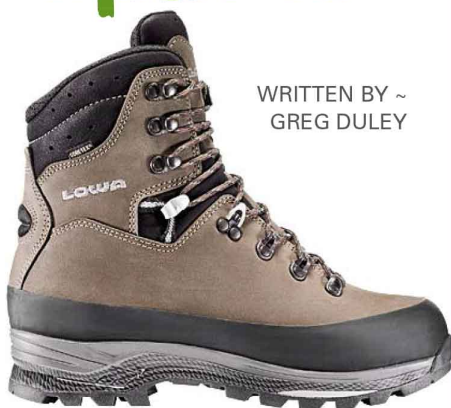


Lowa review

Tibet GTX update



WRITTEN BY ~
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The Tibet is a well-established favourite of mountain hunters in New Zealand, and all over the world for that matter.

I caught up with Sascha of Beattie Matheson, the Lowa agents, at the Tahr Show.

He said Lowa had made some changes to the Tibet and asked whether I'd like to try the new model. With the Catalans being the flavour of the month with the NZ Hunter crew at the moment (not only Johnny, but the BRB and Paul had also just got into Catalans) I said 'hell yes' as most of my hunting involves carrying packs in steep country – ideal Tibet country. And so a pair of the new Tibets turned up at my door.

The Tibet's Vibram Masai outersole



VIBRAM®MASAI
Supportive backpacking sole unit provides optimal knee and back support when carrying a heavy (50+ pound) pack.

- Excellent grip on all surfaces thanks to the self-cleaning mountaineering tread.
- Rough braking and repelling studs
- Undercut heel front for maximum grip
- Climbing Zone rigidity at toe tip for precise stepping.

review

JUST TO RUN OVER THE SPECS OF THE TIBET GTX WIDE THAT FITS OUR NZ FEET:

UPPER:

Nubuk leather.

LINING:

Seamless, waterproof Gore-Tex® lining reduces hot spots. A Lowa patented design.

CLIMATE CONTROL SYSTEM:

Perforations in the boot's lining allows air to enter, pumping heat and moisture back out.

TONGUE STUD/X-LACING:

Patent pending tongue stud allows for better pressure distribution.

C4 TONGUE:

Anatomically contoured to cradle the foot in comfort.

FLEXFIT:

More natural ankle flex and heel fit plus improved stability.

FOOTBED:

Balance footbed with breathable top layer and slow reacting foam provides fit customization. Transports moisture away from the foot, minimizes friction and reduces fatigue.

MIDSOLE:

PU with SPS Dynamic - designed to help control over-pronation and supination, reducing fatigue and potential injury when covering long distances.

OUTSOLE:

Vibram® Masai.

STABILIZER:

5mm nylon, full length and width with a PU layer for total support underfoot.

High wall rubber rand.

Strap-on crampon compatible.

9 inches tall.

And here is what Lowa has to say about the new Tibet: 'Our most popular hard-duty backpacking boot, updated for 2013. Ideal for carrying heavy (50+ lbs) loads, over

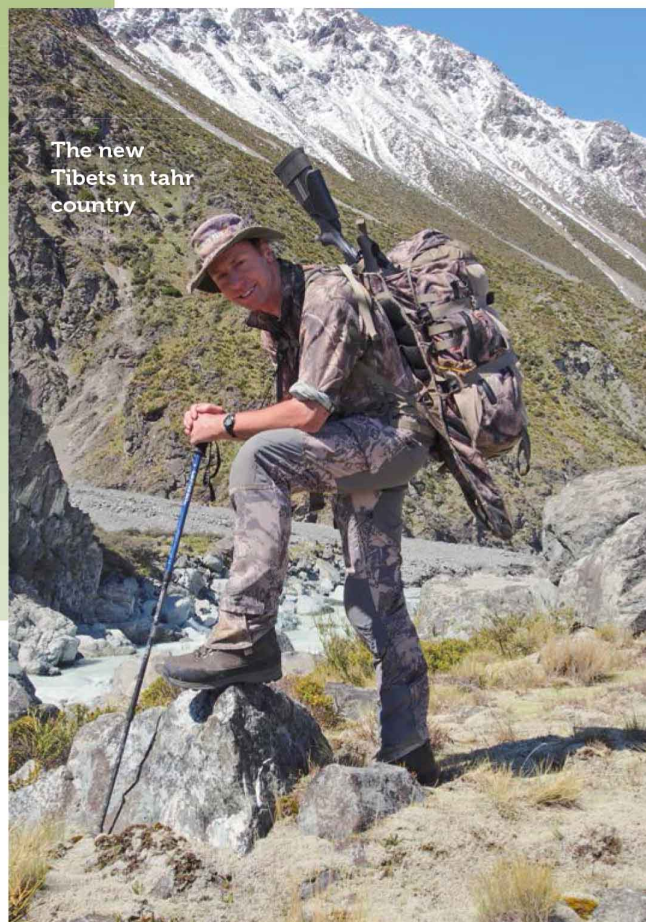
long distances in rugged terrain and extreme weather conditions. The ankle has been slightly improved with a softer flex than the original Tibet'.

Well, that job description pretty much matches how we hunt to a 'T'! I have worn the new Tibets for all the hunting we've done in the last few months, including a trip to Mt Cook tahr country. They have proved to be worthy successors to the old models, and are even more comfortable when you first put them on. They have a slightly lower back and indeed appeared to allow more comfortable flexing especially when going downhill, without any loss of ankle support. I suppose you could say the freeboard for crossing rivers has been lowered a few millimetres in the rear

There is also a small change to the lacing system, with an extra lacing point and one less hook. This is my only slight criticism on their ergonomics – this one less hook means you do need to loosen the laces a little more to get in and out of them. The midsole looks a little different but the specs are the same, and thankfully Lowa have kept the same Vibram Masai outsole that I feel is such a good sole compound for an all-round NZ mountain boot. **So all in all, a few minor improvements, but most importantly, Lowa has retained the capabilities the Tibet has become famous for.**



THANK GOD FOR THAT!



The new Tibets in tahr country