

5 safety tips when gearing up for a long ride

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

1

Inspect your bike.

Think T-CLOCS: tires, controls, lights, oils and fluids, chassis and stands. Check and 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 panicked search for directions in unfamiliar parts.

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 in lieu of an uncomfortable backpack, store items in saddlebags, luggage racks, etc.

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