

Ténéré Expedition Tent

review by Steve Larsen

THE TÉNÉRÉ EXPEDITION Tent's ability to cover you, a passenger and a motorcycle may be its most intriguing factor, but there are other reasons you should consider it for your next tent. Covering your motorcycle (and contents) provides a warm, rain and wind-free place to work on your bike. In actual use, I found that the "garage" portion of the tent proved a highly useful spot for removing dirty or wet gear before stepping into the clean and dry portion of the tent where warm sleeping bags wait. With the bike under cover, it is also secure from prying eyes.

The Ténéré tent came to our attention prior to a two-week ride in Argentina and Chile where the distances to cover dictated several nights when hotels would be unavailable. A Google search of "tent and motorcycle" led us to the Denver-based company Redverz Gear (www.redverz.com), and the brainchild of motor adventure rider Kevin Muggleton. London-born, Muggleton spent 20 years as a traveler and photographer, with photos and stories appearing in National Geographic and European motorcycle magazines. The tent evolved from his personal requirements for a lightweight tent that would easily fit on a motorcycle and,



once set up, allow room for a full-sized motorcycle (yes, a BMW 1200GS Adventure will fit) so its gear would be safe. Camping in the elements of the Andes, Sahara Desert and Patagonia, it had to set up quickly with as few parts and pieces as possible.

The \$399 Expedition, billed as "the motorcycle tent designed for adventure travelers," is a generously-sized two-person tent with a 100" x 50" covered motorcycle bay with a peak height of 76", so if you're less than 6' 4" there's no need to stoop. Packed and stuffed into the included bag, it is about the size of a sleeping bag, although a bit taller and weighing in at 13 lbs., 6 oz. It fit comfortably behind my seat and in front of my top case. Pitching the tent was easy, even on the windiest night we encountered. It uses three "poles" which bend into hoops, making the walls nearly vertical. I was unable to match the sub-

4-minute set-up time in Muggleton's YouTube video, instead averaging about 10 minutes for a full set-up.

Although I didn't put my bike inside the tent every night, what first seemed like a luxury soon felt like a necessity—why don't all tents have compartments for motorcycles?

Ténéré Expedition Tent, \$399—Redverz Gear; Email: adventure@redverz.com; 720-213-8287; www.redverz.com