

Best Women's Rain Jackets for Hiking- According to Thousands of Reviews







Abruptly changing weather, beautiful scenery, and lovely company — these are some of the few hallmarks of a fantastic hiking trip. This changing weather can turn into a nuisance when we are not prepared for it appropriately. That is precisely what happened last summer when I was on a hiking trail at Yosemite national park with my husband and a few friends.

After a few hours of hike, the beautiful sunny weather changed into a stormy climate, and neither of us was ready for pouring rain. To be honest, I felt a little stupid because I had the best women's rain jacket for hiking lying on my bed. I just forgot to pick it up at the last moment. My soaking wet clothes were enough to put a spectacle out of my misery.

If you, my dear reader, don't want to be in the same situation then I would say that buy a rain jacket for you. I went through thousands of reviews on the internet and compiled a list of Best Women's Rain Jackets for Hiking 2021. All of these have been tried and tested by me and my gal pals Helen and Sarah. Along with the list, I have also penned down an extensive buying guide for you to make an informed decision.

Review of the 17 Women's Rain Jackets for Hiking

Most Breathable Jacket: Columbia Women's Switchback

If no-fuss activewear is important for you, then Columbia Women's Switchback III Waterproof Rain Jacket might be your search-ender.

This jacket is known for its lightness and breathability, which enables comfort all along the day. It folds down as small as you can keep it inside your pocket for any emergency use. Designed with a waterproof Hydroplus 100% nylon shell, this waterproof raincoat adds to this jacket as a star feature. The mounted protective hood is a convenient option, as you can pull it out and stow it back whenever you need it.

Despite its excellent functionality, this zip closure jacket with its feminine cuts and availability in 42 beautiful colors enhances your outlook seamlessly.

Strengths

- Lightweight & Waterproof
- Wide range of color options
- Easy maintenance
- Very affordable
- Packs up Small

Weaknesses

- Elastic straps might feel tight.
- Wrinkles easily
- Fewer pockets

Best Lightweight Option: Columbia Arcadia II Jacket

Columbia Arcadia II Jacket is an all-rounder for all your outerwear needs. You can easily cover yourself with this rain jacket wherever you want, from casual wear and the daily commute to serious hiking and down porous conditions.

Made with polyester mesh lining, it is one of the best lightweight rain jackets that keep you warm and protected from cold breezes. The waterproof feature is advanced with [Omni-Tech](#), which allows air-permeable protection while keeping it breathable inside. It packs down into a tiny size that can easily fit into your pocket for days when the weather is unpredictable.

This rain jacket features a front hidden zipper closure with an adjustable storm hood, a drawcord adjustable hem, and two zippered hand pockets. There are 31 versatile colors to choose from, To make it stylish yet functional.

Strengths

- Durable & adjustable
- Omni-Tech Waterproofing
- Variant color options
- Attractive appeal

Weaknesses

- Expensive
- Might feel tight around the waist

Best for Heavy Downpours & Winds: Duluth Job-Jitsu Rain Shell Jacket

Do you mostly travel to rainy and wet regions? If yes, then you can exhale that sigh of relief as the Job-Jitsu rain shell jacket is probably the best rain jacket for heavy downpours and winds.

It is made with 100% [seam-sealed](#) waterproof and windproof technology. This waterproofing feature kicks out any excess moisture and ensures you remain dry and cozy. Job-Jitsu jacket has [nylon taffeta lining](#) that makes it soft and comfortable; center mesh lining enables breathability. The abrasion-resistance enhances the durability to another level.

If you love carrying your minimal stuff around, then this rain jacket with seven pockets is for you. However, if you are short on budget and want more color options, this option might not be your best call.

Strengths

- Multiple pockets
- 3-piece adjustable hood with brim
- Chin saver on the center zipper

Weaknesses

- A bit pricey
- Limited color options

Best Quick-Drying Option: Fisoul Waterproof Rain Jacket

Available in two different styles and six popping colors, the Fisoul Waterproof rain jacket is one of the best quick-drying rain jackets.

Fisoul Waterproof raincoat with detachable hood and drawstring waist and rolled-up sleeves design is convenient for running, cycling, hiking, and travel trips. This rain jacket is breathable, quick-drying, lightweight, and packable due to its thin material.

Added to sun protection and waterproofing features, you may rest assured that this jacket is a good purchase. But, if you are looking for a jacket for heavy rains, then the Duluth Job-Jitsu rain shell jacket is a good option to go with.

