

## Crary Mountain Trail

\$650 off the shelf | \$1,000 custom-made  
4.8 lbs | craryboots.com

**They Say:** Our boots are generally used for heavy duty hiking; however, since we do custom boots as well, we can tailor the materials we use to make them lighter weight or heavy duty.

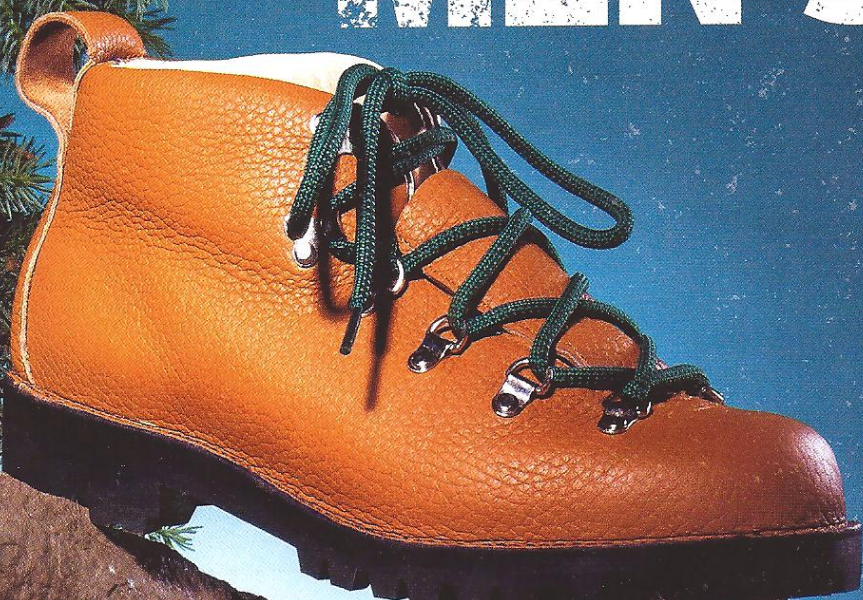
**We Say:** Made with top-notch materials (think shrunken oxhide imported from Norway), these kicks are head-turners for the heritage-obsessed crowd. But they can walk the walk, too: tanklike, trail-sticking Vibram treads and toe protection on par with a steel-toed boot make this a go-anywhere, see-anything, and stay-comfortable shoe.

**Best For:** Long hauls on tough terrain

**High Points:** A battery of measurements taken by Crary's boot makers result in a tailored, second-skin feel. The next step up might be having Vibram soles glued to your feet.

**Back to the Drawing Board:** The tongue is one big flap that must be folded sideways in order to tie the laces—a cumbersome endeavor.

# MEN'S



## Danner Crater Rim

\$300 | 3.6 lbs | danner.com

**They Say:** For the serious backpacker in need of highly durable boots, on or off trail in the harshest conditions.

**We Say:** The Crater Rims put your feet in four-wheel drive. Soft leather tops make the vise-like grip on your ankles comfortable, giving you optimal stability in rugged terrain.

**Best For:** Off-trail hiking or backpacking in cool temps

**High Points:** Stout and soak-proof, the Rims' only Achilles' heel is their weight.

**Back to the Drawing Board:** Awkward lacing system



## Keen Ambler

\$100 | 1.75 lbs | keenfootwear.com

**They Say:** This lower-profile light hiker is ideal for scaling steep day hikes, hopping across a pile of boulders, or dodging cacti.

**We Say:** As long as those day hikes don't include gravelly surfaces, Keen's assessment is spot-on. The Ambler's supreme breathability makes it an ideal casual summer shoe, but its relatively thin sole makes it somewhat uncomfortable on terrain loaded with small protrusions.

**Best For:** Day hikes on well-groomed trails, road, or sand in hotter weather

**High Points:** The same memory foam, cork, and recycled plastic footbed found in the women's mesh version (p. 70) earned these kicks high marks in comfort.

VEGAN!



## Bogs Jamison

\$120 | 3 lbs | bogsfootwear.com

**They Say:** For recreational hikers who stick to shorter, well-groomed trails. The shoe is 100 percent waterproof, so it works in muddy terrain or near streams.

**We Say:** Consider these a kind of dry suit for your feet: they repel water like a pair of positively charged magnets. The super-flexible materials make them extremely comfortable but not overly supportive, so you won't want to take them off trail or on long hikes.

**Best For:** Short hikes, mud, stream crossings, puddles

**Back to the Drawing Board:** Being waterproof has drawbacks, like compromised breathability, something the Jamison tries—somewhat successfully—to overcome with moisture wicking and anti-stink materials.