

Drive Instructions

MINIs On the Dragon 2006

Scenic Drive - Around and Through the Smoky Mountains

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(although it probably doesn't work at MOTD)



Date/Time: Groups will launch at 10, 10:30 and 11am on Saturday morning, May 6.

The Route: It spans 140 miles and runs from the base of Fontana Dam, across the Dragon, up the West side of the Smoky Mountains, along the Foothills Parkway (a stop for pictures possible) and stops near Townsend for lunch. We then head into Smoky Mountain National Park for a run along Little River Road (One of Reader's Digest top 100 scenic drives in the USA - rivers, waterfalls and wildflowers) before heading over the Smoky Mountains via 'the Big Hump' (more scenic views and photo ops).

Duration: This is a 4 hour drive (no traffic, driving straight through). Given an hour for lunch, some scenic photo/stretch stops and some traffic in the area due to a heritage festival in Townsend, I would expect the entire trip to take about 6-6.5 hours. It may run a bit longer... It may run a bit shorter. You never know!

Cost: There is no cost for this event. You must be a registered participant for MOTD 2006 (pay your \$5 at the NAM store) to participate in this drive. We are organizing a group lunch, but everyone will be responsible for their own meal.

Meeting Place: The drive will begin from the base of Fontana Dam. The MOTD parade generally starts in this same location.



Radios: FRS radios are wonderful for this type of event. We will run on Channel 8 (no sub-channel).

The Drive: This is a SCENIC drive. Please keep all four wheels on your side of the yellow line! The group leaders will be instructed remain in the general area of the speed limit.

Lunch: Lunch is being planned at Apple Valley Kitchen. They serve soup, sandwiches and a diverse menu of comfort foods on the weekend (Menu is coming soon). The food is simple but very good. If a large group is going, call Carla, the manager (865-448-1232 Applevalleyfarms@aol.com), and she will staff up to be able to handle the increased numbers. We ran 90 cars of people (along with their regular customers) through there in 90 minutes or so (staggered in 3 blocks of 30 cars each every ½ hour), but they brought in extra staff to handle the load.

Warnings: Unlike most sharp turn signs (especially in a MINI), the speed warnings for turns in the Smoky Mountain park are very accurate... Take them seriously. Mind your speed on anything that resembles a highway... radar WILL be present.

Liability Waiver & Release Agreement

By participating in the Scenic Drive around the Smoky Mountains at MINIs on the Dragon 2006 (MOTD 2006), I represent that I am at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. I further represent that I have all necessary licenses and insurance to participate in events at MOTD 2006 and that I am not taking any drugs or medication, nor do I have any physical or mental limitations that would interfere with my safe participation in the Tour. I recognize that the operation of any MINI is an inherently dangerous activity with a risk of loss of the MINI and serious injury or death of myself or others. I understand that these risks include, but are not limited to, road surface conditions, debris on roads, varying road widths, curves and other vehicles and pedestrians sharing the roadway, and the skills of other participants in the Road Tour.

_____ (initial here)

In consideration for being permitted to participate in the Scenic Drive Around the Smoky Mountains at MOTD 2006, in which I will participate on May 6, 2006, I the undersigned on behalf of myself and my heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and legal representatives, agree and indemnify, defend and hold harmless the organizers of the Scenic Drive around the Smoky Mountains at MOTD 2006, the organizers of MOTD 2006 and both of their representatives, individually and in the capacity indicated, from and against any and all damages, claims, suits, causes of action to and against a person and property, (including but not limited to attorney's fees) arising in connection with or related to my participation in this event.

_____ (initial here)

Further, I assume all the risk of injury and loss, waive and release any claim of damage and injury of any nature I might state against the organizers of the Scenic Drive around the Smoky Mountains at MOTD 2006 and the organizers of MOTD 2006 and their representatives who assist in the capacity indicated, arising out of my participation in the Tour.

_____ (initial here)

I have consulted with the legal and/or other advisors of my choice before signing this unconditional waiver and release, and I enter into freely and on behalf of myself and my heirs, successors and assignees.

_____ (initial here)

This Unconditional Waiver and Release shall be constructed under the laws of *the State of Virginia*, and the exclusive venue for the resolution of all disputes pertaining to the road tour shall be in the appropriate municipal, state, or federal court located closest to where the event is taking place.

