



Wet weather kit

Keep comfortable and dry on your hill walks this month, and into autumn

1 Waterproof phone case Karrimor, £12.99. Protect your phone with this affordable, touch screen-compatible case. <http://store.karrimor.com> **2 Basic gaiters** Jack Wolfskin, £40. Gaiters are a useful option in wet weather to keep your socks and lower legs dry. These are made of a tough fabric and can be put on in seconds. 020 7836 5118, www.jack-wolfskin.co.uk **3 Waterproof Cable Knit Beanie** SealSkinz, £28. This versatile hat keeps you dry in wet weather and warm in the cold. 01553 817990, www.sealskinz.com **4 Walking Socks** SealSkinz, £28. There's nothing worse than squelchy socks. If your boots spring a leak your feet will stay dry in these, which feel more or less like normal

socks, if slightly less supple. 01553 817990, www.sealskinz.com **5 Velez adventure trousers** Paramo, £145. Lightweight and comfortable, these reliable waterproof trousers have a contoured design that reduces fabric bulk. 01892 785387, www.paramo.co.uk **6 Storm 3 in 1 Glove** Lowe Alpine, £40. A waterproof outer glove for wet days, with a removable fleece inner glove to add warmth in winter. 01539 740840, www.lowealpine.com **7 Men's Nabu Jacket** Marmot, £250. This impressive waterproof, four-season jacket has a Polartec Neoshell lining to wick sweat away, keeping you dry in warm weather. The slightly stretchy fabric feels more like a softshell, and keeps out cold winds in winter

while a well shaped hood keeps the rain off your head and out of your eyes. Women's version available. 015395 63616, www.marmot.eu **8 Tech wash** Nikwax, £11.25 for one litre. Your rain jacket needs care to keep it waterproof, but most will last for years if you wash regularly with this and then reproof it each time. Large sizes of Tech Wash (1-5 litres) are more economical, working out at less than £1 for each jacket you wash. 01892 786400, www.nikwax.com **9 Dry Camera bag** Go Travel, £6.99. A compact, shower-proof roll-top container. 020 8906 8505, www.go-travelproducts.com **10 Waterproof fabric map** Splashmaps, £18.99. You can stuff these all-weather maps in your pocket, safe in the

knowledge that they won't fall apart if soaked. They don't cover all the UK yet, but national parks and some other areas are available. 07876 390656, www.splashmaps.net **11 Triset 25+4 rucksack** Vaude, £68. A day pack with a waterproof rain cover, plus loads of useful features including a hipbelt with two pockets. 01665 510660, www.vaude.co.uk **12 Epsilon AR hardfleece jacket** Arc'teryx, £140. A fantastic layer to wear beneath your waterproof coat on the hills as cooler weather arrives. It remains comfortable in changeable weather and the fabric stays dry to the touch as you work up a sweat on a steep slope. The stylish cut combines to make this jacket highly desirable. Women's version available. 020 7078

3546, www.arcteryx.com **13 Hand Torch** Oasis 85 Kathmandu, £19.99. Getting caught in the open on a wet, dark evening doesn't feel so gloomy when you have a little waterproof torch to read the map by. 0117 927 3912, www.kathmandu.co.uk **14 Protect camera bag** Ortlieb, £42. Quick-seal container for small digital cameras or binoculars. 015396 240040, www.ortlieb.com **15 Women's Vanadium Jacket** The North Face, £240. Tough and with a simple, clean design typical of North Face, this GoreTex rain jacket will keep out prolonged rain on winter walks. With big vents under the arms, it can handle warm weather use too. Men's version available. 0800 328 0012, uk.thenorthface.com

TEST: BOOTS



By writer and walker
Julie Bromilow Nicklen



T Advanced GTX
Mammut, £150
01625 508218,
www.mammut.ch



Mustang GTX
Scarpa, £159.99
0191 296 0212,
www.scarpa.co.uk

If you're a camping, long-distance walker and live, as I do, without a car in rural rainy mid-Wales, then you cherish good boots. I've long loved Scarpa for their boots and customer service – despite knowing about my extensive mileage they have, in the past, twice offered to replace rather than repair old boots. Their **Mustang GTX** boots were slightly tighter round the toes than my previous Scarpas of the same size but very comfortable tramping round the boggy woods and streams near my home.

Mammut's are new to me and the **T Advanced GTX** boots had a chemical smell that soon vanished, but were a joy to wear over the hills of Powys and Shropshire. They fitted snugly round the body of my feet but had generous toe-room, for which I was grateful on hot-day descents. In fact, both pairs were excellent in hot weather; I wore the Scarpa Mustangs round the Pembrokeshire coast path in a heat wave and it was only after excessive miles on hard ground with heat-swollen feet that I got blisters – which a pair of insoles resolved.

It was difficult to make comparisons between the boots, so I took to wearing one of each. Both were flexible, grippy and breathable with no sweaty slippiness, and both had easy-release laces that didn't come undone. Both remained waterproof in the face of long, wet grass, mud and scrambling through streams (or sliding into them from slimy stones). I had to walk a long way through water before there was any ingress at all and it wasn't until I jumped into a deep pool that I got wet feet!

• Julie returns in the spring to tell us how the boots fared over winter.