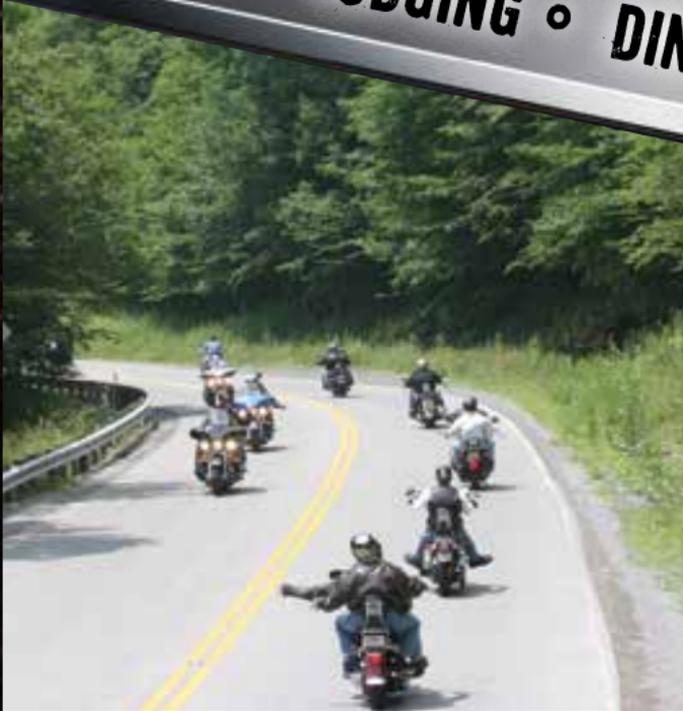


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## WELCOME TO THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN THE MOUNTAINS.

Southern West Virginia has it all: rural retreats and country culture, steep hills and deep valleys, scenic vistas, serene retreats, and serious adventure! We're a great destination—within a day's drive of 50% of the U.S. population. We invite you to come discover the next great place to ride.

Southern West Virginia is made up of the nine counties in the bedrock of our state. Each one has something to offer visitors at every turn. It could be an adventurous whitewater rafting trip, zipline tour or perhaps a relaxing spa visit. It might be shopping or dining. Maybe it's our culture, history, or the arts. This area is unique—there's no other place like it. Escape and explore everything our area has to offer.

When you want a break from exploring on two wheels, there's no shortage of places to stay in West Virginia. From luxury resorts to mountain cabins in the woods, you can find all the lodging options you're looking for right here. Hotels in our area are plentiful, and can provide great service along with a great stay for road warriors.

To help you explore we've developed a few suggested rides that take you off the beaten path, through our friendly towns and into the heart of our area. There is a place to stop, something to do and definitely things to see on every route.





## ▶ WV BIKE EVENTS

There is always something fun and fabulous going on at New River Gorge Harley-Davidson, Harley-Davidson of West Virginia and Cole Harley-Davidson. Whether it's a grand event or just a chance to hang out with fellow enthusiasts, it's happening in West Virginia. Be sure to contact the stores directly or check out our websites to get all the details—you won't want to miss a thing!



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## JUNE

- 4 4th Annual Bike Show ❖
- 10-12 Riding Academy \*
- 18 3rd Annual Bike Show ❖
- 24-26 Riding Academy \*
- 25 Motorcycle and Car Show  
Beckley 304-256-1776

## JULY

- 8-10 Riding Academy \*
- 22-24 Riding Academy \*
- 23 Capitol City HOG Poker Run ❖
- 30 Car show ❖

## AUGUST

- 5-7 Riding Academy \*
- 13 CCC Hogs for Dogs ❖
- 20-22 Riding Academy \*

## SEPTEMBER

- 2-4 Riding Academy \*
- 10 Annual Joe Saunders \*  
Memorial Poker Run
- 10 Joe Saunders Parade 9 am \*
- 22-24 Riding Academy \*

