

2 Trees + 2 Tarps = Outdoor Bedroom & Living Room Suite!

Previously in Backyard Bushcraft No. 15, I described how to use two tarps to set up a camping shelter that can accommodate a large group of people.

Here I describe a way to create a different two-tarp shelter. This design will not hold as many people as the Backyard Bushcraft No. 15 version. Also, this current design is a little more advanced and complicated to set up. But its advantage is that you get much more headroom. As you see below, this second design even allows you to have furniture inside, thereby creating "living room" and "bedroom" areas! 😊

Step 1: Tie a long piece of paracord between two study tree trunks, using taut line hitches. (Notice the red paracord in the photos below.) There should be flat ground in between the two trees, with no uncomfortable roots or rocks. The height of the paracord should be around the top of your head.

Step 2: Lay tarp #1 on the ground in a diamond shape. Drape one point over the paracord. Using the second tie-outs back on either side of the point, secure it to the paracord using Prusik knots. (See Backyard Bushcraft No. 17 to learn how to tie Prusik knots.) Reverse fold the loose "triangle" section of the tarp back over the paracord. Tarp #1 will look like the tarp shown on the right side of this photo →



Stake out the remaining corners to the ground. Here is what tarp #1 will look like at this stage when viewed from the back looking towards the paracord:



Step 3: Repeat Step 2 with tarp #2. Again, secure it to the paracord using two Prusik knots on either side. But this time, place the loose "triangle" section of tarp #2 over the top of the paracord so that the "triangle" sits on top the loose "triangle" section of the tarp #1. Tie these two triangle points to the ground with a stake (shown below in the blue paracord):



Step 4: Carefully stake down all remaining gromets to secure both tarps to the ground. Use hiking staffs or "socks-on-a-sticks" as interior pillars. (See Backyard Bushcraft No. 13):



Step 5: You're done and can move it! As these next two photos show, there is plenty of room for sleeping bags on the "bedroom" side, and a folding chair and small table on the "living room" side! Enjoy your iced tea while sitting in your luxury camping accommodations! 😊

