

TATONKA BARREL BAGS

On my way in for a hunt during a howling Wellington southerly.

Tatonka is a German company based in Dasing that makes a range of outdoor clothing as well as backpacks, tents and numerous other items of outdoor equipment. All design work is done in-house so they can guarantee quality and they back this with a comprehensive two-year warranty on all of their products.

They produce a range of rugged travel barrel bags that can be used in a variety of situations. These range from general travel or transporting gear on your quad to that favourite hunting spot, to a gear stash at a spot you're returning to after being dropped on the tops by helicopter. They would be great in a chopper where their 'fit anywhere' profile would solve the 'awkwardness of packs and boxes' problem.

Tightlines sent me a 65 liter bag (RRP \$149). They are available in four sizes: 45, 65, 85 and 130 liters. The material they are made of is a virtually indestructible, waterproof tarpaulin fabric that can be wiped clean when dirty. There

is a choice of three colours: black, red or yellow (corn). The padded base is made from a heavyweight polyester material with heavy-duty stitching joining everything together. There are several mesh pockets inside the bag and a big-toothed zip closes it up. To test how waterproof the 65-liter bag was, I filled it with gear and left it outside a hut I'd ridden in to during a ferocious Wellington southerly. While the bag itself kept water out, the zip let some moisture in. To be fair, it was an extreme test given that the hut was lashed by rain and hail all night – the bag might just as well have been under water. For general use it would be just fine. The barrel bags can be used like a pack or carried using the sturdy handgrips. A nifty feature is that the pack straps can be unclipped from the bottom of the bag and stowed in a zippered pocket on top when not in use.

The Tatonka barrel bag is a well-made, sturdily constructed piece of kit and a useful addition to your outdoor equipment. With a variety of uses they are well worth the investment. Available at all good outdoor stores. For more information or to find the nearest stockist visit www.tightlines.co.nz.



Made of tough material and able to be carried like a pack, Tatonka barrel bags are great for keeping your gear safe and dry.