

INSRA

Liberty. Independence. Patriotism.

MEMBERS UPDATE

August, 2018

15 Best Tents for Camping,
Backpacking, and Doomsday

Hidden Dangers in the Forest

Lost in the Park: How Terrible
Survival Tips Never Die

Top 6 Micro 9mm Concealed Carry Guns

HELLFIRE



DOUBLE YOUR ACCURACY INSTANTLY!

It's a combination tactical flashlight and high visibility green laser.

And it fits just about any handgun, rifle or shotgun.



www.mycrisisgear.com/Hellfire

CONTENT



02

Hidden Dangers in the Forest

When you're hiking alone in the woods, chances are your mind fixates on threats like grizzly bears or, say, a pack of hungry zombies. While those fears typically take center stage, it's far more likely you'll come in contact with one of these "hidden dangers."



09

Top 6 Micro 9mm Carry Guns

There are guns that are a pleasure to carry... Then, there are guns that are a pleasure to shoot. Historically speaking, these are rarely the same. But times are changing. In honor of this, we've nominated our top 6 favorite carry guns that are as great at the range as they are in the holster.



14

How Dangerous Survival Tips Never Die

Of all survival myths out there, none has been circulated as successfully as the one about drinking urine when facing dehydration. Does it work? Is it safe? How does it taste? We'll dive into exactly why this widely circulated myth should be permanently eliminated.



15

15 Best Tents for Camping or Doomsday

If self-reliance is a priority of yours, there's really no excuse for not owning a rock-solid tent that can comfortably accommodate your family unit. Whether you enjoy camping, backpacking, or doomsday prepping, these tents have got you covered.



Photo by David Cbotin/Flickr

We all know to steer clear of obvious dangers in the woods such as bears, wolves, and poison ivy. But do you know how to identify less obvious dangers that could be hiding in the idyllic image above, including venomous spiders and snakes, poisonous berries, and highly aggressive smaller animals? In this guide, we're going to take a closer look at some of the hidden dangers that can be found in North America, with an emphasis on threats found within the woods of the United States.

THE 7 MOST DANGEROUS U.S. SPIDERS

There's more than a dozen spider species in the U.S. that may become aggressive enough to bite you. However, many of these bites are non-toxic and often produce little to no reaction. What you need to be concerned about are seven specific spider species. They can be found in many areas throughout North America, but most of them tend to hang out in the Southern or Western parts of the United States.



1. BLACK WIDOW

Female black widow spiders evoke a fearful response in people for a very good reason. The venom of this species may not kill you (although in rare cases, it could), but a severe reaction is common. Symptoms of a black widow bite can include an extreme increase in blood pressure, abdominal pain, nausea, fever, vomiting, and a headache. If you see the arachnid pictured above, give it a very wide berth. They only attack if they feel threatened.



2. BROWN RECLUSE

Photo by Mike Keeling/Flicker

A bite from a brown recluse is a nasty, painful thing that requires fast medical attention. The venom from this spider often causes necrosis and tissue loss, especially without immediate medical assistance. They're usually about 1-inch long, have six eyes, and sport a dark violin shape on the topmost part of their leg area.



3. RED WIDOW

This Florida native isn't likely to be found elsewhere in the U.S., but if you're in Central or Southeast Florida, look out! They love to build webs in shrubs, scrub oak, palmettos, and rosemary. Their bite causes muscle spasms.



4. WOLF SPIDER

These ground dwellers are nocturnal and typically grow to a length of at least one-inch. Their upper stomach is emblazoned with a symbol that looks

like the Union Jack. The good news is that a bite from a wolf spider won't kill you. The bad news is that their bite is extremely painful, and if you happen to be allergic to their venom, you may experience other unpleasant symptoms.

5. TARANTULA



Tarantulas have a very bad reputation, which is at least partially due to The Brady Bunch showcasing them as dangerous in a popular episode that first aired in 1972. The truth is that yes, they are dangerous, but they're not deadly like some of the other spiders on this list. Despite this, it's probably best not to handle them as depicted above unless you have experience with these arachnids. No one is known to have died via a tarantula bite. If one bites you, though, you're going to be in excruciating pain near the bite site for several days.



6. BROWN WIDOW

Photo by Faris Algosaiibi/Flicker

Yet another member of the venomous widow family, the brown widow is perhaps the least dangerous of the group. Still, this spider has the ability to harm you. Studies show that their bite usually causes a lot of pain but not much else. In at least one recent case, though, an individual bitten by a black widow spider had to be hospitalized. Adult brown widows are smaller than their black and red cousins, but they still have the distinctive hourglass mark.



7. HOBO SPIDER

Image: Dr. Lee Ostrom, Wiki CC

These spiders tend to reach a length of approximately ½ inch, and there are markings on their abdomen that are chevron-shaped. They're mostly found in the Western U.S., and their bite can be extremely nasty. First, a blister will form about one day after the bite. Next, the blister opens and becomes an oozing ulcer. Other symptoms include a horrible headache, short-term memory loss, fatigue, nausea, weakness, and damaged eyesight.

HOW TO AVOID THESE DANGEROUS SPIDERS

Now that you know what the most dangerous seven look like and what their bites can do, it's time to figure out how to quickly identify and avoid them. All of these spiders can be found anywhere from deep in the woods to inside your home.

Always be careful when you sit on or disturb fallen trees and tree limbs, logs, and rock piles. Keep your eyes open for spider webs while walking through the woods and do your best to steer clear of them. Remember: most spiders aren't going to act in an aggressive manner unless you antagonize them.

Wolf Spiders come out at night and hang out on the ground. They can be found anywhere in the U.S., but they're especially prevalent in South Carolina. With this in mind, it pays to be careful when you're camping, especially if you decide to sleep under the stars.

THE 4 MOST DANGEROUS U.S. SNAKES

North America is home to numerous venomous snakes. If you're staying in the U.S., though, there are four varieties you'll want to keep in mind while walking through the woods.



1. RATTLESNAKES

There's little in life that's more terrifying than hearing the distinctive rattle of a rattlesnake. If the rattlesnake in question happens to be of the Mojave variety, this fear becomes even worse. That's because Mojave rattlesnakes are the deadliest of their entire family, and they don't need any provocation to come after you.

There are 32 main species and 83 known subspecies of rattlesnakes in the U.S., which range in size from 16 inches to 7 feet long. Their bite destroys tissue and prevents blood from clotting. They can strike from much longer than expected distances, so clear out if you hear or see a rattlesnake nearby.