## OCTOBER

- 29 Octoberfest \*

## NOVEMBER

- 20 CCC HOG Turkey Ride ❖

## DECEMBER

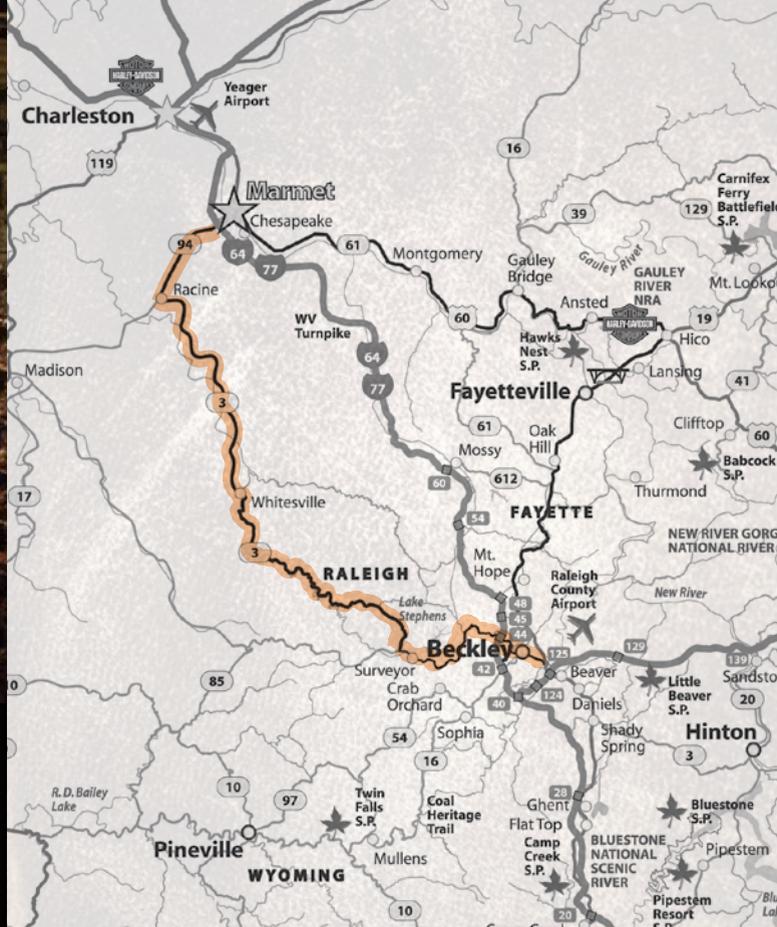
- 3 Capitol City Toy Run ❖



## MARMET TO BECKLEY VIA ROUTES 94 & 3

67 MILES

This route is spectacular for seeing new and old coal mines. The small towns that you pass through are right along the road, houses with walking bridges cross small creeks between the road and house. There are some pull offs to take pictures of coal mines and scenic views. Loaded with turns and twists, WV-3 offers excellent road conditions as well. Be aware of any posted sign under 25 mph, it means what the sign says. In Whitesville, there is the Upper Big Branch Miners Memorial to honor those who were killed in the 2010 mine explosion.



## THE ROUTE

**From Marmet, take WV-94 South (10.5 miles)**

**Turn left onto WV-3 South. WV-3 will lead directly into Beckley. (58.5 miles)**



# COAL RIVER ROUTE

## VIA ROUTE 119 & CR3 AMONG OTHERS

**81 MILES**

### THE ROUTE

Charleston to St. Albans to Alum Creek to Racine, and back to Charleston. (81 miles)

From Charleston, take I-64 W/US-119 S.