Strengths

- Lightweight & Breathable
- Two style design
- Easy to packable
- Repels rain effortlessly

Weaknesses

- May run short
- Not the best option for downpours

Best Racing Jacket: Patagonia Women's Storm Racer Jacket

If you are a runner or racer and the weather condition does not affect your enthusiasm, then Patagonia Storm Racer Jacket is probably the best option.

This women's softshell jacket features a 3-layer emergency waterproof and provides an ultralight feel to make it irresistible. This rain jacket offers extra protection, easy access to your essentials, and substantial ventilation thanks to its innovative double zipper. Being able to get packed in its own pocket, you can name it among the best packable rain jackets.

Patagonia Storm racer jacket eliminates that annoying crunching sound and has an attractive cut and good fit. However, this jacket has a few drawbacks. It doesn't offer too many pockets and comes at a super high price. If these features are your priority, the New Englander Waterproof Rain Jacket from Charles River Apparel might be your best call.

Strengths

- Brilliant Waterproof feature
- Fits nicely over the pack

Weaknesses

- Lacks Breathability
- Less comfortable
- Not budget-friendly

Best Durable Rain Jacket: Patagonia Women's Calcite Jacket

The women's Calcite jacket by the brand Patagonia is a lightweight but durable and packable option for every hiking lover.

The brand has used recycled polyester fabric combined with a gore-tex shell built and Paclite Plus technology to make it the perfect buddy for your running, hiking, climbing, and whatnot. These advanced features ensure that you remain dry and comfortable, and protected from every annoying outdoor element.

One can easily pick on this rain jacket because of its outstanding performance in summer and winter weather. Available in 8 beautiful colors, this rainwear is also equipped with two handwarmer pockets and a water-locked chest pocket to make it an excellent deal.

Strengths

- 2.5 layer gore-tex protection
- Durable and good water-resistant
- Adjustable and helmet-compatible hood

Weaknesses

- Not so breathable
- Decently heavy
- Pit up zips aren't the most convenient

Best Windproof up to 60MPH: REI Co-op Rainier Rain Jacket

The Co-op's best-selling rain jacket, "REI Rainer rain jacket," is known for its versatile functionality.

With a Peak 2.5-layer recycled ripstop nylon shell, you get protected from the rain and wind up to 60 MPs. Though the outer layer is super tough and shielding, this raincoat is still a breathable and comfortable option. In addition to these hallmarks, rain protection is promised with its sealed seam waterproofing and water repellent (DWR) finish.

Furthermore, the front zipper closure with a 3-piece hood in dual adjustment are features that allow you to dump the excess heat in those high-temperature weathers. On the contrary, the drawcord hem and hook-and-loop cuff help in sealing out the snow and wind.

Strengths

- 60mph windproofing
- DWR Water repellent
- Eco-friendly: [bluesign](#)® approved fabric
- Packs down into the left-hand pocket

Weaknesses

- Size may run small

Best Trail Running Rain Jacket: Arc'teryx Norvan SL Insulated Hoodie

Arc'teryx Norvan SL Insulated Hoodie is known for being super lightweight and breathable. The Norvan SL Insulated Hoodie is the first insulated waterproof rain jacket compiled with Gore-Tex ShakeDry Product Technology.

The ShakeDry Product Technology allows breathability and packability. It also beads water that then rolls off to prevent you from getting wet. There is an internal zippered pocket with a stuff sack to store this jacket more conveniently.

Above all, the anti-absorbent waterproofing of this rain jacket is to swear by. You can stand into a waterfall and might not even feel moisture under this jacket. Emphasizing simplicity, this raincoat has limited but worthy features that make it best for trail running.

Strengths

- Body-mapped insulation
- Gore-Tex with ShakeDry material
- Extensive Waterproofing

- Lightweight

Weaknesses

- Might not last very long
- Comes at an expensive cost
- Not suitable for mainstream

Best Reflective Option: Englander Waterproof Rain Jacket

The New Englander Waterproof Rain Jacket from the exclusive launch of Charles River Apparel is a combo of style and performance.

Known as the best reflective option, this rainwear features a wind and waterproof fabric with heat-sealed seams to protect you from wind and rain. The two-way front zippers enable mobility and convenience. Even more, this jacket offers zippered side pockets, a front yoke, and adjustable cuffs with hook and loop closure to extend the comfort. The front vented capes, underarm vents, and grey mesh enable breathability and easy air-flow circulation.

