

KIT TESTED

‘Worn for 2100 miles in first eight days’

Arai Tour-X4 Vision £499.99



Tester Richard Newland
Time tested 6500 miles/six months

What's good? This is the third Tour-X variant I've had over the last decade or so, and despite trying several other peaked adventure helmets, I always gravitate back to the Tour-X for its build quality, comfort, and plushness. It has all the same quality of the firm's pure road helmets, and feels instantly familiar with the same materials used for the EPS and lining. The paintwork is just as flawless, and there are no areas of cheapness. This latest version, this Tour-X4, is a decent improvement over previous versions, too. The shell shape works better and does appear to be less flexible, while the reshaped interior offers an improved fit – reducing both turbulence and wind noise. I've racked-up a lot of miles in a short period, and find the comfort superb. My first eight days with the helmet saw it cover 2100 miles, and I was wearing it for eight hours a day. It

was superb – and still looks new after a further 4400 miles.
What's not? The one disappointment is the visor mechanism. Other manufacturers have found neat solutions to the problem of changing visors on lids with a peak, but Arai insist on four plastic screws, and the removal of the peak and side pods.

Contact www.whyarai.co.uk

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★



The Arai saw long-distance duty on the way to the very north of Europe



The quality lining and double-D ring are instantly recognisable

+ Style, comfort, build quality, field of vision

- Visor changing is a pain and it's expensive

Great helmet, shame about the visor mechanism

TESTED
SIX
MONTHS

Alpinestars Corozal adventure boots £259.99



Tester Richard Newland
Time tested 6500 miles/six months

What's good? These are the most comfortable boots I've worn in 32 years of riding motorcycles. They're so cossetting, superb to ride in, easy to walk in, and so comfortable that I once wore them for 35 hours without taking them off while riding and wild-camping in Norway. As well as being comfortable, they're also extremely rugged. They've had a lot of abuse on and off the bike, been immersed in water and mud, ridden through 32-degree heat, down to minus three – from blistering sunshine, to lashing rain and snow. I've done nothing

to look after them, so I'm impressed that they still look so good, boasting a nicely worn-in patina, without looking at all tatty. Unlike many adventure boots, they're also a doddle to get on and off. They open up wide, meaning you can step into them with ease, and the two-buckle fastening system with Velcro top closure is a snap-snap-slap affair that takes moments. Despite their comfort, there's a decent amount of inbuilt protection for shin, toes, ankles and sole, too.

What's not? On hot days they are very warm. It's a shame that this level of supreme comfort isn't available in normal sports boots. I've tried wearing these on non-adventure bikes, and they're simply too chunky to make gear changes possible. Of course, I could just change the lever height...

Contact www.alpinestars.com

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★

6500
MILES

There aren't many boots you'd wear for 35 hours



Weise Outlast Seattle trousers £159.99



Tester Oli Rushby
Time Tested 1500 miles/one month

What's good?

At last! An affordable pair of waterproof textile trousers. With both a waterproof and thermal lining, I've not had cold legs on winter mornings, but even without the thermal lining they might be a little too heavy for summer.

What's not? It took me a while to get the right size, with two linings inside you may need to go up a size or even two and while I've now found a set that fit, they're still a little tight around the waist while being a little baggy elsewhere.

Contact www.thekeycollection.co.uk

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★

Waterproof but the fit isn't quite perfect

1500
MILES



KTM Two 4 Ride jacket £180.67



Tester Michael Neeves
Time tested 2000 miles/six months

What's good? KTM aren't

just fine purveyors of snazzy orange motorcycles, they do funky clothing, too. This soft-shell riding jacket is part of their PowerWear range and it's become an unexpected favourite for me, since I got it back in the spring. It's light, easy and comfortable to wear, on and off the bike, warm, waterproof, windproof, comes with arm, shoulder and back armour, usefully big pockets, a removable hood and a draft-excluding high neck. It's stylish and well-fitted, too. I wear it most of the time for commuting, zipping around town and for longer jaunts on my Sinnis and my Yamaha TMAX. Don't think for one moment this is a generic jacket with some ironed-on KTM logos, it's a really well constructed, rugged piece of kit in its own right that looks like it'll last a lifetime.

What's not? It's not the cheapest out there and you're undoubtedly paying a premium

for the KTM branding, but the quality is excellent.

Contact www.ktm.com

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★

2000
MILES



Stylish yet rugged gear from KTM