

# HARD-CORE ADVENTURE KIT

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## in camp

**WHEN THERE'S NO SUPPORT VEHICLE AND YOU'RE DOING SERIOUS TRAVELLING, EVERY OUNCE COUNTS. IF YOU CAN LEAVE SOMETHING AT HOME, DO IT. EACH PIECE OF GEAR SHOULD HAVE A SECONDARY FUNCTION IF YOU CAN FIND ONE – BUT NEVER SHIRK ON PERFORMANCE OR STRENGTH. All items are responsible for your wellbeing in some way. If you can't bet your life on it, don't take it. A few extra bucks can mean the difference between a good night's sleep or a worm crawling out your arse.** In two years riding from Australia to the Antarctic I beat the crap out of everything in my panniers. Some made it. Some didn't. I've searched the globe for the best gear on earth, and this is what I found.

### 1. MSR HUBBA HUBBA TENT

A freestanding, superlight tent with three setup options, two doors and vestibules, and no-drip entries that keep the inside dry even with the vestibules open. For ultralight adventures just take the fly and footprint (1.44kgs), or if you're worried about the midges take the whole load. If it's a perfect night remove the fly and the whole tent is one giant mosquito net. [www.msrcorp.com](http://www.msrcorp.com)

### 2. KATYDYN MINI WATER PURIFIER (BACKUP)

In most conditions the MSR Miox will do the job, but if the water is sludgy, brown, dribble rocketing out the arse of your nearest jungle village, you'll probably want to pump your water through a secondary filter after you've used the Miox. While the Miox will kill it, the Katydyn Mini will remove it. The silver-impregnated 0.2 Micron ceramic filter removes bacteria and protozoa. Use these two in combination and you'll never get sick.

### 3. MSR MIOX WATER PURIFIER

Developed in conjunction with the military, this mixed-oxidant pocket-sized number purifies without pumping a single stroke. All you need is salt and a few batteries. If you drink the water straight away it does taste a little funny, but leave it overnight and the taste goes away. It purifies without iodine, works well with large volumes of water and is bloody hard to break given there are no moving parts. Inactivates all viruses, bacteria, Giardia, and Cryptosporidium. [www.msrcorp.com](http://www.msrcorp.com)

### 4. INSUL MAX THERMO LITE BEDROLL

Exceptional warmth and a no-nonsense method of inflation. This bedroll packs tiny but doesn't shirk on comfort or insulation. The lightest, smallest, self-inflating mat I've ever met. There are hundreds of options, but this is definitely the best I have found for comfort, size and price. [www.insulmat.com](http://www.insulmat.com).

### 5. ONE PLANET LITE SLEEPING BAG

These fully customisable, four-season, Australian-made bags are known as one of the best in the world. A semi-rectangular bag you can live in without feeling like you're wrapped in a cigar. The V-baffle system prevents cold spots and the Epic fabric assists performance in damp conditions, while protecting the 700 loft goose fill. I still use it at home instead of a doona. [www.oneplanet.com.au](http://www.oneplanet.com.au).

### 6. SEA TO SUMMIT SMALL KITCHEN SET

Sea to Summit gear is mostly designed by Tim McCartney-Snape, one of our most famous Australian adventurers, so all the gear is well tested. The kit holds a chopping board, mini grater, whisk, can opener and heaps of bottles in a 135g package. The fold-out case has extra slots and pockets for further customisation – and a few extra special spices. [www.seatosummit.com.au](http://www.seatosummit.com.au).

### 7. OPTIMUS TERRAPOT COOKSET

Two hard-anodised, scratch-resistant, teflon-coated aluminum pots and a frying pan/plate with grooved bottoms for increased friction. The stuff bag is designed as a thermos for food and stops the pots from rubbing together so you don't get nasty metal filings in your food. I've left rice for almost 20 minutes while I cooked my main dish and it barely changed temperature – it actually continued cooking my rice. The gripper is plastic to reduce weight. [www.optimus.se](http://www.optimus.se)

### 8. OPTIMUS NOVA STOVE WITH BOTTLE

Burns on anything (including your bike fuel) – even palm oil. This tiny indestructible stove fits inside the Optimus pots. The magnetic cleaning system makes cleaning easy, plus you don't need to change the jet, even if you change fuel. Very stable, easy to operate and fast priming. Flame is controlled by twisting the green knob at the end of the hose. Awesome when you're wearing gloves and trying to control the flame of a wind-shielded stove. Maximum capacity of the bottle is 400ml. [www.optimus.se](http://www.optimus.se)

### 9. SIGG OUTDOOR CUTLERY

Stainless-steel, space-saving, all-in-one cutlery. The meal stuffers are made of high-grade steel and come with a belt-loop case so you can eat on the run!

