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# RIDE WITH GIANTS

While there are countless amazing rides in the United States, there are few that have an otherworldly and almost magical quality to them. Riding the Avenue of the Giants in the northern California Redwoods forests is one of those experiences. You drift through the corners with the towering trees soaring into the sky above you. In several places, they nearly blot out the sun and you feel like you are in a secret world. It is a beautiful place that doesn't feel real, and it does require a few stops to walk among the trees and experience their beauty up close.

Some of the "drive-thru" trees are very touristy, but they are still a fun moment to experience. A lesser-known ride in the area is the coastal loop starting in Ferndale on Mattole Road which winds its way down to the coast and then back into the Redwoods. It is an easy half-day ride that gives you the best of the ocean and the Redwoods all in one amazing ride. Highway 36 is another beautiful ride in the area that goes through Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park. Make sure you plan for several days in the area to experience everything it has to offer.





# Moto Camping: Hit the Road and Don't Look Back!

Motorcycle camping is incredibly rewarding when you pull it off. When it comes to motorcycle-friendly gear, you will need good luggage that attaches to the bike, that means saddlebags and a tank bag or tail bag. A backpack won't cut it.

I have a compact Kelty sleeping bag that fits neatly in the bottom of my saddlebag, and a cheap blanket that doubles as a bedroll/pillow. Select an inflatable pad that can shrink and take up less space. A small tent fits great on the back of my sportbike, too. I strap it all together with netting from CycleGear.

Remember to pack your bags with all the weight on the bottom to keep the center of gravity as low as possible. Packing your extra gear, rain suit, gloves, chaps in one saddlebag allows for easy access. In the other side, pack a small soft sided mini-cooler with some small freezer packs to keep the food fresh. A small first aid kit should be kept within easy reach.

After several multi-night camping trips, one thing I've learned is that you can buy almost anything on the road. This rule applies to water, snacks, and even beer. Don't pack it if you can buy it. I'm a fan of the "buy dinner today" approach, so I don't have to carry food and take up valuable storage space on the bike.

One must-have is a good map. Your phone won't work if you're traveling into the wilderness. AAA has great paper maps, and you can use your phone to mark out the gas stops and the grocery stores before you head out.

Though some like to simply find a dirt road and a tree to sleep under, I've found that most state camp sites and KOAs offer the necessities you'll need, like water, a toilet, and if you're lucky a shower. They're cheap, accessible, and most importantly you'll make friends with your neighbors, and that's one of the great joys of being out on a bike.

If you are a hardcore coffee drinker, there are mini French press machines that are a life saver. There is nothing better than sitting next to a warm fire in the morning, sipping your coffee and admiring your motorcycle. Now get out there and explore!



**HAVE A LAUGH!**





# CAFÉ RACERS: Gotta Need For Speed?

A café racer is a genre of sport motorcycles that originated among British motorcycle enthusiasts of the early 1960s in London. Café racers were standard production bikes that were modified by their owners and optimized for speed and handling for quick rides over short distances.

Mods usually take the form of a café racer seat, commonly referred to as a “bum stopper”, that prevent the rider from slipping backwards during hard acceleration. Shorter and lower handlebars are generally either clip-ons, attached to the fork legs, or ace bars.

Fifty-plus years ago, bikes were either on or off-road models, and the bikes that thundered around the Isle of Man TT (the most grueling and dangerous race course in the world), were merely street bikes with bum stopper seats and loud exhausts.

Emission laws and decibel levels were still an unthinkable nightmare back in the day, and even though factory fitted silencers like the BSA ‘Goldie’ and the Norton ‘Peashooter’ were pretty loud, every café racer rider worth his salt would add a reverse cone mega, or the insanely loud but seriously sexy ‘Tulip’.

Bikes like the legendary 140mph Manx Norton, BSA Goldstar (70mph in first gear) Velocette Venom, and Triumph Bonneville, were all available on the showroom floor. Regularly seen at famous meeting venues around London like the Ace Café and Busy Bee, racing from café to café gave the bikes their name. Reaching the magic 100mph added to their mystique still further and the infamous Ton-up Club was born.

Nowadays, the subculture continues to grow rapidly; more and more people want a personal, one-of-a-kind, distinctive bike. Motorcycle brands like Triumph, Moto Guzzi, and BMW also bring back the old days in their designs, delivering stock café racer style machines.



## Build ‘Em & Race ‘Em!

Several years ago, Steven Maes struck out to make a short documentary on his friends in the café racer scene in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Then he gathered more stories of wild and crazy riders around the world who build and race these bikes. The result is Caffeine and Gasoline—a documentary about café racer culture. This a great film that will inspire a race or two to the local watering hole. Find Caffeine and Gasoline now on iTunes, Apple TV, and Amazon.



YOUR LEGAL GUIDE TO  
**MOTORCYCLE**  
INJURY COMPENSATION

**What Bikers MUST KNOW**  
About Insurance Claims  
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## Your Legal Guide To **MOTORCYCLE INJURY** COMPENSATION

This insider's guide explains how motorcyclists can maximize claims after an accident and avoid expensive mistakes, that could devalue their case and cost them tens of thousands of dollars or more. Readers will learn the answers to 11 questions that injured bikers need to ask before they sign any settlement documents with an insurance company.

Read this important legal guide BEFORE you are involved in an accident! [www.NAMIL-LAW.org/jeffreyglassman](http://www.NAMIL-LAW.org/jeffreyglassman)

# GREAT GEAR:

## Harley-Davidson Riding Shoes



Motorcycle footwear has come a long way in the last several years. It wasn't that long ago when your choices were a black boot—or a black boot. Now the range of footwear that is both stylish and protective is nearly limitless. Harley-Davidson in particular has expanded their footwear offerings to include a “riding shoe”.

Two new arrivals are the Bateman, and Watkins, which feature waterproof leather materials and come in an array of light and dark brown. Both shoes feature a breathable HydroGuard waterproof membrane lining that offers protection from the elements. Style-wise both boots give off more of a casual shoe look, which makes them a bit more useful off the bike. While boots are generally stiff for walking, the H-D riding shoes offer a more comfortable fit and style.

<http://getmore-info.com/ridingshoe>

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# MOTO-PODCAST: The Vtwin Life

The Vtwin Life is a fast-growing podcast that focuses on people who ride and their stories. Podcast host, Denver Woods, has an easy-going way about him that fosters fantastic and interesting conversations with his guests.

Episode 16 features Michael Nielson, an army veteran who teamed up with Mission 22 to do motorcycle trips that bring awareness to veteran's issues back home. A sufferer of PTSD himself, he knows how hard it can be to return home and he tells several stories about how he has lost more military friends back home than overseas due to PTSD and depression. The Vtwin Life is a great listen at home or when you are on the road and chewing up the miles. Tune in and find it on Spotify or Apple Podcasts.

