

GEAR >

Cold Comfort

Baby, it's cold outside—Alaska cold. Whether you're here or in the Lower 48, you'll no doubt need some Alaska-worthy winter wear to get you through the season. Bitter winds, biting sleet, wet slush and ice can make getting out in the world a bit difficult, but it doesn't have to be that way. Most mountaineers will tell you that they bet their life on their gear, and while we mere mortals shouldn't have to, it's nice to know there are a few pieces of outerwear you can count on once the temperatures drop. Here are five of our top picks.


 EDITOR'S CHOICE

Helly Hansen Shore Parka >
 Inspired by Helly Hansen's sailing heritage, the Shore Parka is a good looking, hard core, piece of outerwear that scoffs at winter weather. Insulated with a blend of 60 percent down and 40 percent fiber, the coat keeps you warm in a blizzard and is fully seam sealed (waterproof, windproof and breathable) for comfort in wet, nasty conditions. While you might not be on an icebreaker this winter, you'd be prepared with the Shore Parka stowed in your luggage. Bonus: The coat's extra length sheds water and keeps pants dry. \$400, hellyhansen.com



Montbell Tec Down Men's Pants >

For the roughest winter conditions, meet the Tec Down Pants. Yes, legs can freeze; they're extremities after all. Engineered for cold-weather adventurers and inhabitants, these 800-fill goose-down pants are also water-resistant and come with full-length separating side zippers for quick access. Why should you let half of your body freeze when it's unnecessary? Instead, don the Tec Down Pants and backcountry ski or mountaineer for hours without fear of shivering. Bonus: They're cut to accommodate for baselayers—not that you'll need any. \$175, montbell.us



< Marmot Sundown Jacket

An excellent choice for lightweight insulation as a layer or on its own, the Sundown Jacket keeps you dry and warm on the mountain with its proprietary Thermal R construction. The multi-channel, hollow fibers provide warmth without holding in perspiration, humidity or condensation. Bonus: It comes in five different colors, in case you want to add a little style. \$110, marmot.com

Eddie Bauer Microtherm StormDown Jacket >

With 800-fill premium StormDown and a StormRepel DWR finish, this jacket keeps you warm and dry without adding weight. If you're on the move (creating your own heat), the StormDown is rated to -5 degrees. Fleece stretch panels allow you to fit the jacket over baselayers for brutally chilly days. We like the camo print options for the Last Frontier. Bonus: Packs into its own pocket for ease-of-use. \$199, eddiebauer.com



BEST BARGAIN

< Mountain Hardwear Ghost Lite

In extremely cold weather, the Ghost Lite might be used as a layering piece, but it works well on its own for mild winter running, hiking or snowshoeing. Weighing in at a mere 3 ounces, the jacket packs down into its own pocket and is one of the lightest hooded shells on the market. It's wind and water resistant, so you can take it everywhere for that extra insurance against the elements. Bonus: Reflective trim makes you visible in low light conditions. \$100, mountainhardwear.com