2. WATER MOCCASINS (AKA COTTONMOUTHS)

Whether you call it a cottonmouth or a water moccasin, the end result is the same. These snakes may not be as aggressive as many of their venomous cousins, but if they choose to lash out, they can inflict a bite on you that will turn into gangrene without proper medical attention. These snakes are typically 30 to 48 inches in length, and they tend to live in the wetlands of the Southeast.



3. CORAL SNAKES

Coral snakes are related to cobras, and they have the most dangerous amount of venom strength in the United States. They can be found in the Southern part of the country, anywhere from Florida to Arizona. Because they're relatively small at less than 39 inches, it's not common for a coral snake to break the skin. But if they do, you're in serious trouble.

A single bite can paralyze your breathing muscles. Without immediate medical assistance, you'll die from respiratory failure within a few hours. Sadly, some people need a large dose of antivenom to survive this bite, but the U.S. doesn't manufacture antivenom anymore. As a result, you must stay as far away from coral snakes as possible because even top-notch medical help may not be able to save your life after a bite.



4. COPPERHEADS (AKA HIGHLAND MOCCASINS)

If you're in the Eastern U.S., your biggest snake risk will involve a copperhead. Also known as a highland moccasin, these snakes are less toxic than the other species on this list, but they're also the most likely to bite. Fortunately, the worst thing that most people experience after a copperhead bite is pain.

You can prevent a bite in most cases by remaining aware of your surroundings. Copperheads don't

with them or come too close, they will do so in self-defense. Most snakes slither away when they encounter humans, but not copperheads. They will freeze and try to blend into their environment. Never step in the woods of the Eastern U.S. without taking a look first.

AVOIDING A SNAKE BITE

Only one of the species on this list, the Mojave rattlesnake, seeks out confrontations with humans. All of the others can be avoided relatively easily by paying close attention to your surroundings. If you do get bitten, don't take any chances; seek medical help immediately.

THE 6 MOST DANGEROUS U.S. PLANTS

Hopefully, you're already well-versed in how to identify and avoid poison ivy, poison sumac, and poison oak (and if you're not, definitely look into these three plants today). Unfortunately, there's much more to fear in the U.S. wilderness than a plant that causes an itchy reaction. The following six plants are so dangerous they might kill you, and they can often be found growing freely in the woods.



1. WHITE HELLEBORE

Image: Walter Sigmund, Wiki CC

Despite the name, this herb has greenish-yellow flowers. White Hellebore plants grow up to seven feet and enjoy wet areas and cold climates. Watch out if you're in Alaska or Maine! The roots and seeds are poisonous and can cause paralysis, loss of sight, vomiting, and death.



2. POKE BERRY

Photo by Indiana Ivy Nature Photographer/Flickr

These berries might look tasty, especially when you notice that birds eat them without any issues. But whether they're black, purple, or green, never ingest them under any circumstances. The seeds of these berries cause a violent reaction in people. A single bite can affect your nervous system, cause severe vomiting, paralyze your breathing muscles, and lead to death.

These plants are typically 6 feet tall. They thrive in Texas, Kansas, Illinois, Florida, and Maine.



3. OLEANDER

Oleander can be found throughout the U.S. in the woods and in neighborhoods. The leaves and stems emit a poisonous sap that stays present even after the flower has dried up. Anyone who is exposed to this sap can expect a variety of unpleasant symptoms, including diarrhea, coma, excessive salivation, seizures, and possibly death.

SPECIAL NOTE: Parents should be aware that these flowers are commonly grown near schools and playgrounds. Educate your kids to keep them safe!



4. ROSE CAMPION

Have you ever started violently sneezing while walking through the woods or a grain field? It's possible you encountered Rose Campion. This reaction is bad enough, but if you ingest this plant's poison instead of inhaling it, you could experience sharp spinal pain, vomiting, an acute headache, and digestive tract irritation.



5. WATER HEMLOCK

This plant is found in damp areas, especially swamps. It can stand as tall as 8 feet, and it attracts victims with a very noticeable aroma that is similar to horse-radish or artichokes. Once it lures you in, it can kill you in a short period of time. Ingestion of the plant, its roots, or any water that's been poisoned by water hemlock will bring about colicky pains, unconsciousness, convulsions, vomiting, and possibly death.



6. GARDEN SPURGE

This herb grows to be 24 to 36 inches tall. The fruit that grows within the Garden Spurge is highly dangerous. Fortunately, the pungent smell of the plant's milky juice tries to warn people away. You're most likely to encounter Garden Spurge in Texas, New Jersey, North Carolina, and California.

Side effects of exposure vary depending on whether it touched your skin or was ingested. If the milky substance gets on your skin, you'll endure weeks of pimples, itching, and redness. If you ingest any of the seeds, expect to deal with diarrhea, vomiting, and inflammation of the stomach and mouth. Ingesting several seeds can cause a nervous disorder, unconsciousness, and/or death.

AVOIDING ISSUES WITH THESE PLANTS

Much like with the spiders and snakes, awareness is one of the biggest keys to survival. Many people smell or touch interesting looking plants. If you get lost in the woods, you might also be tempted to eat flowers, berries, mushrooms, etc. But unless you know whether or not these potential food sources are safe, you're taking a really big risk.

Study these images and any localized field guides to poisonous plants, berries, and mushrooms in your specific area. And remember, when in doubt, leave it alone.

AGGRESSIVE SMALLER ANIMALS OF NOTE

Smaller animals and insects can become aggressive because they're ill, provoked, or typically have a bad attitude to begin with. They might not seem as scary as bigger mammals such as bears and wolves, but that doesn't mean they don't present a big risk.

1. RABID ANIMALS

If an animal becomes rabid, it instantly turns into a threat. For example, squirrels might normally run past you, but a rabid squirrel could bite. Although there is no known case of rabies transmission from a squirrel to a human, this bite is still going to be painful and could become infected. Therefore, if you encounter any animals that are acting oddly, including seeming overly lethargic or weirdly aggressive, stay as far away as possible.



2. SCORPIONS

Photo: Musides, Wikimedia CC

Okay, you're probably not going to run into a scorpion in the middle of the woods. But if you live in the Southwest, the desert is basically your version of the woods. These creatures can be extremely dangerous, especially the Arizona Bark variety (pictured above). Scorpions typically try to get away from people, but if they feel provoked, they'll attack. Their sting can produce many issues such as convulsions, difficulty breathing, frothing at the mouth, and muscle spasms. Death can also occur, although it's quite rare.



3. AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES AND YELLOW JACKETS

Yellow Jackets are mean as hell and Africanized Honey Bees (AKA killer bees) are even more aggressive. Yellow Jackets have huge underground nests, which makes it all too easy for humans to stumble upon them and get stung to death. In fact, if they get upset with someone, they are likely to form a swarm of hundreds or even thousands of their colony members. Each wasp will have one purpose; stinging you as many times as possible. Even if you're not allergic, that many stings in such a short period of time could kill you.

Africanized Honey Bees don't have as much sting potency as Yellow Jackets, but that really doesn't matter because they will attack anyone and anything

that comes within a quarter mile of their hive. This is especially true if something has agitated them. Even worse, it takes 24 hours for them to settle down. Therefore, you could easily come across a swarm of killer bees that sting you relentlessly until you die without having done anything wrong or ever even being within eyeshot of their home.



4. WOLVERINES

Some wolverines will grow to be as large as a medium-sized dog. Others will stay closer to a small dog's size. Either way, there's a very good reason that an X-Men character was named after these beasts. They're vicious and will go after prey without exhibiting any fear. If they're big enough, mad enough, or happen to have a buddy with them, a wolverine could conceivably cause enough damage to kill a human. This has never happened that we know of, but that doesn't mean a wolverine won't attack you if you provoke it.

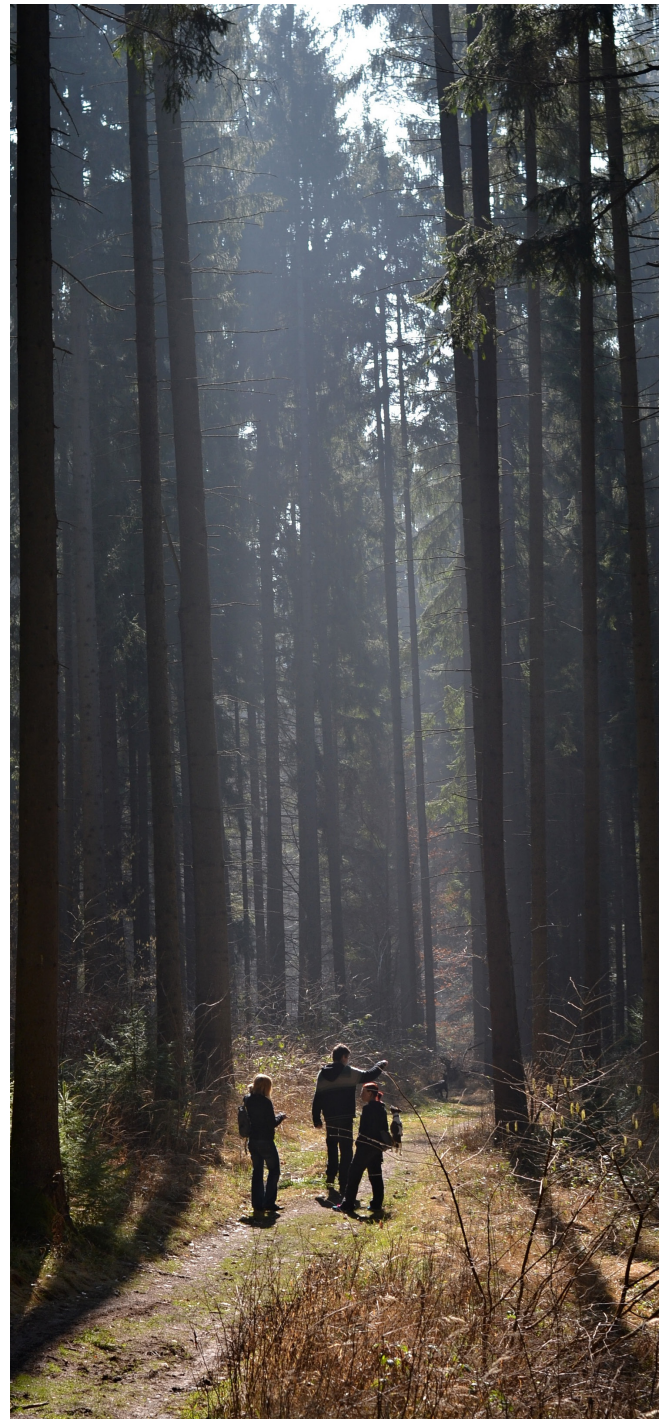
STAYING SAFE FROM SMALLER ANIMALS AND INSECTS

Any animal or insect has the potential to get angry at a human. Not all of them have the ability to cause any serious harm, but that doesn't mean you should take this subject lightly. For example, would a bite from a non-rabid chipmunk kill you? Not unless the bite becomes seriously infected. But could that bite cause pain that makes your trip into the woods much less fun? Absolutely. The same is true of a bite from a non-venomous snake.

And, of course, there are hundreds (perhaps even thousands) of other creatures to be aware of, including fire ants. The cold hard truth is that humans may have taken over the planet, but many of earth's other species are ready and willing to inflict harm on us if we get in their way.

Don't let yourself become seriously ill or even die because you don't understand the danger in the woods. Educate yourself, carry a localized field guide with you, and be prepared to flee for medical assistance, if needed.

As always, we want to remind you to let someone else know where you plan to go, and don't forget to carry some emergency supplies, including a cellphone or a satellite phone. By taking these precautions, you can greatly reduce your risk of dying from one of the hidden dangers in the woods.





Top Six 9mm Carry Guns to Live With

We've discussed our favorite "shirt pocket" guns before on these pages, and someday we may have to update our nominees for that super fun segment of micro-handguns. Our goal with this article is a bit different, though.

Now, there are dozens of highly compact, ultra-reliable choices out there designed for the CCW market. And if carrying is all you intend to do with these weapons, then you're certain to find a suitable weapon that fits your criteria. The problem with many of the handguns designed to be super compact is, well, we don't know how else to say it... they shoot like crap.

To be fair, these guns weren't designed to be a pleasure to shoot at the range, nor were they designed to be tack-driving target pistols. They were designed to be small, lightweight, and fire reliably when called upon. Given those simple criteria, we concede that these weapons do meet the minimal expectations.

The thing is, we're not real fond of guns like these. Why? Generally speaking, we find that a gun that's fun to shoot generates many more practice



hours, familiarity, and proficiency. Guns that are a pleasure to shoot simply get more use, bottom line. That usage equates to more training and familiarity.

Think about it; this is the gun you will carry on your person throughout the day. Shouldn't it be the gun you're most comfortable with? Instead, what we've noticed is that many concealed carry license holders tend to carry a weapon they only value for how small and unobtrusive it is.

