

Drive Instructions

Sunrise Drive - Around and Through the Smoky Mountains

Original designed by Aaron Granger

We suggest you leave 15-20 min before that time (weather.com has that info to the minute). This will put you on the Foothills Pkwy just at the right time to really get some beautiful views (mileages for great parking for 20-30 MINIs at a time is noted in the document)

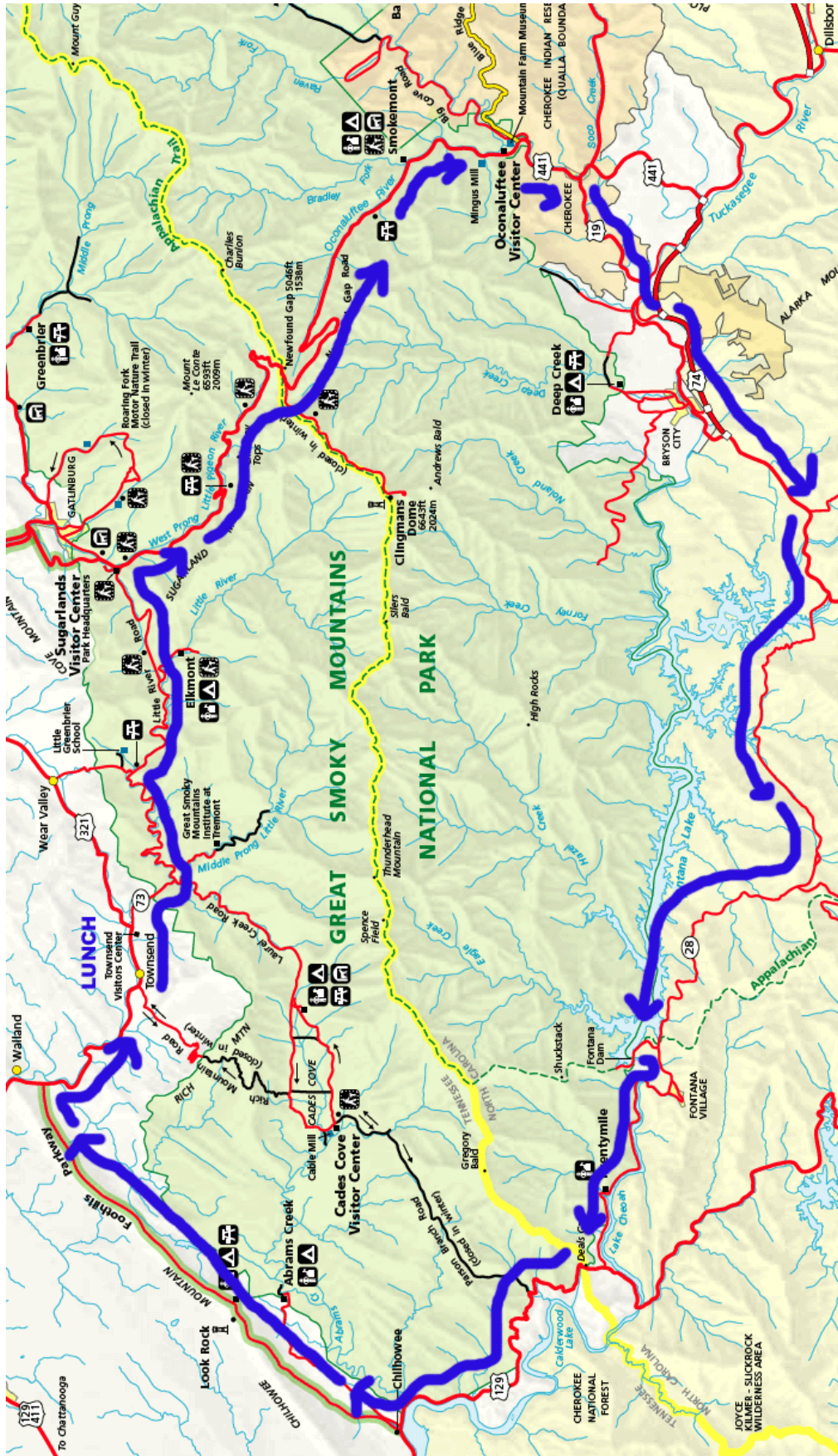
The Route: It spans 140 miles and runs from the base of Fontana Dam, across the Dragon, up the West side of the Smoky Mountains, along the Foothills Parkway (a stop for pictures possible) and stops near Townsend for gas and a quick breakfast from a convenience store. We then head into Smoky Mountain 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). It may run a bit longer... It may run a bit shorter. You never know!

