



Tree Tents

From conservation research to relaxing, forests should be used for more than just harvesting timber, believes Jason Thawley, which is why he came up with the Tree Tent, a spherical treehouse that offers year-round, above-ground shelter for up to two adults. Three meters in diameter, the cocoon-like structure is formed from hybrid aluminum and steam-bent green ash wood, spanned with a cotton canvas skin. Wool thermal liners provide insulation in cooler temperatures while wood stove, water, and electric options offer extra comfort.

With wooden floor and bunks, a weight of 120 kg, and roughly a day needed for assembly and rigging, the Tree Tent is not for the spontaneous camper. Still, it is designed for easy transport and on-site assembly with minimal, non-permanent impact on its environment. To make his idea a reality, Thawley, founder of the U.K. design and manufacturing studio Luminair, joined forces with his friends Duncan Ritchie, an expert in lightweight engineering, and Alasdair Ritchie, a hot air-balloon and airship engineer.

