



£160
**KEELA
MUNRO**



**TRAIL
BEST
VALUE**



£180 **SPRAYWAY
TORRISON / £160
MONSOON**



£200
**FURTECH
CLAW**



£240
**CRUX
TORQ**



TRAILRATING *****

It's good The Munro has been a popular low-priced option for many years and it is still hard to beat in terms of value. It comes with a unique fabric called Dual Protection System that ensures the wearer doesn't suffer from the build-up of condensation often associated with other systems. It has loads of features including a removable snowskirt for deep winter snow. The jacket is a little longer than some and so the two external chest pockets can take an OS map at a squeeze and two hip pockets can be accessed below a rucksack belt. The roll-down hood, which has a wired peak, fits superbly and moves effortlessly. Use this in cold weather and it is ideal, particularly if you are on a tight budget.

But This could be regarded as Best Value here, in many ways, but the lining adds a little extra warmth and weight to the jacket that is not welcome. The added warmth means you don't need to carry so much insulation in colder weather but this is still a drawback in mixed winter weather. The chest pockets are a little smaller than ideal.

Verdict A superb price for so many features and exceptional condensation control, but the weight is a drawback.

VITAL STATS

Outer Innovation 5 Ripstop
Inner High Wicking ADS Micro Laminate
Fabric waterproofness extremely waterproof
Fabric breathability extremely breathable
Sizes XS-XXL (men's); 10-20 (women's)
Weight 1015g (men's L)
Made in Sri Lanka
Stores in the UK no info provided

TRAILRATING *****

It's good The Torrison has been a classic for many years. The best feature is probably the length, for this is longer than most jackets. It is made from Gore-Tex Performance Shell, with a mesh lining, so it has great waterproofness and breathability. It's much more of a traditional design than others here, with double stormflaps over all zips to keep rain out. There is good movement in the sleeves too for scrambling, and those four chest pockets provide ample protection for the hands and storage for small items like guidebooks, maps and GPS units. The hood is a removable, rollaway design with a wired peak and wraparound chinguards that can be tucked away when not in use to prevent flapping. A superb price, and it just pips the Keela Munro for best value.

But It is very heavy by modern standards, so you need to consider if you need all the extras or would prefer something lighter and more compact. The hood does not fit quite as closely or move with the head quite as well as some others. The hood's chinguards, which can be tucked into little pockets, don't stay there long (they need Velcro to keep them there ideally).

Verdict Longer than most jackets with great pockets and lots of comfort, but the hood and weight are drawbacks for more adventurous hill-walkers.

VITAL STATS

Outer 2-layer Gore-Tex Performance
Inner mesh lining
Fabric waterproofness extremely waterproof
Fabric breathability very breathable
Sizes S-XXL (men's Torrison); 8-18 (women's Monsoon)
Weight 896g (men's L)
Made in China
Stores in the UK no info provided

TRAILRATING *****

It's good Furtech uses a different fabric construction to conventional waterproofs, which results in far more breathability and a warmer design. So condensation control tends to be good; and you also get side venting if you overheat in warmer weather. Use it in cold, wet winter weather and it should be ideal. You get two huge pockets on the hips and another two on the chest, and these are all very large. The hood fit and movement are superb, and there is a clear visor that provides extra protection to the face without obscuring the view. The cut is relatively short, which is ideal for climbers, while movement in the sleeves is also great for climbing. Use this in winter for climbing or mountaineering and it could be ideal, while winter walkers will also admire its benefits.

But The extra warmth of the Claw means that in mild weather it can be too warm, even with the pitzips venting the jacket. I would prefer the hip pockets to be a little higher up so they can be more easily accessed while wearing a rucksack hipbelt, which tends to obscure their access. Other jackets are a notch longer, but personal preference will dictate if this is an issue for you. There's no women's model.

Verdict This jacket offers a unique solution to staying warm and dry in winter conditions, but it may not be ideal for everyone.

VITAL STATS

Outer FeatherTech polyester windproof with DWR
Inner FurTech polyester with DWR and silver antimicrobial
Fabric waterproofness water-resistant/waterproof
Fabric breathability extremely breathable
Sizes S-XL
Weight 842g (L)
Made in Bulgaria
Stores in the UK 6

TRAILRATING *****

It's good The Torq is a very lightweight jacket that's made of 3-layer eVent fabric, so it has top-end levels of waterproofness and breathability, and you will hardly notice it in your pack. The fabric felt nice and robust but also soft to the touch and ideal for fending off a winter storm. The design is very functional, having just a pair of chest pockets and a massively chunky front zip that is very easy to use, thanks to its size. The hood is designed to fit over a helmet and also benefits from face and volume adjusters. Movement in the sleeves was excellent, and ideal for climbing or mountaineering. The jacket is shorter than some, but you do get a scooped tail to add some protection at the back. So a lot of good features for the more mountaineering-orientated user.

But Hood movement was not as good as some other jackets here. The main zip does not get a stormflap, so it may not be as waterproof as a zip with a double stormflap. You don't get pitzips for venting either. So in wet, windy weather other jackets may have the edge. There's no women's model either.

Verdict A reasonable mountaineering jacket, but the hood and front zip could be better for walking into driving wind and rain.

VITAL STATS

Outer 3-layer eVent
Inner none
Fabric waterproofness extremely waterproof
Fabric breathability extremely breathable
Sizes S-XL
Weight 428g (L)
Made in Far East
Stores in the UK 40