



Honduras— *Enduring the tropical rains*

As we get closer to Honduras, the rain becomes a big part of our everyday life. This year's El Niño is one of the strongest in decades, and it's causing heavier and more frequent downpours than ever. The weather is sort of predictable—you know you'll get rained on that day, but you just don't know when. It can be sunny one minute and pouring rain the next. Today, as we ride to the border, it pours heavily for an hour. It's so intense that it's hard to see clearly through our helmet visors, so we have to slow down considerably. We have to constantly wipe our shields to avoid an accident with the cars and trucks speeding to overtake us along the narrow two-way road.

Once in Honduras, we get rained on multiple times a day, every day. In circumstances like these, having the right gear is vital. Our helmets, our suits, and our boots are waterproof, which makes riding in the rain a very different experience. The Aether riding suit is waterproof so we don't need an extra layer to put over our jacket and pants when it rains.

In these conditions, it would be very cumbersome to constantly be taking off an extra layer every time the rain stops and the sun comes out, plus it gets really hot inside rain gear. With these suits we just open and close the vents to let air flow through as needed. One less thing to carry and worry about.

One benefit of not having to follow a tight predetermined schedule is that you can just slow down when it rains. Maybe that day you'll only do a hundred miles, but that is alright. You can recoup them later.

Eventually, I get used to the rain. In many ways, I enjoy it. The tapping of rain drops on my helmet is peaceful and meditative. It really puts me at ease. And when it starts pouring, everything cools down—the suits, the bikes, the asphalt—and the air becomes easier to breathe. Rain defines this part of the world, so you just have to get used to it. It's all part of the experience.

