

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★

Map Type

Driving

Satellite

Base Map

Map Details

Adventure Roads & Trails

Contour Lines

Great Rides

MICHELIN Scenic Roads

Popular Paths (Moto)

Relief Shading

The Tread app works in tandem with the satnav

Zumo has lots of options from the offset

Where To? Holme on Spalding Mo...

View Map

10:52

Explore

Group Ride

Route Planner

Phone

Music

Track Recorder

22 months ON TEST

Garmin Zumo XT2 satnav £529.99

'It will improve your rides'

Tested by Saffron Wilson for 22 months
Finding the best biking roads can sometimes be a pain, but not any more thanks to this device. After getting the Zumo XT2 a little while ago, I've used it on three different motorcycles, and every time is has delivered. I'd heard good things about the previous model, in both its on- and off-road capabilities, but with a bigger screen and improved smartphone integration with the new 'Tread' app, you've got more tech to play with

So, what do you get for your dosh? Everything you need to get going comes in the box including a mount, power cable and USB cable, but there are options for additional packages including handlebar controllers and group ride trackers. But working alongside the Tread app, you can

customise your routes, set waypoints (some of which are suggested by the satnav itself) and the ability to ride with mates and more importantly, locate them should you wish to go for a B-road blast alone. It suggests the best biking routes with Michelin Scenic roads, as well as Garmin's Adventurous routing and you can bookmark great rides to come back to, as well as popular paths, and track your ride too.

But how does all that magic work in a day-to-day setting? In essence, quite well. I usually bring out the satnav when I'm heading to the wilder parts of the country so I can breathe in new routes and roads, and the suggested routes are quite good although actually finding them on the device can be a bit faffy. You need to be tech savvy to really immerse yourself in all the features,

which I don't have enough space to list here, but as long as you spend some time getting familiar with it, the unit will vastly improve your ride.

The navigation itself is clear and effective, and you can use addresses, postcodes, or search for towns, depending on how you like to find your way around the world.

I'm impressed with the quality of the unit itself. It's been subjected to everything the British (and sometimes French) weather has to throw at it, but it still looks great (despite me accidentally dropping it multiple times) and the charging pad on the bike is working as well as ever, even though that has been on my handlebars for over a year. I haven't had the chance to try out its trail operations, but I'm assured by my colleagues that the system performs well in that environment.

Of course, there's no getting over the fact that it's a good wedge of cash. But in today's tech-driven society, it doesn't break the bank and if you want to incorporate it into your riding life, explore places that you may not have explored and have something that's going to last for a while, then it might just be worth the investment because it is kit that really can make a difference when you are out and about enjoying the ride.

MCN rating ★★★★★★
www.garmin.com

PROS & CONS

+

Has all the essentials for a great ride

-

Expensive. Initial set up can be fiddly

Suggested routes for great roads

Everything you need for an easy trip