

ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

By motorbike along the Blue Ridge Parkway

12 days · Atlanta — Washington

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By motorbike along the Blue Ridge Parkway

The Tail of the Dragon's 318 curves, then the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive: the East's finest roads for a motorbike.

Length	12 days, 11 nights
Distance	1,310 km, 8 driving days
Behind the wheel	22 h 30 min
Travellers	2, 1 room, 1 car
Hotels	Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars)
Flights	Amsterdam – Atlanta (ATL), Washington Dulles (IAD) – Amsterdam

CONTENTS

Atlanta	Day 1	**8**
Gatlinburg	Days 2–3	**10**
Asheville	Days 4–5	**12**
Boone	Days 6–7	**14**
Roanoke	Day 8	**16**
Luray	Days 9–10	**18**
Washington	Day 11	**20**

Day by day

DAY	DATE	NIGHT	KM	DRIVE	°C
1		Atlanta	20	20 min	
2		Gatlinburg	320	5 h 40 min	
3		Gatlinburg			
4		Asheville	140	2 h 30 min	
5		Asheville			
6		Boone	140	2 h 40 min	
7		Boone			
8		Roanoke	280	4 h 20 min	
9		Luray	230	3 h 20 min	
10		Luray			
11		Washington	150	2 h 30 min	
12		Flight home from IAD	50	1 h 10 min	

1,310 km · 22 h 30 min behind the wheel · on average 160 km a driving day

Kilometres and drive times by road (OSRM, OpenStreetMap), without stops: plan generously.

The route



Map: US Census Bureau (public domain) · roads © OpenStreetMap contributors

ON THE ROAD

Day 1	Land at Atlanta (ATL), drive to Atlanta · About 20 km (10 mi), 20 min
Day 2	Atlanta, drive to Gatlinburg · About 320 km (200 mi), 5 h 40 min
Day 4	Gatlinburg, drive to Asheville · About 140 km (90 mi), 2 h 30 min
Day 6	Asheville, drive to Boone · About 140 km (90 mi), 2 h 40 min
Day 8	Boone, drive to Roanoke · About 280 km (170 mi), 4 h 20 min
Day 9	Roanoke, drive to Luray · About 230 km (140 mi), 3 h 20 min
Day 11	Luray, drive to Washington · About 150 km (90 mi), 2 h 30 min
Day 12	Washington to Washington Dulles airport (IAD), fly home to Amsterdam · About 50 km (30 mi), 1 h 10 min

Well prepared

ESTA

Dutch and Belgian travellers need no visa for a holiday of up to 90 days, but do need an approved ESTA before boarding. It costs about $40, is valid for two years (or until your passport expires) and is applied for online. Apply at least 72 hours before you fly, and only on the official site.

esta.cbp.dhs.gov

Passport

An electronic passport (with the chip symbol), valid for the whole stay. Children need their own passport and ESTA.

nl.usembassy.gov

Driving licence

Your Dutch driving licence is accepted for renting and driving a car as a visitor. An international driving permit next to it helps with police and some rental desks.

anwb.nl

Renting a car

The renter is the main driver and pays with a credit card in their own name (no debit or prepaid card); the deposit is held on it. Usually from 21, and from 21 to 24 you pay a young-driver fee of about $25 a day. Book from home with insurance included (CDW/LDW and extra liability, SLI) and an extra driver if you want to take turns. Returning the car elsewhere (a one-way trip) costs extra. Fuel is sold by the gallon (3.8 litres); fill it up yourself before you bring it back.

Driving in the USA

Keep right; speeds are in miles an hour (65 mph is 105 km/h). Turning right on red is allowed after stopping, unless a sign says no. At a 4-way stop, whoever stopped first goes first. For a stopped yellow school bus with flashing lights you stop in both directions. Toll roads are often electronic only: ask your rental company about its toll pass. On remote stretches (parks, desert) there's little signal and a long way to the next pump: fill up at half and download the map.

Renting an RV

You can rent an RV from about 21 with an ordinary car licence. On top of the rent, count on mileage (often per mile), a kit with bedding and kitchen things, cleaning and the campsite: in the popular parks you book those months ahead on recreation.gov. Big RVs aren't allowed on every park road. Take photos of the RV when you pick it up: damage and missing items are the most heard complaint.

recreation.gov

National parks

Most big parks charge per car. Visitors from abroad pay $100 a person extra at 11 popular parks; the annual pass for non-residents is $250. Some parks need a timed-entry reservation in high season.

nps.gov

Money and tipping

Prices are without sales tax, which is added at the till. In restaurants a tip of 15 to 20% is usual. Cards are accepted almost everywhere; at the pump you may be asked for a ZIP code, so pay inside.

