



# Terra Nova Voyager Superlite | £330

Has Terra Nova done it again with this latest tent, or is it one weight-saving measure too far?

"Thank you for calling Terra Nova – the Guinness world record holder for the world's lightest tent." These are the first words you hear if you ring the good folks at this UK manufacturer's head office in Alfreton. It says it all, really. Terra Nova has been pushing the boundaries in lightweight technology for years now to become a serious contender in the global market with an ever-growing lead on its rivals. Now, once again, with its Voyager Superlite, the company has raised the bar even higher with a stripped-down version of the classic Voyager. This 3-season, two-person shelter is so impressive in its simplicity, you'll think there must be something missing.

I've always felt that if a tent

comes with instructions, it's not worth owning. Simplicity is what you want when it's dark, your hands are freezing and the wall of cloud headed your way will be on top of you in less than ten minutes. So I was delighted to find that the Voyager Superlite is incredibly easy to set up. The three poles fit exactly where you'd expect them to, and with practice it could be pitched in under five minutes. The pockets are positioned intuitively, just where you'd reach without looking to stow your headtorch at night; and there isn't one redundant piece of nylon, cord, mesh or aluminium in sight. And that's what got me wondering.

The Superlite's two-night trial took place in Scotland's Mamores, in late April. And during one night

in particular the tent protected me from the most violent windstorm I had ever experienced in the hills. I lay in my sleeping bag watching the structure contort in ways I didn't know tents could. At times the ceiling was touching the tip of my nose. I had nightmares about a pole snapping under the pressure of the winds funnelling through the valley I was camped in, but – lo and behold – I woke up unscathed.

The next morning I took a closer look at what had provided impressive shelter under such extreme conditions. But the reality is I would simply have preferred to have something slightly more robust on that particular night. And that's the thing: when it comes to outdoor gear, we seem to expect a

Tent up and brew on in less than six minutes – impressive simplicity.

bit more than what it says on the tin. We all love the smug satisfaction we get from buying something that's labelled 'two-season' then finding out it can handle three at a push. It reassures us that it's better than it needs to be, which we assume is a sign of good craftsmanship.

But I understand what Terra Nova has done here, and it's bold. They're giving us a bit more credit by offering us the strongest, lightest and roomiest tent in its class and, at the same time, promising the best three-season shelter money can buy. You'll just need to beware in case you encounter conditions typical of that fourth season.

And, by Terra Nova's own admission, that's what the regular Voyager is for anyway with its taped

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## FACTS

**Price** £330  
**Design** 3-pole geodesic  
**Tent** body: Waterblock SL nylon; flysheet: Watershield SL nylon  
**Poles** 7001 T6 DAC alloy  
**Internal dimensions** length 215cm; width 128cm; height 103cm  
**Packed size** 52x14cm  
**Weight** 1950g packed (1800g min)  
**Made in** Vietnam

- Inspired simplicity for those who think light is right
  - Not much margin for error should your trip take place in late autumn or early spring
  - The perfect two-person backpacking tent for summer specialists
- Stockist details**  
 – tel. (01773) 833300;  
 www.terra-nova.co.uk



**Above:** Great ventilation for mild months.

**Left:** A very cosy fit for two grown men.

**Below:** Pegs like chopsticks don't inspire much confidence.

**Bottom:** The days of sharing the tent-weight with your mate are over.



seams and thicker ground- and flysheets. The Superlite meanwhile is perfect for those who might spend time abroad where it's not quite as wet, or for here in the UK during milder months. They basically said: 'What about the end-user who just doesn't need all that robustness? Why should they have to carry all the extra weight around?'

So the Voyager Superlite is the perfect tent for someone who knows exactly what sort of backpacking they'll be doing – and it's of the three-season variety. And if its specifications match your camping habits you now have the opportunity to get your hands on a superb shelter that weighs in at a shockingly light 1.8kg. Why haul that extra 0.3kg around with you if you just don't need it?



## RIVAL

### THREE-POLE GEODESICS



#### MTN. EQUIPMENT DRAGONFLY £290

ME's recent step into the tent market has brought some new classics to the campsite, including the Dragonfly. It is slightly more narrow and lower in height than some and the porch is also a touch small, but all those details add up to a reasonable weight saving too.

**Weight** 2100g  
**Internal dimensions** length 220cm; width 120cm; height 98cm  
**Stockist details** – tel. (0161) 366 5020; www.mountain-equipment.co.uk



#### THE NORTH FACE TADPOLE 23 £220

A tent that was withdrawn from the market for a time, but is now back. The inner is mostly mesh, hence the low weight, but it tends to be a little more draughty than the others because of this. The porch is longer than most but there is only a door on one side so flexible as other arrangements.

**Weight** 2200g  
**Internal dimensions** length 220cm; width 117cm; height 101cm  
**Stockist details** – tel. (01539) 738882; www.thenorthface.com



#### LIGHTWAVE G2 TREK £275

The G2 Trek looks heavy here, but that extra weight gets a little more width and a lot more height – more important than a small weight saving on a longer trip. The porch is big too, with an excellent outer door arrangement that's flexible enough for any usage whatever the conditions.

**Weight** 2850g  
**Internal dimensions** length 220cm; width 130cm; height 140cm  
**Stockist details** – tel. (01943) 470574; www.lightwave.uk.com