

# 66° North Thorsmork Parka

Manufacturer: 66°North  
Origin: Iceland  
Model: Thorsmork Parka  
Cost: €480/\$540  
Material: Torey Entrant V & Goose Down  
Weight: Approx 1.6kg / 3.5 lbs  
Contact: www.66north.is

FEATURES BELOW: fleece 'beard-guard', double toggled drawcord for hood & neck, zipped cuff pocket, adjustable cuff and a cool logo!



ENTRANT V Specifications		Water repellency (mmH <sub>2</sub> O)		Waterproofness (mmH <sub>2</sub> O)		Moisture permeability (g/m <sup>2</sup> /24 hrs.)	
Item	Type	Initial	After 20 wash cycles	Initial	After 20 wash cycles	A1 method*1	B1 method*2
F1010V	50d x 50d nylon ripstop	100	80	17,000	12,000	15,000	15,000
PR40V (3 layer)	40d x 40d nylon mesh ripstop	100	80	15,000	10,000	15,000	15,000
MTA10V	70d x 140d/2 nylon truss	100	80	14,000	10,000	13,000	13,000

\*1 A-1 upright cup method (BS L1099 A-1, ISO2328)  
\*2 B-1 inverted cup method (BS L1099 B-1)



In the northern hemisphere this review will be seasonally apt while in the far south your thoughts will be centred more on sun, sand and sea! However, cold will return eventually so don't let the weather outside diminish your interest in this coat which is designed for the very severest of severe winter conditions (on land). Thorsmork is named after a valley in Iceland which in turn is named after the God of war Thor (or as we say in Iceland, Þór). Icelandic clothing company 66°North has plenty of cold, snow and glaciers on their doorstep and year-round opportunities to test and get their money's worth out of high quality, high cost jackets. It is a name that deserves to be every bit as iconic as North Face and Berghaus and it is already regarded as such in some quarters. 66 degrees is Iceland's position in northern latitudes and the company began by making clothing for fishermen - now there's a hostile environment for a jacket. Unfortunately for fishermen the Thorsmork Parka with its goose down insulation and waterproof-breathable outer is not much use in a wet, salty, fishy, snag-hazard environment unless wealthy enough to treat clothing as disposable. Which is a shame because this parka (in common with virtually all down jackets to be fair) is so warm and comfortable that even fish-trawling in the far North Atlantic might seem a pleasure for as long as the jacket held out. For landlubbers in cold and snowy environment the Thorsmork Parka represents an investment that could be quite literally, life-saving. In Britain we don't generally get much snow at lower altitudes and certainly not the extremes of temperature that the McKinley/Denali or Mount Cook/ Aorakii teams would experience but you still wouldn't want to be stuck out there in your underpants! After floundering about in last winter's slushy effort at a snow storm which the

Thorsmork Parka laughed at we high-tailed it to Norway for some proper cold and snow. Incidentally, one of the things the Thorsmork doesn't cope so well with is wet - not because the coat isn't water-resistant to a very reasonable degree but because the cuffs are knitted and immediately soak up water from either rain or melting slush, similarly the racoon fur hood lining rapidly resembles a drowned pekinese in the rain and offers nothing in the way of insulation or good looks! - this isn't an issue in much colder climates with the kind of dry, large crystal snow flakes and sub-zero temperatures we just don't get in the UK. So in Canada, Northern US States and Scandinavia you can continue to look good in your Thorsmork while we in the UK will curse the rain and shrug persistent male pekinese off our legs!

**CONSTRUCTION:** There are 8 pockets four of them zippered with a chunky Salmi zip. Two bellowed cargo pockets have an opening behind that forms an unzipped hand warmer pocket. The true hand-warmer pockets are the fleece lined centre chest pockets and there is a further inside and sleeve pocket neither of which is really large enough to take a standard OS map! The sleeve pocket is termed by 66°North a 'sun-screen-pocket' definitely not something that gets any use in a UK winter! but it has proven to be a particularly useful innovation when all other pockets seem to be shrouded in harness or rucksack webbing. The fur-lined hood is easily removed -which is nigh-on essential to retain any degree of 'cool' in wetter conditions. It simply press-studs off to leave the basic hood with volume adjuster and double draw-cord closure - again very neatly done with one cord to reduce the opening and one to draw in the bottom

of the hood against the back of your neck. This easily accommodates the largest helmets we have! Other toggled drawstrings can be found inside to draw in the waist and at the hips to draw in the hem. A realistic amount of cuff velcro ensures that you have the option of comfortably loose or reassuringly tight and this is how you can hide and protect those knitted cuffs in the wet. The elbow has a series of stitched panels that provide excellent manoeuvrability - there is absolutely no 'pull' at the cuffs or shoulder seams no matter how hard you are working. The outer fabric is, and I quote: 'Toray Entrant V 10.000 mm'. Meant nothing to me so we've put the table above but it is unquestionably tougher than many fabrics we've used on down jackets, much more canvas-like and has yet to snag or tear. Marketed as both a male and female jacket, it seems to be available in 6-colours in the US but only 4 in Europe? At \$540. It is by no means cheap and it's difficult to tell whether the quality of goose down warrants that price tag. We were loathe to slice it open but a good fondle through the fabric will normally give you an idea of the amount of stalks there are to reduce the insulating qualities. Thorsmork's down isn't the absolute finest I've ever come across but it is high enough quality to be consistent with that price tag, and if that doesn't sway you then the sheer quality of manufacture, performance and good looks should. There is a parka in the 66°North range with even better insulating properties but unless you're figuring on venturing out naked onto the Ross Ice-shelf the Thorsmork in this vivid orange will do that SAR job nicely. The only thing that ruins it for me is that the label doesn't say 'Made in Iceland'. Guess which recent olympic venue got the contract!?

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