



Women ADV Riders Rough Guide to Article Writing

Thank you for writing for WADVR! We so appreciate your effort, and value all submissions. We encourage everyone to share their story or viewpoint, even those who don't have much experience with the written word. To get started, please take a look at these guidelines and a few key tips to help produce your best work. It's always okay to just write, and then do a clean-up at the end with some of these tips in mind. Need a little help from us? Don't hesitate to ask; someone on our staff will be happy to help you find your feet!

- Use Arial 11, single spaced, and share the document via Google Docs if possible.
- Include a catchy title and "By..." with your first and last name.
- Keep your story to 3 pages or less, and stay focused on the point of your article throughout.
- Use concise language.
- Use one space to separate paragraphs.
- Use single spaces after periods and when beginning a new sentence.
- Check your facts (was that mountain pass really 16,432 feet?).
- Check spelling. Is it Ushuia or Ushuaia?
- If including the full names of other riders, check the spelling of their names.
- Edit thoroughly. Don't be afraid to cut what doesn't truly add to the narrative.
- Once you've thoroughly edited, ask 1-2 other people to edit for you before submitting your final draft.
- When narrating your story, avoid:
 - Run-on sentences
 - The overuse of the pronoun "I"
 - Exclamation points
 - Overuse of parenthesis or dashes
 - The word "haha", "OMG", etc
 - Repetition of the same word too close together
 - Redundant sentences, paragraphs or ideas
 - Overuse of the words "then", "also", "later", "after", when possible

Example: I went to Panama in 2013 and had a great time riding around baja, even though I was really hot and got two flat tires in the middle of nowhere, haha! I was all by myself and really thirsty, and didn't know what to do! I'd just ridden 40 miles through crazy sand and was totally thirsty and stuck! But I was still so happy! I couldn't believe I was there after so much time planning!!!!

After some work, a cleaned-up and edited version might look more like this:

A mirage danced across my vision as I surveyed the flat tire of my KLR650, a nasty thorn lodged in deep. I pulled out my water bottle and took a long swig, eyes shut tight against the white sun. Sweat trickled down my back as a fly buzzed thirstily around my brow. Alone and stranded in the Baja California desert after a long ride might sound bad, but I was elated. After a year of planning, I was finally here. The journey had truly begun!

Send your submissions to: editor@womenadvriders.com