Good Gear

Roll on, Rohloff

Thorn Raven Tour £1199



If you're considering a long distance or adventurous cycle expedition, such as the Pamir Highway trip featured on page 64 of this issue, a bicycle designed expressly for that purpose is worth looking at seriously. Whilst a mountain bike can be tweaked to do the job, an adventure tourer has the details to make it that much more enjoyable. Thorn are known for producing bomb-proof touring bikes that'll take you to the ends of the earth, and will probably outlive you too. The Raven Tour comes with pannier racks on the front and rear, with superb load carrying capability, v-brakes for stopping power and front and rear mudguards as standard. The clever bit, though, and what really sets it apart, is the drive train. The Raven Tour comes with an internal hub gear by Rohloff, meaning minimal maintenance, reduced chain wear, a single gear changer, rather than the two you normally get, and the whole spectrum of 14 gears are fully useable, with easy slick changes. What's more, Rohloff have quoted zero failures in normal use of their hub gear. In short, the Rohloff means there's much less to go wrong and fix on the trail. The ride is smooth and quiet, even during the infamous lengthy bedding-in process of the Rohloff, but the best thing is that whilst this bike will happily transport you and all your worldly belongings to Timbuktu, it'll also potter around the lanes, and see you to work every day as well. Thorn will custom fit any of their bikes so you're sure to get one just right for your comfort, and there's a 100 day money back guarantee if you're not delighted. An excellent all rounder, for adventures and more.

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