Merge onto US-119 S via EXIT 58A. (3.71 miles)

Take the WV-601 ramp toward So. Charleston/Davis Creek Rd.. (0.23 miles)

Turn right onto WV-601/Jefferson Rd. (1.23 miles)

Turn left onto WV-601/Jefferson Rd/CR-12/Kanawha Turnpike. Slight right onto WV-601/Jefferson Rd. (0.38 miles)

Take the 1<sup>st</sup> left onto Maccorkle Ave SW/US-60. (6.45 miles)

Take Maccorkle Ave/US-60 toward 6th St. (2.11 miles)

Turn left onto WV-817/W Main St/Old US-35. (0.8 miles)

Turn right onto CR-3/Coal River Rd. (4.65 miles)

Turn slight left onto Coal River Rd. (0.79 miles)

Turn left onto Upper Falls Rd. (2.46 miles)

Turn right onto Greenview Rd/CR-9. (3.53 miles)

Turn slight right onto Childress Rd/WV-214. (1.26 miles)

Take Childress Rd/WV-214 toward Larry Ln. (3.34 miles)

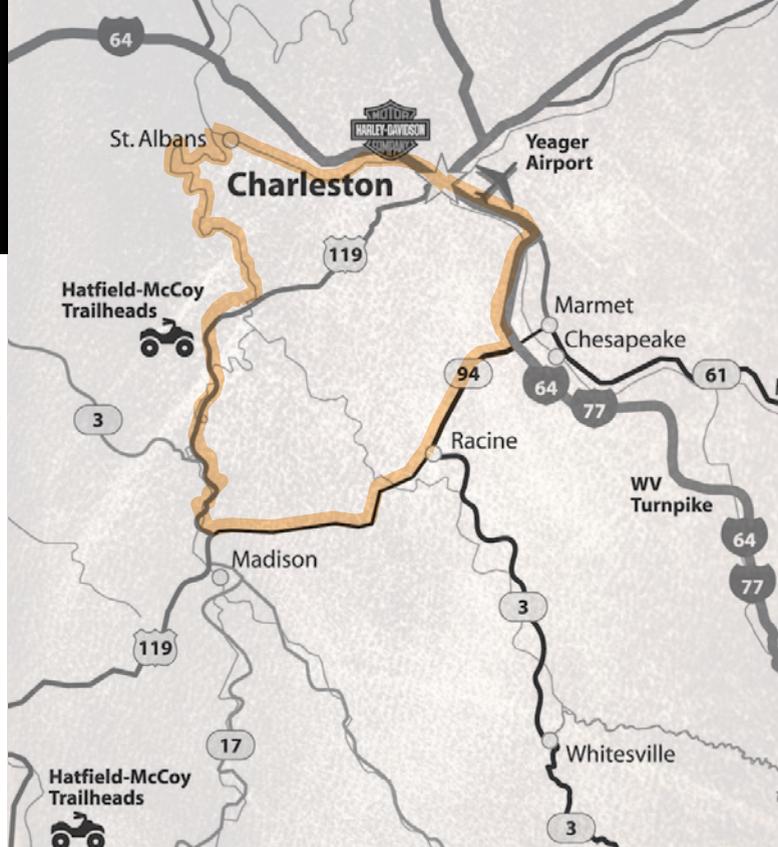
Turn left onto Alum Crk. (0.35 miles)

Turn right onto US-119 S. (13.58 miles)

Turn left onto WV-3/Rock Creek Rd. Continue to follow WV-3.(13.71 miles)

Turn slight left onto WV-94. (9.9 miles)

Merge onto I-77 N/I-64 W via the ramp on the left toward Charleston. (9.45 miles)



This route hugs the Coal River in Southern West Virginia and then travels over mountains and through coal mining towns. It consists of mostly curving and mountainous roads, but there are some four-laned roads. If you're seeking an off-road adventure, the Hatfield and McCoy ATV trail crosses this route. Also kayaking on the Coal River is popular.



# PETERSTOWN TO SWEET SPRINGS

## VIA ROUTES 219, 3 & 311

**57 MILES**

This scenic route passes through rolling hills, farms, mountains, and a quiet, peaceful countryside. The road is well-maintained with very few twists—just nice rolling hills. Small towns and a little shopping along the way keep it interesting. Union is a very nice little town with a number of casual restaurants.

