

HAVE BIKE, WILL TRAVEL



A new transport service for cyclists and their bikes has been launched in Scotland.

SLM Cycle Transport assists riders to reach the start of a route or return from the finish point.

The service comprises a minibuss, a custom-built bike trailer/carrier for up to seven people and a dedicated driver.

Founder Stuart McLellan said: "I came up with the idea for the bike transport service when I was planning a trip to the Outer Hebrides with friends.

"We wanted to cycle from the south to north on the islands without having to return.

"We discovered that trying to return from Ullapool, after the island cycle holiday, back to central Scotland by public transport was not easy."

While there are trains and buses that allow for some bike reservations, they can be fully booked at busy holiday periods.

And many railway stations require cyclists to ride on roads busy with other traffic.

Stuart added: "I thought that if our group need an alternative transport solution to get from the Highlands to the south of Scotland, other cyclists might too."

SLM Cycle Transport offers the bespoke service across Scotland and the north of England.

You can use the service whether you're a solo rider or a group, although the cost is less if shared. Walkers, golfers and tourists can also book the service for easier travel around Scotland.

Stuart said: "Our transport service takes the hassle out of travel and booking public transport as it's door to door and without stopping or detouring unnecessarily."

■ See slmcycletransport.co.uk

NEVIS BY NIGHT

Outdoors fans are invited to join Nevis at Night: The Festival of the Elements.

The event takes place on September 22 in Glen Nevis and on Ben Nevis.

The festival also supports the Ben Nevis Fund, which carries out essential environmental work in the area.

From a wheelchair accessible, multi-sensory Elements Experience to lighting up the highest point in the UK, there is something for everyone at Nevis at Night.

■ See www.nevisatnight.com



BIVVY BAGS

If you like to walk or cycle and getting off the beaten track is your favoured option, a bivy bag is the ideal choice. Made for solo, lightweight travel on multi-day adventures, it offers a low-hassle, quick-to-set-up alternative to tent pitching.

Essentially, a bivy is waterproof and windproof bag that fits over a sleeping bag.

One to consider: The Alpkit Hunka bivy bag weighs less than 400g.

It is made of a waterproof and breathable fabric and packs into a small bag. £48, www.alpkit.com



YURTS, KATAS AND WIGWAMS

This takes glamping to the next level. A yurt doesn't even need to be carried with you or erected. Glampers simply arrive at one of a growing number of sites across Scotland, and "move into" their yurt. Most come with campbeds, airbeds or sleeping platforms, wood-burning stove and lots of space. Some have kitchen, dining and living areas.

One to consider: The katas at Comrie Croft offer fairly-tale style camping. From £99 for a night, Sunday to Thursday. See www.comriecroft.com



**FIONA
RUSSELL**

Sales pitch

Many outdoors fans will be planning summer camping trips. But what tent will you choose? Here are six options to suit different adventures

TWO-MAN TENTS

If you like a room to sleep and prefer to share your summer adventures, a two-man tent is ideal. It gives you space to store a rucksack and many have a porch for cooking if the weather is poor. And if you

are travelling with a friend, you can split the parts of the tent between you. In general, the more you spend the lighter the tent will be as it relies on more sophisticated technology.

One to consider: Robens have launched a Lite range of technical tents. The two-person Goldcrest 2 weighs 1.33kg, £449.99, robens.co.uk



WEEKEND TENTS

These tents are usually unpacked from the boot of a car and pitched close by at a campsite or wild camping location. They can be spacious enough for two, three or four people and tend to have a cheaper price tag as they don't require so much design input or the use of sophisticated materials. The shape of a weekend tent – such as dome, wigwam or A-frame – will allow users to sit up or even stand inside. A weekend tent is generally heavier and therefore not aimed at backpackers.

One to consider: Vango Nemesis Pro 300 Tent (2018) fits three people and offers a geodesic design that is stable and great for headroom. RRP £300, www.vango.co.uk



FESTIVAL TENTS

When you want to spend less time putting up a tent – or sleeping in it – and more time partying, you need a festival tent. These are easy to pitch and come in all bright colours and fancy patterns. (After all you want to find your tent again after dark and in a field of other tents.)

One to consider: Easy Camp have a range of Carnival tents "inspired by the bohemian spirit". Called Daybreak, Nighttide, Daylily and Nightfall, they sleep two to four, come in different designs and are all straightforward to pitch. Priced £54.99 to £79.99, easycamp.com



FAMILY TENTS

This is definitely a car-to-campsite tent and might even be considered "glamping". They are heavier and larger but offer the advantage of lots of space for everyone. These tents come with divided bedroom and living areas and some even have room for a toilet (chemical, of course). For ease when pitching, look for inflatable poles. **One to consider:** Outwell TOMCAT 5SA is a two-bed tent for up to five people, with a living area. It has Outwell Advanced Air Tube System technology with "fast and easy One-Go inflation". The front canopy can be zipped on and off or rolled back quickly to extend flexible outdoor living options. £1199.99, www.outwell.com