

ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

# By motorbike along the Blue Ridge Parkway

*12 days · Atlanta — Washington*

rondreis.expert

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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

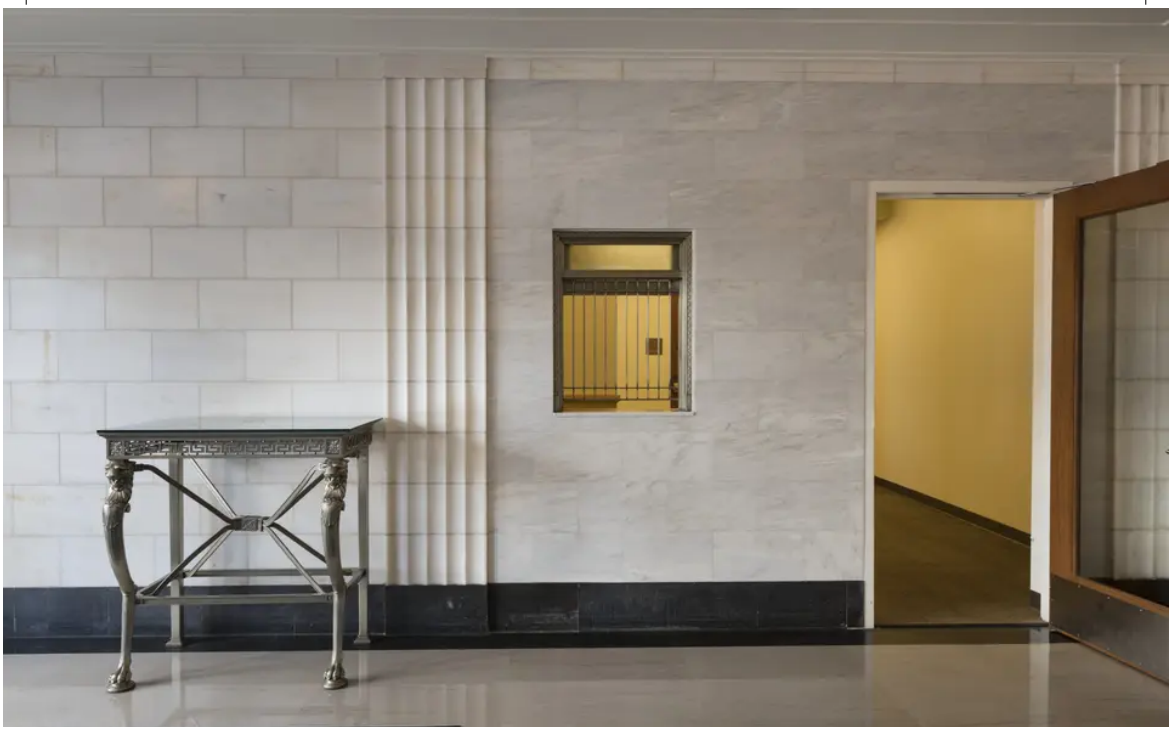
Fresh food, meat and fruit may not be brought in. Declare food you carry.

# 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

## ATLANTA · DAY 1

### 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**

GATLINBURG · DAYS 2–3

## 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

## NOTES



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**

ASHEVILLE · DAYS 4–5

## 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

## NOTES



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

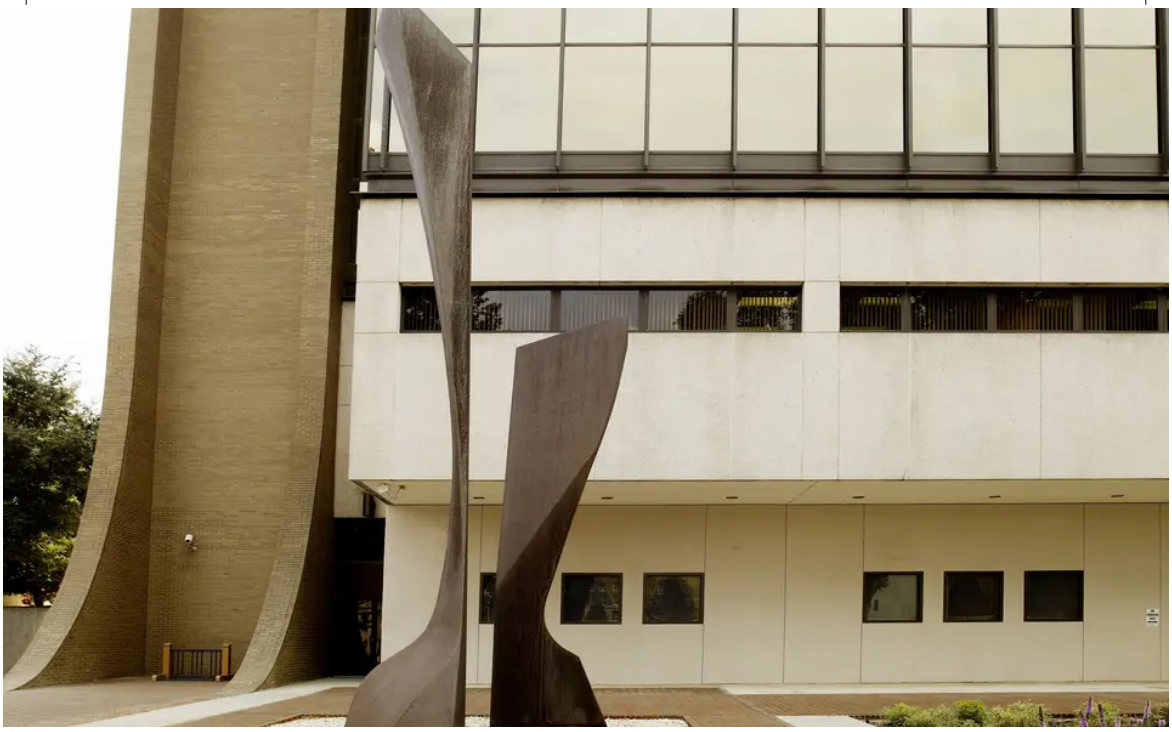
**2 nights**

BOONE · DAYS 6–7

## 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**

ROANOKE · DAY 8

## 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

## NOTES



DAYS 9–10

# Luray VA

*Skyline Drive through Shenandoah*

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

**2 nights**

LURAY · DAYS 9–10

## 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.rondreis.expert/en/tours/harley-blue-ridge/

## PHOTOS

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| | |
|---|---|
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| **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.rondreis.expert/en/tours/harley-blue-ridge/