



11 Tips for a Bike Ride to Spiti Valley

Chilled air hitting your face, adventure of riding a motorcycle, the pleasure of exploring curves and experiencing freedom in your life. But more often than not you also face 'Rough terrain', 'less oxygen in Air', 'Puncture tire in the middle of nowhere' and 'Very less to no petrol pumps'. These are some experiences you get on a bike ride to Spiti! Here are a few things you could follow to have a safe and fun road trip.



Always Alert Avoid Accident

Riding demands a hell lot of alertness. Do not miss the road signs. Always keep track of the distance covered and distance remaining. Ask the travelers coming from the other side about the road conditions, availability of repair stations and petrol pumps. Watch out for animals crossing the road and blind curves.



Understand Your Motorcycle

Imagine being stuck on a high altitude pass with broken clutch wire or punctured tire with no repairing shop around or being out of petrol in no man's land. Could get a lot worse. Know your bike; Understand it; Feel it an extension of you; How much mileage your motorcycle will give at high altitude; what are the condition of parts and many others are questions you need to have answers to.



Follow Basic Riding Rules

- On a narrow road, let the climbing vehicles pass first.
- Always drive in your lane.
- Never overtake from the wrong side.
- Always blow a horn at the curves.
- Use dipper at night.
- Never overtake on the curves.



Anticipation is Important

Call it an advantage that when you ride through high mountains landscape becomes barren, without trees. It allows you perfectly to look far ahead. Before entering a hairpin or switchback, always look up or down, so you know in advance what you will encounter during the turn.



Mind Your Brakes

While riding upwards, you can use the rear brake during turns: that will stabilize the bike, and it allows you to keep the throttle open during the turn. But downward, the rear brake is of no use: the rear wheel almost carries no weight, which means it will stop turning very easily when you apply the rear brake.



Turning Points / Curves

Lanes are very important in the mountains, especially when you are turning through a corner. Always start at the outside: if a corner is at your left, start at the right side and in a corner to the right you start left. On really narrow roads with hairpins, don't begin on the lane for oncoming traffic.



Way Down – Use Gear Braking

Most of the times, it is riding downward that is difficult. Try to use the engine brake as much as you can: shift gear downward until you have the right speed without the throttle, or with a bit of throttle. When it is so steep that your speed is too high, even in the first gear, you will have to use the brake as well (the front that is).



Take A Break & Energise

Riding feels good. But stretching your body with a hell of view in front of you and a cup of tea in your hand feels even better. So why not do it more often. There is a limit to the amount of time you can keep yourself concentrated. Plus always remember that what matters most is the journey, not the destination.



Park Safely

Never park your motorcycle facing towards a downhill. Motorcycle stands are designed to lock when the motorcycle goes backward. Always try to find a plane surface as you can and park the bike facing uphill. Also, look around of loose stones that may fall from above.



Kill the Speed Demon

Always plan your journey and keep your targets practical. In the mountains, roughly you can cover 150-180 km of distance in 08 hours. It might be lesser if road conditions are not good. So always keep it planned in order to avoid the rush. Keep your speed in check. Even if you are running late, never try to compensate it with your speed.



Use Right Bike Accessories

Utilize your resources to the maximum. See in your mirrors more often. Use helmet, knee & elbow guards. Always give indicator before turning. Get yourself a mobile charger powered by the battery of your motorcycle. Wear Gloves. Always carry a water bottle with you as you have to keep your body hydrated no matter what. Keep spare bungee cords with you, protect yourself from sunburn and use saddlebags for carrying your luggage.

Himalayan Travel Tips

- Have Buffer Days
- Stay Warm & Hydrated
- Avoid Alcohol
- Carry Required Clothing, Food & Water
- Drive with Caution & Care
- Start Early, Sleep Early



#SaveOurHimalayas

- Spread Smiles Not Plastic
- Stop Littering
- Bring Back Your Own Trash
- Avoid Plastic Water Bottles