### 10. ORIKASO DISHES

Superlight 1mm thick poly-propylene cups, plates and bowls fold down like origami. Combined they weigh about the same as your bike grips and take up less space than a filter skin. See it to believe it – [www.orikaso.com](http://www.orikaso.com).



# HARD-CORE ADVENTURE KIT

## apparel

**YOUR CLOTHING MUST BE DURABLE, WATERPROOF, COMFORTABLE, MULTIFUNCTIONAL AND LIGHT. Good for on-road twisties, off-road adventuring, comfortable next to a campfire and stylish enough to attract something with breasts.**

### 1. ARAI TOUR X2 HELMET

Darth Vader would be jealous of this helmet. Extremely comfortable with the benefits and safety features of a full-face and the peak of a motocross helmet. Improves control of the bike as you can finally leave both hands on the 'bars instead of using one to protect your eyes from the sun. Removable peak and lining. It's light, enabling you to snap your head 'round in time to spot a crazy Venezuelan truck driver before he rams you down a nearby cliff. [www.araihelmet-europe.com](http://www.araihelmet-europe.com).

### CUSTOM-MADE EARPLUGS

Don't knock 'em until you've tried 'em. I'm embarrassingly deaf for a 27-year-old. If you don't use them, start practising sign language, and get used to people saying, "Ahhh ... don't worry about it." I hate it when people say that. Make sure you get your headphones/communication device moulded into the earplugs.

### 2. DRIRIDER RALLYCROSS EVO JACKET

A functional waterproof jacket with everything you need to feel like a real enduro rider, and for any occasion from the desert to the dancefloor. I upgraded mine with stronger armour and a built-in bladder. Great pockets for your GPS/gloves/raingear, etc. Reflective lines for better night visibility. Plus it's very light. It's a little annoying when removing the liner, but worth every cent for its functionality. Cordura heavy-duty chassis, mesh panel in front, sides and rear, plus pre-curved arms for a better fit. The sleeves zip off allowing you to wear it as a vest. [www.dririder.com.au](http://www.dririder.com.au).

### 3. WINTER GLOVES

Hipora, breathable, waterproof lining and warm. That's all I really care about. These ones are also comfortable and well priced. [www.dririder.com.au](http://www.dririder.com.au)

### 4. SUMMER GLOVES

Rallycross Air Mesh are a comfortable, lightweight, mesh-topped glove, A Grade leather and kevlar-reinforced palms with awesome carbon protection for the knuckles. Makes you feel like you could punch Hulk Hogan's head in. [www.dririder.com.au](http://www.dririder.com.au).

### 5. DRIRIDER RALLYCROSS PANTS

Waterproof with good adjustability on the waist and ankles. All-terrain pants with breathable zip vents in the front, elasticised hips, knees and groin, and reinforced inner knee for increased wear resistance (sew in a fake pocket for important documents and spare cash). [www.dririder.com.au](http://www.dririder.com.au)

### ALPINESTARS TECH 5 BOOTS

I started with a pair of leather, high-ankle, Salomon hiking shoes with a solid one-piece sole. These worked fine and protected me from some serious accidents. Over a year my pegs and I slowly destroyed them. One thing you can't afford is a twisted ankle. A mate from Arizona offloaded a pair of Alpinestars Tech 5s on my feet and they lasted me all the way to the Arctic Circle. [www.alpinestars.com](http://www.alpinestars.com).

### 1. ICEBREAKER MID-WEIGHT BALACLAVA

The balaclava slides under your helmet keeping your skull, face and neck warm, protecting those spots that always catch the wind. If you get really cold, flip up your nomad hood underneath the helmet and feel your brain thaw out as your ride through -20C. Just don't try and lick your visor. Your tongue'll probably stick. [www.icebreaker.com](http://www.icebreaker.com).

