HIKING SHOES Companison

BASIC RUNNERS

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Majority are affordable, easy to come by. Good for the infrequent hiker. Ideal on trail/urban hikes.

TRAIL RUNNERS

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More grip than a basic runner. Either breathable & quick drying OR waterproof if they have a Goretex lining. Come in dark colours to hide dirt stains. Suited best to trail running, but also great for trail hiking with a light rucksack <16kgs. Great for urban hikes.

SYNTHETIC HIKING BOOTS

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Come in Hi Top, Mid & Low Rise. Synthetic is durable but not as durable as leather making it easier to wear in, however the break in period is still on average 5 x day hikes before use on a multi-day hike with minimal chance of blisters. The cheapest way of getting great ankle protection & support for your feet when carrying a heavy rucksack on multi-day hikes. Great for off-track & remote hiking due to waterproof lining (Gore-tex or eVent tags mean the boots have a waterproof & breathable lining). The high tops reduce risk of injury from falls, sticks, ant/snake bites, etc.

LEATHER HIKING BOOTS

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Only good for frequent hikers who do regular off-track hiking. Come in Hi Top, Mid & Low Rise. Leather is very durable & will last years with regular use. Needs to be treated with NikWax for Waterproofing! Great for frequent hikers with heavy rucksacks as they support the feet & if Mid/Hi Top will also support ankles. These boots are very expensive & will take a long time to break-in so should be worn on about 7 x 1 day hikes before use on a multi-day hike with minimal chance of blisters. They will eventually mold to your foot and prevent blisters, so they should not be shared with others nor purchased for someone with growing feet. Not suitable for urban hikes.



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