



Here comes the Sunn

CANDY EVANS looks at an early version of a family tent from Sunncamp's 2012 range

SUNNCAMP has a reputation for careful innovation without frills and the 2012 Alana range of tents certainly matches this description.

The range has been completely refreshed for 2012 and includes three models based on a central dome area created by two crossing steel poles. The Alana 300 and 400 both have a single sleeping cabin leading off the domed living area and sleep three and four people respectively. I took a look at the first 700 DL in the country, sleeping up to seven people.

The 700 DL has a single main bedroom area to the rear of the dome. This has room for five in a single inner tent, divided into two 'rooms' by a zip-out curtain.

The living area is bright and airy, helped by the light grey fabric in the roof and the silver groundsheet. There's a PVC window and door on each side with the windows having vent panels above them. The two side

doors both have porches to keep the worst of the weather away. Although the doors have quite a high threshold, the production tents will have a 'trip hazard' warning symbol that's guaranteed to make you smile – though perhaps not if you've tripped.

On the opposite side of the tent from the main bedroom is the section that makes this tent stand out from the rest. Here there's a second bedroom inner for two more people, though it narrows sharply at the top so it's probably more suited to a single occupant. This inner has a large door to the living area and another to the outer of the main tent so even with the bedroom in place you can still open the large front door if you wish.

Alternatively, you can take out the second inner and enjoy a larger living space that can open on three sides.

Although this is a reasonably basic tent, underlined by its

sub-£500 price tag, there are still plenty of useful features. I like Sunncamp's use of bright yellow piping, guylines and zips. These make door openings and the like easy to identify during the day and in the half-light. There's a zipped entry point for an electric hook-up cable and Velcro straps to hold a cable in place up to a central lamp hook – though you'll need to be taller than I am to hang anything at the top of this tent. You'll also find some useful pockets on the front of the main sleeping cabin.

In all, this is an interesting tent with the flexibility to hold up to seven people for a weekend, though perhaps fewer for a comfortable longer holiday.

Verdict:
A flexible tent with useful features

at a
glance

Sunncamp Alana 700 DL

Price £538 (available spring 2012)

Expect to pay £440

Club Care insurance £32

Sleeps Five plus two

Weight 32kg

Packed size 80cm x 39cm x 39cm

Dimensions

Outer 6.6m x 3.5m; two
inners 2.1m x 3.3m (divided
in two 2.1m x 2m and 2.1m x 1.3m) and
1.3m x 3.3m (max)/
2.3m (min)

Height 2.3m

Materials Outer polyester; inner breathable polyester; groundsheet polyethylene; poles steel and GRP

Warranty One year manufacturer's warranty

Contact Sunncamp

Tel 01245 329933

Web sunnflair.com



Top: The side window and doorway. Above: The trip hazard symbol