

TRAVEL TIPS FOR LONG DISTANCE RIDING

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1. Before you go,

- **Consider Oil change and NEW tires.**
- **Be sure your seat is comfortable**
- **Check barbacks and windscreen**
- **Adjust springs/shocks or replace if tired**
- **ALWAYS, load up bike and take a test ride!**
- **Get a personal health checkup**
- **Pack your "meds" plus Tylenol (no blood thinners i.e. aspirin)**

2. What to wear,

- **Helmet in good condition and spare visor**
- **Jacket & Pants that are waterproof, comfortable for hot/cold w. liner**
- **Raingear (if you don't have waterproof clothing)**
- **Boots should be calf height and waterproof or use rain covers**
- **Gloves, take 2 pair, summer & winter**

3. What to Pack,

- **Pack all in a single bag**
- **Wear one set underwear and outerwear and pack two sets of microfiber or nylon clothing**
- **Plan to mix & match and layer clothing as needed**
- **BMW socks, expensive but quick dry & work for hot/cold**
- **Bikers Shirt pullover w/Gore Tex Wind Stopper**
- **NO JEANS, - too heavy!**
- **For summer travel, hydration items, Camel Bak, water bottle, Chili Vest, Chilly Pad (frogg toggs), or bandana**

4. Planning Your Route,

- **Draw a line from your departure city to final destination on a hardcopy map**
- **Look for things to see along this route, i.e. National Parks, historical sites, scenic drives etc.**
- **Plan an alternate return route to see more sites**
- **Plan your route turn by turn using State Maps, Gazetteers and US Map (Michelin is best)**
- **Know the difference between Interstate, US highways, SR state roads and CR county roads**
- **Use Map Source (Garmin), to measure distances between towns and scope out where to stay overnight**
- **Study the terrain, i.e. mountains, plains, twisties, dirt, gravel or paved roads to estimate driving times**
- **Lodging Reservations in Advance for special places to stay or during peak tourist seasons in high traffic locations, i.e. Yellowstone Park**
- **Lodging Reservations As You Go – more flexibility in your ride day or if you get delayed due to weather or emergencies....use smart phone to contact hotels.**

5. Tools and Stuff for the Road,

- **Store tools in fanny pack, toiletry kit, or PVC tub**
- **Tire Repair Kit & Hex or Torx wrench set**
- **Common size socket, small ratchet**
- **Good pliers (Knipex adjustables from Aerostich_**
- **Screwdriver multi tool**
- **If traveling with a Group, spread tools out among the group – no need to duplicate**
- **Credit Card, Dealer Directory & Atlas**
- **Extra set of bike keys, First Aid Kit,**
- **Anti Monkey Butt powder**

6. High Tech to go,

- **CELL PHONE IS MANDATORY! Upgrade to smart phone or I- Phone which PROVIDES e-mail, Mapquest, Google, and Web Access to find restaurants, motels,**
- **Consider taking small Laptop Computer**
- **camera: decent resolution, storage and easy to use**
Don't use your cell phone for photos.
- **USB thumb drive to store emergency info and other important documents**
- **GPS – for the novice, Garmin Nuvi (\$125) which works where cell phones don't**
- **ZUMO 550 is best on motorcycle as it's waterproof and designed for motorcycles**

7. Using a GPS on the road,

- **Be sure you are in charge of GPS!**
- **Put in your own routes and waypoints**
- **Google “shortcut” roads before you take them to find out if they are dirt, gravel, sand or mud**
- **Use Map Source to measure distances between towns**
- **Put entire route in Map Source and then route each day separately**
- **Download all routes into your GPS**
- **Make a turn-by-turn sheet (large print) for tank bag**
- **GPS can be your best friend OR worst enemy!**

8. Pace and Progress,

- **Set a pace 10 MPH over the speed limit**
- **Start early in the day while it's cool**
- **Wipe bike down before leaving motel,**
- **Stop every 150 miles – get fuel**
- **Stretch your legs every 50 miles**
- **Eat light breakfast & lunch**

9. Problem Solving,

- **Keep calm and don't panic**
- **Use Anonymous book or Dealer Directory**
- **Have a Road Service, i.e. AAA**
- **Take Rescue Tape**
- **SPOT emergency device**

REMEMBER, THIS TRIP COULD BE YOUR ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME.....

SO,

PLAN WELL,

RIDE SAFE &

COME BACK AND SHARE YOUR ADVENTURES WITH US!