



# MSR HUBBA HUBBA TENT

WRITTEN BY ~ LUKE CARE

The tent on test in Marlborough high country

COLOUR:	Barley Corn / Old Brick
CAPACITY:	2 person
MINIMUM WEIGHT:	1.3 kg
PACKED WEIGHT:	1.47 kg
FLOOR AREA:	2.7 sq. m
VESTIBULE AREA:	1.4 sq. m
TENT VOLUME:	TBD
VESTIBULE VOLUME:	TBD
INTERIOR PEAK HEIGHT:	101 cm
PACKED SIZE:	46 x 11 cm
NUMBER OF DOORS:	2
FREESTANDING:	Yes
NUMBER OF POLES:	2 Easton Syclone
RAINFLY FABRIC:	20D ripstop nylon 1200mm DuraShield™ polyurethane & silicone
CANOPY FABRIC:	10D polyester micromesh / 20D ripstop nylon & DWR
FLOOR FABRIC:	20D ripstop nylon 1200mm Durashield™ polyurethane & DWR
RRP:	\$1099

## MSR needs no introduction to Kiwis, and the Hubba Hubba hardly does either

Now on its 8th iteration the Hubba Hubba is a well-proven (and much copied) design. The 2022 model improves on what was already an outstanding three season tent.

The Hubba Hubba has always been a tent that expertly balances light weight with liveability. Weighing in at 1.45kg all up (nearly 400g lighter than previous models) it is well and truly a lightweight, but the internal volume hasn't been sacrificed. The interior height is 1m, with a length of 2.13m (ample) and a width of 1.27m (more snug). Some of the more specialised models like the Access or Carbon Reflex have a much harsher taper on the sides to better slip the wind, but the reduction of interior volume is very noticeable with two people. There are even lighter tents in the range, but they start to introduce quite severe features like the Freelite's rainfly which doesn't come right to the bottom. **Horses for courses, but the Hubba Hubba is spectacularly light for a strong, general purpose tent.**

As someone on the larger side I'd regard

this as a tent for primarily one person missions but can easily fit two when needed. If you're doing two person trips regularly **I'd seriously consider going up to a Mutha Hubba, the 3-person model, for only an additional 350 grams.** Split between two people the weight cost is minimal and the extra space is a huge advantage on rain-days. I've been using a Mutha Hubba for the last ten years without a single hiccup – and it was second hand when I bought it!

The 2022 Hubba Hubba is a freestanding side-entrance tent (my favourite) that uses top and tail doors, in that the zip on each side opens at the head of each occupant if you are top and tailing. I prefer it with symmetrical doors as some

tight campsites only work a particular way and when the doors opened the same way on the old model you could just turn it 180 degrees. **And while it does make better use of the internal space I've never been all that fond of top and tailing with my mates smelly socks in my face anyway.**

We can't go any further and not talk about the poles. The Easton Syclone frame looks like carbon fibre at first



Here you can see the pole structure, made with the new Easton Syclone poles

glance, but in their own words they take – 'the best attributes of both aluminum and carbon tent poles. Made using a ballistic-fiber, carbon, and resin matrix for the strongest, lightest and most resilient tent pole ever. This material allows the pole to flex under force and return to shape while maintaining shelter reliability. The carbon adds light-weight strength and the resin fuses all the fibers together. The Syclone poles are 80 percent more resistant to bending and breaking than aluminum poles in wind and flex testing. Syclone poles flex further than both carbon and aluminum poles, and they also return to their original shape while still providing necessary structural support whilst weighing less than aluminum poles'

**If the poles continue to function half as well as tested then I'm a happy camper,** we didn't have any gale force winds but the strong overnight thermals on a very exposed ridge didn't bother it in the slightest. Carbon fibre poles are stiff, and in ultralight tents they require serious care – not to mention that when they break, they really break. Not like a crumpled aluminium pole that you can brace up and keep using. These hybrid poles, taken from their four-season range, seem to tick an awful lot of boxes.

In the weight-saving bid the ventilation has been simplified, now just using a velcro strut to hold the zip open on the fly. It's marginally less waterproof than the old hooded strut method but for the weight saving it's probably worth it. There are no other vents in the rainfly anymore though, there used to be one at either end. The new model uses much less mesh, meaning less ventilation but better protection and insulation. **Standard for MSR are the raised tub floor and seam-taped fly.** This model has



The well shaped fly, a good balance between interior space and walls angled enough to deal with wind

dropped to 20D ripstop nylon on the tub from 30D in previous models. If you find it a little on the fragile side they sell optional footprints for an additional 220g.

**There are two pockets in the ends and in the ceiling, allowing plenty of room for headlamps, beanies, gloves and all the fluff that accumulates.** They also thoughtfully include cable ports for headphones or charging cords.

The interior door now has two zips that meet in the corner, rather than the single zip that went all the way around in the old models. The exterior zip has a storm flap for added waterproofing, especially useful when the vent is open. It zips from the sides nearest the occupant which combined with the side-entrance make them one of the most user-friendly tents I've ever used. There's no crawling over your tent mate or having to shuffle down into the tunnel tent, trampling all your equipment on the way. That being said the vestibules are on the smaller side, only just big enough for a full size pack's worth of gear each, but I'm happy to deal



Here you can see the asymmetrical, top and tail doors



The new vent system



The large end pockets with cable ports

with that for the optimized footprint and interior volume.

This model just reinforces all that I like in MSR tents; superb designs for functionality and liveability, combined with great weather resistance and durability. This model manages to be both lighter and stronger than previous models, primarily through the advances in pole technology. **They are at the more expensive end of the scale, but as they say, you get what you pay for!**

