

BOOT COMPARISON

Touring boots go toe-to-toe

Any weather, any roads - these boots are made for touring

YOU COULD ARGUE that the touring boot has the toughest brief in motorcycling. It has to be waterproof. It has to be protective, without restricting movement on the bike. It has to give good feel for the footpegs but be tough enough to last a long time. And unlike a race boot it has to be comfortable for a long day *and* for walking. It's no wonder top-end touring boots are expensive.

The Daytona Road Star has long been the boot of choice for the "serious" tourist. The design is well-honed. There are two zips, though the boot can be put on with just the long one unzipped. Behind the zip, there's a full-height Gore-Tex liner. The leather outer is flexible, but conceals plastic armour for shin and heel, with adjusters so the calf can expand for the larger limbed - there's also a wide-fit option for those with broad feet.

I've used these for nearly two years and they tick every box: brilliantly comfortable on the bike, with good feel; the soles have never slipped on wet footpegs; and they're good to walk in. They're backed by a two-year warranty, on top of which Daytona offer a

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refurbishing service if you do ever wear the boots out - though after nearly 40,000 miles mine are in need of a polish but are otherwise as good as new. They're expensive, but they're definitely high-quality: outstanding boots.

Mind you, so are the £70-less-expensive TCX X-Tour Evo boots. I've only done about 6000 miles in them so far, but they have impressed me. They're slightly taller than the Road Stars, with more of a bulge in the shin, where the protection comes from D30 armour - this feels soft to the touch but hardens under impact. There's a D30 protector in the heel as well.

The leather outer - with its twin-zip opening, full-height Gore-Tex liner and girth-adjustable calf - is very similar to the Daytona. The sole perhaps doesn't quite offer the same level of feel but it is good and it hasn't slipped on wet pegs either. The X-Tour Evos are good to walk in, though the fit is narrower than the Road Star - tighter at the ankle and across the top of the foot. These are still a hefty purchase, at £260, but if the more slender fit suits your foot, they're a good-value alternative. **SIMON WEIR**



Daytona Road Star GTX £329.99
www.tranam.co.uk

TCX X-Tour Evo GTX £260
www.nevis.uk.com