



Making Life Simple
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Motorcycle Travel Checklist

Pre-departure checks

- ð Service Bike
- ð Ensure sufficient tyre wear for journey
- ð Bike has GB sticker or a euro style registration plate.
- ð You have Insurance Cover for riding in the countries you are touring. Also check with your insurers that you will enjoy the same level of insurance (i.e. fully comprehensive) as by law they only have to offer third party F&F.
- ð Arrange Continental Breakdown Cover, which will repatriate yourself and your bike back to the UK.
- ð Arrange Personal Medical Cover which will repatriate you in the event of illness, accident or death. (over & above European Health Card)
- ð Load routes onto Satellite Navigator

Essential Documents

- ð Passport - **check expiry date**
- ð Motorcycle Registration Document V5c (original)
- ð Insurance & MOT documents (original)
- ð Breakdown Assistance / Repatriation Cover
- ð European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) (Can be obtained online www.dh.gov.uk/travellers, by phoning 0845 6062030, or by post from any main Post Office) - **check expiry date** if you already have one
- ð **Haggis Tours information pack - including ferry ticket reference number**
- ð Driving Licence
- ð Personal Travel Insurance

We recommend that you make good quality colour photocopies of all of your documents

Suggested Checklist

- ð Spare ignition keys
- ð Any Medication
- ð Spare fuses (in some countries required by law)
- ð Spare bulbs (in some countries required by law)
- ð Hi-vis vest – (in some countries required by law) (to be worn in case of breakdown)
- ð Lightweight and warm/waterproof gloves
- ð Puncture repair kit and/or install tyre sealant
- ð Duck tape/superglue
- ð Bike security devices (disc locks etc)
- ð Spare battery for Alarm fob
- ð Credit cards. Sterling & local currency
- ð Earplugs
- ð Tyre pressure gauge
- ð Few extra tools
- ð Chain Lube
- ð Tie down strap
- ð Sunglasses / Reading glasses / spare glasses
- ð Touring maps & Guides
- ð Mobile phone (ensure sufficient credit & call barring lifted)
- ð Mobile Phone Charger

- ø Satellite Navigator mains charger
- ø Electric plug converter kit (Boots Chemist, or ferry)
- ø Camera w/ empty memory card, and batteries/charger
- ø Sun Block/Sun lotion/Lip balm
- ø Swimming costume

Hints and Tips

Planning

It is ok having a free-spirit, but things do not happen on their own. So spend a little time before departure to look at possible routes, things to see, and places to stay. A bit of preparation goes a long way to ensuring you make the most of your holiday. If you are new to touring, we suggest you go with a tour company such as ourselves, we will book ferries, plan routes, reserve hotels, and generally take the hassle out of your holiday plans.

Mileages

Do not be too ambitious with your daily mileages, Europe is a big place and you are not going to see it in a week. Choose an area you would like to see, and do it well. Then start planning your next trip.

Documents

Ensure you have all your documents along with contact phone numbers in a waterproof pouch on your person or bike (no good leaving them in your hotel if you break down on a day out). I have mine in a waterproof folder duck taped to the inside of my panniers. Some people put them in a waterproof folder and store them in their back protector.

Insurance

Carefully check all wording on Insurance, Travel and Breakdown Cover policies, ensure you are covered for **all** eventualities.

Ignition Keys /Alarm fobs

If travelling with a friend - swap your spare set of ignition keys/alarm fobs for the duration of the tour. Keep any alarm fobs in waterproof bag - not in a pocket - which is going to fill up with water !

Luggage

Do not trust throw over panniers with waterproof covers - pack contents inside plastic bin liner or similar as well. Test ride with loaded panniers to ensure they are remain secure and do not touch hot exhaust. There are also several products on the market which will prevent luggage slipping and protect paintwork.

Clothing

Very much a personal and budget choice. I try to dress in layers to cover all the temperature ranges you may experience on your tour. My personal choice is waterproof textile clothing and a cheap hi-vis waterproof jacket from a outdoor clothing shop should the rain become heavy. This helps to keep off the worst of the rain and improves your visibility to other drivers. I am sure many of you are aware of the tip of putting plastic bags on your feet to help you get waterproof over suits on, and the use of free garage forecourt plastic gloves as temporary waterproof covers for summer gloves.

Ferries

Put bike in 1st gear and on side stand (not centre stand) - this provides a triangle of points of contact, two of which are rubber. Tighten any tie down straps on the side stand side of the bike.

Pack all the items you require for an overnight crossing in one pannier, or tank bag this saves carrying unnecessary luggage to your cabin. Bags can easily be re-packed at your first overnight stop. Used a simple security loop to fasten your helmets to your bike, making even less to carry.

Toll Roads

Use a dedicated credit card to pay tolls (in case it is damaged). Even if using manned barrier, this is much quicker and easier, especially if a solo rider. Keep credit card and toll ticket in secure and waterproof location which can be reached easily, a tank bag is ideal. Do not speed between toll booths - your ticket time will give you away and you could be prosecuted. Any fines often have to be paid in cash.

Lunch time

Countries such as France shut down for lunch between 1200 -1400 hrs, consequently the roads are much quieter, we always take advantage of this fact to make good progress.

Petrol

With the introduction of chip & pin credit cards, getting petrol at out of hours unmanned filling stations is much better. However, be aware in many rural areas (France especially) petrol stations can close down at Saturday lunchtime and all day Sunday. Fuel is available 24/7 on all AutoRoute's and main trunk roads, but like the UK is more expensive. Cheapest fuel can be found at Supermarkets.

If you have any hints or tips you would like to pass on - please contact us