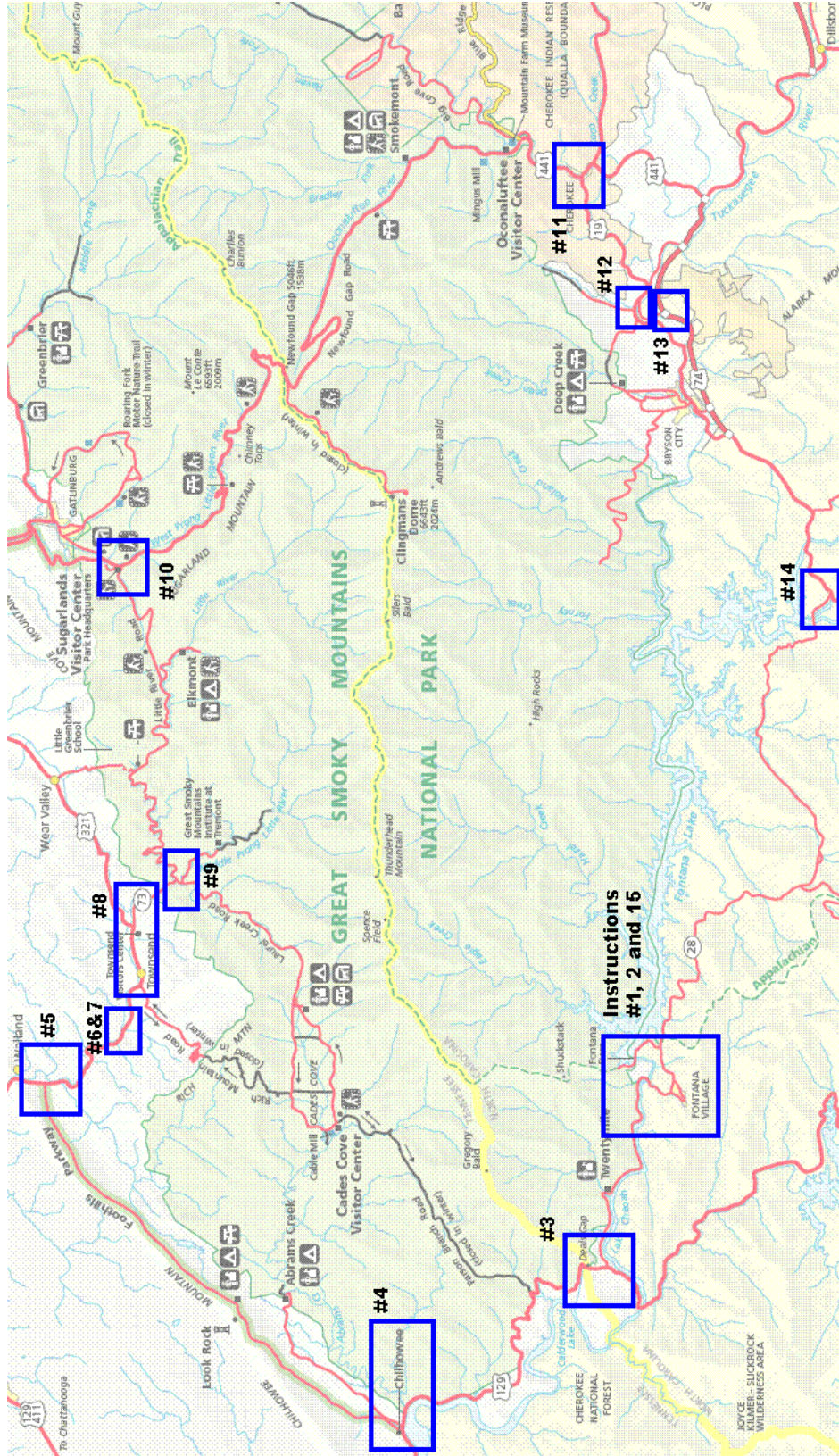


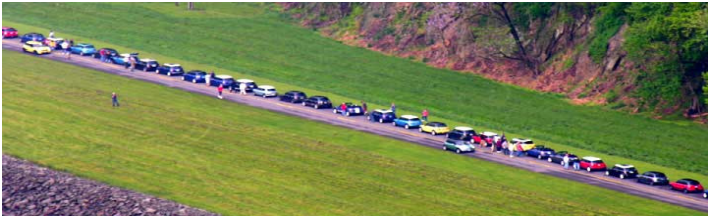



Warnings: Unlike most sharp turn signs (especially in a MINI), the speed warnings for turns in the Smoky Mountain park are very accurate... Take them seriously. Mind your speed on anything that resembles a highway... radar WILL