

Light fantastic

Lamps and lanterns for balmy summer evenings, whether you are camping out – or at home in the garden

Words: Joe Pontin Photography: Sam Hobson



Sun Jar Yellow, RED5, £19.95. A frosted glass Mason jar with a solar panel hidden inside the lid. When the evening gets really dark, the bulb switches on automatically, giving off a low and mellow glow. 01482 638900, www.red5.co.uk

Warm white LED outdoor fairy light, Lights4Fun, £17.99. 96 lights on 9.5m of clear cable. The timer included operates lights for six hours a night. Three AA batteries should last for two weeks, used nightly. 01423 816 040, www.lights4fun.co.uk

Solar lanterns, Lights4Fun, £7.99 each. Vibrant 20cm globes glow cheerily for up to six hours on a full charge. Reduced to £3.99 as we went to press. 01423 816 040, www.lights4fun.co.uk

Arc Head Torch, Alpkit, £32.50. Excellent value for a powerful 190-lumen head torch. Settings range from a bright searchlight to a dim red bulb for night hikes. Quick-change (AA) batteries are an unusual feature. 01773 417007, www.alpkit.com

Regular Solar Bamboo Garden Torches, £6.99. Cast a warm glow, useful for marking a path in your garden, or defining a space by your tent. Treat gently: they could be more robust. 01423 816 040, www.lights4fun.co.uk

Nanogrid lighting system, Biolite, £89.95. An original design offers four lights in one: a bright lantern converts to a torch; then there are two "sitelights" – palm-sized lamps. Charge from a USB socket (your car may have one); or plug into one of Biolite's camp stoves, which generate electricity from burning wood (from £139.95). 01539 721032, www.whitbyandco.co.uk

Set of three Gold Brush Effect Coloured Lanterns, Argos, £29.99. Colourful and exotic, but bulky, so better suited to gardens than campsites. 0345 640 2020, www.argos.co.uk



20 LED Warm White Connectable Festoon Lights, Lights4Fun, £34.99. Golf-ball sized LED bulbs on 5m of cable. Connect up to six strings together; battery boxes cost an extra £4, mains transformers £7, or solar panels £14. 01423 816 040, www.lights4fun.co.uk



String of Light Bulbs – Multi-Coloured, The Glow Company, £16.99. 10 LED battery operated bulbs with a stylish retro design. 0845 505 9090, www.glow.co.uk



Eco Orb Tent Light, The Glow Company, £6.95. Super-simple design comprising an LED bulb with a carabiner that can be clipped almost anywhere. 0845 505 9090, www.glow.co.uk

Unleaded 1 Mantle Lantern, Coleman, £39.99. Ruggedly handsome, it's tough but casts a cheerful, homely light up to the equivalent of a 125W bulb. It burns unleaded petrol or Coleman Liquid Fuel, so is recommended for use outside your tent. Note that storing petrol is a thorny safety issue worth checking out before buying. For stockists call 01275 849255, www.coleman.eu

EL Glow Wire, The Glow Company, £14.95. 3m of glowing wire in a choice of four colours. Kids will love them – but don't expect them to last forever. 0845 505 9090, www.glow.co.uk



A350L Lantern, Bushnell, £42. Casts a pleasant light in three brightness settings, plus a dim red glow for a mellow mood. Twist the collar for a powerful spotlight instead. It takes four D batteries – not cheap to buy, but they last well. 0208 391 4700, <http://bushnell.eu/uk>

