

# 5 safety tips when gearing up for a long ride

Whether you're headed to a motorcycle rally or cruising a long scenic route with your buddies, keep these tips in mind for an enjoyable, safe ride.

1

## Inspect your bike.

Think T-CLOCS: tires, controls, lights, oils and fluids, chassis, and stands. Make sure they're all intact, working properly, and adequately filled.

2

## Plan your route.

Know where you're going and take a GPS or map to help you safely anticipate lane changes and avoid a frantic search for directions in unfamiliar places.

3

## Pace your travel sensibly.

Don't ride too many hours in a day. It may hinder your reflexes and decision-making ability.

4

## Increase your visibility.

Use hand signals with turn signals, put reflective tape on your gear, wear bright or reflective apparel, use running lamps, and avoid riding in cars' blind spots.

5

## Pack wisely.

Bring a safety/repair kit, several thin layers that can be shed or added, and a waterproof suit. Pack healthy snacks and water to keep your riding skills sharp. Bring bungee cords to secure loose items. And instead of an uncomfortable backpack, store items in saddlebags, luggage racks, etc.

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