All persons who might drive during the event must sign and initial this waiver before departure.

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Name Printed: _____

Name Printed: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

HOW TO DRIVE THE DRAGON (Reprinted from an article by Ron Johnson at www.tailofthedragon.com):

Drive the Dragon at your skill level - don't try to push it or keep up with faster vehicles.

STAY IN YOUR LANE, There are videos available for sale that show vehicles cutting the corners and taking chances that might appear "fun" while sitting in your easy chair. **BEWARE!** This style of driving on the Dragon can cost you dearly. The challenge of the Dragon is to take the many curves in the best line possible and both lanes IS NOT "the line". Drive Florida if you like to straighten out the curves.

Do NOT sightsee. The Dragon is to drive, not to watch the sights. On many runs I don't even see what is on the side of the road. I'm watching the roadway way ahead.

Look far ahead at the road, curves, bushes, other vehicles, etc. If you haven't seen the hazards right in front of you, you are going to hit them anyway, so you might as well pay attention to what you have time to avoid.

We have seen deer, bear, turkeys, and wild boar on the roadway. Be ready to brake and slow. When we say brake we **DO NOT** mean slamming on the brakes. That will get you turned around in a hurry and it's no fun looking at where you've been at any speed.

Maintain a "safe zone". Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you. Watch your rear view mirrors for faster vehicles. If you see a faster rider/driver coming up behind you, pull over to the right of your lane, slow down just a little, and wave them around. It is much safer to let a faster vehicle around you than to try to outrun them. **NEVER** stay left trying to keep someone from passing you. **NEVER** pull off the road onto the shoulder unless it is at one of the pull-off parking areas. It may be illegal to pass on the Dragon, but I'll let a faster vehicle get around me to protect my safe zone.

There will always be faster drivers than you. Don't try to be the King of the Dragon.

Drive the Dragon many times before trying to challenge it. Then you still need to respect it at all times.

DO NOT STAND ON THE BRAKES if you see danger ahead. You are much better off to tap the brakes and maintain control. Some 90% of the accidents on the Dragon are due to speed and then over-braking. If you see another vehicle coming at you in your lane, hug the white line in your lane. In all likelihood you can avoid trucks and trailers if you stay alert and watch ahead.

DO NOT be spooked by other vehicles. **DO NOT** make sudden avoidance moves. You might have to adjust your line to avoid a car, truck, or bike, but **DO NOT** lay on the brakes or turn off the roadway suddenly unless that is the only out you have. Motorcycles might dent your car, but that is better than going off the bank and hitting a tree sideways. If a cycle is in your lane that is their mistake and problem ... don't let them force you into a worse situation for yourself.

Trucks are usually traveling at a very slow speed and you should have time to stop and back-up if you see one coming at you and taking the whole corner. Watch for signals from drivers/riders coming at you. Many times they will escort a big truck over the Dragon and wave a warning to you to pull over. **DO NOT** ignore these warnings.

Avoid driving hard on the Dragon in heavy traffic times. Weekends from 11 am to 5 pm are the busiest. These are the times to lay back and enjoy watching the "show" go by.

The early mornings (before 11 am) and the late afternoons (after 5 pm) have the least traffic.

ALWAYS stay 100% alert. You do not have the advantage of relaxing on the Dragon.

Make sure your vehicle is mechanically sound and that your tires are good.

Plan to make several runs, the first is always a nervous one then you can have fun on the second and third.

DO NOT over-use your brakes. Use your gears and **DOWNSHIFT**. A good Dragon driver **WILL NOT** use a lot of brakes.

Focus - do not daydream. Watch the road, your mirrors, and pay attention to other bikes/cars/trucks.

