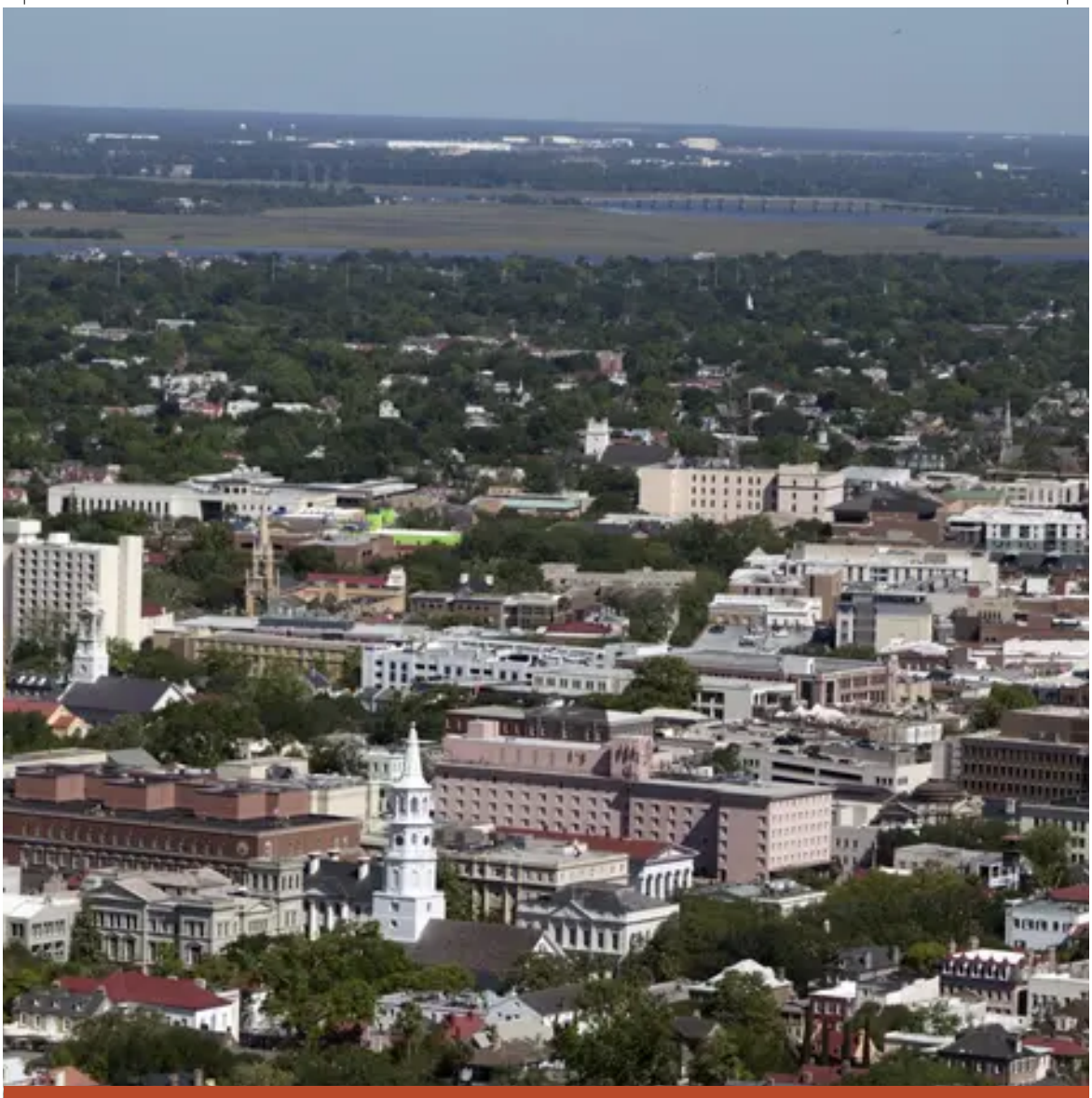


ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

# The Smokies and the Carolinas

*13 days · Atlanta*

rondreis.expert

ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

# The Smokies and the Carolinas

*Great Smoky Mountains, the Blue Ridge Parkway and the old South of Charleston and Savannah.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Length | 13 days, 12 nights |
| Distance | 1,490 km, 7 driving days |
| Behind the wheel | 19 h 20 min |
| Travellers | 2, 1 room, 1 car |
| Hotels | Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars) |
| Flights | Amsterdam – Atlanta (ATL), Atlanta (ATL) – Amsterdam |

CONTENTS


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Atlanta** | Day 1 | **8** |
| **Gatlinburg** | Days 2–4 | **10** |
| **Asheville** | Days 5–6 | **12** |
| **Charleston** | Days 7–9 | **14** |
| **Savannah** | Days 10–11 | **16** |
| **Atlanta** | Day 12 | **18** |

