

Hilleberg Kaitum 2

More info: www.hilleberg.com

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↑ **Kaitum 2 is positively palatial**

→ Hilleberg are the Rolls-Royces of the tent world, offering exceptional quality and build, but with a price to match. But, in a world where buying products that last is so important for the sake of our environment, their philosophy is certainly in keeping with the times and, if you are intending to use their products a lot, then actually over their lifetime they actually do offer very good value-for-money. So, with the price issue dealt with, let's look at the model in question – the Kaitum 2.

There were several models in the Hilleberg range that we could have chosen to include in this test, but we opted for the Kaitum 2 for its excellent space, allied with an all-season capability and very respectable overall weight – making it ideal for many multi-day trekking trips. With two porches and two vestibules, and a large 'bedroom' in between, this tent gives two people as much storage and living space as they could possibly want. Inside the tent, as well as the excellent space for sleeping there's a pocket at each corner for storing items, plus a clothes line that runs along the roof of the tent to hang items. The entrance flaps combine a mesh door backed with full fabric, so you have the option of increasing the ventilation.

MATERIALS AND BUILD

Hilleberg are renowned for the quality of the materials used in their tents and the Kaitum 2 is no exception. The company use a labelling system (Red, Black, Blue and Yellow) to indicate the spec of the materials used in each of their tents – and therefore what activities and conditions they are suitable for – and the Kaitum falls into the Red Label category, which strikes a balance between weight and durability. The flysheet is made from Kerlon 1200, a 30-denier ripstop nylon treated with three layers of silicone on each side, giving a hydrostatic head of 5000mm. The groundsheet is a 70-denier nylon with three coats of PU giving a 1500mm hydrostatic head, which is the highest in the test. The poles supplied with the Kaitum 2 are of the DAC Featherlite 9mm type, and again these offer a good balance between weight and strength.

PITCHING

Pitching the Kaitum is straightforward, and quick due to the inner and outer being pitched at the same time (they can also be used separately, incidentally). After securing the tent at one end, the three poles are inserted first before the other end of the

tent is pegged out. This gives the basic structure of the tent, and then the rest of the ground pegs and guylines can be pegged out. It's straightforward enough for one person to erect the tent on their own, with several features making this possible – such as the pole sleeves which are enclosed at one end, meaning you don't have to move to the other side of the tent to secure the pole ends in place. As with any tunnel tent, it's important to adjust the pegs and guylines to get a rigid structure which will shed water/snow and stand up to strong winds, and the Kaitum has multiple tension adjusters to allow fine-tuning to get that perfect pitch.

IN USE

For longer treks, or ones where

the weather means you'll be spending plenty of time inside your tent, or you need to dry clothing out, the generous space of the Kaitum 2 comes into its own. There are drawbacks of course, such as having to dig out a large platform in snow, but that comes with the territory as they say! Having two entrances means getting in and out of the tent is easy even when the wind is changing direction, and there's so many little details that make the Kaitum both more usable and more durable.

Overall the Kaitum 2 is an outstanding tent which excels in all weathers and offers fantastic space for the weight. It might not be the first choice for especially mountainous or rocky terrain, due to its tunnel design, but for everywhere else it excels. **T.M.**

Verdict

An outstandingly spacious and well-made tent that will give many years of use – with the only 'criticisms' being those inherent to the tunnel design i.e. it's harder to pitch in awkward spots or on rocky ground



PROS: ✓ Huge amount of usable space ✓ Superior materials used throughout ✓ Surprisingly low weight

CONS: ✗ Harder to pitch in some situations than dome designs