99% of the accidents on the Dragon come from the following:

- Too much speed
- Too much brakes
- Inattentiveness
- Driving above your abilities

Menu for Apple Valley Café (as of May, 2006)
7138 E. Lamar Alex. Pkwy. Townsend, TN - 865-448-1232

Specialty Sandwiches

- **Ruben**- Hot corned beef, melted Swiss cheese, sauerkraut & special sauce on grilled Rye Bread-\$6.99
- **Club**-Ham, Turkey, American & Swiss cheese, Bacon, lettuce tomato Must. & mayo on your choice of toasted White, wheat or rye bread- \$6.99
- **Chicken Salad**-our homemade all white meat chicken salad tossed with our special recipe dressings, fresh apples, & pecan pieces served on croissant-\$6.99
- **Tuna Salad** – fresh albacore tuna, lettuce, tomato served on croissant- \$ 4.99

Standard Sandwiches

Our Sandwiches are served on your choice of Country White, Wheat or Rye Bread, choice of American or Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, must, & Mayo, served with chips & pickle for \$4.99

Ham & Cheese
Turkey
Roast Beef
B.L.T.
Bologna (cold or fried)

Soup & ½ Sandwich-\$5.49 (Specialty Sandwiches not included in this selection)

Bowl of Soup (soups selection varies daily) served with homemade cornbread -\$3.99

Bowl of Chili & Crackers- \$3.99 - Add cheese- .50

Hot dog - all beef hot dog topped with your choice of mustard, relish, onion, ketchup-\$2.49

Add chili -\$0.50 extra

Frito Pie - Fritos corn chips topped with meaty chili, lettuce tomato, cheddar cheese & sour cream or ranch dressing-\$4.99

Salad Platters

- Chicken Salad plate- our fresh homemade Chicken salad on a bed of lettuce served with fruit & muffin bread-\$6.99
- Tuna salad plate- large scoop of Tuna salad on lettuce bed, served with chunks of our sharp cheddar cheese, tomato wedges & crackers-\$5.99
- Garden Salad-fresh greens, assorted veggies & cheese-\$3.99
Top with Ham, Turkey or Bacon-\$4.99