WV is so popular for motorcycle riding we're considered a **"CENTER OF GRAVITY,"** pulling in riders from all around the country.



## THE ROUTE

**Peterstown to Sweet Springs (57 miles)**

**Begin in Peterstown, WV head north on Rt 219 toward Union.**

**In Union turn right on Rt. 3 toward Gap Mills/Sweet Springs, WV.**

**Pass through Sweet Springs to the WV/VA state line where the route number changes to Rt 311. Continue into Virginia.**



## THE ROUTE

**Coal Heritage Ride North (129 miles)**

**From Beckley, WV, travel I-77 N to Exit 48, Rt. 19 (toll 3 miles)**

**Follow Rt. 19 N to Hico (26 miles), follow signs to Rt. 60 W**

**Take Rt. 60 W to Gauley Bridge (16 miles), then to Montgomery (11 miles)**

**Take Rt. 61 N to Marmet (18 miles), then Rt. 94 S to Racine (10 miles)**

**From Racine take Rt. 3 E to Whitesville (18 miles), then to Glen Daniel (27 miles)**

**Continue on Rt. 3 back to Beckley, WV**

## COAL HERITAGE RIDE NORTH

**▶ 129 MILES**

The scenic overlooks and winding rivers make this ride a must. Travel North across the New River Gorge Bridge, the third largest steel arch bridge in the world, and stop and enjoy the views of the ancient New River. Route 60 offers riders twists and turns, river views and waterfalls all leading to the merging of the New and Gauley Rivers at Kanawha Falls in Glen Ferris. The quiet scenic Coal River Valley is a rider's delight with small towns, scenic views and sweeping turns. As you travel these quality roadways you will see many small towns that were founded in the late 1800s when coal was king and America was growing.





# COAL HERITAGE RIDE SOUTH

131 MILES



Travel over the mountain roads of the southern coal fields. Passing through Mullens, Pineville, Welch and Keystone you will see the once booming coal communities. Stop at Twin Falls State Park and enjoy the falls for which it is named. This is a quiet, scenic stop on Rt. 97 on the way to Pineville. The town of Coalwood near Welch is the setting of the novel "Rocket Boys," the basis for the movie "October Sky." Passing through these historic towns, note the interesting architecture of the buildings and the unique brick company houses for miners. Step back in time in Bramwell and stop in Princeton to visit the Virginian Railroad Museum. (131 miles)



## THE ROUTE

**Coal Heritage Ride South (131 miles)**

**From Beckley, WV take I-77 S to Exit 42, Rt. 16 (2 miles)**

**Follow Rt. 16 S to Sophia (4 miles) then Rt. 54 S to Mullens (14 miles)**

**Rt. 97 W to Pineville (12 miles), follow Rt. 16 S to Welch (19 miles)**

**Take Rt. 52 S to Bluewell (29 miles)**

**Rt. 20 N to Princeton (10 miles), follow signs to Rt. 19 N to Ghent (26 miles)**

**Follow I-77 N (toll) back to Beckley, WV Exit 44 (15 miles)**

# FARM COUNTRY

## VIA ROUTES 219, 60, 12 & 20

111 MILES

This ride takes you through some of the most beautiful farm country in West Virginia. Follow the ancient Seneca Trail, "Warriors Trail," along Rt. 219 where Delaware, Seneca and Cherokee Indians lived and hunted hundreds of years before English settlers arrived. The roads are superb and the rugged, rural beauty will make you feel like you have left the real world behind you. On Rt. 219, near Union, the Indian Creek covered bridge is a highlight. Historic Lewisburg is a great stop for shopping and dining. Once into Alderson on Rts. 12 and 3 you will enjoy the quiet meander of the Greenbrier River. Cattle farms, corn and hay fields dot the landscape throughout this region. This ride offers sweeping twists and turns, elevation changes, history and unique scenery. (111 miles)



