



Someone
to share
magnificent
experiences
with is worth
a lot.

Traveling Partners

When traveling with someone, being selective has advantages.

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Traveling solo can be one of the most rewarding experiences, but solitude isn't for everyone.

A reliable travel partner isn't simply great company, it's someone who can help you feel safer, manage stress, and explore places off the beaten path.

On the other hand, a travel partner who isn't interested in or in agreement on the same things can quickly become a problem. Here are some ways to find the perfect travel partner.

FRIEND VERSUS SPOUSE

Many couples say traveling together is one of the biggest tests of their relationship. Being together 24/7, having to compromise, dealing with stress and challenges, and having little privacy can

all take a significant toll on a relationship. If you and your significant other are prepared to work through it that's fantastic. A long journey can really cement that bond and create unforgettable shared memories.

However, traveling with a friend is a great alternative and great fun, as well. Friends can be more willing to compromise and find creative solutions. They will always have your back. Plus, it's often easier to schedule days apart, where you might do some tourism while your friend goes on a kayaking trip. The shared adventures will strengthen the friendship, and you will always have stories to reminisce about.

PERSONALITY MATCH

Whether you travel with a riding friend or a romantic partner, personality

match is important on a long journey. Opposites attract, but on a demanding adventure, it's better to align your priorities. If you are an early bird and your travel partner likes to sleep in, you'll have trouble starting in the morning.

Someone that's always energetic and ready to take on the world won't pair well with a travel partner that is moody and unwilling to try new things. A meticulous planner might struggle with someone that is spontaneous and improvises. A similar sense of humor goes a long way. You'll need someone to laugh with when the going gets tough.

Making a list of each traveler's key personality traits is an effective way to see if it might be a good match. If ideologies don't match, look for differences that will complement each other rather than clash.

DEFINING YOUR GOALS

There are many reasons to plan extended travel. It could be to challenge yourself, have an adventure and see unfamiliar places. Perhaps a vacation from the daily grind.

Some folks seek out rich cultural experiences or volunteer work en route. It's important to define the purpose of the trip, because it will help identify the perfect companion for the journey.

A friend that loves luxury vacations would feel tortured if you dragged them across the Andes on a motorcycle. And vice versa, if you prefer easy cruising, good hotels and gourmet meals while your friend is seeking boot-strap travel, it's not going to work.

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Once you know where you want to go and why, it's extremely important to openly talk about money with your travel partner. Having an honest chat about budgeting before you leave will avoid awkward moments later.

This is even more important for people joining only a portion of your trip, especially when traveling long-distances. Budgets can vary dramatically for trips crammed into a typical two-week vacation versus trips that cover extended distances and longer periods.

It's not only about how much everyone can spend, but also how and where. Some travelers prefer to stay at cheap hostels and prepare their own meals, but splurge on jungle tours or safaris. Others want comfortable accommodation and restaurant dinners and prefer to organize activities themselves. Aligning your budget goals is key to successful travel companionship.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

Any motorcycle journey for more than a weekend will include some stresses and challenges. It isn't possible to plan for every eventuality, but it's important to know how each person reacts to stressful



There are plenty of challenges that arise when traveling on a motorcycle. It's good to know how a partner will respond to them.

situations. Here's where complementary personalities might be beneficial. Someone that panics or easily becomes emotional might manage better with a partner that is calm and collected and deals with situations more rationally.

Flat tires, encounters with authorities, navigational mishaps and motorcycle breakdowns are a small sampling of challenges that can happen on the road. A travel partner who handles obstacles in a similar or a complementary manner can keep things from escalating into multilayered stress. If you wind each other up when confronted with challenges, it's time to seek a new travel companion.

BEING FLEXIBLE

One of the most important keys to travel is being flexible. This applies to the relationship with your travel partner, too. If sharing rooms or tents is becoming too much, book separate rooms occasionally, or buy a second tent for a little more space. If they are struggling technically, find some riding classes to attend, or change your route.

If your travel partner is tiring and needs a few days rest to recharge, support them. Consider going on a mini adventure by yourself and leave them behind. A compatible travel partner would be willing to do the same for you. All it takes is an honest conversation and a creative approach to compromise to fix issues that arise on a journey.

DAYS OFF

Having a day or two off can be a fantastic way to press the reset button and boost morale. We all need privacy, solitude and peace and quiet from time to time. If you feel that things are getting tense, take a weekend off. Let them go on a wine tasting tour while you relax with a book. Or check out local hiking trails while they visit museums.

It's important to discuss this before the trip, to make sure that neither party sees the

days off as betrayal or boredom, but as a fun way to have new experiences and reconnect later. Days off from traveling, and each other, will not only strengthen your relationship on the road but also give you stories to share once you reconnect.

DOING A TRIAL RUN

If the upcoming journey is an extended trip, and you know it will be demanding, a trial trip together is a fantastic way to test the relationship. It doesn't have to be long; even a weekend trip can reveal a lot about riding styles, preferences, interests and ways of dealing with issues or problems.

Pick an unfamiliar route or a destination and go test the waters. If the trial run is successful, you might have identified the perfect travel partner.

Ideal travel partners aren't easy to come by. Sometimes your goals and preferences may shift during the journey. That's OK. A long adventure trip often changes people in unexpected ways. Don't feel guilty if during or at the end of the trip your wants and needs are different from before.

At the same time, a co-adventure can strengthen a relationship in many ways. Shared experiences, adventures and overcoming of obstacles can become the glue that makes you and your travel partner inseparable, on the road and at home. **MCN**