rules of the road

1. It’s your responsibility to learn the local bicycle laws and regulations. Communities have regulations on licensing of bicycles, riding on sidewalks, and bike path and trail use. California requires all children under age 18 to wear a safety helmet. As a bicyclist, you are required to obey the same traffic laws as the driver of a vehicle.

2. You are sharing the road with others — motorists, pedestrians and other bicyclists. Respect their rights, and be tolerant if they infringe on yours.

3. Ride defensively. Don’t assume other people on the road know you’re there.

4. Look ahead to where you’re going and be ready to avoid:
   - vehicles slowing or turning, entering the road or your lane, or coming up behind you.
   - doors of parked cars opening.
   - pedestrians stepping out.
   - children playing near the road.
   - potholes, sewer grating, railroad tracks, expansion joints that might catch your wheel or cause you to lose control.

5. Never ride with headphones; they mask traffic sounds and sirens, and distract you from concentration.

6. Never carry a passenger, unless it’s a small child wearing an approved helmet and secured in a correctly mounted child carrier.

7. Never carry anything that obstructs your vision or control of the bicycle, or that could become entangled in the moving parts of the bicycle.

8. Never hitch on to another moving vehicle.

9. Don’t do stunts, wheelies or jumps; they can cause injury and damage your bike.

10. Don’t weave through traffic or make any moves that could surprise other people on the road.

11. Never ride your bicycle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

12. Avoid riding in bad weather, when visibility is obscured, at dusk or in the dark, or when extremely tired. These conditions increase the risk of an accident.

13. Always perform a mechanical safety check of your bike before riding.

14. Be thoroughly familiar with your bike’s controls.

With sunshine nearly every day of the year, Palm Desert is the perfect place to explore on two wheels. Whether you prefer a leisurely loop through the City’s attractions — including public art displays, lush golf resorts and native desert flora — or a more challenging climb to elevations that reveal breathtaking vistas of the Coachella Valley, Palm Desert will give you a ride to remember.

So go for a spin...and discover why Palm Desert is more than a destination...it’s a state of mind you’ll love to be in.

know and practice the rules of safe and responsible riding.

Like any sport, bicycling involves risk of injury and damage. By choosing to ride a bicycle, you assume all responsibility for that risk. So you need to know — and to practice — the rules of safe and responsible riding.

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