## THE ROUTE

**From Princeton, WV take Rt. 460 E to Rich Creek, VA (16 miles)**

**Take Rt. 219 N to Peterstown (2 miles), follow 219 N through Union to Lewisburg (45 miles)**

**Take Rt. 60 W to Alta (11 miles)**

**Follow Rt. 12 S to Alderson (12 miles), from Alderson, follow Rt. 3 W to Hinton**

**Take Rt. 20 S to Princeton, WV (25 miles), follow signs to Rt. 460**



## NATIONAL FOREST VIA ROUTES 19, 39, 219 & 60

 195 MILES

### THE ROUTE

**From Fayetteville, WV take Rt. 19 N to Summersville (23 miles)**

**Take Rt. 39 E toward Richwood (23 miles), continue on Rt. 39 E to Cranberry Visitors Center (23 miles)**

**Get on Rt. 150, Highland Scenic Highway and follow to Rt. 219 S (23 miles)**

**Take Rt. 219 S to Marlinton then on to Lewisburg (42 miles)**

**Take Rt. 60 W to Hico (53 miles)**

**From Hico, take Rt. 19 S back to Fayetteville, WV (8 miles)**

From a beginning elevation of 1800'; this ride travels through the scenic plateaus and then rises to the dense forest of the Appalachian Mountains, elevation 4,545'. Enjoy the thrill of crossing over a 1,000 foot-deep gorge on the third longest steel arch bridge in the world—the New River Gorge Bridge. Travel from Richwood to the Cranberry Glades Botanical Area, one of the most unique natural settings in North America, which offers a glimpse of a northern bog climate in a southern setting. Traveling from Droop Mountain southward, a stop at Beartown State Park is in order. Descending from the highest road in West Virginia you will enter into the lush farm country of Greenbrier County. The beauty of this area is only surpassed by the fun of riding through the rural setting. (195 miles)

# NATIONAL RIVER VIA ROUTES 19, 41, 129 & 16

123 MILES



Travel along and across the ancient river valleys of the New River Gorge National River, Gauley River National Recreation Area and the Meadow River. Spectacular winding roads will lead you past the C&O passenger train station in Prince, one of the last depots built for passengers along the mainline of the C&O Railroad. The operating gristmill at Babcock State Park is one of West Virginia's most photographed spots and should be a stop on any tour through the area. Summersville Lake, one of the largest recreational lakes in West Virginia, is also home to the Gauley River, known worldwide for its big water rapids. Cathedral Falls on Route 60 is a must stop picture opportunity. (123 miles)

## THE ROUTE

**From Beckley, WV take Rt. 3 E to Rt. 19 N (5 miles)**

**Follow Rt. 19 N to Rt. 41 N (3 miles), follow Rt. 41 N to Prince (9 miles)**

**Take Rt. 41 N to the junction of Rt. 41 N and Rt. 60 W (22 miles)**

**Continue on Rt. 41 N to Mt. Nebo (16 miles)**

**Take Rt. 129 W to Drennen (12 miles), then Rt. 39 S to Gauley Bridge (20 miles)**

**From Gauley Bridge, take Rt. 60 E to Chimney Corner (5 miles)**

**Take Rt. 16 S to Fayetteville (9 miles), pick up Rt. 19 S to I-77 S**

**Follow I-77 S (toll) (19 miles) back to Beckley, WV, Exit 44 (3 miles)**



## HAIRPIN ADVENTURE VIA MIDLAND TRAIL US RT. 60

**103 MILES**

Over 245 curves, waterfalls and beautiful vistas abound on historic US Rt. 60, one of America's oldest highways. Dubbed Midland Trail National Scenic Highway, Rt.60 stretches 180 miles across WV's mid-section and is marked with mile markers (MM) west to east. Jump on at Charleston's state capitol (MM59).

