

Hello everyone,

It is riding season again, but we still have snow flying around. Here is the proposed trip for this year, it is the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive. This includes trips off the Blue Ridge Parkway. Please review below, if there are any interested individuals I am thinking about June 22<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. The last couple of days can be used to visit National Parks or we can include additional rides instead. I can always change it a little, based on interest.

Brent and Sandy Blackburn

248-622-9448

### **Day 1**

To Middlesboro Inn 1623 Cumberland Ave, Middlesboro, Kentucky

514 Miles (8 HRS, 1 MIN)

### **Day 2**

Middlesboro Inn 1623 Cumberland Ave, Middlesboro, Kentucky to

Cumberland Gap National Park Visitor Center (8AM to 5PM, Free Admission) (At Cumberland Gap, the first great gateway to the west, follow the buffalo, the Native American, the longhunter, the pioneer... all traveled this route through the mountains into the wilderness of Kentucky. Modern day explorers and travelers stand in awe at this great gateway and the many miles of trails and scenic features found in the park. Copied from NPS Website) to

Pinnacle Overlook (2440 ft.) to

Great Smoky Mountain National Park Scurrylands Visitor Center (8AM to 4:30PM, Free Admission) to

Clingmans Dome Visitor Contact Station (10AM to 6PM, Free Admission) to

Clingmans Dome Mountain (Clingmans Dome is a mountain in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina, in the southeastern United States. At an elevation of 6,643 feet, it is the highest mountain in the Smokies, the highest point in the state of Tennessee, and the highest point along the 2,174-mile Appalachian Trail. It is also the third highest point in mainland Eastern North America, after the nearby Mount Mitchell and Mount Craig. Taken from Wikipedia) to

Great Smoky Mountain National Park Oconaluftee Visitor Center (8AM to 4:30PM, Free Admission) to

Blue Ridge Parkway South Entrance (BRP) to

Richland Balsam Overlook (Highest Point in NC, 6053 ft. highest elevation on the BRP)

Off "BRP" Ride to "The Devils Staircase" to

Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) to

Off "BRP" Ride to "Quality Inn & Suites Biltmore East, 1430 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC, 28805"

236 Miles (6 HRS)

### **Day 3**

"Quality Inn & Suites Biltmore East, 1430 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC, 28805" to Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) to

Off "BRP" Ride to "The Devils Whip" to Lake Tahoma Dam to Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) to

Off "BRP" Ride to "The Diamondback" to

Off "BRP" Ride to Mountain View Restaurant to

Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) to

Off "BRP" Ride to Grandfather Mountain Nature Museum and Mile High Swinging Bridge to

Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) to

Off "BRP" Mayberry Motor Inn, 501 N. Andy Griffith Parkway, Mount Airy, NC 27030 (336-786-4109)

236 Miles (6 HRS, 37 MIN)

#### **Day 4**

Mayberry Motor Inn, 501 N. Andy Griffith Parkway, Mount Airy, NC 27030 (336-786-4109) to

Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) to Mabry Mill to

Apple Orchard Falls (Highest Point in VA) to

James River Visitor Center (Lowest Point on BRP)

Blue Ridge Parkway North Entrance (BRP) to

Best Western Plus Waynesboro Inn and Suites Conference Center, 109 Apple Tree Ln, Waynesboro, VA 22980 (540-942-1100)

230 Miles (5 HRS, 44 MIN)

#### **Day 5**

Best Western Plus Waynesboro Inn and Suites Conference Center, 109 Apple Tree Ln, Waynesboro, VA 22980 (540-942-1100) to

Walton's Mountain Museum in Schuyler (pronounced sky-lur), VA (10AM to 3:30PM, \$10 Admission Fee) (Hometown of Earl Hamner Jr.)

Paulies Pig Out to

Entrance of Skyline Drive (\$25 Fee) – Rockfish Gap Entrance Station to

Harry F. Byrd Visitor Center (9AM – 5PM, Free Admission) to

Dickey Ridge Visitor Center to

Super 8 by Wyndham Front Royal, 111 South St, Front Royal, VA 22630 (540-636-4888)

199 Miles (5 HRS, 22 MIN)

#### **Day 6**

Super 8 by Wyndham Front Royal, 111 South St, Front Royal, VA 22630 (540-636-4888)

**We can visit some of the following U.S. National Park Service Facilities or strictly ride other roads for 3 days, or add more off BRP rides to our schedule then head home after completing the Skyline Drive.**

- 1) Prince William Forest Park Visitor Center (9AM to 5PM, \$10 Fee per M/C or Free with National Park Service annual or lifetime pass) (Prince William Forest Park is a diverse natural and cultural area located near Washington, D.C. The park is 15,000 acres of secondary growth forest. Originally established as Chopawamsic Recreation Demonstration Area (RDA) in 1935. It soon became the model site that future RDA sites were patterned after. The Civilian Conservation Corp constructed 5 cabin camp units to support the RDA program. Today the park still operates the cabins as a way for visitors to enjoy the park.

Camping, hiking, picnicking and bicycling are other ways that visitors enjoy the park.

Park staff encourage visitors to learn all there is to know about Prince William Forest Park. History from the early settlers to modern day include stories that cover Cabin Branch Pyrite mine, Civilian Conservation Corps development, Office of Strategic Services (OSS) use during World War II, and operation of cabin camps enhance the story of the park.

Protection of a large portion of the Quantico Creek Watershed is an important natural function of the park. North and South forks of Quantico Creek flow through the park. A large portion of the headwaters for the North fork of Quantico Creek is located in the park. Headwaters for the South fork of Quantico Creek are located on Marine Corps Base Quantico. Partnerships between Prince William Forest Park and Marine Corps Base Quantico work to manage this vital resource. Both creeks can be enjoyed by walking along park hiking trails. Copied from NPS Website).

