Safe Travels!



The Last Ride of October

By the time Mara reached the garage, the maples along her street had turned brilliant shades of copper and gold. A cool breeze sent leaves skittering across the pavement, and her motorcycle waited beneath a thin dusting of them.

She was eager to ride the winding roads beyond town, but she didn't rush. First, she checked the tires while they were cold, using a gauge to make sure the pressure matched the motorcycle manufacturer's recommendation. Cooler autumn temperatures can lower tire pressure, so she planned to check it regularly. She inspected the tread, tested the brakes and lights, and checked the handlebar controls: the throttle moved and returned smoothly, the levers and switches worked properly, and the cables weren't loose, kinked, or frayed.

Then she dressed for the weather: a properly fitted, DOT-approved helmet, gloves, sturdy boots, a protective jacket, and layers she could adjust if the afternoon warmed up. Bright reflective details would help other drivers see her against the dim autumn light.

Before setting off, Mara checked the forecast. The sky was clear, but she knew fall weather could change quickly. She tucked a lightweight rain layer into her bag and told her brother which route she planned to take.