

# Motorcycle Trip Checklist

By Fae Fisher

- Inspect your motorcycle.
  - Make sure both tires are properly inflated.
  - If suspect a tire will not last long enough for a ride, have it replaced.
  - Check if your cables (clutch and brakes) and controls intact and working.
  - Make sure your headlights (high & low beam), turn signals, and brake lights work.
  - Check everything from engine oil and coolant to brake fluid.
  - Ensure that the frame, suspension, chain, and fasteners are all secure and intact.
  - Make sure the center stand and/or side stand isn't cracked or bent, and that springs properly hold the assembly away from the pavement when stowed.
  - Check if shocks and fork springs and fork seals are in good condition.
- Motorcycle Equipment to Take
  - BMW Tool kit and BMW or VDO tire gauge: use it every day.
  - Extra wrenches and pliers (optional).
  - Duct tape & electric tape (partial rolls take less space).
  - Wire, hose clamps, fuses, silicone seal, misc nuts & bolts.
  - Bulb kit (BMW) or spare front, taillight & turn signal bulb.
  - Spare spark plugs (also points and condenser for pre-'81 twins).
  - Spare fuel filter (for K models only).
  - Spare float bowl gaskets or carb rebuild kit (for twins only).
  - Spare clutch cable (optional-inspect or change before leaving).
  - Shop rag and handiwipes.
  - Cargo straps & bungee cables.
  - BMW tire repair kit.
- Clothes and Soft Goods to Take
  - Cash and credit card, auto club card if you have one.
  - Current dealer list, insurance and registration cards, driver's license.
  - First Aid kit.
  - Several sets of earplugs for less fatigue.

- Sunglasses, extra visor, visor cleaner and rag.
- Sunscreen (For nose and arms, especially), aspirin, vitamins, bug repellent antihistamines if you suffer from allergies.
- Swimsuit.
- Towel (the "packable" travel towels take a lot less space), washcloth.
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, toiletries, toilet paper, soap & shampoo.
- Shoes & extra socks.
- Underwear, T-shirts (not too many--you can wash them).
- Sweatshirt, heavy wool shirt or sweater for warmth (or electric vest).
- Polartec or similar fabric vest, jacket, pants (excellent under a riding suit).
- Silk or polyester balaclava.
- Rain suit (not necessary if you have Gore?Tex suit).
- Rain mitts and rain boots/boot covers.
- Various gloves appropriate for the ranges of weather expected.
- Extra stuff sacks for organizing your gear.
- Light reading book, guidebooks.
- Maps and information about points of interest along your route.
- Camping Gear
  - Tent - as small and light as possible.
  - Tarp or ground cloth option.
  - Sleeping pad.
  - Inflatable pillow (optional but nice).
  - Sleeping bag.
  - Water bottle.
  - Small flashlight and extra batteries.
  - Extra candles and matches or lighter.