# Day by day

| DAY | DATE | NIGHT | KM | DRIVE | °C |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | Atlanta | 20 | 20 min | |
| 2 | | Gatlinburg | 320 | 4 h 40 min | |
| 3 | | Gatlinburg | | | |
| 4 | | Gatlinburg | | | |
| 5 | | Asheville | 140 | 2 h | |
| 6 | | Asheville | | | |
| 7 | | Charleston | 430 | 5 h | |
| 8 | | Charleston | | | |
| 9 | | Charleston | | | |
| 10 | | Savannah | 170 | 2 h 20 min | |
| 11 | | Savannah | | | |
| 12 | | Atlanta | 400 | 4 h 30 min | |
| 13 | | Flight home from ATL | 20 | 20 min | |

**1,490 km · 19 h 20 min behind the wheel · on average 210 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), 4 h 40 min |
| **Day 5** | Gatlinburg, drive to Asheville · About 140 km (90 mi), 2 h |
| **Day 7** | Asheville, drive to Charleston · About 430 km (270 mi), 5 h |
| **Day 10** | Charleston, drive to Savannah · About 170 km (110 mi), 2 h 20 min |
| **Day 12** | Savannah, drive to Atlanta · About 400 km (250 mi), 4 h 30 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

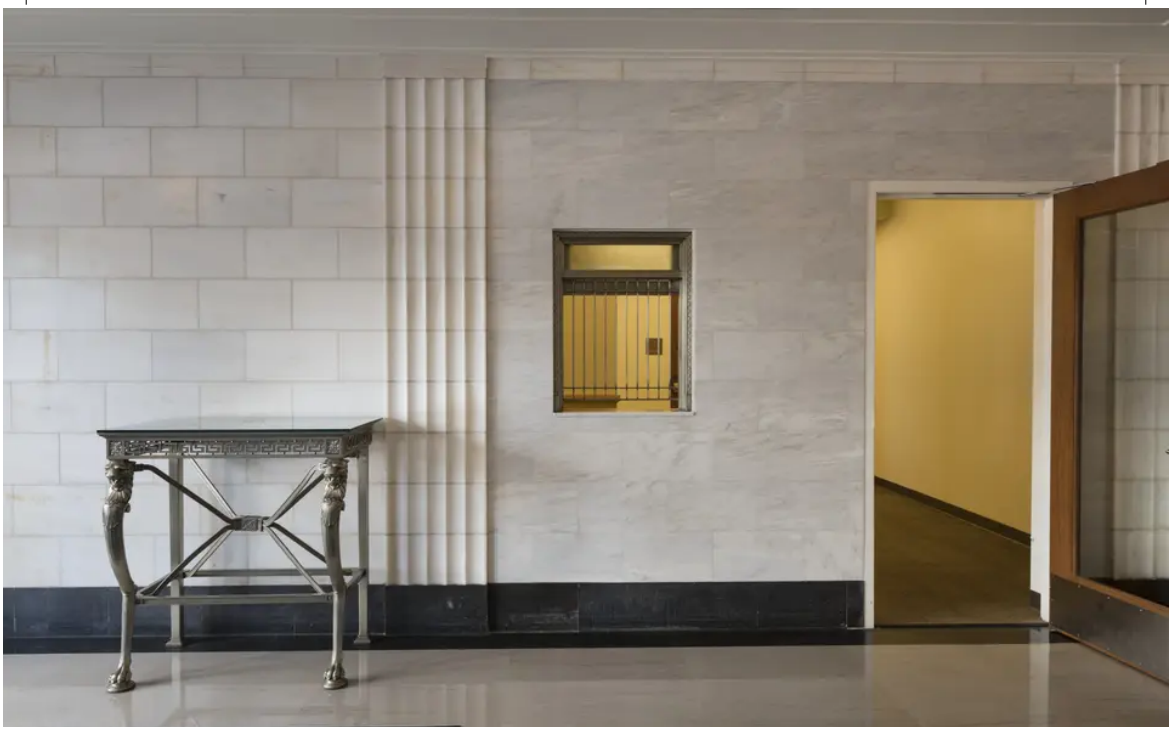
Fresh food, meat and fruit may not be brought in. Declare food you carry.

# 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

*After the flight*

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 2–4

# Gatlinburg TN

*Great Smoky Mountains National Park*

Atlanta, drive to Gatlinburg: about 320 km (200 mi), 4 h 40 min

**3 nights**

GATLINBURG · DAYS 2–4

## 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 5–6

# Asheville NC

*The Blue Ridge Parkway and Biltmore*

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

**2 nights**

ASHEVILLE · DAYS 5–6

## 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 7–9

# Charleston SC

*Plantations and Rainbow Row*

Asheville, drive to Charleston: about 430 km (270 mi), 5 h

3 nights

## CHARLESTON · DAYS 7–9

### HOTEL

- [ ] Courtyard by Marriott North Charleston Airport Coliseum · 3★ — roughly €100
  2415 Mall Drive
- [ ] The Inn at Middleton Place · 3★ — roughly €180
  4290 Ashley River Rd
- [ ] Hilton Club Liberty Place Charleston · 3★
  475 EAST BAY STREET
- [ ] Tru By Hilton Charleston Ashley Phosphate, Sc · 3★ — roughly €70
  2475 Prospect Drive
- [ ] The Ryder Hotel · 3★ — roughly €200
  237 Meeting Street

