pocket on the chest with internal headphone routing and one draw toggle at the back centre where it will get covered in trail cack! On the upside the cuffs, collar and back panel are shaped to perfection to stop any chilly breezes or unwanted tyre spray making its way inside. The Gore-Tex Active material is the bee's knees when it comes to breathability, yet also repels the sky water just as effectively, probably the best of both I've ever tried. Being light makes it awesome to ride in as it doesn't feel like you are wearing any additional restrictive clothing yet at the same time the cut is spot on with no excess material flapping around, ideal for when chucking a bike around.

**The Word:** *I think this would be the ultimate jacket for the Enduro racer who is trying to keep everything to a minimum, always pushing it hard and who is willing to invest in the best equipment.*

**Tested by:** Oscar

## 7 ENDURA FLYTE

Cash money: £115.99 [www.endurasport.com](http://www.endurasport.com)

This winter I gained a bit of a fetish for red coats so I was more than thrilled to test this bad boy out. Its a great colour, not one of those reds that can look a bit tacky, and the black and reflective details are done well in my opinion, although I'm not much of a night time rider. The jacket is really comfortable with a high neck to protect from the elements making it than comfortable to ride in and does not feel restrictive at all thanks to the stretchy shoulder panels. Its light too and folds up really small so great to throw in a bag just in case. The cut is longer than your average jacket, especially at the back to keep your lower back dry, nobody needs a wet bum! There's a lower back pocket and one on the breast, both zippered, so plenty of places to put things without the bulk of too many zips. The only thing I personally didn't like is I'm not a fan of long sleeves except when it's really throwing it down so tend to roll them up, on the Flyte it was a bit too tight a fit to do this so even with pit zips I get a bit too warm. I would however thoroughly recommend it for a lady looking for both style and comfort.

**The Word:** *For £120 you'll be struggling to find an active jacket that looks and performs this good.*

**Tested by:** 'Lady' Kat Vanes

