

ONE-PERSON TENTS THE FINALISTS

£260 TERRA NOVA LASER COMPETITION

TRAILRATING *****

TRAIL
BEST
IN TEST



It's good The lightest tent in the test, with a packed size so small that you hardly notice it in your rucksack. Internal space is very good, enough length for my six foot frame (or two skinny adventure racers) to lie down and sit up straight as well. The porch is huge, and all my gear fits in one side, leaving the door side clear for cooking and getting in and out easily. The inner and outer pitch quickly as one, with a single pole in the centre, and a carbon fibre rod at each end. There are multiple guy lines and internal tensioners to get it taut, and it will resist wind, rain and snow when pitched well. Ventilation is good with mesh vents at each end, and the top half of the door is also mesh.

But Pitching it well takes practice, but it is worthwhile. It rattles in high winds. The outer door on the current model has a one-way zip, which means cooking has

to be done with an open door. The supplied pegs are very small and thin but you could easily swap them.

Verdict It's not perfect, but the minor issues are outweighed by the light weight, comfort and freedom offered by this tent.

VITAL STATS

Design single pole
Poles shock-corded alloy
Inner ripstop nylon
Flysheet silicon-coated ripstop nylon, 3000mm hydrostatic head
Groundsheet nylon, 5000mm hydrostatic head
Internal dimensions length 220cm; width 95cm, height 95cm
Packed size 12x45cm
Packed weight 1030g
Made in Vietnam
Stores in UK 50

£350 LIGHTWAVE TO ULTRA XT

TRAILRATING *****



It's good The Lightwave is a spacious tent, with room inside for you and some gear, and enough height for me to sit at the door and cook in the porch. The porch is its best feature as it's massive – there is also a version without the extended porch available. I had a fellow camper sit in the porch as we discussed the plans for the morning. There are pockets by the door, and midge netting vents in the door and at the foot. There's some other nice detailing, for example the pitching points help the bathtub floor keep its shape and you're using 7g titanium pegs to secure them. The six guy lines are made of super-strong Dyneema. The rest of the components are top-quality too and it uses tough but light fabrics with a high hydrostatic head for waterproofness.

But It's an inner-pitched-first design that's a little time-consuming, and on an exposed, windswept pitch this can be positively frustrating. Wind resistance is the

Lightwave's weak point. Pitched tail into the wind it's stable enough, but if the wind changes direction, the tunnel design doesn't have the support or tension to resist it and the main body gets easily blown around.

Verdict Outstanding living comfort with space to spare, but its poor performance in high wind relegates it to valley or calmer-weather use.

VITAL STATS

Design three-pole tunnel
Poles shock-corded alloy
Inner ripstop nylon
Flysheet silicon-coated nylon, 5000mm hydrostatic head
Groundsheet PU-coated nylon, 6000mm hydrostatic head
Internal dimensions length 212cm; width 92cm; height 100cm
Packed size 46x15cm
Packed weight 1690g
Made in China
Stores in UK 40

£455 HILLEBERG SOULO

TRAILRATING *****



It's good The Soulo is built to withstand the worst weather and it comes with features to let the occupant sit out the storm in reasonable comfort. It pitches as one, with externally attached poles. It's free-standing, but has a dozen peg and double guy points all the way round for security (in a raging blizzard it hardly flinched). There's an effective top vent with an external cover, and plenty of internal and porch space for cooking, storing your gear and stretching out inside. I could sit up easily as well. One of the inner doors can be zipped apart to reveal a full-size midge net. The outer door has a two-way zip to let cooking steam out the top and keep the wind off your stove at the bottom. It feels reliable and secure on the hill.

But At 2.2kg packed weight it's hugely heavy for a one-person tent, although its actual packed size is okay. It's probably got too much performance for most needs

outside of winter camping on the Cairngorm plateau. There are some features it could lose, thus dropping the weight a little without compromising its performance. At this price you need to be sure you want the extra stability.

Verdict A fantastic tent for high winter camps at home or abroad; but a high price, heavy and overspecified for general year-round use.

VITAL STATS

Design dome
Poles shock-corded alloy
Inner ripstop nylon
Flysheet 30D Kerlon 1200 ripstop nylon, hydrostatic head 1200mm
Groundsheet 70D Kerlon 1200 ripstop nylon, hydrostatic head 1200mm
Internal dimensions length 220cm; width 105cm; height 95cm
Packed size 45x18cm
Packed weight 2200g
Made in Estonia
Stores in UK 6