

Gear up for a long ride



5 motorcycle safety tips

Whether you're headed to a rally or cruising the scenic route with your buddies, travel with these simple tips for an enjoyable, safe ride.



1. Inspect your bike. Think T-CLOCS: tires, controls, lights, oil/fluids, chassis and stands. Make sure they're all intact, working well and filled up.



2. Plan your route. Know where you're going. Take a GPS or map to safely anticipate lane changes and avoid searching for directions in unfamiliar places.



3. Pace yourself. Don't ride too many hours in a day. It can slow your reflexes and impair decision-making.



4. Be seen. Use hand signals with turn signals and avoid riding in blind spots. Put reflective tape on your gear, wear bright or reflective apparel and use running lamps.



5. Pack wisely. Bring a safety/repair kit, several thin layers of clothes and a waterproof rain suit. Pack healthy snacks and water to stay sharp. Secure loose items with bungee cords. And instead of a bulky backpack, store items in saddlebags or a luggage rack.



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