

Testimonials of James Thacker

Spitz Jacket

The Spitz Jacket is probably THE mountaineering waterproof hardshell. It blends the two things you need most, bombproof construction with light weight – essential attributes that you don't usually find together in the same sentence.

As with most Haglöfs products you need to look closely to see the attention to detail that has resulted in such an excellent design. The cut is close ensuring there is no flapping fabric in that Cairngorm blizzard, but excellent freedom of movement is maintained. The Spitz is also quite short, ideal for wearing with a harness for extended periods.

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FLAPPING FABRIC IN THAT CAIRNGORM BLIZZARD

Two large chest pockets are also ideally positioned above harness level and are extremely generous in size, swallowing just about anything; OS Maps, power bars or even Mountain Rescue Radios.

Perhaps the Spitz' defining feature is the quality of the hood. The voluminous size easily fits a helmeted head, and can be easily adjusted with three different adjustments ensuring it stays in your position of choice. Even more impressively, it cinches down when it's just your bare head that requires protection from the elements.

Finally, small additions such as waterproof zips and burly zip pullers ensure that you can gain access to those pockets in wild conditions whether you are on Ben Nevis or on a ski lift in Val D'Isere.

Over the last few months I have found myself reaching for this jacket for many trips to the mountains: skiing in Chamonix, climbing in the Himalaya, working in Scotland – it's THE mountaineering jacket.

RRP £345

*Also available in womens



Guard Pants

The Guard Pants are an excellent companion to the Spitz, being all round leg wear for just about any use. In a similar vein to the Spitz they are light but robust, particularly tricky attributes to combine as the legs always get much more punishment.

The reinforced seat and knee combined with crampon panels on the inside of the ankle ensure that they stand up to some abuse. Again, if you look closely you will find that all the major seams are positioned in areas where abrasion is less likely.

THE FIT IS ALSO EXCELLENT
BEING CLOSE BUT NOT RESTRICTIVE

The fit is also excellent being close but not restrictive, the articulated knees giving good climbing and skiing performance. This combined with an elasticated snow gaiter ensures a good fit with boots to keep that snow or water out.

Finally full length side zips, and a low profile belt make these pants comfortable with a harness.

RRP £325

*Also available in womens



James Thacker

James Thacker is one of Haglöfs UK Friends, a team of highly qualified mountain guides/instructors and elite athletes who are ambassadors for the brand and provide valuable feedback for future product development.

James is a professional mountaineering instructor and runs James Thacker Mountaineering based in the Peak District, offering instruction on all aspects of rock climbing, mountaineering and associated activities.

www.jamesthacker.co.uk