Check with us for our Daily Hot lunch & sandwich specials

We offer a large variety of Fresh Baked breads, cakes, cookies, pies & pastries

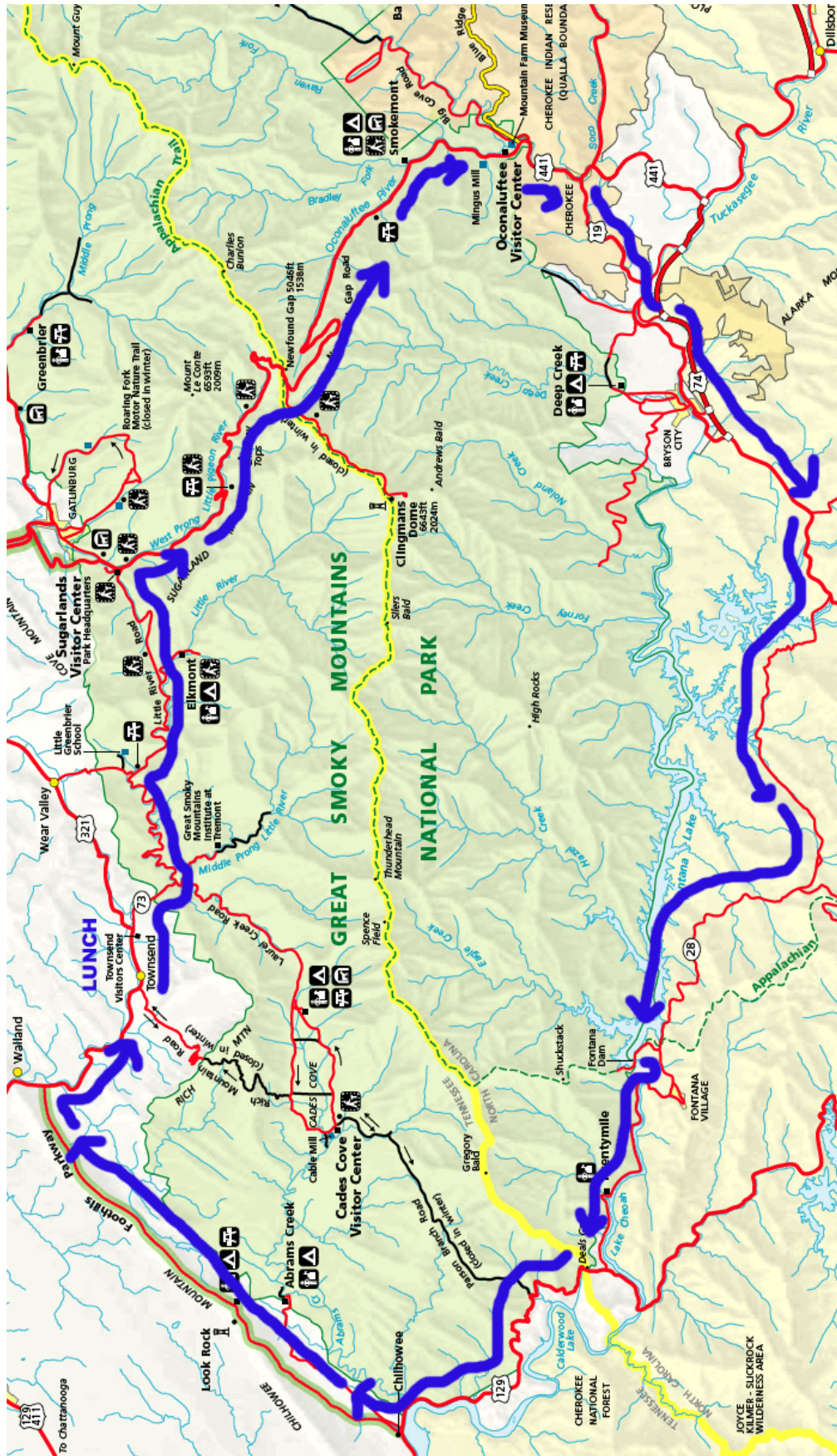
Fried Apple pies are our Specialty

Fried Peach Pies (when available)