Travel insurance and health

Care in the USA is very expensive: take travel insurance with worldwide medical cover, and check whether your health insurance covers the USA. Cancellation insurance covers the trip if you can't go; insure the rental car with the rental company (see Renting a car). Take medicines in their original packaging, with a prescription in English. Emergency number: 911.

Power, phone and time

110 volt with flat two-pin plugs (type A/B): bring an adapter. A US eSIM is cheaper than roaming. The mainland has four time zones, Arizona mostly without daylight saving time.

Customs

Fresh food, meat and fruit may not be brought in. Declare food you carry.

Packing list

- [ ] Passport (valid for the whole trip)
- [ ] ESTA, printed
- [ ] Driving licence (and an international one)
- [ ] Credit card in the driver's name
- [ ] Travel and cancellation insurance
- [ ] Confirmations: flights, car, hotels
- [ ] America the Beautiful pass for the parks
- [ ] Plug adapter for type A/B (110 volt)
- [ ] Car charger and phone holder
- [ ] eSIM or offline maps
- [ ] Sunscreen, sunglasses and a cap
- [ ] Water bottles for the desert
- [ ] Hiking shoes
- [ ] Layers: the coast and the nights get cold
- [ ] Medicines, in your hand luggage
- [ ] A pen, for this booklet

DON'T FORGET

Notes



DAY 1

Atlanta GA

Pick up the bike

Land at Atlanta (ATL), drive to Atlanta: about 20 km (10 mi), 20 min

1 night

HOTEL

- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites Atlanta-Galleria · 3★ — roughly €120
  2733 Circle 75 Pkwy Se
- [ ] Hyatt House Atlanta Perimeter Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  5785 PEACHTREE DUNWOODY RD
- [ ] Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta Downtown · 3★ — roughly €150
  275 Baker Street NW
- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Atlanta Perimeter Dunwoody · 3★ — roughly €80
  4565 Ashford Dunwoody Road
- [ ] Sonesta ES Suites Atlanta Perimeter Center · 3★ — roughly €90
  4601 Ridgeview Rd

NOTES



DAYS 2–3

Gatlinburg TN

The Smokies and the Tail of the Dragon at Deals Gap

Atlanta, drive to Gatlinburg: about 320 km (200 mi), 5 h 40 min

2 nights

HOTEL

- [ ] Cabin In The Smokeys · 3★
  392 Wild Orchid Way
- [ ] Bearskin Lodge on the River · 3★
  840 River Road
- [ ] Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Gatlinburg Downtown · 3★ — roughly €210
  611 Historic Nature Trail
- [ ] Holiday Inn Express Gatlinburg Downtown by IHG · 3★ — roughly €280
  322 Historic Nature Trail
- [ ] Hilton Garden Inn Gatlinburg · 3★
  635 River Road

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DAYS 4–5

Asheville NC

Where the Blue Ridge Parkway begins

Gatlinburg, drive to Asheville: about 140 km (90 mi), 2 h 30 min

2 nights

HOTEL

- [ ] Courtyard Asheville Biltmore Village · 3★ — roughly €130
  26 Meadow Road
- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites Asheville Biltmore Area · 3★ — roughly €150
  835 Brevard Road
- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites-Asheville Biltmore Village, NC · 3★ — roughly €250
  117 Hendersonville Road
- [ ] Homewood Suites by Hilton Asheville · 3★ — roughly €170
  88 Tunnel Rd
- [ ] Holiday Inn Asheville East-Blue Ridge Pkwy by IHG · 3★ — roughly €90
  1450 Tunnel Rd

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DAYS 6–7

Boone NC

Grandfather Mountain and the Linn Cove Viaduct

Asheville, drive to Boone: about 140 km (90 mi), 2 h 40 min

2 nights

HOTEL

- [ ] Algonquin Cottage · 3★
  140 Lindale Ridge Unit 1 Unit 503 The Cottages
- [ ] Charming Boone Cabin < 9 Mi to Appalachian Ski Mtn · 3★
  310 Shores Way
- [ ] Mountain Retreat < 4 Mi to Downtown Boone! · 3★
  222 Welcome Way
- [ ] Pet-friendly Boone Home w/ Scenic Mountain Views! · 3★
  156 Weaver St
- [ ] Pet-friendly Boone Vacation Rental w/ Deck! · 3★
  275 Green Knob Mountain Rd

