



STAY SAFE WHILE TRAVELING ON YOUR IRON HORSE

Motorcycle Theft

- a) **Push and drive offs:** Thief's will pull a flat bed trailer up next to their target bike, push the bike down onto the trailer and drive off. This will happen before you have finished paying for your Big Mac.
- b) **Roll offs:** A thief will also attempt to push the bike in a less populated area and lift it into a van or truck.

Prevention

- Location... Location... Location... pick your parking spot wisely.

Follow these basic tips to help avoid becoming a victim of motorcycle theft:

- Lock your ignition and remove the key. Most bike thefts occur when the ignition is shut off, but not locked.
- Lock the forks or disk brakes with locks that have large, brightly colored tags.
- If traveling with other riders, lock motorcycles together when not in use.
- If riding alone, lock your bike to a secure, stationary object that can't be easily dismantled, such as a light pole.
- Add an audible alarm to your motorcycle.
- When traveling and spending the night at a hotel, locate an outdoor security camera and park your bike in the camera's view. If this is not possible, park your bike close to your room.
- Keep an eye on your bike. When parking at a public event, check your motorcycle periodically, especially immediately after leaving your bike, to make sure there are no suspicious individuals lurking about.
- If parking in a garage, block your bike with automobiles, close the garage door and make sure it is locked.
- Don't store your title in your bike's storage compartment, tank bag or saddlebag. The safest place for your title is at home.
- Uniquely mark and then photograph your bike. If thieves take your bike, note its unique markings to law enforcement using the photos you have taken.
- Keep your bike registration and insurance identification card on you when you ride.

Equipment theft

Out of sight out of mind (eye candy).

- If it is in plain view (GPS, cell phones and helmets) it's not a matter of if it will get stolen but when.
- Take the time to remove / store your valuables.
- A thief may unsuccessfully attempt to remove your goodies from your bike but knock your horse over in their attempt. Save yourself the aggravation and remove eye candy and store it or carry it with you. That means even if your grabbing a quick sandwich from a fast food joint.
- Add on electronics should be mounted with quick release devices so that you can remove and store easily.



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Personal safety

We all become a little too comfortable while traveling.

Complacency will eventually make you and your horse a target.

1. Probably one of the best safety habits you can develop is research. Before you travel to any city or destination do some research. Nowadays it's easy to go online and find information for nearly anything or any place. Use this to your advantage. Check out cities, hotels, places to eat, whatever. You could also talk to other people who have traveled there before. Plan your route in advance and stick to well-lit and well-traveled places. Having an idea beforehand of what you can expect is vital. Be aware of your surroundings at all times and always maintain a confident composure. You never want to look as if you're unsure about yourself or the area.
2. Use the buddy system. It is always safest, especially for women, to travel in the company of others. The more friends the better. Remember, there is safety in numbers. Fatigue can lead to the inability to think or act clearly. If you need a rest TAKE A BREAK.
 - Avoid alleys, walking in dim lit areas.
 - Dummy wallets.
 - If your gut says things don't look or feel safe, **then listen!**
 - Even if you're lost or confused your appearance should show that you're confident. Remember predators seek out the weak or the sheep that has strayed from the pack.
 - If traveling alone, pick your stops in well lit populated areas. Remember "if it doesn't smell right, then it's not right", keep on rolling!
 - If you don't have a cell phone GET ONE. It could save your life not to mention ordering that late night pizza at the campground. Cell phones are a inexpensive valuable tool for a traveler.

Don't let your machismo get in the way of common sense.

In the event you are confronted by a suspect demanding your money / wallet etc. Don't hesitate, give it to them (dummy wallet), and take a mental snap shot of their appearance and clothing.