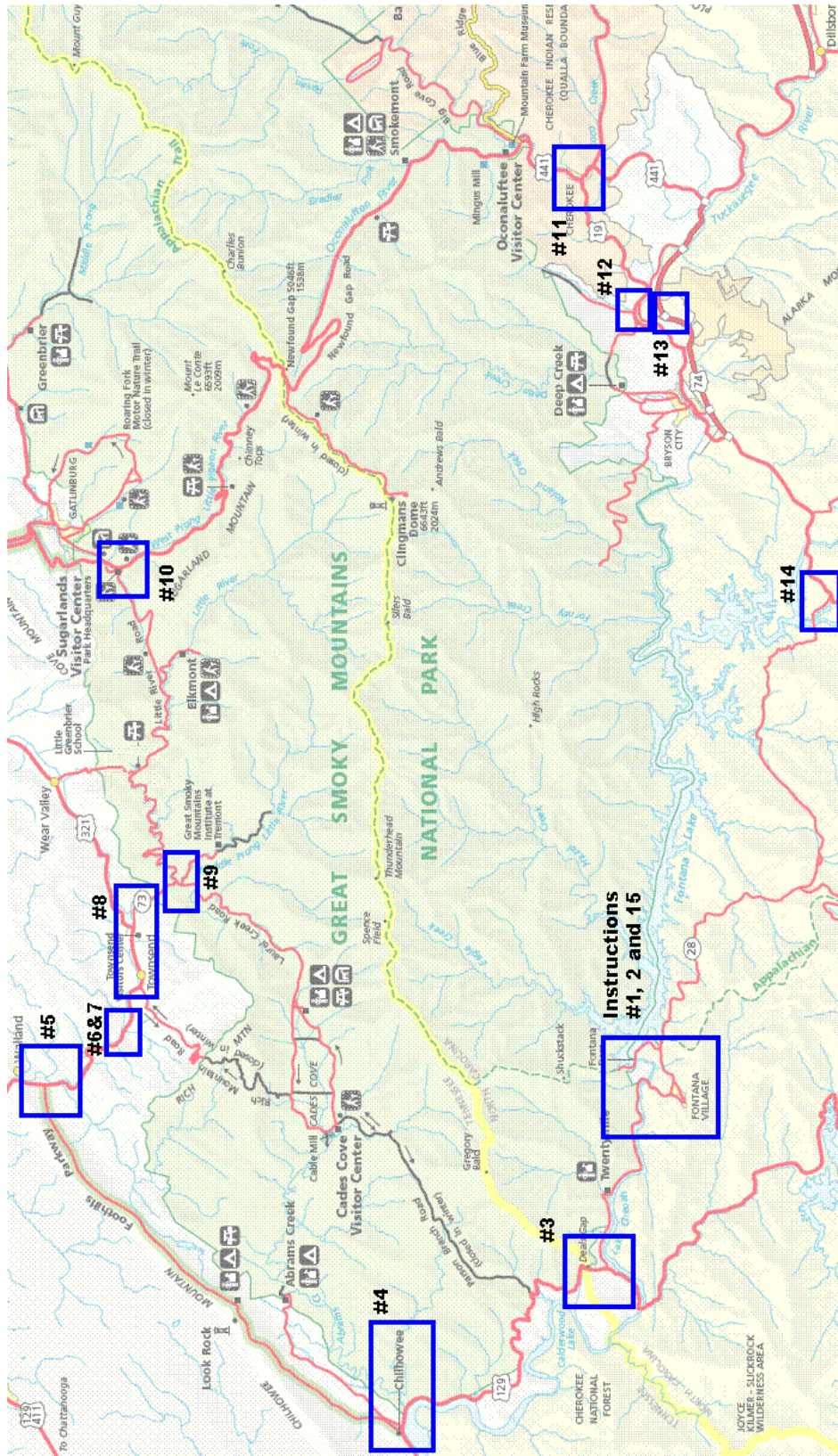
Hand dipped Ice Cream

Fresh Apple Cider, Apple cherry cider & Strawberry Slushes

- An Overview of the Route:



Step by step instructions:



Miles Map

Directions



1: Depart the staging area at the base of Fontana Dam.

0 Miles on trip



2: TURN RIGHT onto 28 towards the Tail of the Dragon – Reset your trip meter as you make this turn to match the numbers to the left.

7.7 to next turn



3: TURN RIGHT onto US 129 (State 115)

7.6 Miles on trip

14.9 to next turn



4: TURN RIGHT onto Foothills Parkway

22.4 Miles on trip

16.8 to next turn

25.9 & 37.7 Miles

These two stops will easily hold 45 cars

Scenic Overlook

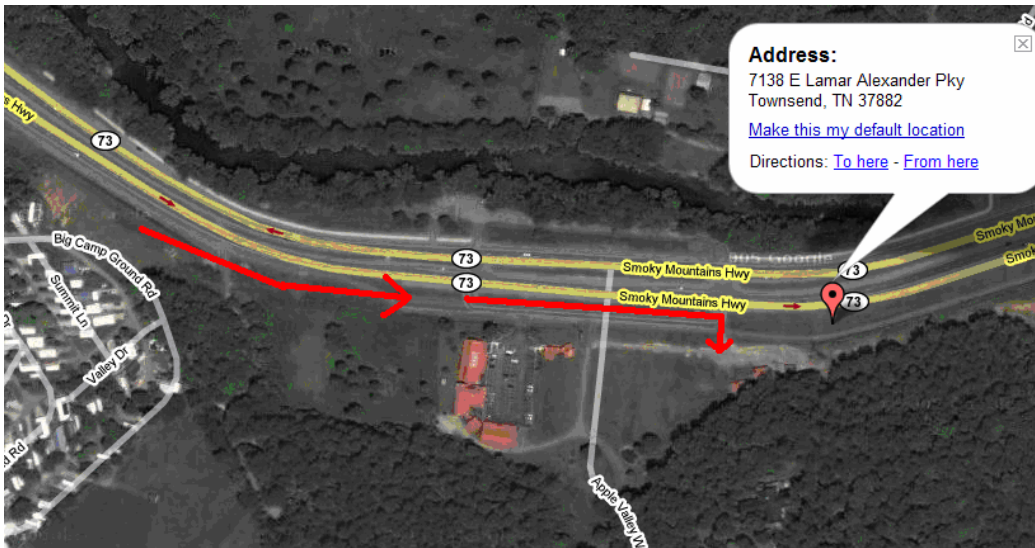
39.1
Miles
on trip

4.7 to
next
turn



5: At the end
of the
Parkway,
TURN RIGHT
onto US 321
(State 73),
AKA The
Smoky
Mountain
Highway

43.5
Miles
on trip



6: Drive
through Kinzel
Springs and
Sunshine to
The Apple
Valley
Kitchen.
TURN RIGHT
into parking
lot.

