4.2 Rent?

4.2.1 Arguments for and against:

There are many motorcycle rental places in the Western USA, and they (nearly) all have a web site, with a price list. You will find a short list at the end of this chapter. But one has to be careful with the offers, because many are ridiculous, like the offer of only 100 free miles per day and then a big charge every mile after that. In nearly all price listings, tax is not included, and it often isn't even mentioned. Tax varies from state to state. In addition to the listed price, one usually has to pay extra for insurance and, if needed, for luggage, like boxes and so on. And if you drive many kilometres (I drove more than 13.000 km) you have to drive back to the rental place for a bike inspection (although the renter will pay for the inspection).

Ofcourse renting has some advantages. The main advantage is ...

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4.3 Fly?

4.3.1 Arguments for and against:

This is the most expensive option to get your own motorcycle to the USA. To transport the bike by plane has, at least with some companies, the big advantage that one is in the same plane as the bike. And even if the motorcycle has to be flown one or two days early, it still is the easiest way -- you don't have to be without your bike for weeks before and after your trip as you would when you ship your bike. If you fly your bike, you "only" have to find the freight terminal at the destination airport, deal with customs, and then drive off. Or nearly: for ...

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7. Where do I find the cheapest and best flight to the USA?

For my search for the cheapest and best flight from Europe to the Western USA, I used several search engines on the Internet, e.g. www.expedia.de, www.airlinetickets.de or www.opodo.de. One really has to use more than one, because there's no one site that has all airlines listed.

For my search, not only the price was important to me, but also, I wanted a nonstop flight, at least to the USA. Why? Because switching flights with a lot of luggage is very uncomfortable, because it's so easy to miss a connecting flight, and because when luggage has to be moved from one plane to another, it often gets on the wrong plane or left behind.

On www.opodo.de, I found a direct flight with ...

11. What should I take and what is unnecessary?

Below is a list I have for my own trips, and that I constantly change and improve, depending on my experiences. Because of my previous experience, I really feel that this list contains only what one really needs, and what one should have if it comes to the worst case. Note that many items can be bought in the USA, rather than you taking them from Europe.

The *italicised* items below should be fast and easy to reach during the trip and, therefore, have to be packed on top.

11.1 Clothes:

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to wear: helmet bike jacket leather pants kidney belt boots shirt summer gloves underpants socks to pack: 1 long-sleeved shirt 3 t-shirts 1 pair wool socks 10 underpants 10 pair socks 4 handkerchiefs 1 pair rain gloves 1 rain suit 1 pair galoshs 1 pair winter gloves 1 sweatshirt 1 pair hiking sandals 1 bathing shorts 1 long underwear or thermo lining for bike pants 1 thermo lining for jacket 1 thin pair of pants with zip-off legs

11.2 Cookware and food:

alcohol-fired camping stove 1l denatured alcohol can opener 11 Coke or similar ...

dish washing liquid metal cup

army knife and fork 10 napkins instant coffee/tee bags

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I hope this little sample made you want to read more.

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