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MISHMI TAKIN JAMPUI BOOTS TEST SERIES BY MORGAN LYPKA

> Initial Report - August 29, 2017 Field Report - October 9, 2017 Long Term Report - December 10, 2017

TESTER INFORMATION NAME: Morgan Lypka AGE: 25 GENDER: Female HEIGHT: 5'4" (1.6 m) WEIGHT: 110 lb (50 kg)

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City, Province, Country: Fernie, British Columbia (B.C.), Canada

Backpacking Background: I mainly started backpacking 2 years ago, when I moved to the Canadian Rocky Mountains for work, so I am still fairly new to the backpacking scene. I am originally from Saskatchewan, Canada, where I have done some Northern canoe portage trips. Most of my backpacking ventures are 1 to 4 days. I normally get cold very quickly, and handle heat very well. Mostly, my trips involve hiking, trail running, fly fishing or day trip mountain biking. I am starting to do more ski touring, kayaking and rock climbing ventures.

PRODUCT INFORMATION AND SPECS

Year of Manufacture: 2017

Manufacturer's Website: https://mishmitakin.com/products/jampui

MSRP: U.S. \$190.00

Listed Weight: 15 oz (430 g) for one shoe of size 42; no listed weight for size tested

Measured Weight: 25.6 oz (726 g) for pair

Colour Testing: Birch Green

Additional Colours: Blue Jean, Light Grey, Birch Green, Black Ash

Size Testing: EU 37/US WM 6.5

Additional Sizes: EU 36/US WM 6 to EU 47/US M 13.5

INITIAL REPORT

The Mishmi Takin Jampui – Mid eVent Waterproof Lightweight Hiking Shoe (Jampui) are stated on the Manufacturer's website to be a valuable shoe for the mountains or city. They have a lower ankle than a regular hiking boot (mid cut upper ankle support), and they have a rubber toe rand in case you tend to bump your toes. The eVent membrane claims to be 100% waterproof and very breathable. There is enhanced venting in the soles, which I noticed as little holes in the fabric under the soles of feet. The soles of the shoe are made with rubber, Vibram Megagrip, to give traction on wet surfaces. The Vibram Tubuva outsole is made with lugs for stability and traction. The shoes have a EVA midsole for comfort, and since I get sore soles of my feet I am looking to test this part of the shoe, along with the cushioned foot-bed.



INITIAL IMPRESSIONS

I really enjoy the look of the Jampui shoes, especially the colour that I am testing, Birch Green. Like the Manufacturer's website claims, although intended for hiking, they do seem casual enough for the city as well. The stitches all seem to be very well sewn, and the shoes do seem like they will vent well. I am typically between a US size 6 and US 6.5 for shoes, and the US 6.5 that I am testing do seem to be a little too large. So far, I have not tried them with thicker socks, so we will see what the future holds when I do try them with thicker socks.

I wore the Jampui shoes down to the Elk River in the town of Fernie when I was fly fishing. For the short hike down, they had good grip on the rocks. I made sure to step in the water, and the waterproofness worked splendidly, albeit I was only in the water for about a half hour. They have little hooks for the shoe laces near the top of the shoe, which worked and held the laces well during use.

SUMMARY

So far a good initial impression with the Jampui shoe. I like their intention of a hiking shoe with a still casual look for the city. They seem well built, and have so far withstood an initial beginner waterproof test. They seem comfortable, although slightly large for me.

What I have yet to watch for:

- Will the waterproofness hold up?
- · Will the shoes wick away moisture?
- Is the sizing on point with thicker socks?
- Will comfort uphold a mountain treck?
- · How will the traction perform on rockier and steeper terrain?

FIELD REPORT

I have 2 trips to report on.

FIELD LOCATIONS AND CONDITIONS:

Trip #1: Overnight trip (1 night, 2 days) to the 3 Sisters Mountains (also known as Mount Trinity), just outside of Fernie, B.C. This trip was intended to be 2 nights and 3 days, but was shortened due to caution around forest fires and a backcountry ban in the area. Needless to say the area was dry. I gained 2290 m (7500 ft) in about 8.5 km (5.3 mi) on the way up. 2 km (1.2 mi) were on a gravelly road. 5 km (3.1 mi) were on a dirt single track trail winding up and around the mountain through forest with the occasional ladder and stairs. The last 1.5 km (1 mi) were partly on a dirt trail, and mainly on shale, climbing the ridge and climbing to the peaks. Weather was warm during the day and near the base, 20-25 C (68-77 F), and chilly during the night and at the peak, dipping probably to 0 C (32 F).

Trip #2: Overnight (2 nights, 2 days) Search and Rescue Practice Weekend camping in Golden, B.C. This trip involved via ferrata at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort and ropes rescue practice at a sloped cliff outside of Golden. Conditions were very different on this trip from the first. There was snow at the top of Kicking Horse, so the route for the via ferrata was humid and cold. There was minimal to no snow on the path we took. Kicking Horse Mountain Resort is at an elevation of 2,450 m (8,033 ft). For the ropes rescue practice, it was raining and about 11 C (52 F).

PERFORMANCE IN THE FIELD:

Trip #1: I camped at the base of the peak, and accessed the peak in the early morning hours to see the sunrise. Climbing to the peak with only a headlamp for light, I had to be very careful of my footing placement. Walking on shale up steep slabs and walking along ridge lines, I felt very confident in the grip that the Vibram MeggaGrip provided. I can't recall my feet slipping at any point on the way up or down. At the end of the trip, I did have some blisters, but prior to this trip I'd worn the hiking boots less than 1 km (.6 mi). I wore comfortably thick merino wool socks. The sizing was still slightly too big for me. At about 3.5 km (2.2 mi) into the hike-in, the soles of my feet were hurting. This was a bit disappointing. I am a mid-arch person, and the shoes seemed to be rather flat soled. So far, the EVA midsole or the well-cushioned foot-bed do not provide the long-term comfort that I was hoping for. The day was hot and my feet sweat a bit while hiking, but I did find that the shoes wicked away moisture well.



