



How to plan a great ride on wonderful roads from the comfort of your home.





Decide where you want to go

- Is there a theme that interests you?
 - trains, planes, automobiles, parks/monuments
- Do you think it will appeal to others?
 - You will never satisfy everyone



How long should the trip be?

- single day
- multiple days



What type of riding do we want to do?

- Is the destination of primary importance?
 - quickest way, regardless of road type (mostly freeways or good secondary roads)
- Is the ride the primary importance?
 - All paved roads
 - mostly secondary roads, minimum freeways.
 - Combination paved & unpaved
 - can GS type riders and street riders be accommodated with rendezvous.



Rider skill level?

- Novice
 - probably not a good idea to include too many “twistees”
 - best to ride behind more experienced rider that sets a moderate pace.
 - let the rider know there is a minimum pace he/she is expected to keep. We want to arrive at the destination at a reasonable time.
 - be open and honest with the rider.
 - new rider, new bike – discourage multi-day trips until some experience is gained. Otherwise nobody will enjoy the trip.
 - be especially candid about observed safety concerns.
 - encourage not discourage.



Rider skill level (cont.)

- Intermediate
 - include “twistees” but expect a slower pace.
 - encourage to ride behind more experienced rider.
- Experienced
 - be prepared to split the group.
 - part of the group will want to “ride like their hair is on fire”, others will feel “55 means 55”.



Day trip

- Destination is primary.
 - plan on spending 2 — 3 hours at destination.
 - maximum 250 — 350 miles total which is about 6 - 6½ hours riding.
- Ride is primary.
 - plan on 1 hour or less at destination.
 - maximum 200 — 300 miles total which is about 6 - 6½ hours riding.
- Eating along the way.
 - whether a “sit down” or fast food lunch is driven by estimated time remaining for the trip.



Multi-day trip

- Determine total number of days.
- Using mapping programs, do a quick mileage calculation from origin to destination and return.
- Using roughly 300 miles per day determine if you will be able to make your final destination in the planned time.
- Make adjustments as necessary
 - shorten the trip or extend the time.



Multi-day trip (cont.)

- Using mapping programs, adjust the route to account for type of ride you want;
 - for sightseeing, type of road.
 - plan nightly stops.
 - using a rough departure time of 9:00am, 1½ hour lunch, 20 minute gas stops in morning and afternoon, what is estimated arrival time for the night? I usually like to arrive between 5:30 and 6:00pm.
 - adjust each day as necessary
 - earlier departure time, shorter lunch or perhaps the next night's destination needs to be revised.



Multi-day trip (cont.)

- Plan on fuel stops at least every 150 miles. This can be adjusted when you find out the range of each participants bike.
- Determine lodging availability for each night.
 - try for non-chain hotels.
 - try for a nightly rate of \$100 or less.
 - contact hotels and ask for their best group rate.
 - ask to block out a group of rooms until a certain time.
 - ensure their cancellation policy will allow reasonable cancellations.



Multi-day trip (cont.)

- When the route and lodgings are finalized;
 - Prepare list of lodgings with addresses and contact information
 - advise participants of lodging details and a need to reserve by date.
- Prepare a route map, preferably in PDF format.
- Ask club Rides Director to make trip information package available on the club website.



Day of the trip

- participant introductions.
- provide each rider a list of participants and their contact numbers.
- provide handouts, as desired — maps, hotel info, etc.
- briefing on the first day ride.
 - review of the route.
 - tentative fuel stops.
 - tentative lunch stop.
 - ensure everyone knows the location of the first night's hotel.
- safety briefing.
- Break riders into groups of no more than 5. Groups should be spaced no less than 1 minute apart.



Promotion

- A trip, whether it's a single day or multiple days will not be successful if people don't know about it.
- Do more than getting it in the Ride Book, Rides Page or the club calendar. Generate some excitement;
 - have your write-up distributed as part of a club wide e-mail.
 - make a short “pitch” at the monthly club meetings.



Tips, Tricks & Techniques

- If you are a Garmin GPS user, consider planning the route in MapSource or BaseCamp PC software and providing a file in GPX format to whomever wants it.
- If some of the back roads are unfamiliar or questionable, contact the state's DOT and ask about it.
 - is it paved all the way.
 - what is the condition of pavement.
 - is there any closures or construction.
- Consider using Google Earth to “fly the route” to get a good 3D view of what you may expect.



Tips, Tricks & Techniques (cont.)

- Start planning early enough so you don't "stress out" as the deadline nears.
- Consider where you are going and time of year. e.g. Yellowstone in the tourist season.
- Much of your hotel research can be done over the Internet, however I supplement this with AAA Travel Books, contacting local or state tourist authority's. Many lodgings aren't listed by AAA or don't have their own website.
- If you have time, research some interesting "tidbits" about the trip and do a short 1 or 2 page write-up, perhaps including photos from your personal collection or the Internet.
- Submit your write-up to the Rides Director , timely, for inclusion in the annual Ride Book. If you need to make changes to your ride, inform the Rides Director as soon as possible to ensure club website and Meetup are current and accurate.



In Conclusion

- Don't make it a bigger deal than it is !
- Don't be afraid to ask for help !
- Enjoy yourself !



Example using Google Earth





Example using Google Maps

Google maps Search Maps [Show search options](#)
Find businesses, addresses and places of interest. **The route has been modified. [Undo](#)**

Get Directions [My Maps](#)

A estes park
B grand lake
[Add Destination](#) - [Show options](#)
By car

Driving directions to Grand Lake, CO
46.5 mi – about 1 hour 11 mins
Via Trail Ridge Rd/US-34 W - [remove](#)

A Estes Park, CO

1. Head **south** on **Park Ln** toward **Virginia Dr** 56 ft
2. Continue straight onto **Virginia Dr** 161 ft
3. Turn **right** at **Big Thompson Ave/E Elkhorn Ave** 0.1 mi
4. Take the **1st left** onto **Moraine Ave/US-36 W** 6.7 mi
Continue to follow US-36 W

A satellite-style map showing a blue route from Estes Park, CO (marked with a green 'A') to Grand Lake, CO (marked with a green 'B'). The route follows US-36 W through the Rocky Mountain National Park area. Landmarks like Eagle Cliff Mountain, Gaski, and Meeker are visible. A scale bar at the bottom left shows 2 miles and 5 kilometers. Map navigation controls are visible on the left side of the map area.



Example using Streets & Trips

Summary: 46.6 miles (1 hour, 14 minutes)

Construction information for your route is out of date. Click this line to update.

9:00 AM	0.0	1 Depart Estes Park on US-34 Bus [W Elkhorn A	65 yds
9:00 AM	0.1	Turn RIGHT (South) onto US-36 [Moraine Ave]	1.2 mi
9:02 AM	1.2	Keep STRAIGHT onto US-36 [SR-66]	0.5 mi
9:03 AM	1.8	Keep STRAIGHT onto US-36	5.0 mi
9:11 AM	6.7	Bear LEFT (West) onto US-34 [Trail Ridge Rd]	39.1 mi
10:12 AM	45.8	Turn LEFT (East) onto Local road(s)	98 yds
10:12 AM	45.9	Turn RIGHT (East) onto SR-278 [West Portal Rd]	0.4 mi
10:14 AM	46.3	Keep STRAIGHT onto SR-278 [Park Ave]	76 yds

North America United States Colorado Cities~





Example using Garmin MapSource