Adventure begins just before Glen Ferris (MM 92-97), where 12 seasonal waterfalls line the roadside. At Gauley Bridge's often-photographed Cathedral Falls, begin the curvy, scenic climb up Gauley Mountain. Sway around 89 curves, many hairpin, in the five-mile trek to the top where Ansted's Hawks Nest offers breathtaking views of the New River Gorge, (Elevation: 2,546'). Don't be fooled by the straight-away respite near Hico; continue East for another 156 twists and turns as Rt. 60 snakes across Sewell Mountain! (Elevation: 3,211').



## THE ROUTE

**At Charleston (MM 59) access Rt.60/Midland Trail East (I-64 Exit 99)**

**Glen Ferris waterfalls (MM 92) (32 miles)**

**Gauley Bridge Cathedral Falls (MM 97) (5 miles)**

**Gauley Mountain/Hawks Nest/Ansted (MM 102) 5 miles-89 curves**

**Hico (MM 110) Babcock Park (MM 120) (18 miles)**

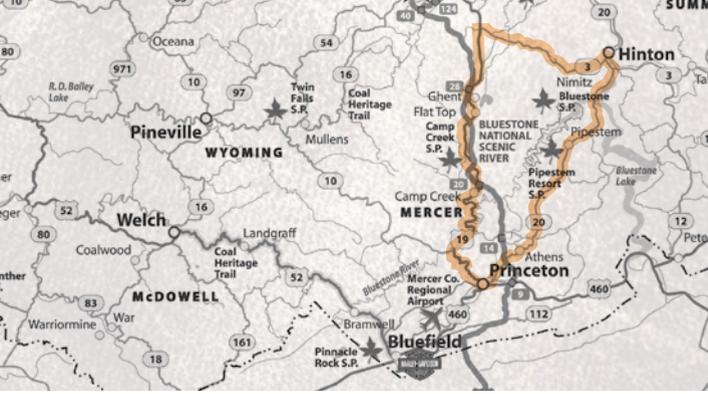
**Top of Sewell Mountain (MM 126) 6 miles-80 curves**

**Bottom of Sewell Mountain/Rainelle (MM 131) 5 miles-76 curves**

**Sam Black Church, (MM 146), 15 miles; or Lewisburg (MM162) 31 miles**

**Total: Charleston to Sam BC 87 miles; to Lewisburg-103 miles**

**Also access US Rt. 60 at Hico (MM 110) via Rt. 19 and via I-64 at White Sulphur Springs (MM 172); Lewisburg, (MM 162); Alta, (MM 152); and Sam Black Church, (MM 146). Western WV-Kenova (MM 0); Huntington (MM 10)**



## MORE SCENIC ROUTES

Need to add some other scenic routes to your motorcycle tour of West Virginia? Contact Cole Harley Davidson in Bluefield, West Virginia at 888 HAV-A-HOG for great rides. Here are four suggested short, scenic trips to consider.

## THE ROUTE

**1. Leave Princeton and take Rt. 20 past Pipestem State Park on to Hinton; take Rt. 3 to Shady Springs; take Rt. 19 South back to Princeton.**

## THE ROUTE

**2. Highway 219 North to Union; take Rt. 3 East to Sweet Springs then on to New Castle; take Rt. 42 to Highway 460 West back to Princeton/Bluefield.**

