

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



Comfortable, practical and rugged: pretty much the rucksack with everything

4150 miles ON TEST



All in the detail: build quality is exceptional



Kriega Trail 18 rucksack £199

'A sack-load of happiness'



Tested by Richard Newland for four months

There are rucksacks, and there are Kriega rucksacks. I've been using them for almost 20 years and, whenever I'm asked what luggage I'd really buy with my own money, Kriega always feature in the answer – their products have proved time and time again to near-faultless. And this new Trail 18 is no exception.

Kriega luggage always has a rugged, technical feel, and shrugs off the effects of all-weather riding like ducks repel water. My R20 has probably done over 60,000 miles and is still faultless. With over 4000 miles on the T18 already, it still looks brand-new.

It's comprised of three main sections: a zipped compartment that holds seven litres, a waterproof roll-top compartment that'll take another 11 litres, and a netted outer cover. The heavy-duty YKK zipped compartment isn't waterproof, but it does

have a one-litre waterproof pocket inside, which is great for things you need to keep dry and have easy access to (passport, wallet, phone etc). You can also add a hydration pack.

In use, the compartments work brilliantly, so long as you don't need to carry anything that's particularly bulky. I use mine daily for carrying a change of clothes for the office, my laptop and various other bits and pieces. I have form for using a bigger-than-needed rucksack, but find the T18 to be perfect 95% of the time.

It's sublime in terms of comfort too. Kriega changed the game when they introduced their Quadloc harness, and the T18 uses the 'Lite' version. The way it magically spreads the load being lugged is incredible; no digging-in of straps, no sore shoulders or pulled neck muscles, it's like being gently hugged.

The padded back means it sits nicely against your body, and the ridged, vented design means there's always airflow, even on hot summer rides. There is a waist strap, but I

never use one – so I appreciate the way it's been designed to be removed. Adjustability is superb to accommodate a range of body sizes. I'm a 48in chest and have no problems even when wearing bulky winter kit.

If you've never used a Kriega, you may balk at the price. But, honestly, this is the epitome of backpack tech and construction. Try one for just one ride and you'll likely never use anything else. Yes, it's expensive, but it's worth every penny.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
kriega.com

PROS & CONS

- + **Superb build quality, detailing, features and longevity**
- **Well, it's a big outlay, but also huge value for money**

Neat waterproof pouch keeps valuables dry and close to hand



Roll-top main compartment is fully waterproof