For us, simply going all "micro" doesn't make a gun worth owning, much less carrying as your personal defense weapon. North American Arms makes one of the smallest pocket pistols you're going to find anywhere. And in all honesty, it shoots much better than you'd expect. The point is, that doesn't necessarily make this .22 Mag revolver a good candidate for your next carry gun.

When it comes to concealed carry, size most certainly does matter. But rather than getting the largest caliber possible, or the smallest pistol available, the tricky part is the overall balance that your compact handgun strikes. Ultimately, it comes down to finding the perfect gun for you. Simple factors like your physical size, how you prefer to carry, and the size of your hands will heavily influence what handgun fits you to a "T."

The most important factor is that you put in the work to find that perfect pistol. The good news is, with so many great models available, you're sure to find at least one candidate that you like to carry, yes... but also to shoot. As you've probably gathered by this point, we strongly encourage you to keep searching until you find a weapon that fulfills all of your criteria and puts a smile on your face.

What Makes an All-Around CCW?

At this point, you might be wondering what exactly is this magic balance that we're droning on about.



Let's boil it down to the essentials.

In our book (or article, as happens to be the case here), the most important criteria for an all-around compact pistol is that you shoot well with it. After all, while we hope that we'll never have to actually use these weapons in self-defense, we should plan to send plenty of lead downrange with these guns, both for practice and for fun.

Thus, a great compact handgun should feel comfortable in your hands. The term that comes to mind most often for us is "substantial." Does this gun feel like a serious pistol, despite its size, or too much like a dangerous, undersized toy?

Some of the weapons in this highly compact class just simply feel too small to get a good grip on. Obviously, this is a factor of hand size and grip technique. Still, if you pick up a weapon and work the action and it just doesn't quite feel safe or comfortable to you, try something a little larger.

The next criterion is, of course, one that we like to call "carryability." Most shoppers in this market make the mistake of putting this first. We agree that size and weight are important considerations, but there's a major caveat. If you really love a compact weapon, you will find a way to carry it.

There are tons of holster configurations out there, many designed to conceal specific models. As long as you don't get too hung up on a certain type of holster solution, you can find an acceptable carry method for the compact weapon of your choice.

Lastly, it's key that you have a very high degree of confidence in the weapon you decide to carry, not just that it's reliable but that you are very proficient with it. It seems obvious, yet we've found that, in practice, it gets surprisingly short shrift.

We submit that it's actually very easy to fall into this mindset. Most shooters have a handgun they really love to shoot and tend to think of that as



their primary weapon, at least psychologically. In reality, that faithful old 1911 at home is the backup weapon, while the smaller CCW in your waistband is the one you're literally betting your life on in a pinch.

With that said, you should feel as much confidence in your carry weapon as you do with any other handgun in your arsenal. Sure, it seems like a tall task, but one that's made easier by a very wide, very high-quality selection of firearms in this market.

With the goal of helping you narrow down the field a bit, we've compiled a list of what we believe are the best compact handguns to live with, day in and day out. This list is not exhaustive, and it's quite possible that the ideal gun for you isn't listed here. But we urge you to take a look at these models early in the process, if for no other reason than to get some solid benchmarks.

Springfield XDs - 9mm



If you've done a lot of shopping for a full-sized duty pistol, you're probably familiar with this lineage of handguns (several on this list, in fact). Springfield

Armory's XD series has been a fan favorite in the non-Glock polymer guns class for many years.

Building upon the legendary XD namesake, this single stack, striker-fired pistol fills a very critical and popular slot in Springfield's batting order, and it does so with the confidence-inspiring precision you've come to expect from the XD lineup.

Of course, we must take a moment to note that the XD models weren't designed or made by Springfield Armory. They're actually Croatian guns, distributed in the US by Springfield Armory.

Technicalities aside, the XDs is a top-seller in the US concealed carry market for good reason. With a 7-round flush fitting magazine, the XDs packs a lot of firepower into a very compact and ultra-reliable package.

At 23 ounces, the XDs 9mm isn't the lightest gun on the list, but that weight might just be part of why this gun shoots so nicely. Bottom line is, if you like the feel of the full-sized XD, this gun will feel very natural to you.

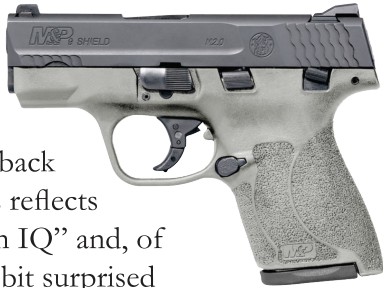
The XDs comes with both the 7-round flush and extended 8-round magazine, like others in this class. Some older models actually came with a 9-round magazine as well, still available on the aftermarket. Grip width, according to Springfield, is .9 inches.

The XDs has ambidextrous magazine releases, as well as fiber optic front sights. Unlike its competitors, the XDs does have a built-in accessory rail for lights, lasers, etc., which we of course do like very much.

Retail: \$450

M&P M2.0 Shield - 9mm

This is perhaps the most popular carry pistol for NSRA subscribers, based on your feedback and questions. This reflects your very high "gun IQ" and, of course, we're not a bit surprised that this rock-solid, no-nonsense, American made compact handgun appeals to you.



The M&P Shield is in every way a direct competitor with the XDs, to the point of being almost the same dimensions, width, and weight. Both the Shield and XDs debuted in 2012, get a lot of praise for their trigger-feel, and both are excellent firearms.

Now let's look at what makes them different. For starters, the Shield is designed and manufactured in the USA. The Shield also has a thumb safety, a feature that many users find reassuring in a carry weapon. The Shield has high visibility 3-dot sights with the ability to make windage adjustments on the front and rear.

The Shield in 9mm comes with two magazines: a 7-round flush mag and an 8-round extended magazine that makes it more comfortable for those with larger hands.

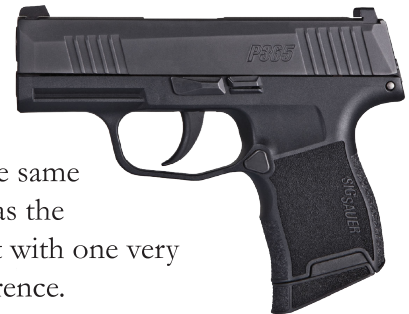
The magazine release on the M&P isn't "ambidextrous" but can be converted from right to left easily. Another small thing that we get lots of questions about is that the Shield does not have a built-in accessory rail. In fact, most guns designed for the conceal carry market don't have rails, as any attachments would prevent them from fitting into concealable holsters.

The 2.0 version, released in 2017, has a few nice upgrades that are worth springing for, such as front slide serrations for press-checking, extra stippling on the grips, and an upgraded trigger. Generally, the price difference is about \$20 bucks, much less than the cost of a trigger upgrade.