43.5
Miles
on trip

2.8 to
next
turn

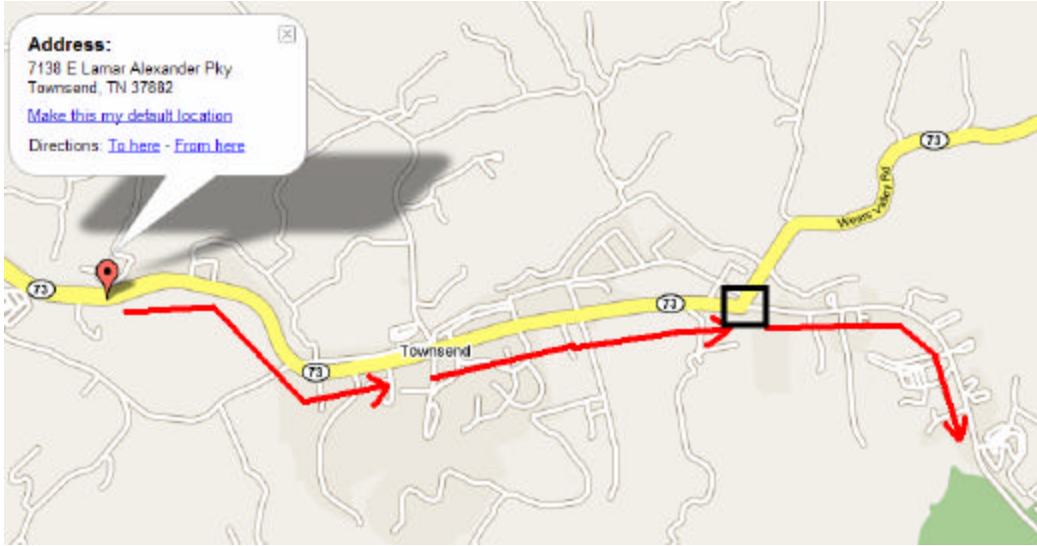


7: 1 Hour
Stop for Lunch

TURN RIGHT
out of
driveway after
lunch and
continue on
US 321 (State
73)