### 2. ICEBREAKER NOMAD

Fitted hood with long-sleeved thumb loops that secure your sleeve before you slide on your glove. Plus, if you get real cold you can wear the hood under your helmet. This fast became my favourite top and was ultimately stolen in Mexico City by a shifty English crackhead. [www.icebreaker.com](http://www.icebreaker.com).

### ICEBREAKER SINGLET

Packs down small. The best base layer. You never take it off. The shoulder seams are flat-sewn and positioned towards the back to avoid pack rub. [www.icebreaker.com](http://www.icebreaker.com).

### ICEBREAKER SHORT-SLEEVE CREW

This would form part of your first or second layer. Versatile low-bulk top. You would probably wear this most days. [www.icebreaker.com](http://www.icebreaker.com).

### ICEBREAKER TECHTOP

First or second layer. Zip down, or zip up and fold over neck with a lower tail so you don't freeze your arsecheeks off. Also has thumb loops. [www.icebreaker.com](http://www.icebreaker.com).

### 3. ICEBREAKER WING ZIP

Thumb loops that secure your sleeves before sliding on the gloves, high zip neck for easy temperature adjustment and really warm. The second-most popular piece. [www.icebreaker.com](http://www.icebreaker.com)

### ICEBREAKER RAVEN ZIP THROUGH

Wind -resistant jacket. Raven zip through 320g/m2. Ultra-light four-season layering piece with a reflective zip running centre court. The top is damn warm and able to offset freezing temperatures even while riding. This and/or the seal is the final layer for freezing temperatures. Even with a skin layer, two mid-layers and an outer layer your jacket still fits over the top, creating an impermeable layering system that traps your body heat like a vacuum. You ain't gunna get cold. [www.icebreaker.com](http://www.icebreaker.com).

### ICEBREAKER SEAL

On the bike or around a keg of beer this final layering system is going to keep you snug. There is no limit to how many layers you can use. I've used up to seven and still been able to slide into my jacket with ease. The terrain, temperature and season decide what clothes you should take. Make sure you always have enough to stay warm, even if you're wet. [www.icebreaker.com](http://www.icebreaker.com).

### ICEBREAKER LEGGINGS WITH FLY

The leggings alone will increase overall body warmth by a fair margin when nestled in your sleeping bag. When riding they stop the wind from biting into your skin. I wear them through most of the winter. A more comfortable ride - less energy wasted maintaining body warmth. If you plan riding through temperatures lower than -15 for more than a week carry a spare pair and layer them to stop your knees freezing up and the extra layer will still fit inside your boots. [www.icebreaker.com](http://www.icebreaker.com)

### ICEBREAKER BOXERS

I wore two pairs of underpants for over 90,000kms. They only ripped once when I was wedged by an English girl in a French bar in Bolivia after lots of absinthe. After sewing them back together they lasted to Alaska. [www.icebreaker.com](http://www.icebreaker.com).

### ICEBREAKER RACE

Comfortable, lightweight adventure sock. Ultrafine merino loop cushioning around the foot, thin, breathable upper for venting. Packs small. [www.icebreaker.com](http://www.icebreaker.com).

### ICEBREAKER EXPED

High-density merino cushioning next to your skin over entire sock. Tough, abrasion-resistant outer layer. Forward lean to protect bunching. Warm when wet. [www.icebreaker.com](http://www.icebreaker.com).

### 4. MERRELL CHAMELON LL XCR

Breathable, waterproof, ultralight, superstrong and one of the toughest shoes for their size. Contoured heel and oversize toe bumper. Protect your feet. Good multipurpose shoe for hiking/dancing/romancing and occasional riding. [www.merrellboot.com](http://www.merrellboot.com)

### 5. ATHENS CROCS

A flip-flop that won't stink. Double-cushioned, extra-soft footbed, and the standard Croc's circulation nubs are slip-resistant. Non-marking soles, anti-microbial and odor resistant. [www.crocs.com](http://www.crocs.com).

### BITS'N'PIECES

A few other items needing consideration are a good set of boardies or budgie smugglers, and some pants to roll around the fire and pick up ladies with. Preferably pants that can convert to shorts. The more multifunctional your gear the less you need and the less weight you have to carry. Clothing takes up more space than any other item, so pack with necessity in mind. Only take what you need. No-one really cares what you smell like anyway. ■