Retail: \$399

Sig Sauer P365 - 9mm

Here you have it, yet another pocket-sized polymer gun that's roughly the same size and weight as the competition, but with one very substantial difference.



Somehow, some way, Sig was able to fit 10 rounds of 9mm ammo into a magazine that's no larger than the typical 6-round single-stack. As you can imagine, this marvel of modern engineering is the major headline when it comes to the P365.

Aside from magically fitting 4 extra rounds into a sub-compact magazine, there's lots to like about P365 that's not quite as extraordinary. If you're already a Sig fan, you'll like this pistol's beefy slide release and takedown lever. The magazine release isn't ambidextrous, but it is swappable from the right to the left side.

When it comes to the weapon itself, it's a pretty familiar setup. The P365 is a well-built and reliable pistol, striker-fired with a polymer frame. It weighs in at just under 18 ounces, with an overall width of 1 inch. If you're looking for where they hid the extra ammo capacity, well, we can't find it either.

If you're a Sig Sauer devotee or you just want maximum capacity, the P365 may be on the pricier end of the spectrum, but you know you are getting a great gun with 10+1 capacity.

Retail: \$525

Ruger LC9s - 9mm



This striker-fired sibling of the very popular LC9 really sums up what Ruger has come to symbolize in the marketplace in recent years: Cutting-edge tech, sleek designs, high marks for reliability, and all of it bundled up in a very practical and economical package.

What really sets this version apart from its older brother isn't the hammer versus striker mechanism; specifically, it's the trigger. That's not to say there's something wrong with the original LC9's trigger. As striker fired handguns have really taken over the market, shooters have come to expect a certain trigger feel.

The common knock on the older LC9 trigger is that the break was relatively far back, something that Ruger addressed with the LC9s. And by all accounts, they did a bang-up job with the new trigger. It's smooth with a nice bit of take-up before you hit the wall, then a solid break and reset.

Apart from the trigger and firing mechanism, the LC9 and LC9s are pretty much identical in size, frame, and weight. With a 7-round magazine, the LC9s is right in-line with the XDs and Shields of the world, yet significantly lighter at 17.2 ounces. This Ruger is also significantly less expensive than its competitors, retailing for around \$400.

The real strength of the LC9s is in its shootability. Many users feel like they hit better with this gun and chances are they do. It's very accurate, of course (as it is a Ruger, after all), but we believe it's the upgraded trigger on this model that really helps shooters dial in.

It's lightweight, the dimensions are right on the money for a concealed carry single-stack, and you can get just about any color you like. Seriously, take a look at Ruger's website; there are a surprising number of color options. If you want a great value without having to give up anything to get it, the LC9s is probably your best bet.

Retail: \$399

Glock 43 - 9mm

You didn't think we could actually leave this iconic firearms manufacturer off the list, did you?



Glock was pretty late to the party when it comes to single stacks, and even then, their offering didn't make a huge splash. But here's the thing, we can't leave this fairly unremarkable pistol out because it shoots like a Glock.

When it comes to size and weight, the Glock 43 is right there in the sweet spot, roughly the same size as the LC9s, same weight, etc. In fact, both the Glock 43 and LC9s are on the thinner end of the spectrum, which really helps them in terms of being easy to carry. All in all, the 43 is essentially thinner, single stack version of the insanely popular Glock 26. It's about 3 ounces lighter than the 26 (unloaded, of course) at 18 ounces, and the quarter inch of width that's been chopped off really helps it ride in your holster without making you aware of its presence.

On the flip side, it's missing about 9 rounds that you get with the 26. The most common knock against the 43 is that it comes with a 6-round standard magazine. Of course, there are those who say, "if you can't hit it with 6 rounds, you have no business carrying a pistol anyway."

We tend to disagree, since we've always thought the correct number of rounds to keep in a magazine is exactly as many as it takes. Either way, the 43 starts you 1 round behind the competitors on this list. It's also not the cheapest on the list, coming in at \$499.

Still, this is a great concealed carry gun that doesn't surrender anything when it comes to range worthiness. If you are a Glock fan, this is an extremely familiar gun in terms of function. Even if you're one of those anti-Glock types, we highly recommend you shoot it for comparison's sake.

Retail: \$499

Ruger LCR - 9mm



You know us, we love to throw at least one curveball in for the wheel gun faithful. Following our theme, we've selected this innovative little 9mm revolver from Ruger.

There's really nothing all that traditional about this weapon, besides the name on the side and the rotating cylinder that holds your ammo. The LCR is a double-action only hammerless design, which is something you don't typically expect with a wheel gun.

When it comes to weight, this revolver comes in at 17 ounces, which puts it right in line with the semi-autos on this list. The sights are one of the LCR series' strong suits, integrated into the top of the frame. The double-action trigger is also very nice and smooth, with no gunsmithing required to achieve it.

For a sub 2-inch barrel, this gun is surprisingly accurate and fun to shoot. The cylinder actually requires moon clips, which are included, of course. The LCR also comes with very nice Hogue grips, which really help give you a solid grip on a gun with surprising recoil.

Most of us think of 9mm as a smaller round, but

from semi-automatics. It's a different story when you put one of these high-pressure rounds through a revolver.

At any rate, Ruger has done an excellent job making an extremely sleek revolver, with no hammer to get hung up on, that's quite fun to shoot. The drawbacks (yes, there are a few) are the 5-round capacity, the recoil, and the fact that carrying extra ammo for a revolver just simply isn't very convenient. Another is price, since the LCR retails for around \$550.

Still, if you're looking for something a little different, the LCR 9mm is definitely that. Extremely concealable, compatible with all your extra 9mm ammo, and fun to shoot, the LCR is snappy little futuristic revolver.

Retail: \$550

The Whole Package

As you can gather from this list, the demand for single-stack, micro carry guns has been exploding in recent years, driving a ton of innovation into this hot segment. The guns on this list represent some of the top examples in the category, but there are so many others.

Frankly, we could double the number of entries and still be leaving out some very strong contenders. And that's not just us seeking to smooth things over with anyone whose favorite carry gun didn't make the cut.

The Kahr PM9 and the Beretta Nano are just a couple of the very worthy models that come to mind. By all means, don't stop shopping until you find a micro 9mm that you absolutely love, both to carry and to shoot. If possible, find a range that rents out some popular micro carry models and put a few magazines through them before you make your decision.

