

GROUP RIDING AND RIDING WITH A PASSENGER

GROUP RIDING

Motorcycling is primarily a solo activity, but may also be enjoyed in a group. Below are some tips on how to enjoy a safe group ride.

- Arrive with a full gas tank.
- Before heading out as a group discuss the route, rest and fuel stops, as well as hand signals.
- Assign a lead and sweep rider who are experienced riders; the leader should assess riding skills and styles before heading out.
- Make sure the group is a manageable size (5 to 7 riders); break up the group into smaller sub-groups if necessary.
- At least one rider in each group should carry a cell phone, first aid kit and a tool kit.
- Motorcyclists should ride in formation with the lead rider in the front left position; staggering the motorcycles using a 2 second following rule allows riders enough space to react to and avoid hazards; avoid side-by-side formations.
- Check riders in your rear view mirror from time to time. Slow down if a rider is falling behind.
- Don't panic if you are separated from the group; your group should always have a pre-planned place to regroup before you start riding; don't ride beyond your skills - this may cause serious problems.
- Use a cell phone to call for assistance if there is a medical or mechanical problem.

RIDING WITH A PASSENGER

Adding a passenger opens up a whole new dimension to your motorcycling experience. The bike will feel heavier, acceleration will be reduced, stopping distances will lengthen and stability may be affected in turns. Below are some tips to consider when carrying a passenger.

- Do not carry a passenger unless you are comfortable in your abilities and judgments; practice away from traffic.
- Adjust the suspension and tire pressure according to the manufacturer's recommendations found in your owner's manual.
- Never carry a passenger in front of you; this is dangerous and illegal in many jurisdictions.
- Your passenger must be able to reach the footrests and should be able to look over your shoulder.
- Be sure your passenger is wearing proper protective gear and that shoe laces are tucked in.
- Show your passenger how to mount so that he or she can avoid the hot exhaust pipes; have the bike started and ready to go before the passenger mounts; place both feet on the ground and grip the front brake; this stabilizes the motorcycle for the passenger to mount and dismount.



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