

How to Prepare Your Motorcycle for Travel



Have the Time of Your Life!

Liz Jansen

Where the Road Meets Spirit



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How to Prepare Your Motorcycle for Travel

- Set up for success
- Routine inspections
- Travel preparations



Why Do It

- Safety
- Motorcycle
- Security
- Fun/Enjoyment
- Time



Photo credit: Presidio Studios, WV

Set up for Success

Have:

- Someone knowledgeable with you
- Distraction free zone
- Space
- Lighting
- Time
- Owner's manual
- Tools
- Shop manual if possible, but not necessary

Practice before going on a trip

Get to Know Your Owner's Manual

- No tools required
- Take it to your bike
- Go through page by page
- Keep maintenance records here
- Store on bike



Visual Signs of Trouble

1. Worn or damaged tires
2. Fluid leaks – coolant, fork oil, engine oil, gas
3. Loose fasteners
4. Frayed cables
5. Worn hoses

Tires

- Pressure
- Wear
- Spokes
- Rims



Basic Inspection

Fluids

- Oil
- Coolant
- Hoses
- Forks
- Fuel

Controls

- Levers
- Cables
- Throttle

Basic Inspection

Electrical

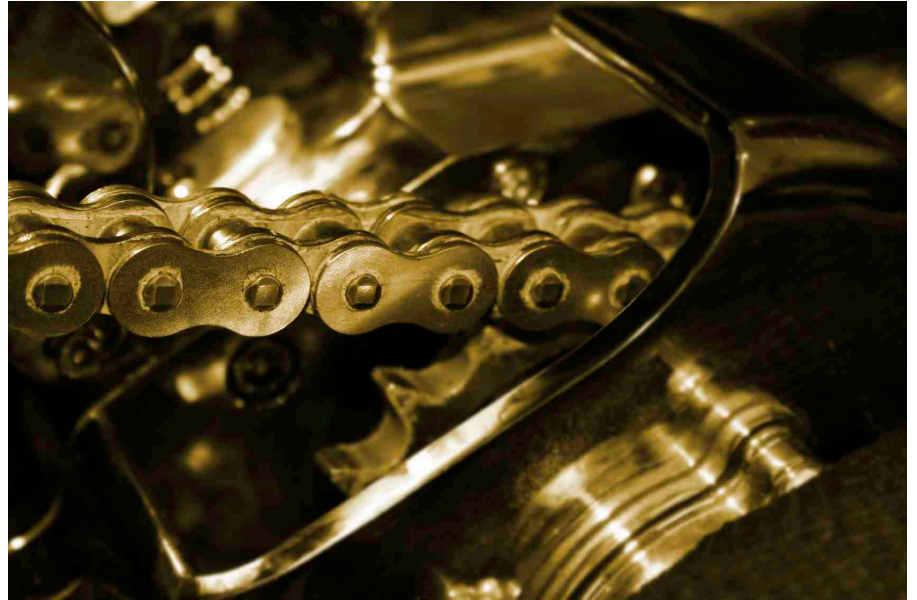
- Spark plugs
- Battery
- Wiring
- Lights

Chassis

- Frame
- Forks
- Shocks
- Stands – Side stand, center stand

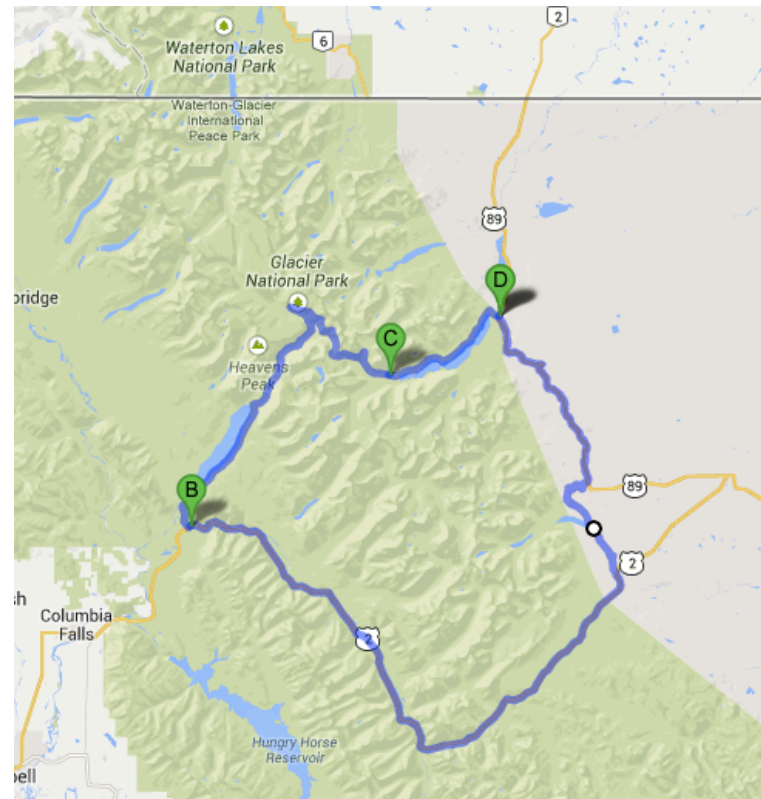
Basic Inspection

- Transmission
 - Chain
 - Belt



Trip Preparation

- Pre-departure maintenance depends on:
 - Where
 - How long
 - Availability
 - Convenience



Pre-Departure Maintenance

1. Check routine maintenance schedule in owner's manual.
2. List what will need doing during trip.
3. Get done what makes sense before you leave.

