



Check Out These Motorcycle Road Trip Safety Tips



Washington's mountainous, winding roads and mild summer weather are perfect elements for a great motorcycle road trip. But all riders need to remember that staying safe on a road trip is about more than just being a responsible rider while in traffic. There is plenty to consider before and during your ride to keep everyone safe. Consider these motorcycle road trip safety tips before you all hit the road.

Do Some Pre-Planning Research

Once you have familiarized yourself with Washington's motorcycle laws, it is time to start organizing your trip. **Look into buying motorcycle insurance.** Remind all riders they should review their motorcycle insurance and if necessary, buy coverage.

Effective July of 2019, Washington state requires motorcyclists to carry \$25,000 in bodily injury and \$10,000 in property damage liability insurance. Look at not only the basic coverage types, but also consider purchasing at least 300,000 in uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage, as well as medical payments coverage and roadside assistance. The latter can come in handy if you experience a breakdown or emergency and need help.

Research your route

You want to pick a route that is suitable for the least experienced rider in your group to ensure everyone can safely complete the trip. Look for routes with good opportunities to stop for necessities such as gas, food, and restrooms.



Consider routes carefully and take into account all levels of riding experience within your group.

Mind the weather

Rain and wind storms are frequent interrupters of many summer motorcycle road trips in Washington. Watch the forecast starting a few days out from your trip and make sure you plan your route and pack according to the forecast.

Make sure you know where you are staying

Another thing to consider is lodging, if you are going on a multi-day trip. Make sure there are enough accommodations for all riders

and their passengers. Having a map for every rider and estimated arrival times is a good way to keep everyone on track in the event you are separated.

Perform a Motorcycle Safety Check

All riders in your group are responsible for making sure their bike is in good working condition. Make any necessary repairs well in advance of the trip so you can test the bike's performance before a long journey. Make sure you have stocked small spare parts, like chains and spark plugs in the event of a breakdown.

Make Sure You Have All the Essentials

While the ultimate decisions are up to the rider and passenger on the bike, there are some good recommendations for pertinent items to consider while packing for your trip. Review this motorcycle road trip checklist as you pack.

- Waterproof gear
- Cell phone and charger
- GPS
- Repair tools
- Tire repair and inflation kit
- Emergency flares
- First aid kit
- Toiletries

Meet Before the Trip to Practice Group Riding Skills

Another step to take to make sure everyone is on the same page is to find an empty parking lot and schedule a group practice. Determine the order in which you will ride, who is the ride leader, and the signals you will use. Include passengers in all planning, including the practice rides, to ensure they can help when necessary.

Communicating During Your Trip

Communication is key to making sure all trip members are safe and comfortable. Some helmets allow hands-free communication with cell phones using special apps and headsets. There are devices on the market that use Bluetooth pairing to connect a group of riders wirelessly with in-ear microphones and speakers. If you plan on going the less technical route, hand signals are the best way to communicate to fellow riders you will be changing course.

Ride Safe, Ride Smart

Following motorcycle road trip best practices like those we mentioned above is a great way to allow everyone to enjoy the journey and improve your chances of avoiding accidents.

If you are ever in need of legal help after a motorcycle accident, contact MaxPower Law to schedule a free, no-obligation consultation regarding your right to recovery: **425-970-9300.**

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May Events

The MaxPower Law team is hoping local motorcycle events will begin again this year!

Please check our website - www.maxpowerlaw.com - and our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/maxpowerlaw/ - as we receive updates about local events over the next few months.

Here are some events that are currently scheduled:

July 24-25: Rainier Rally in Buckley, WA

Put on by Resurrection MC, this event is aimed at raising funds for the Tribe of Judah Dental Van. There will be food, beer, bike games, wet t-shirt contest, live music and camping.

September 12: Sky Valley 24th Annual Motorcycle Show in Snohomish, WA.

September 16-19: Touratech Rally in Plain, WA.

This event focuses on dual sport motorcycles with many daily ride options for exploring nearby forests using logging roads.

September 25: Vintage Motorcycle Expo in Lynden, WA at NW Washington Fairgrounds 10 am - 3 pm.

September 26: Oyster Run in Anacortes, WA.

Largest motorcycle rally in Northwest. There will be food, beer gardens, lots of vendors, motorcycle stunt team, live music and oysters of course! www.oysterrun.org

October 2-4: Northwest Nitro Nationals Pro Hillclimb near Sunnyside, WA.

This is a favorite event of ours as spectators. Watching dirt bikes attempt to summit a massive dirt hill/mountain is more fun than words alone can describe.

www.facebook.com/nwnitronationals/



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