



This is kit that does what it's supposed to – but would you wear it?



GRAHAM THOMPSON

**FACTS**

**Torres Sleeves**

**Price** £55  
**Outer** Nikwax Analogy windproof  
**Insulation** polyester  
**Sizes** S-XL  
**Weight** 226g (size L)  
**Made in** China

**+** provides insulation where it is needed; can be worn over outer layers

**-** unconventional design takes some getting used to

**=** practical arm insulation for the outdoors for when performance really matters

**Torres Trousers**

**Price** £100  
**Outer** Nikwax Analogy windproof  
**Insulation** polyester  
**Sizes** S-XL  
**Weight** 514g (size L)  
**Made in** China

**+** provides insulation that can be worn over outer layers

**-** nothing

**=** ideal for adding insulation without removing layers

**Stockist details**  
 tel. (01892) 786444;  
 www.paramo.co.uk

# PÁRAMO TORRES OVERLAYERING INSULATION SLEEVES £55 TROUSERS £100

IS THIS A PRACTICAL ANSWER TO STAYING WARM AND DRY WHEN REACHING A SUMMIT?

**FIRST TEST**

"Brrrr! Nice view, but I'm cold and wet, and I need to keep moving to stay warm." How many times have you said that, having sweated your way up a mountain? When you're cold and wet it's hard to enjoy even the best mountain views.

The problem is that most clothing systems are not designed to keep you warm when you reach a summit. Instead, they force to remove your waterproof, softshell or windproof so that you can add an extra fleece or insulating layer underneath. This is totally impractical, because as soon as you remove that outer layer, you risk losing heat (and getting wet if it's raining). But now, Páramo may have the answer as they have designed a range of clothing that is designed to be worn over your outer waterproof and windproof layers rather than under them. The Torres Overlaying Insulation range includes a gilet and a smock, and for this winter there are two additional garments: the Torres Sleeves and Torres Trousers, tested here.

**Unconventional**

During October's chilly first snap, I took the Torres Sleeves and Torres Trousers into Langdale in the

Lake District. There was a chill in the air, but no rain and no wind, so this was not the toughest test. But on reaching a viewpoint it was the perfect weather to sit down and drink in the view.

I pulled out the Torres Sleeves and put them on. It was a weird experience. There is something odd about wearing what sleeve warmers! In truth, I wanted straight away in there. Ten minutes later, after



a bite to eat while wandering around looking for a great angle to take a shot of the mountains, I had forgotten I was wearing them. More importantly, I felt warm and comfortable too.

**Leg warmers**

The Torres trousers feel more conventional. They have full-length sidezips and can be worn as conventional trousers or overtrousers without removing boots or crampons. Like the sleeves, they have a water-repellent outer with a breathable lining and fast-drying insulation.

Both the trousers and the sleeves are incredibly practical, and they do what they say on the swing tag. They can easily be worn over other layers and more importantly they are perfect for putting on over waterproofs or windproofs. The Torres Trousers, Smock and Gilet are definitely a practical addition to a hill-walker's kit list. The Torres Sleeves are practical too, but they are so unconventional that I am not sure if they are going to catch on and become best sellers. But if you can tolerate the strange design and the short-term emotional turmoil involved in wearing them for the first time, then they are actually incredibly practical too.

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS GRAHAM THOMPSON