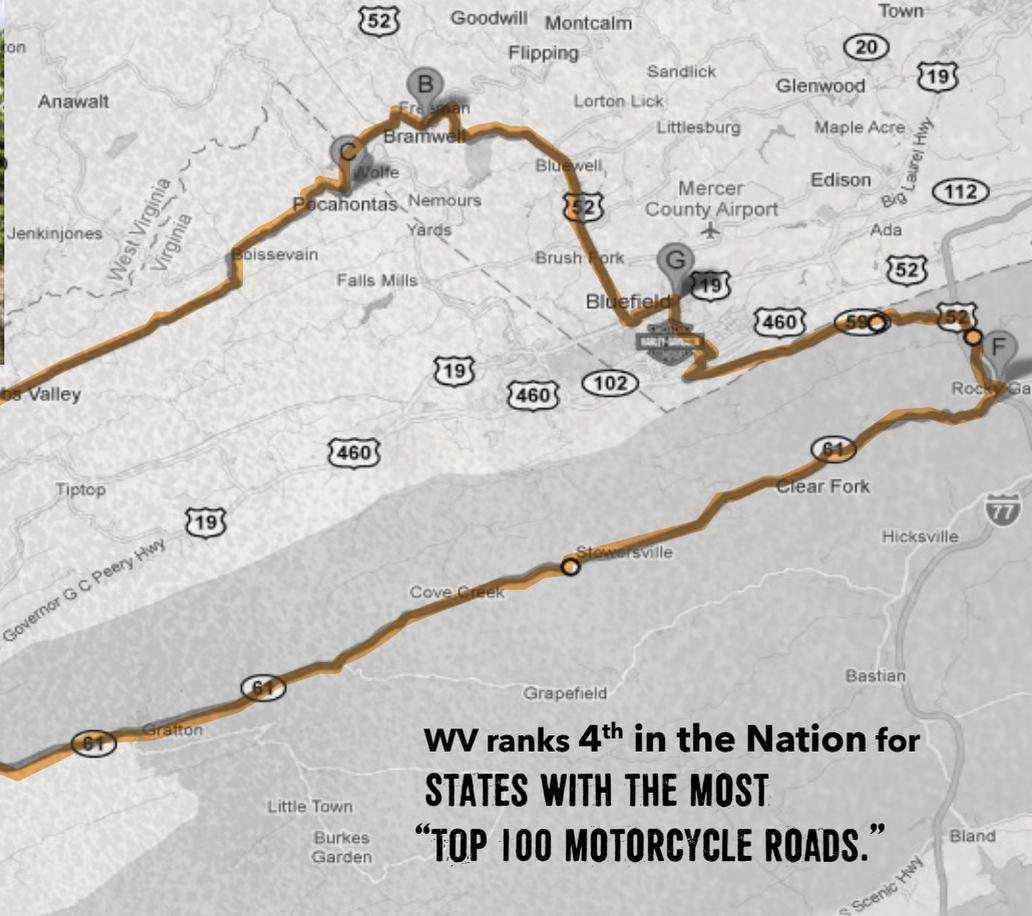


## THE ROUTE

**3. Leave Bluefield/Princeton and take Highway 52 West to Welch then on to Gilbert; take Rt. 44 North to Logan; from Logan take Rt. 10 through Man, then Pineville and on back to Princeton.**

## THE ROUTE

**4. Take Highway 219 North to Lewisburg; follow Interstate 64 West to the Alderson exit and then follow Rt. 12 toward Hinton; stay on Rt. 12 South back to 219, then back to Princeton/Bluefield.**



**WV ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the Nation for STATES WITH THE MOST "TOP 100 MOTORCYCLE ROADS."**

## **TWO VIRGINIAS ROUTE VIA ROUTES 52, 664, 16 & 61**

**▶ 120 MILES**

### **THE ROUTE**

**RT 52 from Bluefield, WV to Bramwell, WV**

**Bramwell, WV to Pocahontas, VA**

**State road 664 from Pocahontas, VA to Bishop, VA**

**Bishop, VA to Tazewell VA via 16**

**16 to 61 from Tazewell, VA to Rocky Gap, VA**

**RT 52 from Rocky Gap, VA back to Bluefield, WV**





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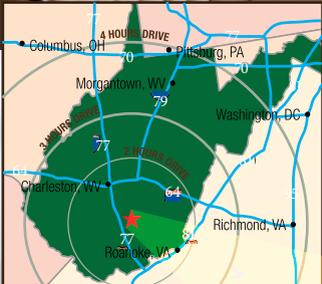
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## FIVE OFTEN OVERLOOKED WAYS TO STAY SAFE MOTORCYCLING IN WV:

### 1. KNOW WEST VIRGINIA'S MOTORCYCLE LAWS

When driving in West Virginia, make sure you have all of the necessary and required safety gear: eye protection, a helmet, and a working headlight (even in the daytime). You can't carry a passenger unless your motorcycle is designed to carry another person, with a seat meant for two or an additional passenger car, and a footrest for the second rider.

