



RIDING IN GROUPS – The Basics

Enjoy the ride AND get home so you can enjoy another ride later on

Riding in groups can be incredibly enjoyable. Unfortunately, it can also be a recipe for disaster when you forget the basics. Before you set out have a chat about these questions.

1. Where are we going?

All members of the group, not just the lead rider, need to know the destination and the basic route just in case the group is separated. Eg, when we leave Penrith we are going up the Gt Western Highway. Turn off at Hartley for Tarana and Oberon and on to Bathurst – then back to Lithgow and down the Bells to Richmond.

2. Where do we stop?

Some riders can do 750 klms only stopping for fuel while others need to stop every 100 klms for a smoko and fuel. You need to plan around the limitations of each rider. Eg, if you are on a BMW GS1250 and riding with someone on a Honda Firestorm, a Harley Fatboy, a Kawasaki Z1000 and an old Goldwing, the group will have to stop every 150 klms for the Firestorm to get fuel. As a group, you need to plan your smoko and meal stops around the Firestorm fuel stops.

3. How long will it take?

Some rides will be only a couple of hours and others will be a couple of days. Make sure you all have the right gear for the varying weather and the bikes are prepared for the length of ride. Eg, You will meet at Berowra and head to Peats Ridge, Broke and back down the Putty Rd to Windsor. When you include the time from home to Berowra and from Windsor back home the ride can take a full day. You will need food and water or enough money to buy something on the way. Even if it is fine and clear at home take your wet weather gear as the weather in the Hunter Valley can be completely different to Sydney. Basic checks such as tyre pressure, chain tension and engine oil will be needed before you set out.

4. What happens if I break down?

Mobile phones have reduced the stress of breaking down. BUT, add a few mountains and the mobile service can disappear, even close to the cities and major towns. The easiest way to manage a breakdown is to make sure you keep an eye on the rider behind you. If they disappear, slow down so they can catch up. If they don't catch up, turn around and find them. The rider in front of you should be doing the same thing so eventually everyone will be heading back to look for the breakdown.

On a day ride, the most common crash for the inexperienced rider is when they try to keep up with the lead riders. This is usually seen as a single vehicle crash on a corner caused by applying the brakes too late. Fast riders also crash but that's usually because their line through the corner makes them drift wide and they get on the gas too early.