

Alpinestars ST-7 £1179

A great all-rounder, and an impressive price

www.alpinestars.com

The Alpinestars ST-7 combo is well-built but not bulky, and fully featured with a lot of thought in its details - arm, side and back vents have large zip tabs, and all can be opened and closed while wearing the jacket, as well as a pair of large zip and Velcro chest vents that pin open, adventure-style.

Fit is comfortable and well-proportioned, but the jacket's crotch cut-out looks a bit weird and fit is on the tight side of snug - especially around the trouser waist. Make sure

you check the suit for size before buying.

The jacket and trousers have a zip-in thermal liner, and the jacket has a soft drawstring collar, which is a bit low. The upper arm and waist have Velcro adjustment with a drawstring hem. An outer upper pocket is weather-sealed; two lower pockets are unsealed.

There's no back protector or hip armour, but elbow, shoulder and knee armour is included and Level 2 rated. The trouser waist features a plastic clip buckle, which

is easy to use once you get the hang of it.

In the rain test, there's no leakage of either the lower or upper outside pockets, nor the jacket or trousers - although the neck feels like a vulnerable area because the collar is low, so a neck buff is good idea.

In the cold test, the jacket and trousers are both at a pretty comfortable temperature after 20 minutes at -2°C. Body temperature is 27°C while the minimum sleeve temperature is 13°C.

'Comfy, waterproof, warm... it's hard to fault'

THE FACTS

Construction Polyamide and polyester mix outer shell with Neoprene collar, polyfabric Ripstop reinforcement, laminated Gore-Tex membrane

Armour Elbows, shoulders and knees Level 2

Back protector? ✖ (£47.49 for L2)

Pockets 3 front, 1 rear, 2 on trousers (outside), 2 (inside)

Vents 1 back, 2 shoulders, 2 chest, 2 thigh

Jacket waist adjustment? Velcro

Closure Zip (jacket), plastic clip (trousers)

Liner fastening Zip and poppers

Joining zips Long zip

CE rating AA

Weight 4.7kg

BENCH TEST

COLD TEST AT -2°C

Arm	13°C
Body	27°C

WATER TEST

Totally waterproof inside after jet washing, including the pockets.

THE SCORES

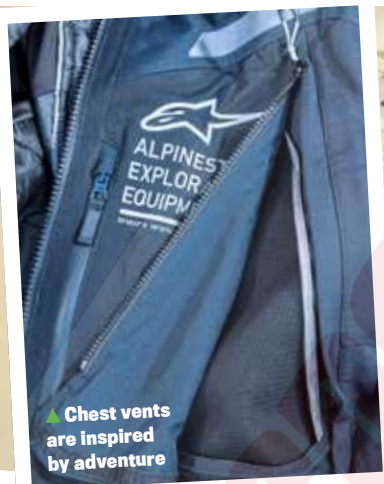
Warmth	★★★★★★
Waterproof	★★★★★★
Comfort	★★★★★★
Fit	★★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★★

Total **42/50**

VERDICT

The Alpinestars ST-7 is hard to fault - it's a comfy, warm, waterproof, well-rounded combo with no obvious flaws.

BEST FOR VALUE FOR MONEY



ARMOUR PLATED

Some jacket outer material is light and comfy, some is tougher and less supple. But all conform to AA standard for abrasion resistance. All jackets and trousers come with shoulder, elbow and knee armour, but not all have a back protector or hip armour.