If you are serious about everyday carry, it's worth conducting all the research you can possibly stand to. Heck, you might even decide on the perfect type of carry configuration before you make up your mind on what model to put in it. That's perfectly OK, shopping for new handguns is a tough job... but hey someone's gotta suffer through it.

LOST IN THE PARK: PLEASE DON'T DRINK URINE IN THE DESERT

Kiwi woman drank her own urine as she prepared for death in US desert

TOM HUNT
Last updated 13:17, May 27 2018



INSTAGRAM/CLAIRE NELSON

Claire Nelson spent three days with a broken pelvis trapped in a US desert before being rescued.

A Kiwi who drank her own urine to survive three days stranded and wounded in the desert says it tastes like bad, flat beer.

Photo: ScreenCapture

At some point, we've all been frustrated by one of those stubborn wives' tales that just won't die, no matter how many times they're debunked. You know, like the one about not swimming until 30 minutes after eating, or that aluminum cans are linked to Alzheimer's. Those aren't true, by the way.

Well, one of the worst pieces of desert survival advice struck again in May when a tourist from New Zealand got lost in... Joshua Tree National Park.

If you've been following our "Lost in the Park" series, you've probably noticed that Joshua Tree is the setting of several contemporary survival stories. Not only is it vast and arid, but the park has a terrain that is extremely difficult to navigate, something Claire Nelson learned the hard way.

While hiking on her own through the park (a very risky choice), she slipped and fell over 20 feet from atop a boulder and broke her pelvis. Badly wounded, Claire couldn't walk to get help and had to endure 104°F heat with no supplies and only her t-shirt to shield her face from the sun for 3 days. Luckily, she was found by US Park Rangers before it was too late.

yet sensational part of the story. Clearly not an NSRA reader, Nelson resorted to drinking her own urine to survive.

In fact, the story actually begins by quoting the survivor as saying it "tasted like bad, flat beer." You know, we're going to have to take her word for it. Whatever the flavor, the fact remains this beverage is listed as a "DO NOT drink" in the Army Field Manual for survival, evasion, and recovery.

The reason is, when considering this last-ditch option, chances are that you're already quite dehydrated. In this case, your urine has a lower concentration of water to everything else in your pee such as salts, minerals and toxins. Thus, it's more likely to increase the rate of dehydration and possible kidney damage.

Best case, drinking urine is somewhat akin to drinking saltwater. Still, TV, movies, and sensationalism in the media will likely never let this bogus survival advice die. Fortunately, in this case, Claire Nelson did survive her ordeal, though drinking her own urine was only a slightly better idea than hiking alone in the desert.

MISSING HIKER

Last contact made on Tuesday May 22, 2018

Suspected location: Cottonwood Springs, Joshua Tree National Park



US Park Rangers of Joshua Tree National Park are searching for missing hiker Claire Nelson. She is a 36 year old white female. She is from New Zealand and has New Zealand accent. She is 5'6" and 140lbs with shoulder length blonde hair. She has brown hiking boots and possibly a blue backpack / cambelback.

Last contact with Nelson was made on Tuesday. She intended to hike to Lost Palms Oasis and return on Wednesday.

If you have any information, please contact the park at: (760) 367-5501

14 Claire's story is remarkable in its own right, but leave it to the news media to focus on a mostly irrelevant,

15

BEST TENTS FOR CAMPING, BACKPACKING, AND DOOMSDAY

Whether you prefer to set up a single campsite for several days or you typically backpack to new areas daily, it's very important to ensure that you have the right tent on your side. This will become even more critical if the tent you choose today ends up serving as your shelter during a doomsday scenario.



The truth is that there are way too many tents available for anyone to ever honestly assess all of them. In fact, this overwhelming number of options can make it difficult for even the savviest survivalist consumer to hone in on the right selection for their specific needs.

That's where this guide comes in. We've looked through hundreds of tents to present a list of some of the very best options for camping, backpacking, and bugging out. We've also placed a special emphasis on finding high quality offerings that won't require you to empty your bank account or go into debt.

Let's begin by focusing on tents that are ideal for camping. Many of these will also be a great choice for a doomsday scenario, but they might be too

BEST TENTS FOR CAMPING

What should you look for in a camping tent? For most people, it's spaciousness, ease of set-up, and durability. Each of the following five tents perform admirably in these categories. They also offer perks that can't be found in tents that are cheaper or lighter weight. If you spend most of your time camping in one spot but don't need a true family-sized tent, you'll want to make a selection from this list.

1. Eureka Copper Canyon 6 Tent



Do you live somewhere that doesn't typically have harsh winters such as Florida or Southern California? This three-season tent from Eureka presents a solid option with a reasonable price point (\$231 on Amazon). This tent has been made to sleep six people comfortably and can accommodate cots. The center height of seven-feet allows people to stand fully upright. We also love the windows on each side for added ventilation and visibility.

On the downside, the Copper Canyon Tent is not suitable for winter weather. This may not be an issue right now for campers and backpackers, but if you try to use this after the SHTF, you'll have to steer clear of any area that typically gets lots of snow and very cold temperatures.

2. REI Co-Op Kingdom Tent 6



Do you have a large family and the need for some privacy? This tent has separate rooms to meet your needs. It can sleep up to six people and has a ceiling height of more than six-feet. The sheer amount of room inside this tent makes it a clear favorite for many campers and survivalists. It's a bit pricey at \$439 from REI, but if that's in your budget, this will provide a lot of bang for your buck.

We absolutely love the versatile rainfly. The only downside with the Co-Op Kingdom Tent is, ironically, one of its major selling points. We all want to be able to stand up inside a tent. The design of this offering from REI means that you can do this throughout the tent instead of only in the middle. At the same time, this means the tent may not hold up as well in very windy conditions.

3. Coleman Red Canyon 8-Person Tent



Do you need to accommodate a lot of people for a budget friendly price? Coleman's family camping tent can sleep up to eight, and it also has three rooms. The Red Canyon is 17' x 10' and has a center height of 72 inches. The included Weathertec system helps keep rain out, and you can also adjust airflow with the adjustable venting system.

For only \$140 on Amazon, this tent is practically a steal. Of course, there are a few negatives that accompany this awesome price point. First off, the tent is made with cheaper materials than pricier tents. Secondly, the rainfly only provides partial coverage. If you can't afford more and need the space, though, you could do a lot worse than the Red Canyon.

4. The North Face Wawona 6 Tent



Does your family need to be able to set-up a tent very quickly and with minimal knowledge? This tent is so easy to put together that you can easily teach every family member how to do it! It even comes with a color-coded system to ensure there won't be any mistakes.