Giving my feet a break mid hike towards the 3 Sisters!

Trip #2: I climbed up and around a peak of the mountain for 2.5 hours, mostly on large, granite rock. The shoes gripped very well for this, and I can't recall slipping. At one point I was walking on a single cable bridge, and the hiking boots didn't slip at all. Even though the shoes are a bit large for me, I felt that I had good dexterity to essentially be rock climbing in them. For the ropes rescue practice, I mainly stayed on grassy areas, pulling rope. The shoes held their ground and did not slip. My feet also stayed dry during the practice, which was about 2.5 hours out in the rain.

I did have contact with the manufacturer during the Initial Reporting Stage that I forgot to mention. I reached out to clarify that the weight posted on the manufacturer's website for the Jampui Mid eVent Waterproof Lightweight Hiking Shoe was just for one shoe, and not the pair. The manufacturer replied that day with the answer, and took my suggestion of posting weight for a single shoe and the pair. I was very pleased with the interaction I had with the manufacturer.

Summary

Likes:

- Moisture wicking ability
- · Little break in period
- Waterproofness has held up in rain so far
- Very good grip, on all surfaces tested

Dislikes:

· Uncomfortable foot bed

For the next trip, I will be trying the hiking boots with insoles. I hope they will make the size just right, and counter act the flat sole of the shoes. I will also be trying these shoes in some snow.

LONG TERM REPORT

Trip 1

Location: Elk Lakes Provincial Park in the East Kootenays Region, B.C.

Length: 1 night, 1 day in the backcountry. Since I drove on logging roads to the hut, the actual hiking I did in the backcountry was 5 km (3 mi) with an elevation change of 30 m (100 ft).

Temperature and Weather: -5 C (23 F), overcast. 1.5 in (25 mm) fresh snow on ground.

The boots were a little slippery on the snow. Every step I took I found that each boot would slip a little. They gripped well as I climbed on wet rocks however. While fishing, I accidentally stepped in the water. The hiking boots prevented my feet from getting wet. The boots were quite wet from all of the snow as well as the accidental plunge in water and it took them overnight to dry out. My socks were damp from the trip but I think it was moisture from sweat or from a bit of snow getting it from the ankle. It did not seem like the boots had gotten wet from the outside in, as the liner inside seemed to be fairly dry. Since the boots are lower cut, snow kept getting in at the ankles. My feet were definitely cold coming out of the backcountry, but these boots aren't projected at being winter boots. I do find the laces to be a little on the short side. I found that I had to make sure each portion of lace was quite snug against my foot so that I had enough lace to tie a bow. Tying the shoes was thus a bit trickier with cold hands when I couldn't feel the laces as well.



Fishing at Upper Elk Lake, Elk Lakes Provincial Park, B.C.



Hiking in the backcountry of Elk Lakes Provincial Park, B.C.

Trip 2 Location: Castle Mountain in the East Kootenays Region, British Columbia (B.C.), Canada Length and Elevation: 2.5 hour hike, \sim 5 km (3 mi) long, 530 m (1750 ft) Temperature and Weather: Lightly packed snow, -8 C (46 F), windy

I hiked up Castle Mountain the weekend of our first snow in the area. The boots seemed to do fairly well on the ascent and descent, minus a bit of slipping. I had to take caution on the steep parts, placing my feet firmly. Going forward, I would likely only wear these boots with spikes or snowshoes on a winter hiking trip to add more traction and grip on the snow. I wore the boots with my thickest pair of thermal socks, and this made the shoes fit my feet better than with thinner socks. My feet were cold at the end of the hike however. Again, it was a little tricky tying up the shoes with my thickest socks, as the laces were a bit on the short side until I really tightened everything up.

Trin 3

Location: Yoho National Park, A.B., Canada Length: 2 days, 2 nights in backcountry

Temperature and Weather: -10 C (14 F), lightly packed snow trails, overcast

I cross-country skied 12 km (7.5 mi) into the backcountry with the boots in my 65 L backpack. They took up quite a bit of space, but I managed to fit them in alongside my other items. My back was a bit sore, so on the way out, I made efforts to put the boots at the base and closer to my back, as they were among the heaviest items in my bag. This significantly improved how my back felt. I used the hiking boots primarily with my snowshoes for shorter hikes around the hut. The boots fit well with the snowshoes, but my toes did get cold quite quickly. The one day I did a 4 km (2.5 mi) mainly around and on Lake Ohara, with minimal elevation gain. I didn't try the shoes with insoles as I had thick socks, but the soles of my feet did not get sore like they had on my longer hikes. The shoes dried at a reasonable rate after they were placed in front of the fire. They did not smell at all after being wet on the outside from the snow.

SUMMARY

The Mishmi Takin Jampui Boots have great grip on most surfaces, demonstrate appropriate waterproofness and dry fairly quickly when wet on the inside or outside. I think that they could benefit from better insoles. I did find the laces to be a little on the short side, and often had to make sure every part of the lace was snug so that I would have enough lace to tie a bow. I don't recommend these boots for winter travel, due to ineffective traction, low ankle coverage and lack of insulation. So far, the boots have shown no signs of wear.

Quick Shots:

Great grip. Uncomfortable insole. Not recommended for snowy trips. Minimal insulation. They've got a good look. Durable.

This concludes my Long Term Report and my test series. Thank you again BackpackGearTest.org and Mishmi Takin for the great opportunity to trial the Mishmi Takin Jampui Boots in the outdoors! I will definitely be wearing them in places where good grip is crucial.

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