



£120  
**SALOMON**  
ALP 7 GTX

**TRAILRATING \*\*\*\*\***

**It's good** This boot is a great introduction to winter hill-walking as it offers all the main features a winter walker needs without a huge price tag. The upper is mostly made from leather with a dash of fabric at the tongue. Good stiffness at the toe and heel provide support and protection for the foot, while a deep rubber rand adds extra durability. Underfoot there is a good aggressive sole unit with deep lugs that look ideal for crunching through the snow. The stiffness in the sole is also ideal for typical mixed winter conditions of snow, ice, slush and mud.

**But** It lacks the precise internal fit and easy walking action of many other boots here. I also found that the boot generally felt a bit big all round except for the length (which felt a notch short). The upper is not a one-piece leather design, so you may not get the best durability.

**Verdict** This boot is great if you are on a tight budget and want a low-priced boot for general year-round hill-walking.



**VITAL STATS**

**Upper** nubuck leather and fabric  
**Lining** Gore-Tex  
**Sole** Mountain Contagrip  
**Sizes** 6½-13½ (men's); 3½-10½ (women's)  
**Trail fit profile** forefoot wide; heel wide; volume high; length short  
**Crampon compatibility** B1  
**Weight** 1844g (pair, size 11)  
**Made in** China  
**Stores in UK** 199



£125  
**BOREAL**  
TACUL

**TRAILRATING \*\*\*\*\***

**It's good** The Tacul has a very precise feel about it, making it appear ideal for scrambling, mountaineering and generally more precise footwork. The lacing extends right down to the toes to enhance the fit too. The upper is a mix of materials and you do get a very high rubber rand to protect the upper from scrapes. Inside the boot there is a waterproof lining too. The outsole is a very stiff unit that appears ideal for scrambling, climbing and winter mountaineering. Use this for the more technical winter activities and should be ideal.

**But** The outsole has a very small heel breast so grip could be better in snow, while some boots also have more aggressive lugs. The boot is great on rock and more technical terrain, but when just trudging down a valley path to get to the hill, as so often happens in the UK, you'll notice that the rolling action of the sole does not allow the smooth walking gait of some models here.

**Verdict** This is ideal if you want a more technical boot for mountaineering and scrambling year-round rather than a general winter walking boot.



**VITAL STATS**

**Upper** 2mm split leather and fabric  
**Lining** Boreal Dry Line  
**Sole** Boreal TPS-3 triple density plus EVA cushioning  
**Sizes** 6-12  
**Trail fit profile** forefoot narrow; heel narrow; volume medium; length short  
**Crampon compatibility** B1  
**Weight** 1832g (pair, size 11)  
**Made in** Spain  
**Stores in UK** no info provided



£130  
**BERGHAUS** GR20  
LEATHER GTX

**TRAILRATING \*\*\*\*\***

**It's good** Here is a good tough boot with a reasonably stiff leather upper which is virtually stitch-free except around the tongue, so it should be very durable. The upper is lightened in weight and price by a synthetic fabric tongue. Inside you get a Gore-Tex waterproof lining. Around the toe there is a tough rubber rand and the toe box is solid, making this ideal for hacking over rough terrain. Unlike many boots here you get a relatively low ankle cuff for extra walking comfort and lower weight. Underfoot the sole is a very aggressive Vibram unit with plenty of stiffness and grip for rock and scree.

**But** The flex is not quite as stiff as some other sole units here, which tends to restrict performance on snow and ice to easier flat slopes rather than anything too steep and challenging. Also that low ankle cuff is not as supportive as some others.

**Verdict** Superb for heavy backpacking or year-round use if you stick to level areas of snow rather than anything too steep.



**VITAL STATS**

**Upper** water-resistant nubuck leather and fabric  
**Lining** Gore-Tex Sierra waterproof lining  
**Sole** Vibram Werewolf  
**Sizes** 39-48 (men's); 36-42 (women's)  
**Trail fit profile** forefoot wide; heel wide; volume high; length medium  
**Crampon compatibility** B1  
**Weight** 2040g (pair, size 46)  
**Made in** China  
**Stores in UK** no info provided



£145  
**ALT-BERG**  
MALLERSTANG II

**TRAILRATING \*\*\*\*\***

**It's good** It's hard to find anything made in the UK these days, but Alt-Berg has been making boots here since 1989. The 2.8mm one-piece leather upper is built to take the knocks, while a Sympatex waterproof lining ensures that your feet stay dry. The high ankle cuff provides plenty of support and the extremely aggressive Vibram sole is ideal for rough scree as well as snow and crampon use on easier icy terrain. It's exceptionally comfortable too and rolls nicely on every step. If you want to improve the fit then check out one of the five width fittings!

**But** You don't get the modern styling of some boots or perhaps the quality of finish of others, and you don't get acres of padding either. But there is really little else to complain about here unless you just don't want a boot with a waterproof lining. It really is hard to fault.

**Verdict** It's ideal if you want a solid, year-round boot for UK walking, scrambling and backpacking with or without crampons.



**VITAL STATS**

**Upper** 2.8mm anfibio leather  
**Lining** Sympatex waterproof lining  
**Sole** Vibram Ice Trek dual density sole  
**Sizes** 7-14 (men's); 6-8 (women's) in five width fittings  
**Trail fit profile** forefoot medium; heel medium; volume medium; length medium  
**Crampon compatibility** B1  
**Weight** 2020g (pair, size 11)  
**Made in** UK  
**Stores in UK** 28