Moving on to its cool and chunky appeal, this rain jacket for hiking is decorated with a reflective stripe accent on the front and back. You can always find the best match for your vibe amongst 21 colors.

Strengths

- Zipped and fleece-lined pockets
- Budget-friendly
- Multiple colors
- Breathable

Weaknesses

- Not so durable

Best Budget Rain Jacket: MARMOT Women's Precip Jacket

Whether you want to go hiking, running, to climb, or cycling in a rainy condition, the Marmot Precip rain jacket is best to beat the rain and wind through its advanced and considerate manufacturing.

Made with nano pro fabric, you can expect it to give you a breathable and lightweight feel. The seam tapped waterproofing promises to keep you dry and comfortable by locking the moisture and chilling

breezes outside. Marmot rain jacket features a nice-sized hood with a foldable design to hide it inside the collar. The zipper under the armpits controls the temperature and allows an easier air-flow.

This rain jacket has two zippered mesh side pockets to offer to keep your stuff along. However, if you seek versatility, the Columbia Women's Switchback III Waterproof Rain Jacket might suit you better and under the same price.

Strengths

- Lightweight
- Good fit
- Water repellent

Weaknesses

- Wrinkles easily
- Not so fashionable

Best for Fashionable Appeal: Avoogue Women's Rain Coat

Gorgeous appeal with feminine cuts in a range of colors from formal to vibrant; Avoogue women's raincoat is a cute design to rule us women's hearts.

Besides an attractive outlook, this raincoat has so much more to offer. Avoogue has equipped it with a windproof and waterproof design along with an inner mesh. Hence, this rainwear might be the best choice to lock moisture without blocking breathability. This long trench coat is good to go for multi-purposes; casual wear, hiking, running, traveling, and much more.

The dual closure design, elastic waist for shaping a slim body, and two front pockets are the added features that make it pop out among the other choices. The best part is, you get this deal at a pretty low price.

Strengths

- Waterproof yet breathable
- Packable & Lightweight
- Button and Zipper closure design
- Quick-drying

Weaknesses

- Might feel heavy

Best High-End Rain Jacket: Arc'teryx Zeta SL Jacket - Women's

Are you looking for a multisport rain jacket with great functionality? Well, let me introduce you to the Arc'teryx Zeta SL jacket. A lightweight, compact design with improved technologies, this rain jacket is best for casual gear, hiking, trekking, climbing, and traveling.

The 2-layer GORE-TEX fabric with PACLITE plus technology makes it packable and more comfortable than ever. This rainwear is lightweight, durable, and offers efficient performance in various conditions. The waterproof and windproof feature has also appeared to do a magnificent job.

What else do you get? The StormHood with halo adjuster, adjustable cuffs, and two hand pockets further add to making it a good deal. This rain jacket has 13 mature colors in an appealing design and a good sleeve fit.

Strengths

- Premium waterproofing
- Attractive appeal
- Good fit
- Lightweight

Weaknesses

- Not breathable enough

Best Wet-Weather Jacket: Helly Hansen Women's Seven J Rain Jacket

The brand Helly Hansen has infused an optimal combination of comfort, performance, and style in W Seven J Jacket. Since it has excellent windproof and fully seam-sealed waterproof features, this jacket might be a perfect choice for versatile occasions.

This rain jacket is rain-protective while allowing breathability due to features like [HELLY TECH®](#) Protection fabric, 2-layer construction with Durable water repellency (DWR) treatment. The inner lining keeps you warm and cozy. This rain jacket also dries quickly. The anti-chafe chin guard and front storm flap are some noticeable add-ons.

This stylish rain jacket enhances your outlook seamlessly, thanks to the 27 chunky colors it offers. With all these features and many more, this rain jacket costs under \$150 which is quite a good deal.

Strengths

- Two-ply construction
- Multiple color options
- Excellent windproofing

Weaknesses

- Isn't true to size

Best Warm Jacket: Wantdo Women's Mountain Waterproof Ski Jacket

If you cannot resist yourself from adventures even in chilling and winter weather, this Wantdo Women's Mountain Waterproof Ski Jacket is what you need to get covered.

Known for its safeguard warm fabric, it shields the water outside and dries quickly too. It is a well-insulated jacket that ensures the best thermal insulation with its 240 grams of polyester fiber. The waterproof feature is super reliable in that it can easily survive under the pressure head above 10000mm.