### NOTES



DAYS 10–11

# Savannah GA

*Forsyth Park*

Charleston, drive to Savannah: about 170 km (110 mi), 2 h 20 min

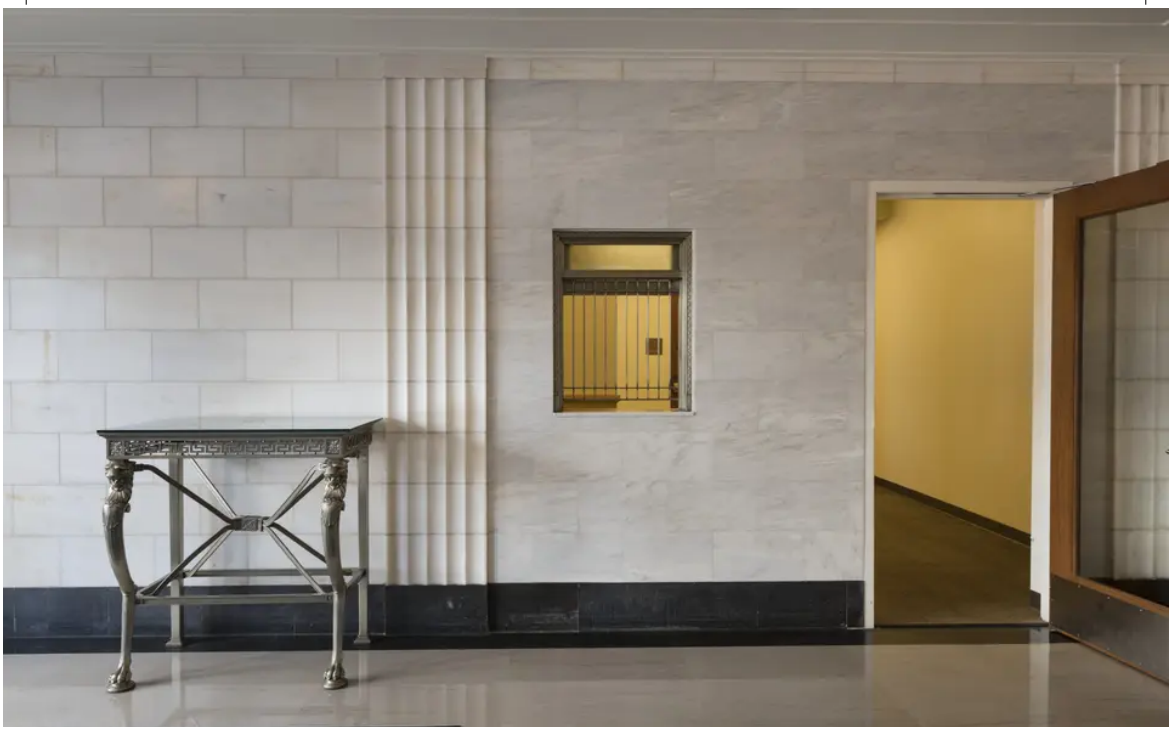
**2 nights**

SAVANNAH · DAYS 10–11

## HOTEL

- [ ] Homewood Suites Savannah Historic District/Riverfront · 3★ — roughly €240
  611 East River Street
- [ ] 17Hundred90 Inn and Restaurant · 3★
  307 E President St
- [ ] East Bay Inn, Historic Inns of Savannah Collection · 3★
  225 East Bay Street
- [ ] Residence Inn by Marriott Savannah Downtown/Historic Distric · 3★ — roughly €110
  500 W Charlton Street
- [ ] Hampton Inn Savannah Historic District · 3★ — roughly €200
  201 East Bay Street

## NOTES



DAY 12

# Atlanta GA

*Before the flight home*

Savannah, drive to Atlanta: about 400 km (250 mi), 4 h 30 min

**1 night**

## ATLANTA · DAY 12

### 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

# What it costs

| DAY | PLACE | HOTEL | TOURS | CAR | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | Atlanta | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| **2** | Gatlinburg | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| **3** | Gatlinburg | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| **4** | Gatlinburg | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| **5** | Asheville | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| **6** | Asheville | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| **7** | Charleston | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| **8** | Charleston | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| **9** | Charleston | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| **10** | Savannah | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| **11** | Savannah | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| **12** | Atlanta | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| **13** | Flight home from ATL | – | – | €60 | **€60** |

| | |
|---|---|
| Flights | €1,700 |
| Hotels | €1,920 |
| Excursions | €0 |
| Car hire | €780 |
| **Total** | **€4,400** |
| | €2,200 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/smokies-carolinas/

## PHOTOS

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## MAP AND TYPE

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THE ROUTE

*Atlanta (1) · Gatlinburg (3) · Asheville (2) · Charleston (3) · Savannah (2) · Atlanta (1)*

Great Smoky Mountains, the Blue Ridge Parkway and the old South of Charleston and Savannah.

**13 days · 12 nights · 1,490 km**

**rondreis.expert**

usa.rondreis.expert/en/tours/smokies-carolinas/