



AFRICA RIDING ADVENTURES TOURS

Important Tips for Safe Driving in Ethiopia

Driving in Ethiopia is different in many ways from driving in other countries outside Africa. This is why we would like to give you some tips in order for you to have a safe and enjoyable ride. It goes without saying that the driving rules and regulations applied in Ethiopia must at all times be respected.

GENERAL RULES

Driving is on the right hand -side of the road. The speed limit for cars and motorcycles is 30-50 km/h in towns and villages and 100 km/h outside towns. In general, drivers do not follow priority regulations. Therefore, be always aware of any unexpected action. Honking is often necessary to avoid accidents. Please get into the habit of honking in every situation! For example when you see people on the side of the road or when you overcome a truck or car.

It is not advisable to drive at night-time.

CARS

In Addis Ababa and other major towns there are a lot of cars and taxis (white and blue). The drivers are not very disciplined. They will often change direction, overcome and stop without signaling. For that reason, be very careful at all times!

MINIBUSES

Minibuses are found mostly out of town. Drivers drive at a high speed and tend not to signal when changing directions, stop or overcome.

TRUCKS

Trucks can be very slow. It is important to remember this especially when one comes out from a curve as in these situations a truck might suddenly be in front of you without you expecting it. Attention must be given in this case as well when they have to overcome, stop or change directions.

PEOPLE

In Ethiopia people tend to cross the roads without looking. They may also change their mind once in the middle of the road, turn around and go back. Thus, be very careful when going through town and villages.

ANIMALS

Animals are a constant presence in all Ethiopian roads, be it in town or rural areas. The best thing to do when you see an animal in the middle or in the edge of the road is to slow down and see which direction the animal will go. Extra care should be taken with donkeys and sheep; they can be unpredictable. At night or in remote areas wild

animals such as hyenas can suddenly cross the road. Hence, if you must drive at night time, drive slowly and be always very attentive and ready to act.

ACCIDENTS/INSURANCE

In case of an accident against a third party the bike is insured whether if it's your fault or the third party's. If you have an accident by yourself (e.g. accidental fall, hitting an animal, etc) you will have to pay for any damage caused to the motorcycle and to a third party if any is involved (e.g. indemnify a third party for killing a domestic animal). Please note that we do not provide riders' insurance and you must have your own medical/emergency insurance and others you may feel necessary.

DRIVING IN DIFFERENT TYPES OF OFF- ROAD

There are different types of off-road pavements, which need different driving skills and attention.

- a) *Good condition off-road.* In these cases there is no particular danger. Nevertheless one must pay attention to the holes and bumps, which are always present.
- b) *Gravel off- road.* On these roads one has to be careful of the loose stones and not to slide.
- c) *Sand off- road.* Where the road is sandy the best thing to do is to increase speed a bit to avoid skidding and/or an eventual fall. Where it is not possible to open the gas spread your legs apart as wide as possible.
- d) *Off-road with bigger stones.* On these roads one has to be careful and drive slower in order to avoid stones which can cause a lot of damage to the person and to the bike especially to the tires and rims. Special attention must be given to the sharp stones as they completely destroy the tires.

HAVE AN ENJOYABLE SAFE RIDE!

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I have read and understood the 'Important Tips for safe Driving in Ethiopia'.

Name and Surname: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____