It has some thoughtful features to enhance its windproofing and sustain the warmth. These include adjustable hook and loop cuffs, internal windproof buckle skirt, interior drawstring hem, detachable and adjustable storm hood. With all these plus points and much more, this rain Jacket for hiking might be your best purchase to keep you warm and cozy without a doubt.

Strengths

- Five exclusively multifunctional pockets
- Staggering and sporting design
- 15 colors options
- Excessive warmth control

Weaknesses

- Confusing size options

Best Waterproof Rain Jacket: CAMEL CROWN Women's Mountain Snow Waterproof Ski Jacket

No matter if your preference is a sporty outlook or you want comfort and functionality, the Women's Mountain Snow Waterproof Ski Jacket might be a great choice at a reasonable price.

This rain jacket is warm, comfortable, and durable to last long in rainy and wet seasons. Why? It is made with a fuzzy lining, cotton padding, and waterproof polyester fabric. The detachable and adjustable hood is another feature to make it warmer. This is a reliable waterproof jacket but without blocking breathability. It contains waterproof zippers to lock the moisture outside.

The Ski coat's shell is integrated with [polymer blending](#) material that shields you from accidental injury and makes it an anti-scratch rain jacket. Moreover, the multiple zippered pockets carry your essentials on the way.

Strengths

- 5 Multipurpose pockets
- Double waterproof zippers
- Very warm and comfortable
- Anti-scratch & wear-resistant
- Stretchable glove with thumb hole

Weaknesses

- May run small in size
- Hand washable only

Best MultiSport Rain Jacket: Filson Women's Moorcroft Jacket

Women's Moorcroft Jacket aligns functionality, performance, and protection altogether. It doesn't matter if the chilling weather attracts you to sport outdoors. With this rain jacket on, you might not even feel the weather and its harmful effects.

This classic best-selling rain jacket has waxed cotton treatment to get you covered from the impact of weather. The waxed cotton protection also enables waterproof and water-resistant features to shield against moisture and keep you dry and comfortable. Furthermore, the action-back design creates a gusseted shoulder panel to facilitate mobility and freedom of movement.

This rainwear has a remarkably light feel because it is blessed with a feature cloth lining to provide you the best of all. You know that your stuff is protected along with you as it contains five functional pockets. With its classic and macho appeal, you can create an attractive look seamlessly.

Strengths

- Pre-washed design to prevent shrinking
- Snap-adjustable waist tabs

- Interior pocket zips for added security.
- Handwarmer pockets

Weaknesses

- Comes at a high price

Best Emergency Jacket: Outdoor Research Women's Hemispheres Jacket

The Outdoor Research Hemispheres Jacket is famous for its ultralight feel and versatile functionality. It is probably the go-to option for various activities, including backcountry skiing, mountaineering, hiking, trail running, snowboarding, climbing, and whatnot.

This gore-tex rain jacket performs well in wet and wintery weather thanks to its exclusive seam-sealed waterproof, windproof, and breathable features. This rain jacket enables extra protection because it is equipped with a wire-brimmed hood (helmet compatible) and aqua guard zippers. This jacket offers enough room to fit a few layers inside for added warmth easily.

Unlike other rain jackets, the brand has carefully placed several zippered and qualified pockets to enhance its versatility. However, this rain jacket might not be the best option in the budget-friendly category.

Strengths

- Women's Insulated jacket
- Multiple aqua guard zippers
- Lightweight rain jacket
- Dual-contrasting sporty design

Weaknesses

- Pretty expensive

Buyers' Guide: How to Choose the Best Rain Jacket for Hiking

You might find yourself in a dilemma of several confusing questions when choosing a rain jacket. What's the best rain jacket for hiking? Which material to choose from? What features to look for? And the list goes on...

From the significant considerable factors to the nitty-gritty details, you'll get the answer to every question in this buyers' guide, penned down below.

Construction

A rain jacket goes into a combination of different fabric layers to make it qualified to resist water outside while unlocking the moisture and sweat from inside. When shopping for a rain jacket, you must've seen the fabric layers as 2L, 2.5L, and 3L. These are the fabric layers that define the construction quality and the benefits associated with it.

2 Layers

A 2 layer rainwear is an entry-level style based on an inner mesh liner to protect the internal coating. This makes the jacket less breathable and sometimes even makes it bulky. The 2-layer rain jackets are perfect for casual wear, but I don't recommend them for challenging trail running.