We love the wide opening and separate pole that allows you to store important items such as bicycles. We don't love the fact that this tent comes with a single wall design. In other words, it will keep you dry, but you can't remove the rainfly when the weather is nice. As a result, the inside of the tent may collect some moisture. On the bright side, the Wawona comfortably sleeps six and retails for only \$399.

5. REI Co-Op Half Dome 4 Plus (Crossover Tent – Camping/Backpacking)



If you'd like a nice crossover tent that's sturdy enough for camping but lightweight enough to easily backpack with, then you'll definitely want to consider the Co-Op Half Dome. This newly redesigned offering from REI is spacious, sleeps four, and has been made with quality and durability in mind.

At \$329, this tent may be a bit too pricey for people who plan to use it solely for camping. After all, there are several other options you can get for a similar price point that actually offer more room and other perks. However, if you want a crossover tent, this is by far one of the best options available today.

BEST TENTS FOR BACKPACKING

Backpacking tents are almost like their own species of tent. They might have some physical similarities to camping tents, but they're designed to be as lightweight as possible. They're also meant to be set-up and broken down quickly and frequently, as opposed to being left in place for an extended stay at one campsite. There is a tradeoff in perks when you go for a tent that's super lightweight, but if you're a backpacker, you know that the tradeoff is worth it.

6. Big Agnes Tiger Wall UL2



Looking for a lightweight, high quality tent for backpacking? One of our top recommendations is this Tiger Wall tent from Big Agnes that sleeps two. It's only 2 pounds 4 ounces, so it's definitely not a burden to carry as you hike from one area to the next. The mesh front wall provides a lot of ventilation too. The spacious interior would make this extremely comfortable for a single backpacker.

This tent retails for \$399. One negative thing to be aware of is that the floor of the tent is very thin. If it's a cold or wet day, you'll want to make sure you add some extra insulation beneath your sleeping mat or sleeping bag. Some people have reported that the zipper gets stuck too, but that seems to be an occasional defect that should be replaced, not an overall issue with every Tiger Wall tent.

7. Zpacks Duplex Ultralight Two Person Tent



This tent may not look like much due to its transparent design, but it has several perks that backpackers are looking for. You'll be able to sleep up to two people comfortably, and the floor is solid. The materials are thin, but they've been made to withstand rain and wind. This allows backpackers to carry a tent that's only 21 ounces.

One of our least favorite things about this tent is the price: \$599. We also don't care for the opaque, see-through color of the base model. If the size, durability, and weight make the Duplex Ultralight an agreeable option otherwise, you can upgrade to a variety of different colors, including camouflage, for an additional fee.

8. MSR Hubba Hubba NX 2-Person Tent



Does ease of set-up play a big role in your tent purchasing decision? If you said yes, this option from MSR is worth carefully considering. It's quite simply one of the easiest backpacking tents to set-up, and it's generally lightweight. You and your tent partner can also come and go without disturbing each other thanks to the tent's two entrances.

We love the StayDry doors and the rainfly. We also love that this tent can be set-up in two configurations, which gives you the option to shave off almost 1.5 pounds of carry weight (provided you leave the part of the tent you won't be using at home, that is). What we don't like is that at 3 pounds 7 ounces, the Hubba Hubba is heavier than many backpacking tents. If this isn't a big concern for you, then it's well-worth the \$399 price tag.

9. Six Moon Designs Lunar Solo



This tent is meant for just one person, and it's so popular that it's often sold out. Depending on where you find it, you can expect to pay between \$190 and \$225. The good news is that it's worth either price. This single-walled tent only requires one trekking pole. The carry weight is a mere 24 ounces.

Our favorite things about the Lunar Solo are its bathtub style floor, ample headroom, large vestibule, and easy set-up. Our least favorite things include the fact that you'd need to purchase one for each camper (this is a true one-person tent; you won't want to try to squeeze two people into it) and that it's hard to find. On the plus side, the scarcity of stock helps prove the point that this is a tent that's worth buying.

10. Nemo Hornet 2P Tent



Does weight matter more to you than anything else? Nemo's got you covered with the Hornet – it weighs less than 2 pounds! Fortunately, this tent also has several other perks that make it worthwhile. There's a deep bathtub style floor, two side doors, and lots of airflow. At the same time, it's lightweight enough that one backpacker could easily carry it if they want to have a more spacious tent for themselves.

You can expect to pay \$369 for the Hornet. The biggest drawback for this tent is that it's not roomy enough to truly accommodate two people in a comfortable manner. Also, once you add-on the footprint, you're looking at a trail weight that's closer to 2 pounds 12 ounces. Still, this is very lightweight for the type of quality you'll receive.

BEST TENTS FOR DOOMSDAY

Technically, any of the previously listed tents could be used for a doomsday scenario. They all have their pros and cons, of course, and you'll need to pay close attention to the season rating to determine if one of the tents above is adequate to suit your needs.

Of course, there are also numerous tents that are better equipped for life after the SHTF. In some cases, this means they have special features. In others, it means they're versatile and can work well in a campground or on the trail. For the five listed below, we've opted to look at durable, family-sized tents that are best for a long-term survival set-up.

11. Arctic Oven 12 with Vestibule



For many people, the price tag of \$2,625 makes the Arctic Oven 12 little more than a pipedream, but we'd still be remiss if we didn't mention it. After all, this is an ideal survival tent for those who can afford

it. It's warm enough on the inside to cause people to sweat while they're camping in the middle of winter in the Arctic. Therefore, anyone who lives in a cold climate will be well served by this option.

The true beauty of the Arctic Oven 12 is how spacious it is. There's 152 square feet of livable space, along with a 46 square foot vestibule. It stays very dry inside and is extremely durable in rough weather conditions.

Of course, it also weighs 110 pounds, which is a major negative for anyone who isn't going to set it up once and keep it in place for an extended period of time. The price is the other biggest drawback. But those who will keep this in one place probably can't do much better than the Arctic Oven 12.

12. CORE 10 Person Straight Wall Cabin Tent



Looking for a tent that is spacious like the Arctic Oven but doesn't have an exorbitant price tag? Believe it or not, you can get a durable tent that sleeps 10 for less than \$200 on Amazon. The center height of this roomy tent is 86 inches, and there's a room divider that can offer privacy. This tent is so wide, in fact, it can actually fit two queen air mattresses! The gear loft is also a very nice touch that we love, as is the venting system.

For some, the carry weight of 35.5 pounds will be an issue. It sure beats 110 pounds, though. Of course, there's no way for the CORE 10 Person Straight Wall Cabin Tent to truly compete with all of the Arctic Oven's features. It certainly won't stay as warm, nor does it boast super thick walls. But for less than \$200, it's an amazing value.