46.3
Miles
on trip

2.3 to
next
turn

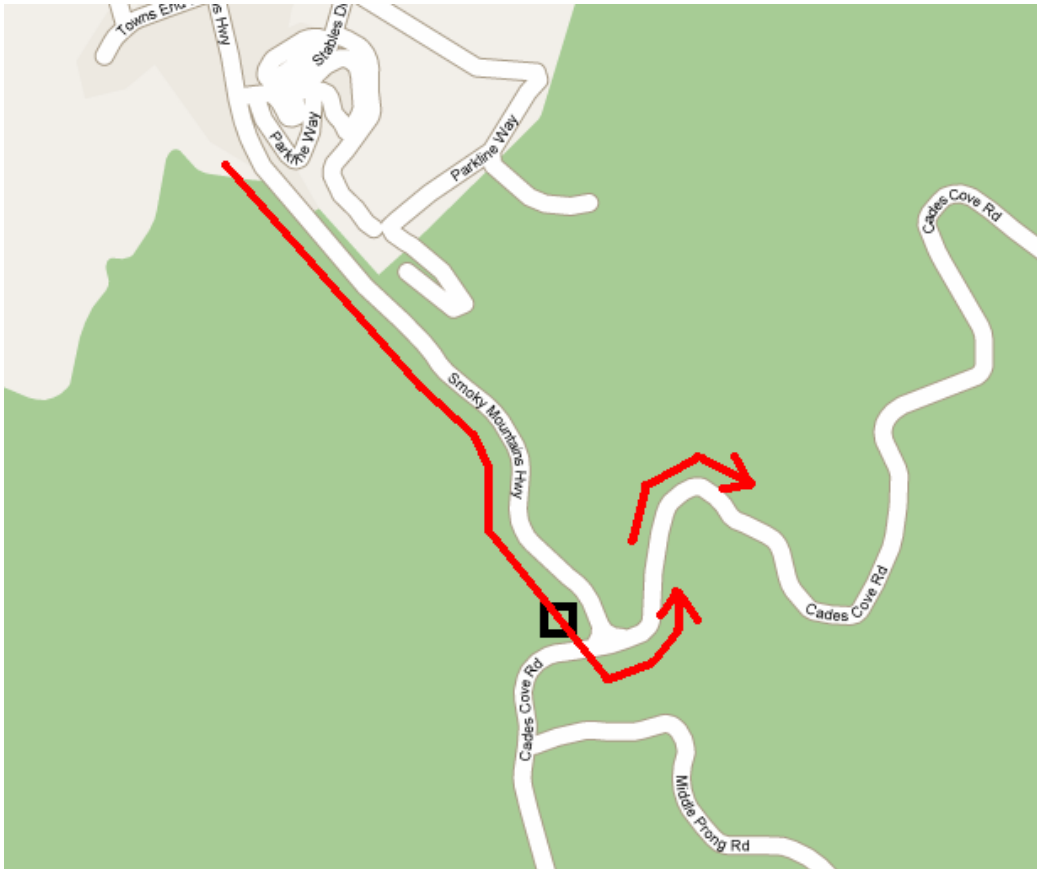


8: Continue
STRAIGHT
through the
lights in
Townsend and
Bethel.

**DO NOT
TURN LEFT
with TN 73**

48.5
Miles
on trip

17.4
miles
to next
turn



9: TURN
LEFT onto
Cades Cove
Road

(AKA Old TN
73 and Little
River Road)

Follow sign
toward
Gatlinburg.

65.7
Miles
on trip

31.5 to
next
turn



10: TURN
RIGHT onto
US 441

(AKA TN 71)

Follow Sign to
Cherokee /
New Found
Gap

78.4
Miles
on trip

15 minute stop – 30 cars are a tight squeeze!

Scenic
Overlook

97.7
Miles
on trip

5.4 To
next
turn

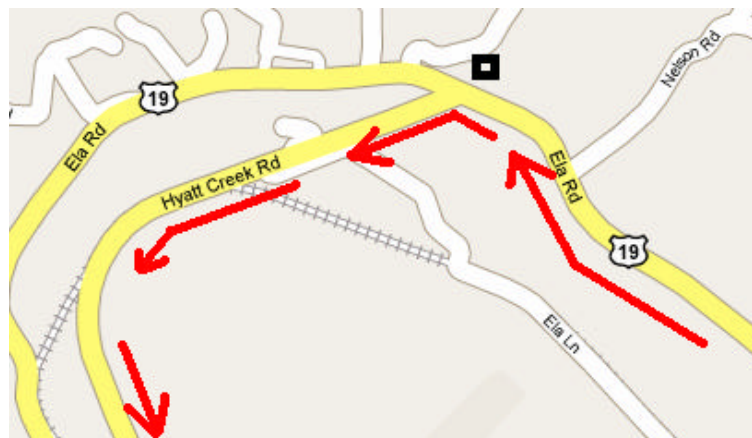


11: TURN
RIGHT onto
US 19

(AKA Ela
Road)

103.0
Miles

1.7 to
next
turn



12: TURN
LEFT onto
Hyatt Creek
Road
(a 45 degree
left turn)

104.7
Miles
on trip

11 to
next
turn



13: TAKE US
74 West

(AKA The
Great Smokey
Mountains
Expy)