2.5 Layers

A 2.5-layer jacket consists of a very thin fabric inside the waterproof coat. This impedes the need for a mesh-liner, and thus, the breathability is enhanced while decreasing the weight. This makes it an excellent option for hiking, running, and mountain climbing. Yet, this inner finish is not very comfortable to the skin touch.

3 Layers

A rain jacket featuring 3-layer construction comprises three shielding fabric layers: face fabric, the waterproof and breathable membrane, and an interior finish. This adds in durability and enhanced comfort, but it may also result in increased weight. However, thorough research before buying helps pick the best quality rain jacket with a light feel.

Weight

A bulky and overweight jacket has the potential to make you tired and frustrated in a shorter time. The heavier it is, the less comfortable you are. Hence, to avoid this hurdle and hike some extra miles while sustaining comfort, you must consider a rain jacket's weight. Usually, the weight of a rain jacket depends upon its use. The good news is that for hiking, the rain wears are naturally light.

The usual sweet spot of a raingear is between 9 to 16 ounces. However, rain jackets that have rings and bells attached weigh relatively more.

Waterproof

Today, rain jackets are built-in with advanced waterproofing fabric to provide maximum protection. Waterproof jackets are integrated with a laminate layer which in turn safeguards from the outside moisture. A Gore-tex rain jacket with a seam-sealed design offers good waterproofing.

Water-resistant

Water-resistant means that a rain jacket can shed water in light to modest rains but doesn't cover completely in the heavy rains. This means that you might not remain dry for a long time. Thus, I would recommend you to look for a specifically Waterproof featuring rain jacket.

Water repellent (DWR)

The water repellent or durable water repellent finish is a protective coating to cover the waterproof feature and beads up the droplets so that they don't damage the face fabric. This feature has impressive functionality and enhances durability but, it may weaken over time, and this is when the waterproof coating comes into action.

Breathability

Just because it's a rain jacket and its job is to be sealed for the outside water doesn't mean it should be impermeable inside. Rainwear has to be breathable and capable of perspiration to provide maximum comfort. For this attribute, the material of the jacket has a considerable role.

Rain jackets with mesh lining and thin fabric are supposed to be breathable. With innovations in the field, the rain jackets are modernized with more advanced technology fabrics and materials to boost their breathability. The most popular and well-performing materials in this domain are [AscentShell](#) by Outdoor Research, [Gore-Tex](#), [NeoShell](#) by Polartec, and [eVent](#).

Packability

If you are someone who loves to be PREPARED no matter what, then the packability of a rain jacket has a lot to help. Most of the rain jackets can fold down into a small size and get packed into their zippered pocket. This is indeed a great feature as you can carry your jacket on the go and wear it only when needed. However, there's still more to be careful about.

The actual pocket size may vary from jacket to jacket, and the reason behind this is its weight. A heavy and bulky jacket will require more space to store, while a light jacket will take a tiny pocket to get folded into. With that being said and dusted, always look for a rain jacket's weight and size to judge its packability.

Features

Some additional features also play a huge role in performing and providing the best quality and comfort. Generally, these features include:

- Pockets: If you like to carry your belongings in the nearest reach, then multiple pockets with aqua protection and zippers are the best to look for.
- Hood Style: The adjustable and detachable hood that is helmet-compatible works best to protect you against rain and wind.
- Outlook: We being women, cannot ignore the looks of our apparels. Many brands offer multiple formal to vibrant colors with sleek designs to make you look like an angel in the rain.
- Zipper style: To increase the protection from cold breezes and downpours, 2-way zippers with waterproof and anti-pinch style are available. Pit zips, side zips, and vent zippers simply add convenience and permeability.
- Maintenance: The less care it needs for washing and cleaning, the easier it will be to maintain and sustain your rain jacket's quality. Machine washable and quick-drying jackets are my personal favorite in this category.

Brands offer more and more features to bring convenience and functionality to another level. However, one must opt for the jacket with the most-wanted features to ensure that the outerwear serves the purpose well.

Final Thoughts

Are you thinking of buying a rain jacket? My top picks on the best women's rain jackets for hiking and the value-loaded buyers' guide have made it easier than ever. From high-end to low-end, casual to formal, feature-rich to minimal, I've stated many of the best rain jackets that are the well-performers in the domain. So no matter what you desire as the top feature, you're promised to find something suitable for yourself. Pick on the best match to roll your hiking trips, and leave me your review in the comments below. I would love to know how it turned out for you!