



Breathable kit keeps you dry on the inside

1950 miles ON TEST

Zero excuses for leaving it at home

Touratech Rain Suit Storm £104.20/£69.31

'Wet weather happiness'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for 10 months

There's nothing I hate more than that boil-in-the-bag feeling you endure with some wet weather gear, which traps condensation and leaves you almost as damp on the inside as you would have got from riding in the rain.

That's not been the case with this Touratech Rain Suit Storm, which is made from 'Hydratex Lite', a material that is not only waterproof but breathable, giving it the kind of performance usually reserved for high end Gore-Tex gear.

I've worn it for an eight-hour stretch over an armoured hoodie and jeans through relentless rain along Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, and peeled it off at my destination to wander straight into the bar bone dry. It's lightweight and flexible, with a mesh-lined jacket for comfort, and packs neatly into two small rolls that can be stashed away in a tankbag or tail pack. At £173.33 for top and bottoms the Rain Suit Storm isn't cheap, but is well worth the investment if you tend to ride in leathers or denim and are an all-weather biker.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
touratech-uk.co.uk



SW-Motech PRO tailpack £196.99

'Ideal on my ride over to Budapest'



Tested by Saffron Wilson for 11 months

I'm a big fan of SW-Motech luggage and their wide range of model-specific luggage.

However, this particular tail bag is universal and I took it with me on a week-long trip to Budapest and back on a Harley-Davidson Low Rider ST. As the Harley had panniers, this bag was ideal as it didn't overhang on to the seat – and I've since been able to use it on a number of other bikes without a problem.

It is well made and after nearly 4000 miles of hard riding through all types of weather, it stills looks as good as new. The zips still work effectively, and the inner liner has proved to be waterproof. But even when I've been caught out in light showers without the liner, the outer has kept the contents dry. Inside there is extra material which expands to increase the overall volume (32-42 litres) which I found essential as I'm a serial over-packer, and with plenty of attachment points, it's compatible with other luggage.

Mounting it on the bike is easy courtesy of its four anchor points, and the anti-slip material on the underside means it doesn't move too much as you attach it. It remains secure, too, as even after I left a strap undone and it got mangled by my drive belt, the luggage remained in place all the way home from Budapest and beyond.

The internal pockets are handy, as are the exterior pockets, and the additional strap to help you carry it when you get to your destination is great as well.

For something that is so capacious and hassle-free, you can't go far wrong with this bag. One criticism is that I'm personally not a huge fan of the textile-looking finish, but the colours aren't garish, and off the bike it looks like a versatile piece of luggage too.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
sw-motech.co.uk

3726 miles ON TEST



Protection is second to none

2000 miles ON TEST

Kangaroo leather keeps the suit light



Alpinestars Racing Absolute one-piece £2899.99

'Same spec as A-stars' MotoGP suits'



Tested by Michael Neeves for one year

I've worn Alpinestars' top-of-the-range one-piece leather suits all the way through my 22-year MCN road testing career.

They've evolved hugely during that time. They've become lighter and packed with more safety features, including the invention of airbags. I've had my fair share of racing crashes and whether it's been sliding down Thruxton's sandpaper surface at 120mph, or flying through the air at Phillip Island's Southern Loop, they've always protected me.

I've broken fingers and thumbs along the way, and my pelvis after an off-throttle Valencia highside, but the leathers have always done their job. This suit is undeniably expensive, but is the lightest, toughest and most comfy yet, made from kangaroo leather to the same giddy spec as A-stars' MotoGP suits, offering full CE AAA protection with CE Level 2 shoulder, elbow and knee armour. I wear them with A-stars' full-body Tech Air 10 airbag system. There are lots of deals to be had now there's a new 'V2' version.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com



We love that matt black

Garibaldi G07X £170

'Classic style but modern spec'



Tested by Simon Relph for 10 months

Garibaldi have done a fantastic job of encapsulating the best of cool 70s style while keeping the spec high. The G07X has a lightweight shell and is certified to ECE22:06, the interior has a soft material lining that is comfortable and removable, plus washable cheek pads. It is also spectacle-friendly as well as having space to accommodate intercom speakers. The Pinlock-ready visor is a hefty 3mm thick, ratchet-free type so can be opened to suit you, or locked down by a single catch on the left-hand side. There are five vents on the front, two on the chin and three above the visor and the matt black finish is the icing on the cake. I love it!

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
saltflatsclothing.co.uk

1250 miles ON TEST



Load it up and keep kit dry