It merges into
NC 28 and
Highway 19W

115.4
Miles
on trip

22.4 to
Fontana



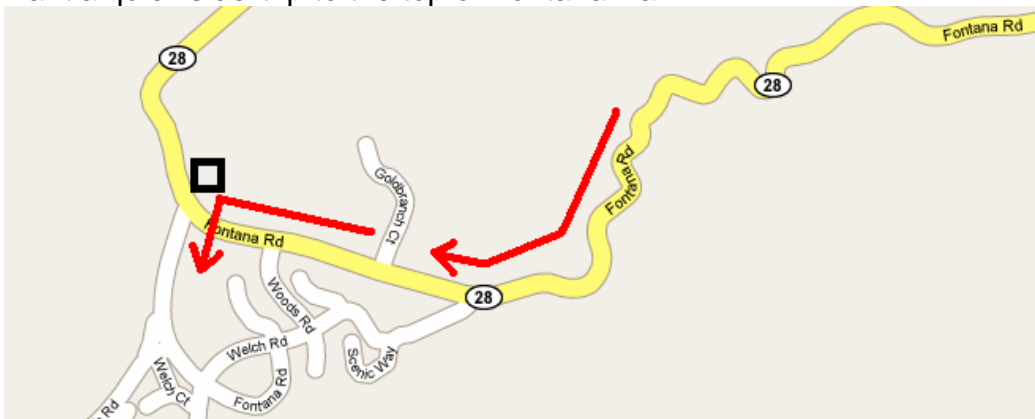
14: BEAR
RIGHT onto
State 28 (AKA
Fontana
Road)

135.4

Turn Left at stop sign to head back to Fontana Village. Turn right if you want a quick side-trip to the top of Fontana Dam.

TURN LEFT
at stop sign.

136.4
Miles
on trip



15: Arrive
back at
Fontana
Village

Instructions for Scenic Drive around the Smoky Mountains – MOTD 2006

1		Depart the staging area at the base of Fontana Dam.
2	Trip: 0 mi 7.7 to next turn	TURN RIGHT from the lower dam access road onto 28 towards the Tail of the Dragon – Reset your trip meter as you make this turn.
3	Trip: 7.6 mi 14.9 to next turn	TURN RIGHT onto US 129 (State 115)
4	Trip: 22.4 mi 16.8 to next turn	TURN RIGHT onto Foothills Parkway - DO NOT SPEED – This is federal land and tickets can easily reach \$500!
	Trip: 25.9 mi & 37.7 mi	Scenic Overlooks – There are several great overlooks on this road. These two spots can easily accommodate up to 45 cars.
5	Trip: 39.1 mi 4.7 to next turn	At the end of the Foothills Parkway, TURN RIGHT onto US 321 (State 73), AKA The Smoky Mountain Highway
6	Trip: 43.5 mi	Drive through Kinzel Springs and Sunshine to The Apple Valley Kitchen. They have a restaurant and several nice tourist shops.
7	Trip: 43.5 mi 2.8 to next marker	1 Hour Stop for Lunch - TURN RIGHT out of driveway and continue on US 321 (TN 73) – Get gas in the next few miles (BP station on Left at 45.7 mi)... no gas for at least 2 hours after this.
8	Trip: 46.3 mi 2.3 to next turn	CONTINUE STRAIGHT through the lights in Townsend and Bethel. TN 73 will turn left, but you will CONTINUE STRAIGHT
9	Trip: 48.5 mi 17.4 to next turn	TURN LEFT onto Cades Cove Road (AKA Old TN 73 and/or Little River Road) – Follow the sign to Gatlinburg.
10	Trip: 65.7 mi 31.5 to next turn	TURN RIGHT onto US 441 (AKA TN 71) – Follow sign to Cherokee / New Found Gap
	Trip: 72.2 mi	Good video opportunity if someone wants to run ahead of the pack and stand on left side of road after 2 nd tunnel. The road loops over itself and, if all the cars are packed together, it makes for a great shot looking down at all the cars.
	Trip: 78.4 mi	Scenic Overlook – 30 cars are a tight squeeze
11	Trip: 97.7 mi 5.4 to next turn	TURN RIGHT onto US 19 (AKA Ela Road)
12	Trip: 103.0 mi 1.7 to next turn	TURN LEFT onto Hyatt Creek Road (a 45 degree left turn)
13	Trip: 104.7 mi 11 to next turn	TAKE US 74 West (AKA The Great Smokey Mountains Expy) It merges into NC 28 and Highway 19W
14	Trip: 115.4 mi 21.4 to Fontana	BEAR RIGHT onto NC 28 (AKA Fontana Road)
15	Trip: 135.4 1 to Fontana	TURN LEFT at the stop sign to Fontana. Turn Right for a side trip to the top of Fontana Dam
16	Trip: 136.4 mi	Arrive back at Fontana Village