

AltRider Hemisphere Saddlebag \$380

We traveled to the Andes to test AltRider's newest soft luggage system.



Motorcycle soft luggage, a category of products once best described as unexciting, has been enjoying a resurgence of popularity and a welcomed infusion of new offerings. AltRider's Hemisphere Saddlebag system has been on the market for just a few months, and we were fortunate to be among the first to test it—in the high peaks of the Ecuadorean Andes no less.

Comprised of a unique two-part system, the Hemisphere employs a heavily constructed base structure paired to a waterproof main dry bag compartment. The crescent-shaped primary bag slips into a permanently mounted lower holster, which simplifies the removal/installation process that complicates many other systems. The 40-liter main bag is constructed of welded vinyl-coated polyester. It features a wide roll-top closure that not only seals out the elements, but also creates a wide opening that makes quick work of loading and unloading the bag. This system eliminates the need for zippers, which all too often get inundated with dust and debris.

The lower holster, which is made of ballistic nylon for maximum durability, endured the worst abuses we could throw at it. The lower bag features two external pockets for items best left within reach, and large reflective logos increase nighttime visibility. The Hemisphere's ease of use, combined with cavernous storage capacity, made it one of our favorite motorcycle product discoveries of the year. Throughout torrential rains and other indignities, the bags held fast and our gear remained dry and safe. The perfect solution for bikes of all sizes, they are also a fraction of the cost of hard-sided bags. Made in USA. altrider.com, 206-922-3618