



## Planning a Successful Motorcycle Trip

Well, we made it through the holidays and the new year has already got me thinking about riding season! It is never too early to start planning for your first motorcycle trip of the year. Here are some tips on how to plan a SUCCESSFUL ride:

### Choose Your Destination

It may sound obvious, but it is much easier to plan all the other stuff once you have a set destination in mind, so keep reading.

### Map Your Route

Try to plan your trip using smaller highways and back roads. There will most likely be less traffic, more curves, and way better scenery!



### Mileage, Gas Stops and Lodging

Make sure you know your bike's mileage before you start your trip. Once you have figured out your MPG, multiply that by the size of your fuel tank so you have a reference point of where you are at between fill-ups. You will want to plan gas stops, so make sure you take that into consideration when mapping out your route. Also think about where you plan to sleep along the way. Camping or motels? Maybe both? Check out Yelp, Expedia, TripAdvisor, or ADVRider for help with motel rooms.

### Packing

You don't want to take a bunch of stuff with you and overload your bike, so determine what is absolutely necessary to bring with you. A few things you may want to take for worst-case scenarios:

- › A set of rain gear
- › A small tire-repair kit
- › Zip ties and a small tool roll
- › A few snacks and a bottle of water

### Tell Someone About Your Trip

Let them know your route, when you expect to arrive at points along the way and let them know once you have safely arrived at those points.

### Consider a Riding Buddy

You will be able to look out for each other and it will give you someone to talk to along the way.

### Tune Up Your Bike

Make sure all of the mechanical pieces of your bike are working and are safe. Check tire tread levels, keep an eye on tire pressure, make sure the oil has been changed recently, and that your brake fluid is good.

### Be Open to Change

Having a plan is important, but if you see something out there that you want to go and explore, you should go for it...as long as it doesn't put you in an unsafe situation or leave you without gas! If you veer off your mapped route, be sure to let someone at home know about it. Be safe, smart, and have some fun out there!



### Check out some of the Best Scenic Motorcycle Rides in the Pacific Northwest:

- › Highway 20 Washington Pass, WA
- › Mount Rainier, WA

- › The Klickitat Loop, WA
- › The Devil's Tail, OR
- › Aufferdeide Memorial Drive, OR

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## Black Thursday is January 16th at the Capitol in Olympia

Black Thursday is a yearly event in January where motorcycle enthusiasts across Washington state ride to Olympia and meet with legislators to discuss motorcycle riding issues. This event is a time for the motorcycle community to come together and protect the right to ride and fight for common ground motorcycling issues. This event was originally organized by ABATE of Washington, which is a non-profit organization whose main purpose is upholding citizen's Rights as they apply to Motorcyclists.

For more detailed information about Black Thursday, please visit the ABATE of Washington website at: [www.abate-wa.org](http://www.abate-wa.org)



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