

# Peak Tourlite Short-Sleeved Cag

As spring turns to summer and the warmer weather becomes more prevalent, the winter kit of fleece, underlayers and drysuits is resigned to the kit store to be replaced by a lighter ensemble. This is where a shorty cag can be a useful piece of kit; it bridges the gap between cags/drysuits and simply wearing a thermal t-shirt and provides a waterproof and windproof layer that is bearable in warmer conditions.

## Manufacturer's summary

“This incredible new jacket is made from recycled plastic! It is a lightweight shorty cag, perfect for sea kayaking and touring. It is ideal for summer day trips on the sea, while also being suitable for whitewater kayaking in warmer climates.”

## Design and construction

The Peak UK shorty is constructed from Peak UK's X2.5 lightweight polyester, a recycled material that provides 10 m waterproofing. The neck, arm and waist seals are all Peak UK's 'aquaout' soft neoprene with velcro closures, allowing a very snug fit to be achieved. Conversely, in warmer conditions the neck (and if desired, arms) can be loosened right off to provide better ventilation and prevent overheating. The velcro closures use simple fabric tabs strengthened by sewn-on rubberised pulls providing some grip and extra strength to the closure.

All seams on the Tourlite shorty are taped and a small pocket with horizontal zip closure is positioned on the right-hand side of the cag, accessible while wearing a buoyancy aid.

The neck is reasonably high to provide enhanced protection from water ingress when sealed tight, while the arm closures seal around the lower part of the bicep.

From an aesthetic point of view, the Tourlite shorty is available in either a single red or purple colour-way with black neoprene seals and silver/white logos and branding on both the fabric and velcro closures. Compared to its predecessors, the design is significantly cleaner and more modern.

Construction standards on the review cag were very high, with no faults or blemishes found in either stitching or taped seals. In terms of durability, this is a lighter-weight fabric and therefore unlikely to stand up to the abuse that many of Peak UK's heavyweight garments do but, having used and abused the Tourlite Shorty's predecessor for a significant period of time, it has remained waterproof with no signs of either stitching or taped seams failing.

## In use

The Tourlite proved to be very comfortable on the water. The closures work well and were easily accessible with oversized tabs. The seal they provide is solid and keeps out the worst of the water, even when rolling or playing in rougher conditions. It will never match a latex seal and is not designed to do so, but does provide an extra level of protection and is perfect for summer showers or wind-blown spray. In windier conditions it proved its worth minimising wind chill, while avoiding the need to overdress with a long-sleeved cag.

In very warm conditions and when working hard on the water the ventilation provided by the neck seal was very good, but after a point the cag does start to suffer from condensation/sweat build-up as other lightweight cags do.

The Tourlite packs down to a very small size, so is easy to stow in an accessible spot on the kayak and was easy to don on the water when required.

Small details are always appreciated; the stitched-on rubberised velcro tabs will hopefully avoid an issue I have had on more than one cag where the glued-on velcro closure has come away from the rubberised backing. While the Peak UK method is a little more 'old school', it works and avoids a potential problem.



## Summary

With an RRP of £75, the Tourlite Shorty is quite a pricey addition to your paddling kit. However, this is a very well made, functional and comfortable shorty and comes from a company with a pedigree in producing durable equipment. For paddlers who spend time in rougher conditions during the summer, or are looking for a cag to cope with wind and rain in warmer conditions, the Tourlite Shorty is a very robust option; it's easy to stow, offers good ventilation and reasonable water tightness at the seals and is comfortable on the water. ☺

## Specifications

- X2.5 lightweight recycled polyester with 10 m waterproofing
- Articulated cut
- Aquaout waist, arm and neck seals
- Easy access right-hand zip pocket
- Fully taped seams
- Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL
- Colours: Red, purple
- RRP: £75

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