



Deep water? No problem. And bear in mind that the Super Tenere is on standard tyres



260kg of Super Tenere takes to the skies in Wales (and lands successfully)



Guy had doubted the Super Ten's off-road credentials, but so far so good



No surprise to see loads of BMW GSs but our Yamaha was welcome, too

Super Ten passes off-road test

► Weekend in Wales allays any fears that the big Yam won't cut it off-piste



YAMAHA SUPER TENERE

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With the first 600-mile service complete it was time to embark on my first proper trip onboard the Yamaha Super Tenere – destination Wales. The plan, however, wasn't just to go on a random ride it was to spend some time at adventure bike specialists Touratech's annual Travel Event.

The two-day event held at Touratech UK sees adventure riders from all over the UK and Europe congregate for a weekend of riding and festivities. Touratech owner and former Dakar rider Nick Plumb and his team organise a host of events including off-road rides, led

rides and time trials. In addition there's stunt rider Mattie Griffin and a chance to sample Quantya's electric bikes. And for riders wanting to get the low down on how to go about making a big trip, there were a number of guest speakers on hand including author Sam Manicom and adventurer/inspirational speaker Graham Hoskins giving talks on their experiences of adventure riding across the globe.

Having sat, listened and been inspired by some of the talks it was time to take the Super Tenere for a ride and see how it performed off-road. After riding the 200 miles from Hertfordshire I was still on the original Bridgestone road

tyres and I have to admit I was a little apprehensive about how they would perform on dirt. With the stock tyres and no option to turn off the ABS I was concerned just how limited the bike was going to be, but it's fair to say that it exceeded my expectations.

After working out how to turn the traction control off the Yamaha came 'alive' and the smooth power meant I could find grip if I wanted it or let the

rear spin when I preferred.

The tyres were a limiting factor, especially in the wet, but they were still a lot better than they had any right to be. And as for the bike, while it's not as capable off-road as the KTM 990 Adventure I rode last year, with every minute of riding my confidence grew. By the end of the day I was going up and down hills comfortably, riding through some pretty deep water and even jumping the 260kg Super Tenere, which it coped with admirably.

The Yamaha is also an impressive road bike – smooth, comfortable with good performance, which made my journey east on the M4 after a long day feel like a stroll in the park.

But there's still more to come from this bike off-road so I need to get the right tyres for the job and try again.

The only niggle I have after my first month of ownership is a flat spot at

I was riding through deep water and even jumping the 260kg Super Ten

MCN'S MICHAEL GUY

THE FACTS

YAMAHA SUPER TENERE, £13,150

Value now:	£12,450
Mileage:	1325
Power (claimed):	110bhp
Torque (claimed):	84ftlb
Colours:	Blue or white
Info:	www.yamaha-motor.co.uk

PROS/CON

What's good: Good looking, comfortable, capable on and off road

What's not: Flat spot at 2500rpm, can't turn ABS off

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around 2500rpm. The Yamaha is a 1200cc twin so you wouldn't expect anything but smooth torque power especially at low rpm, so I'm thinking it may be a fuelling/emissions issue. I will investigate...

More of our long-term test fleet



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