NOTES



DAY 8

Roanoke VA

Mill Mountain and the star over town

Boone, drive to Roanoke: about 280 km (170 mi), 4 h 20 min

1 night

HOTEL

- [ ] Walk to Roanoke River Greenway: Mountain-view Home · 3★
- [ ] Black Lantern Inn · 3★
  1526 Franklin Rd SW
- [ ] SpringHill Suites by Marriott Roanoke North · 3★ — roughly €110
  8171 Gander Way
- [ ] Affordable Corporate Suites - Florist Road · 3★
  5540 Florist Rd
- [ ] Residence Inn by Marriott Roanoke Airport · 3★ — roughly €150
  3305 Ordway Drive

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DAYS 9–10

Luray VA

Skyline Drive through Shenandoah

Roanoke, drive to Luray: about 230 km (140 mi), 3 h 20 min

2 nights

HOTEL

- [ ] Cozy Luray Townhome Getaway 3 Bedroom Townhouse by RedAwning · 3★
  111 Baker Drive
- [ ] Peaceful Luray Cabin w/ Hot Tub, Deck & Fire Pit! · 3★
  993 Leaksville Rd
- [ ] The Barn at Evermore: riverfront retreat w/hot tub · 3★
  165 Kibler Drive
- [ ] Woodruff House · 3★
  330 Mechanic St
- [ ] Paradise View Cabin · 3★
  223 Paradise Lane

NOTES



DAY 11

Washington DC

Return the bike

Luray, drive to Washington: about 150 km (90 mi), 2 h 30 min

1 night

HOTEL

- [ ] Hotel Hive · 3★ — roughly €90
  2224 F Street NW
- [ ] Phoenix Park Hotel · 3★ — roughly €80
  520 N Capitol St NW
- [ ] Motto by Hilton Washington DC City Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  627 H Street NW
- [ ] The Normandy Hotel · 3★ — roughly €80
  2118 Wyoming Ave NW
- [ ] Homewood Suites by Hilton Washington DC Convention Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  465 New York Avenue NW

NOTES

What it costs

DAY	PLACE	HOTEL	TOURS	CAR	TOTAL
1	Atlanta	€160	–	€170	**€330**
2	Gatlinburg	€160	–	€170	**€330**
3	Gatlinburg	€160	–	€170	**€330**
4	Asheville	€160	–	€170	**€330**
5	Asheville	€160	–	€170	**€330**
6	Boone	€160	–	€170	**€330**
7	Boone	€160	–	€170	**€330**
8	Roanoke	€160	–	€170	**€330**
9	Luray	€160	–	€170	**€330**
10	Luray	€160	–	€170	**€330**
11	Washington	€160	–	€170	**€330**
12	Flight home from IAD	–	–	€170	**€170**

Flights	€1,700
Hotels	€1,760
Excursions	€0
Car hire	€2,040
Total	**€5,950**
	€2,980 a person

An estimate to plan with (prices of 2026-10): hotels, the ticked excursions, car hire and flights. No fuel or meals.

Notes

About this booklet

Made on rondreis.expert. Your trip is still there, to change and print again: usa.roundtrip.expert/tours/harley-blue-ridge/

PHOTOS

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Gatlinburg	Gatlinburg, Tennessee IMG 6598.tif · Don McCulley, CC0
Asheville	View of downtown Asheville, in western North Carolina 2016.jpg · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain
Boone	Iiif-service pnp highsm 39300 39352-full-pct 25-0-default.jpg · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain
Roanoke	Sculpture "Force One- Consciousness is Crucial," front plaza, Richard H. Poff U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building, Roanoke, Virginia LCCN2010719851.tif · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain
Luray	Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp-Resort near Luray, Virginia, at dusk, 2007.jpg · DimiTalen, CC0
Washington	Aerial view of White House and downtown, Washington, D.C LCCN2010630891.jpg · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain

MAP AND TYPE

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THE ROUTE

Atlanta (1) · Gatlinburg (2) · Asheville (2) · Boone (2) · Roanoke (1) · Luray (2) · Washington (1)

The Tail of the Dragon's 318 curves, then the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive: the East's finest roads for a motorbike.

12 days · 11 nights · 1,310 km

rondreis.expert

usa.roundtrip.expert/tours/harley-blue-ridge/