

The Trailmate Quest 2-person tent from Gun City

The quest for the ultimate lightweight tent has been on my mind for the last couple of years and this one is a real gem. Light, super well designed and very compact, this tent is an exceptional option either as a main shelter or the 'just in case the hut is full'.

Here's what I like about it:

It only weighs 2kg. Excellent for multiday trips or if you're expecting the hut to be full.

It's compact. Instead of a long cylindrical stowing shape it's a tight oval which stashes easily alongside your sleeping bag making it very packable and easy to put away. The entrance to the carry bag is lengthways rather than at the end which is a nifty design.

Generous space under the fly. Plenty of room for 2 packs, 2 rifles, and even a couple of dogs at a squeeze.

The side flaps on the fly rollup and the roof provide shelter from the rain when you're cooking. I have had a couple of tent days in the rain and was grateful for this design.

There are kickstand ventilation pockets at each end of the tent so there's never condensation issues even in rainy conditions.

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You can also avoid that 'hot tent in the baking sun' feeling on hot days.

The pegs are super robust yet light weight which is an often-overlooked design feature. Even on tents double this price I have snapped the pegs on alpine trips when they strike granite as I'm hammering them in.

An overhead storage pocket. I rate this highly as a feature and this one is large enough to hold a book, your copy of NZ Outdoor Magazine, snacks, headtorch, and even your toothbrush. It is accessible while being far enough away from the tent fly so items don't get damp.

Easy setup with a single piece pole system and freestanding ability once you find that perfect dry flat spot. The poles aren't flimsy and have stood up well to use. I have been using the compatible ground sheet as an additional water repellent and can highly recommend it.

Things I would change:

I would extend the storage capacity of the two pockets at each end of the tent. Currently they are big enough for a phone and power bank but could easily be three times the size with multiple compartments for maximum storage. However, this doesn't detract from the overall performance of the tent.

If you are looking for a lightweight compact two-person tent that is waterproof and has a stack of great features, the Trailmate Quest is an excellent choice. I have reviewed tents in the past with similar features and functionality at double the price.

It has also proven to be a great multi-day option for Rehua and I. " www.guncity.com.



