

LOWE ALPINE LIGHTWEIGHT DRYFLO ZIP-NECK £30

WALKING
3rd

TECHNICAL INFO

Colours: Deep navy, black, white

Sizes: S-XXL

Fabric: Lightweight Dryflo

Women's version: Yes

Contact: 01539 740840,
www.lowealpine.com



COMFORT & FIT 9/10

The Dryflo fabric is wonderfully soft and stretchy, making it a real pleasure to wear and the medium size fitted me well – a perfect compromise between being tight enough as a base-layer and loose enough on its own.

PERFORMANCE 9/10

With a high neck, which provided plenty of warmth, and a deep zip to help cool down, the Dryflo proved very versatile. A little smellier than the top two, though.

VERDICT 18/20

An effective and incredibly comfortable base-layer that's perfect beneath a shell, yet versatile enough to be worn on its own in warmer weather, too.

PARAMO CAMBIA ZIP -NECK £35

WALKING
2nd

TECHNICAL INFO

Colours: Moss, navy

Sizes: S-XXL

Fabric: Nikwax Parameta
T Reversible

Women's version: Yes

Contact: 01892 786444,
www.paramo.co.uk



COMFORT & FIT 9/10

Definitely my size with good length sleeves and hem, and the double-sided fabric felt soft and had plenty of give in it. Loses a mark as the cuffs were a bit baggy.

PERFORMANCE 9/10

A reversible top with one side providing more warmth and the other better moisture management. The latter performed better, wicking superbly and drying slightly quicker than the winner. Smellier and not as warm, though.

VERDICT 18/20

A very versatile top that really performs well as a base-layer, yet will work on its own. One of the more expensive tops but, like all Paramo kit, it should last a while.

CW WINNER!

ICEBREAKER ATLAS HALF-ZIP £40

WALKING
1st

TECHNICAL INFO

Colours: Sea, inferno,

black, ink

Sizes: S-XXL

Fabric: 100% New Zealand
merino wool

Women's version: Yes

Contact: 01572 772437,
www.icebreaker.com



COMFORT & FIT 9/10

The midweight merino wool felt soft and comfortable against my skin and offered plenty of stretch for easy movement. The sleeves and hem were a good length for me and the collar felt snug, warm and very cosy. However, I found the body just a little tighter than I'd like – ideal for moisture management and warmth, but a little too figure-hugging for casual use.

PERFORMANCE 10/10

I couldn't fault the Atlas on the hill. It seemed to have a wider temperature tolerance than the synthetic base-layers tested and this was enhanced even more by the snug, high neck and the lovely long zip. It did feel a tiny bit wetter than the synthetics when I got really damp, but this didn't ever feel clammy, and it dried quickly, too. As always with merino wool, odour retention wasn't a problem, even after a few days wear.



VERDICT 19/20

While £40 seems a lot to pay for a base-layer, the versatility and performance of the Atlas definitely justifies the extra expense, especially if you walk in a range of conditions. A must for multi-day trips.