- 2) Manassas National Battlefield Park (8:30AM to 5PM, Free) (The park offers a wide array of activities, scenic vistas, historic sites and walking trails to interest the casual visitor or the true Civil War historian. A good place to begin your visit is the Henry Hill Visitor Center. Pick up a park brochure, map, trail guides and check out the daily schedule of interpretive programs. Copied from NPS Website.)

- 3) Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (9AM to 5PM, \$10 Fee per M/C or Free with National Park Service annual or lifetime pass) (**Harpers Ferry National Historical Park** is located at the [confluence](#) of the [Potomac](#) and [Shenandoah](#) rivers in and around [Harpers Ferry, West Virginia](#). The park includes land in the [Shenandoah Valley](#) in [Jefferson County, West Virginia](#); [Washington County, Maryland](#) and [Loudoun County, Virginia](#). The park is managed by the [National Park Service](#), an agency of the [U.S. Department of the Interior](#). Originally designated Harpers Ferry [National Monument](#) in 1944, the park was declared a [National Historical Park](#) by the [U.S. Congress](#) in 1963. The park includes the historic town of Harpers Ferry, notable as a center of 19th-century industry and as the scene of [John Brown's](#) failed [abolitionist](#) uprising. Consisting of almost 4,000 acres (16 km<sup>2</sup>), it includes the site of which [Thomas Jefferson](#) once wrote, "The passage of the Potomac through the Blue Ridge is perhaps one of the most stupendous scenes in Nature" after visiting the area in 1783.<sup>[3]</sup> Due to a mixture of historical events and ample recreational opportunities, all within 50 miles (80 km) of [Washington, D.C.](#), the park was listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) on October 15, 1966. The Park's Superintendent is presently Tyrone Brandyburg.<sup>[4]</sup>

The park was originally planned as a memorial to [John Brown](#), responsible for what is by far the most famous incident in Harpers Ferry's history. "NPS officials in the 1930s focused on John Brown's Raid and the Civil War to justify acquiring parts of Harpers Ferry for a historical and military park." Like the figure of John Brown himself, this proved enormously controversial, with opposition from the [United Daughters of the Confederacy](#) and the [Sons of Confederate Veterans](#).<sup>[5]:86</sup> Today (2018) there is no mention of John Brown on the Park's home page (<http://www.nps.gov/hafe>), although the raid is covered in the history section of the website. Copied from Wikipedia.)

- 4) Monocacy National Battlefield (9AM to 5PM, Free Admission) (Monocacy National Battlefield encompasses several centuries of history, which reflect events of both national and local significance. Here one can experience 1,647 acres of rolling farm fields, historic buildings, and sweeping panoramas along the scenic Monocacy River. Located about one hour from Baltimore and Washington, D.C., little has changed since the 1864 battle. Although the landscape appears rural, the park is located less than two miles south of the city of Frederick, Maryland, which has numerous amenities. The staff at Monocacy National Battlefield is dedicated to helping you plan your visit and is committed to providing an experience that will be enjoyable, educational, and inspirational during your trip. Come Find Your Park at Monocacy National Battlefield!)
- Antietam National Battlefield (9AM to 5PM, \$7 Fee per M/C or Free with National Park Service annual or lifetime pass) (23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded or missing after twelve hours of savage combat on September 17, 1862. The Battle of Antietam ended the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia's first invasion into the North and led Abraham Lincoln to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Copied from NPS Website.)
- 5) Flight 93 National Monument Visitor Center (9AM to 5PM, Free Admission) (On Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001, the U.S. came under attack when four commercial airliners were hijacked and used to strike targets on the ground. Nearly 3,000 people tragically lost their lives. Because of the actions of the 40 passengers and crew aboard one of the planes, Flight 93, the attack on the U.S. Capitol was thwarted. Copied from NPS Website)
- 6) Fort Necessity National Battlefield (9AM to 5PM, Free Admission) (The battle at Fort Necessity in the summer of 1754 was the opening action of the French and Indian War. This war was a clash of British, French and American Indian cultures. It ended with the removal of French power from North America. The stage was set for the American Revolution. Copied from NPS Website)
- 7) Friendship Hill National Historical Site (9AM to 5PM, Free Admission) (Albert Gallatin is best remembered for his thirteen year tenure as Secretary of the Treasury during the Jefferson and Madison administrations. In that time he reduced the national debt, purchased the Louisiana Territory and funded the Lewis & Clark exploration. Gallatin's accomplishments and contributions are highlighted at Friendship Hill, his restored country estate. Copied from NPS Website)
- 8) First Ladies' National Historical Site (9AM to 4PM, \$7 Fee per person <62, \$6 Fee per person =>62 or \$4 with National Park Service annual or lifetime pass) (Two properties, the home of First Lady Ida Saxton McKinley and the seven story 1895 City Bank Building, are preserved at this site, which honors the lives and accomplishment of our nation's First Ladies. The site is managed by the National Park Service and operated by the National First Ladies Library. Copied from NPS Website)
- 9) James A. Garfield National Historical Site (10AM to 5PM, Visitors 16 years and above are \$10/person. There is no charge for parking. The entrance fee allows each visitor to take a guided tour of the Garfield Home. Visitors 15 and under are free.) (The Visitor Center at James A. Garfield National Historic Site is open 10-5 during regular operating hours. The VC contains an Eastern National bookstore, museum exhibits, and an 18 minute biographical film of the life of President James A. Garfield. Visitors spend an average of 45 minutes in this building. Copied from NPS Website) to