### 2. BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR WILDLIFE

When riding through mountain areas, keep an eye out for animals. Deer often dash into the road, and stop in fear when headlights shine on them. They tend to travel in groups, so if you see one, there are probably more nearby. DO NOT brake or swerve at high speeds. That will make your bike more unstable, and you could lose control, or swerve right into oncoming traffic or another obstacle.

### 3. WATCH THE WINDS

Our mountain roads are curvy. Seriously curvy. Think you get that? No. Curvier. Much curvier than you're thinking.

If the road twists ahead of you and you can't see around the corner, ease on the brakes. Sometimes what looks like a simple curve is actually a sharp turn that keeps on looping and looping around the mountain terrain. Be ready and don't accelerate until you can see the road stretching back out ahead of you.

### 4. WATCH FOR COAL TRUCKS

Mountain roads tend to be small to reduce the impact on the natural surroundings, which sometimes leaves barely enough room for two cars to pass. It might even get tight enough for only one vehicle.

On one-lane roads, remain extra cautious, because large coal trucks might be heading toward you, taking up most of the road. They're bulkier than you, so stay out of their way, and anticipate that they might be coming around any of those curves we told you about.

### 5. BE CAUTIOUS OF GRAVEL

Those large coal trucks can cause you trouble even if they're not around. They leave gravel and debris on the road that make for a bumpy ride, so keep your eyes on what's ahead of you.

Got it? You're ready for a scenic and "Thrilling" ride in the "Hills" of southern West Virginia!



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## **I AM A PROUD WEST VIRGINIAN AND HEARING “COUNTRY ROADS” HAS ALWAYS BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY EYE BUT I DON’T THINK I EVER TRULY APPRECIATED MY STATE UNTIL I EXPERIENCED IT FROM THE BACK OF A MOTORCYCLE.**

When time is limited, it’s off to Hinton, by way of Route 3, for a hot dog at the Dairy Queen, down Route 54 to Twin Falls State Park for a walk along the trails or up Route 16 to Pies and Pints in Fayetteville for some of the best pizza around.

When we have a whole day it might be to Charleston by way of Routes 19 North and 61 or Camp Creek State Park (to see the falls) and Bluefield on 19 South.

But our all-time favorite is the longer ride from Beckley to Lewisburg and then up Route 219 North into some of the most beautiful country in the whole U.S. There are three State Parks within 30 miles and when you turn west onto Routes 55 and 39 you’ll pass the Cranberry Glade Botanical Area. This leads to Summersville, where you catch Route 41 South going past Babcock State Park with its iconic and much-photographed Grist Mill. From there it’s back to Beckley. You’ll want to stop at every overlook, rest by every creek, take in every attraction and chat with the locals at every stop.

But it doesn’t really matter exactly where we’re going because the rides are always fun and relaxing. There is hardly ever any traffic to battle, the twists and turns are a biker’s favorite challenge, the scenery is always spectacular and there are plenty of friendly places to stop for a cold drink or a great meal.

But the absolute coolest thing about a ride in West Virginia is the people. With the barriers of car windows and doors gone, everyone—and I mean everyone—speaks to you when given the chance. “Where you coming from?” “Where you going?” “Lookin’ for a good place to eat?”...They all want to be a part of your experience, give any needed advice and make sure that you’re having a great time.

And that, my motorcycle friends, is why we ride the roads of West Virginia every chance we get.



**LESLIE GRAY BAKER**

Director of Operations  
Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine



## **LONGING FOR THE OPEN ROAD**