

LATEST KIT RATED

ROUNDER SHAPE

This allows a shallower angle for the visor, eliminating problems where the Pinlock interfered with the inside of the visor on the previous model.

EASY CHANGE

VAS-A system is a huge improvement over the old visor system.

Good comfort and ventilation while riding off-road

Visor system is a big improvement

Good venting is helped by larger front vent

'In the top tier of adventure helmets'

Arai Tour-X5 From **£599**

www.araihelmet.eu

THE CLAIM

"Completely redesigned with a new, tool-free VAS-A visor system also designed for better glancing-off performance, 5mm wider chin bar for easy on-off, improved access for communication devices and genuine adventure, on-road and off-road performance. Conforms to ECE 22.06."

THE REALITY

There's a lot that's new with the Tour-X5 – a more rounded shape to help improve performance in glancing impacts, a more rounded chin bar, a bigger visor aperture and new design to allow less

traumatic putting on and taking off. Also a new visor system and revised venting.

Still designed for mainly on-road use with a smattering of off-road, we tried the helmet during a day's dual-sport riding in Spain and were impressed with its comfort, ventilation and quality – though they were impressive with the Tour-X4, too.

There are tangible improvements, most noticeable of which is the visor system. With the X4, you needed a coin to undo the side panels and peak to pop the visor, but the X5's side panels remove with a button and use the now-traditional standard Arai visor mounting system. This also makes it much easier if you want to use it as a non-adventure helmet without a peak.

The venting is also good, though not a clear-cut improvement over the old helmet. The front vent is much bigger, but you lose the visor vents of the old helmet and lose the side chin vents (which I didn't really rate anyway). There are now two tandem vents on the top of the helmet rather than a pair of vents sitting laterally. The result is good – venting is very respectable off-road.

On-road, the helmet performs well. The bigger aperture is a noticeable improvement and the helmet is still stable at speed, very quiet, and the lining is as plush as ever. This may be a case of evolution rather than revolution, but the Tour-X5 feels like it is right in the top tier of the premium adventure-helmet class. **MATT WILDEE**