Tools to Carry

- Multi-tool
- Pliers
- Screwdriver – multi-headed
- 10/12 mm open end wrench
- 14/17 mm open end wrench
- Hex keys/Allen keys – 3,4,5,6 mm
- Spark plug wrench
- Chain wax/lube (for Chain driven transmissions)
- [Revzilla Tool Kit \(shown\)](#)



Tools to Carry for Tires

- Air pressure gauge
- Mini air compressor
- Tire repair kit
- [Revzilla's Tire Repair Kit \(shown\)](#)



Parts to Carry

- Oil filter
- Spark plugs
- Spokes
- Bulbs (usually readily available)
- Fuses – include electrical gear or accessories



Misc to Carry

AMA Membership



Jumper Cables



Available from
Revzilla

Electrical Tape

Tie Wraps

Flashlight

Spare batteries



SealMate



Available from
SealMate

Rescue Tape



Available from
Rescue Tape

Multi-use Tools

Emergency Do-All



Multi-tool



Bicycle Tool



Pocket Wrench



Fuel Range

Example:

- 15.5 liter/4.1 gallon gas tank
- Hit reserve at 200 km/120 miles
- Fill up – it only takes 12 liters
- 3 liters in reserve – enough to take you $200/15.5*3$ or 40km/24 miles

Plan ahead

Adjusting for Load

- Passenger
- Additional weight
- Capacity
 - Tires
 - Suspension
- Balance
- Center of Gravity



Additional Resources

- MSF [Passenger Tip Sheet](#)
- MSF [TCLOCS Pre-Ride Inspection Sheet](#)
- Motorcycle.com
[How to Load Your Motorcycle](#)

Additional Resources

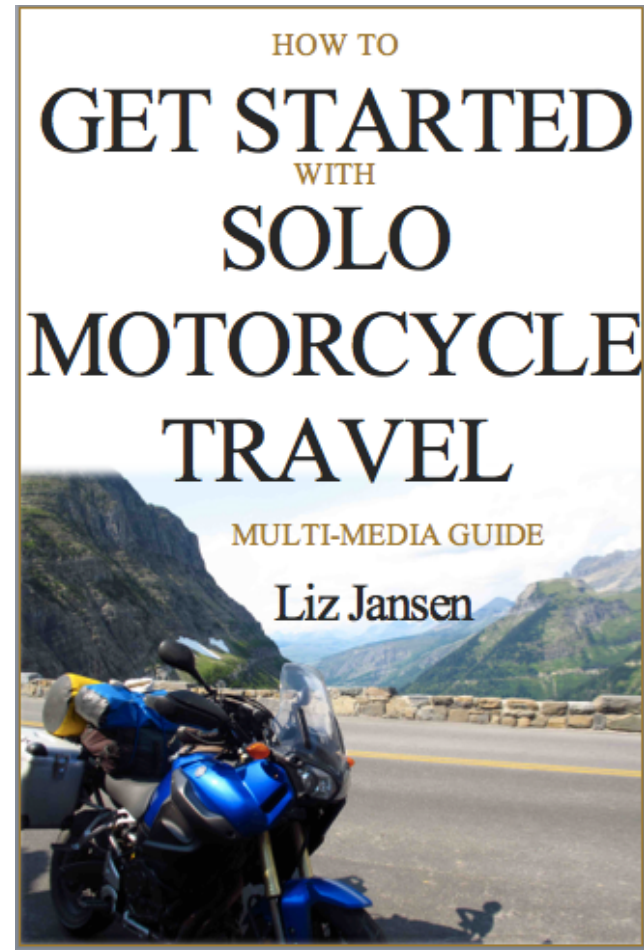
- [Revzilla](#)
- [Bike Bandit](#)
- [Motorcycles.about](#)
- Owner forums
- You Tube
- Google

Bonus Offer

- **4 Video Modules**
- Motorcycle Suitability Assessment Worksheet
- Gear and Clothing Packing Guide
- Motorcycle Maintenance and Emergency Items Packing Guide
- Motorcycle Readiness Guide
- Self-Assessment Worksheet
- Common Fears & Solutions Guide
- Budget Worksheet (Excel)

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<https://gum.co/solo-travel-guide/travel>



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