

Preparing for a Ride

A safe and enjoyable ride begins with good planning and preparation. Always ride with at least one other person in case you have trouble, and let someone know where you're going and when you expect to return.

Before riding in an unfamiliar area, find out in advance if you need special permits, get maps so you can study the terrain, and talk to other riders who know the area. The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, riding clubs, and off-road magazines are good sources of information.

What to Take to the Riding Area

Along with your ATV and riding gear, you should take along some tools and supplies in case you have a problem. For some of the difficulties you might encounter, see *Taking Care of the Unexpected*, which begins on [page 158](#).

We recommend that you always take water, food, a first aid kit, and your owner's manual. Other items you should consider loading on your truck or trailer include:

- a tool kit
- tire repair supplies and tools, and tires
- extra parts, control levers, cables, and spark plugs
- wire, duct tape, and rope
- extra gasoline

For safety, all refueling should be done at a gas station on the way to the riding area or at your base camp.