

We are frequently asked about what to pack for riding in Alaska. You will likely ride through multiple weather patterns as Alaska is a huge state. Temperatures can have a broad swing throughout the day. Bringing the proper gear will ensure you are ready for whatever Mother Nature throws your way. Be prepared for sun, rain, hail, snow, and mosquitoes - it's all part of the adventure.

There are a few questions you need to consider: How long is my trip going to be? How far north am I traveling? How much space do I have to be able to pack what I need? Am I riding solo or with a passenger?

Here's a basic list to get you started.

# **Riding Gear:**

- Helmet Full face helmet with pinlock or fog resistant shield is recommended. Riders are required to wear a helmet at all times.
- Buff or Neck Gaiter Keeps you warm and prevents wind and bugs from going down your neck.
- Riding Jacket Waterproof, vented and with armor
- Riding Pants Waterproof, vented and with armor
- Motorcycle Gloves One pair light, one pair mid to heavy weight and one waterproof
- Base Layers for both your top and bottom, synthetic or natural wool base layers (We love merino wool like Smartwool or Icebreaker brands)
- Mid Layers Fleece, plus a technical jacket for an extra layer or for after riding
- Riding Socks Long, moisture-wicking synthetic or wool
- Motorcycle Boots Tall waterproof, comfortable to be in all day as well as walking
- Rain Jacket/Suit We do recommend waterproof riding gear and at the very least a lightweight rain suit. A rain jacket or suit that fits over your gear can provide an extra layer of warmth as well as extra visibility.

### Clothing:

- Flops, shoes & socks Something comfortable for after riding
- 1 pair each of short & long pants Quick dry, durable and lightweight
- Shirts Preferably not cotton rather wool or technical fabrics
- Fleece Jacket, pullover, or vest (see mid layer above)
- Long sleeve jacket Technical jacket for an extra layer or evenings (see above)
- Underwear Quick dry, moisture wicking
- Hat Ball cap and warm hat for after riding
- Bathing suit for hot springs or hot tub

### **Personal Items:**

• Toiletries, medications, etc. We'll leave this section up to you and your specific needs.

## Stuff you will find handy:

- **Toiletry bag** Pack your liquids into screw-top plastic bottles or in ziploc bags so they will not accidentally spill over everything in your bags
- **Earplugs** It's simple, protect your hearing (from road noise and roommates)
- Insect repellent Alaska is known for mosquitos and 'no-see-ums'
- Toilet Paper There's a lot of wide-open spaces without rest areas
- Wet Wipes Used to clean (pits, crotch, ass, hands, face choose your order). Wet wipes also work great for cleaning up after maintaining your bike
- Hand Sanitizer A small bottle for when no water is available to clean hands
- First Aid Kit Always a good thing to carry
- **Ziploc Bags** Handy for keeping organized
- Charging cords All of our motorcycles are equipped with an SAE connector. BMW's have a Hella/DIN power outlet also. Bring compatible cords and adapters. Our motorcycles are equipped with one RAM ball mount - bring compatible accessories to clip on.
- Stuff Sacks/Packing cubes Separate belongings into categories using lightweight stuff sacks or packing cubes that require hardly any extra space when empty. They are great grab and go when you are done riding for the day. They also make packing up your bike a breeze. Follow the links below for examples:
  - <u>Thule Compression Packing Cube Medium | REI Co-op</u>
  - Sea to Summit Ultra-Sil Stuff Sack Set of 3 | REI Co-op

We provide model specific tool kits for chain adjustment and tire repair.

### **Do Not Leave Home Without:**

- Passport (for international travelers or if you are riding into Canada make a photocopy)
- Driver's license with motorcycle endorsement required for motorcycle rental
- Credit Card required for motorcycle rental

From our personal experience is it important to find a balance between the "always be prepared" motto and packing light. The tendency is always to over pack! One thing we have found helpful is to lay out all your clothes ahead of time and then get rid of half of what you've laid out (you may need to repeat this step). Pre-packing in stuff sacks or packing cubes will also give you a better idea of how much you have. Remember, it's a motorcycle vacation, meaning you'll spend most of your time in riding gear on a motorcycle. Your comfort should focus around this activity. Regular street clothes should really be kept at a minimum. One last thing - leave room for things like water, snacks, and of course souvenirs!