



# White Rose Motorcycle Tours

Specialising in UK and European Motorcycle Touring Holidays

Tel : 01423 770103      [www.motorcycletours.co.uk](http://www.motorcycletours.co.uk)

## Motorcycle Travel Checklist

### Pre-departure checks

- Service Bike
- Ensure sufficient tear wear for journey
- Bike has GB sticker or a euro style registration plate.
- You have Insurance Cover abroad for your bike to 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.
- Arrange Continental Breakdown Cover, which will repatriate yourself and your bike back to the UK.
- Arrange Personal Medical Cover which will repatriate you in the event of illness, accident or death.
- Load routes onto Satellite Navigator

### Essential Documents

- Passport - **check expiry date**
- Driving Licence (including paper document if new credit card type)
- Motorcycle Registration Document (original)
- Insurance & MOT documents (original)
- Breakdown Assistance / Repatriation Cover
- Personal Travel Insurance
- European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) (Can be obtained online [www.dh.gov.uk/travellers](http://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
- White Rose Tour information pack - including ferry ticket reference number

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

### Suggested Checklist

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare ignition keys  | <input type="checkbox"/> Puncture repair kit and/or install tyre sealant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Credit cards. Sterling & local currency  | <input type="checkbox"/> Chain Lube                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any Medication   | <input type="checkbox"/> Duck tape/superglue                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses / Reading glasses / spare glasses                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Few extra tools                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Touring maps & Guides ( <a href="http://www.Mapsmen.com">www.Mapsmen.com</a> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> bike security devices (disc locks etc)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile phone (ensure sufficient credit & call barring lifted)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tyre pressure gauge                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Phone Charger   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tie down strap                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Satellite Navigator mains charger & battery Allen key                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare fuses (in some countries required by law) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare battery for Alarm fob  | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare bulb (in some countries required by law)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camera w/ empty memory card, and batteries/charger                             | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal stereo  | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric plug converter kit (Boots Chemist, or ferry)                          | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sun Block/Sun lotion/Lip balm  | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming costume   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproofs  | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lightweight and warm/waterproof gloves   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> earplugs   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hi-vis vest – to be worn in case of breakdown                                  | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UTAG electronic storage device   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |

## **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 day out). I have mine in a waterproof folder duck taped to the inside of my panniers. We also recommend the UTAG electronic storage device. Available in dog collar, wrist band or credit card configuration, the device can store not only vital medical information but also has a private folder to store encrypted copies of important documents including passports, driving licences etc. UTAG devices are offered to all White Rose Tours customers at a special discounted device.

### **Insurance**

Carefully check all wording on Insurance, Travel and Breakdown Cover policies, ensure you are covered for **all** eventualities. Gold Cover (Tel: 01892 559530) are used by ourselves.

### **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 turn 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 both require for an overnight crossing in one pannier, 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.

Many stations in Italy do not accept credit cards, so ensure you have plenty of cash.

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