13. Ozark Trail 12 Person, 3 Room Instant Cabin Tent



Society may have crumbled, but that doesn't mean your family has to live cramped together like animals in a pen. Ozark Trail offers a nice solution with their 12 x 12, three-room tent. Each room can fit a queen air mattress, so a smaller group of survivalists ranging from three to six people would be able to sleep quite comfortably in this Instant Cabin Tent. It also comes with a rainfly, leak protection, and seven windows that can be opened or fully closed. Retail prices will vary, but Amazon typically offers this tent for approximately \$275. The carry weight is 60 pounds.

Negatives include the wind vent, which can cause the entire awning area to get soaking wet in the rain. Fortunately, the interior rooms of the tent will stay dry even when the area covered by the awning doesn't. This tent doesn't stand up to strong winds very well, either. You can help minimize this issue by taking extra measures to secure it, though.

14. Browning Camping Big Horn Family Tent



This tent from Browning is single standing, has two doors, and can be divided into two rooms. The extra tall height makes it possible to stand upright. The 15 x 10 layout is large enough to house several people and your gear. Even better, it's well-protected from rain, includes great ventilation, and is easy to assemble.

Add all of this to the price tag of \$329 list price or only \$259 on Amazon, and you've got a winner.

Be sure to use the footprint in bad weather conditions. Some people have reported leaking and ground saturation, but not until after several days of steady rain had passed. Our least favorite thing about this tent is the lack of storage pockets; there are only six built into the entire unit.

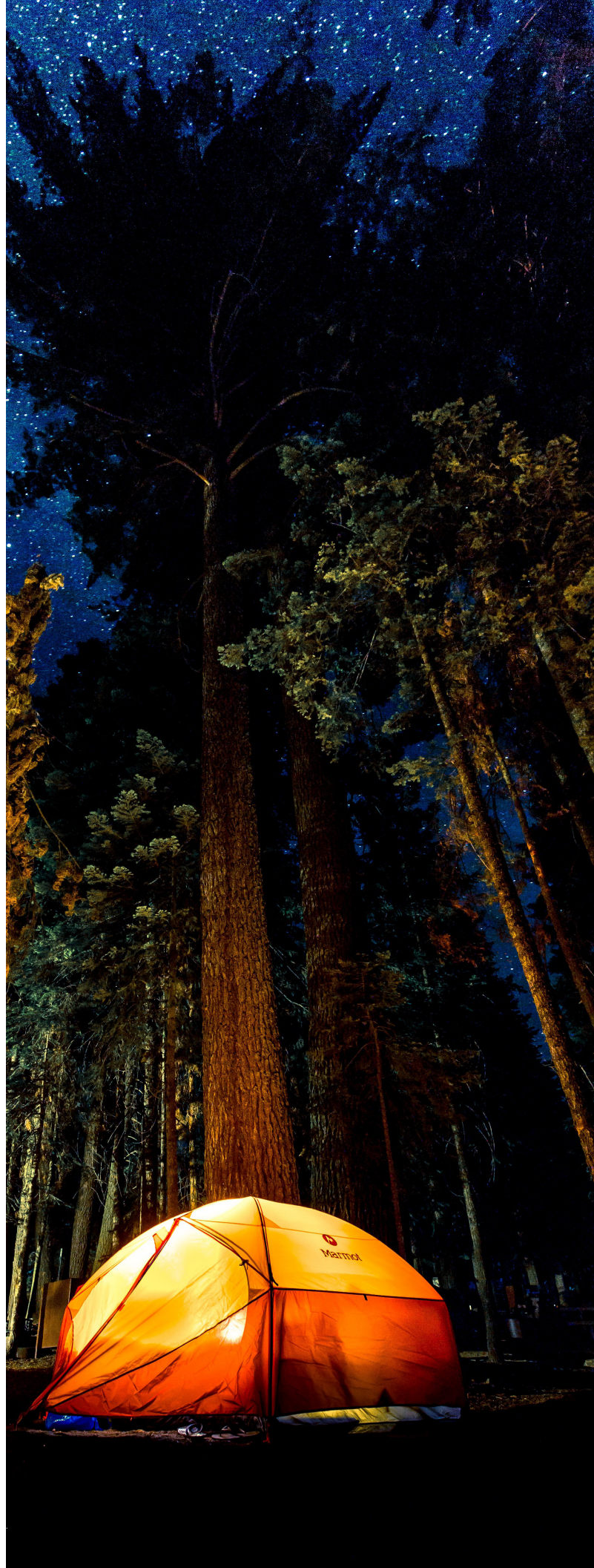
15. NTK Arizona GT



Aside from the Arctic Oven, this just might be the best option for people who will be camping in harsh weather conditions. Granted, it's not meant for snow and frigid temperatures, but it does have a 100% waterproof design and thick enough materials to provide some shelter during a frigid day. The Arizona GT sleeps 9 to 10 people comfortably and can be split into two rooms. Amazon sells it for \$325.

We love the mosquito mesh, the anti-fungus floor material, and the full coverage rainfly. We wish the windows could actually be closed from the inside, though. If bad weather sneaks up on you, you'll have to head outside into the storm to zip up the tent's windows.

And there you have it; 15 of the best tents for camping, backpacking, or doomsday! We hope this guide helps you narrow down your choices so that you can spend less time comparing a virtually endless list of tents and more time actually enjoying your new tent in the woods.



IT'S LIKE HAVING YOUR VERY OWN **HUBBLE TELESCOPE** FOR HUNTING & SHOOTING!

You're looking at one of the most trusted tools by our nation's top snipers.

With the Ranger Spotting Scope you can find and hit targets hundreds of yards out. You can use it to practice your long distance target shooting or of course, looking for that prized six point buck.

The Ranger is both shockproof and water resistant.

When you look through the prism you'll enjoy rich 3D images with an anti-fog lens with no loss of light.

Also, each Ranger Spotting Scope comes equipped with a carrying case and tripod for easy deployment and packing.



RANGER **SPOTTING SCOPE**

SPECIFICATIONS

- 15x — 40x Magnification
See 400% more detail than with standard binoculars
- 50mm Objective Lens with focus adjustment
- Shock-absorbing rubber armor
- Small, ultraportable form factor
Only 9.5" long, with foldable mini-tripod
- Includes rugged carrying case
- Weather-resistant
- Anti-fog lens



MY CRISIS GEAR

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Phone: **800-370-8660** or Online: www.mycrisisgear.com/ranger



 **INSRA**
Liberty. Independence. Patriotism.