

£300 **TERRA NOVA**  
PHOTON

TRAILRATING \*\*\*\*\*

TRAIL  
BEST  
IN TEST



**It's good** Officially the Guinness World Record holder for the lightest tent commercially available, the Photon is 110g lighter than the previous record holder (the Terra Nova Laser Competition), and it tipped the **Trail** scales at 766g. It pitches outer-first too, making it ideal for putting up or striking in the rain. The pegs weigh 1g each, and these tiny rods of titanium hold the tent down pretty well once you get the knack of how best to use them. A couple of vertical poles at each end provide extra head- and-footroom, while a single pole around the outside provides good headroom. Amazingly for the weight you also get a massive porch that easily takes one rucksack and two lightweight sacks when you are not cooking in this area.

**But** The needle-like pegs are easily lost and work best if they are placed at quite a steep angle as otherwise they tend to twist and spring out. The Terra Nova Laser

Competition is made with slightly more durable materials, according to the manufacturers, but it is heavier of course! In wild weather other tents are a little more stable too.

**Verdict** An ideal mountain marathon tent or superlight backpacking tent for one person or two friendly campers for a night.

VITAL STATS

**Design** single hoop  
**Poles** shock-corded alloy poles  
**Inner** ripstop nylon; **flysheet** Watershed Lite 3000mm head; **groundsheet** WaterblocSL, 5000mm hydrostatic head  
**Internal dimensions** length 205cm, width 93cm, height 95cm  
**Packed size** 13x44cm  
**Weight** 766g  
**Made in** Vietnam  
**Stores in the UK** 65  
**Stockists** - tel. (01773) 837373;  
[www.terra-nova.co.uk](http://www.terra-nova.co.uk)

£300 **MOUNTAIN HARDWEAR**  
HELION 2

TRAILRATING \*\*\*\*\*



**Geodesic design?**  
Heavier than tunnel tents due to having more poles; take longer to pitch. More stable and require fewer anchor points so are suited to hill terrain.

**It's good** This tent has a very good packed size thanks to the poles being made of shorter sections than most. The tent is a 3-pole geodesic design too, so it will be able to withstand the wind much better than tunnels or single-hoop options. It is pitched inner-first with poles being threaded through eyelets on the inner, and the pole ends are located at the base. The fly goes over the top and gets ladder-lock adjusters to ease the process. The outer doors roll to the side and can be opened from the top, which is a good design. The porch is large enough for a couple of rucksacks and inside the tent two people can just about sit up and two friendly campers could sleep inside as well. All that for 1755g is pretty good.

**But** The inner has lots of mesh so this is a bit draughty in cold, windy weather. If you read the swing tag you would think this would weigh 1500g as this is stated as

minimum weight, with no mention of maximum or actual weight! There wasn't much of a gap between inner and outer when I pitched it, and it is a bit narrow for two campers.

**Verdict** A spacious and very stable one-person tent or usable for two people if you want to save weight, but others are lighter.

VITAL STATS

**Design** 3-pole geodesic  
**Poles** shock-corded alloy  
**Inner** 40D nylon ripstop; **flysheet** 25D hollow core nylon ripstop, 1800mm hydrostatic head; **groundsheet** 30D nylon ripstop, 1500mm hydrostatic head;  
**Internal dimensions** length 220cm; width 110cm; height 105cm  
**Packed size** 35x16cm  
**Weight** 1755g  
**Made in** China  
**Number of stores in UK** 12  
**Stockists** - tel. (01572) 724499;  
[www.mountainhardwear.com](http://www.mountainhardwear.com)

£320 **MSR** HUBBA HUBBA HP

TRAILRATING \*\*\*\*\*



**Groundsheet**  
To save weight the groundsheet on some tents may be quite thin, so treat it especially carefully.

**It's good** Described as being 'ultralight without compromise', the Hubba Hubba HP offers far more space than other tents featured here. It is pitched inner-first with a framework of pre-assembled poles providing a skeleton from which the inner is suspended and which the flysheet cloaks. Ladder-locks allow fast adjustment and the structure is very stable. There is a porch on each side and they each easily take two rucksacks. The outer doors get double zips so the top can be vented, and they can be rolled to either side to create a sheltered porch area. Inside the tent you get loads of headroom and this is incredibly spacious for two campers. At 1858g it is not the lightest tent here, but when split between two it is a very respectable 929g each.

**But** This is not the most stable design (the large, flat surface of the wedge shape easily catches the wind), so care is needed to

pitch in sheltered sites. The outer doors aren't held open as securely as some and would benefit from additional tie-backs.

**Verdict** The Hubba Hubba doesn't compromise on comfort and offers plenty of space. Well-featured, plenty of room, but not the lightest.

VITAL STATS

**Design** dome  
**Poles** shock-corded alloy poles  
**Inner** 20D ripstop nylon; **flysheet** 20D silicone-coated ripstop nylon, 1000mm hydrostatic head; **groundsheet** 40D PU-coated ripstop nylon 10,000mm hydrostatic head  
**Internal dimensions** length 215cm; width 115cm; height 110cm  
**Packed size** 17x44cm  
**Total weight** 1858g  
**Made in** China  
**Stores in the UK** 40  
**Stockists** - tel. (01629) 580484;  
[www.firstascent.co.uk](http://www.firstascent.co.uk)