be present. Fines for speeding on the Foothills Parkway are very serious (Federal road), from what I've been told, so we will be taking it easy on that road in particular.

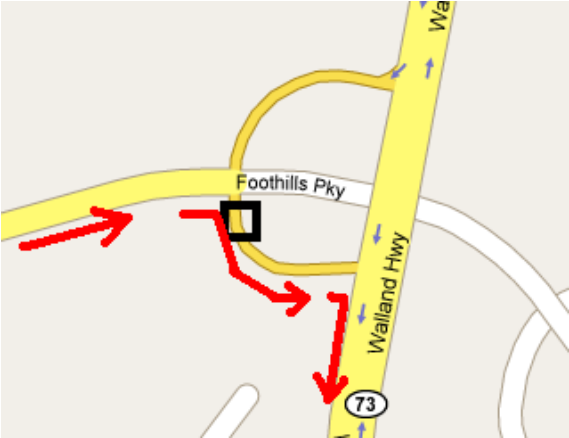
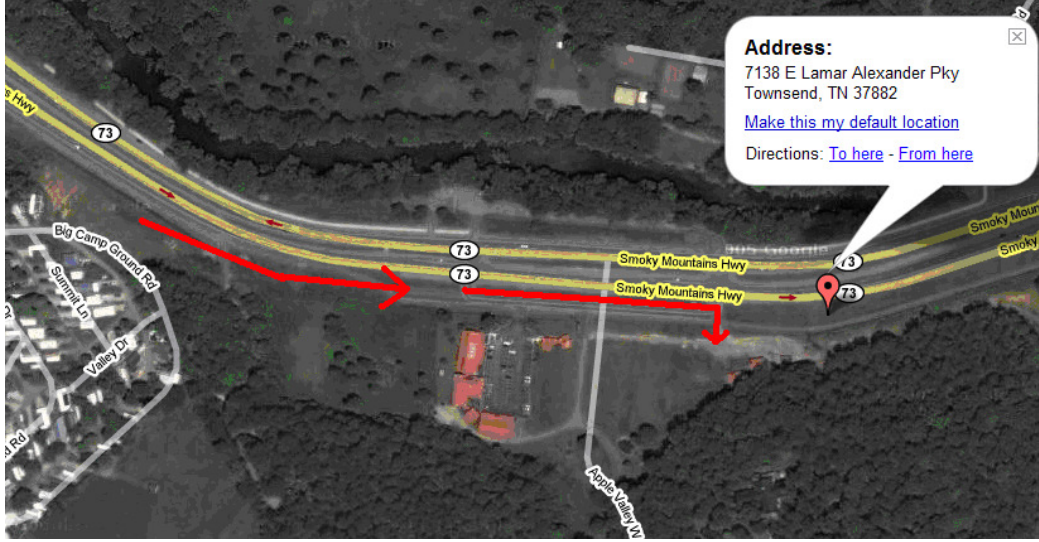

An Overview of the Route:



Step by step instructions:

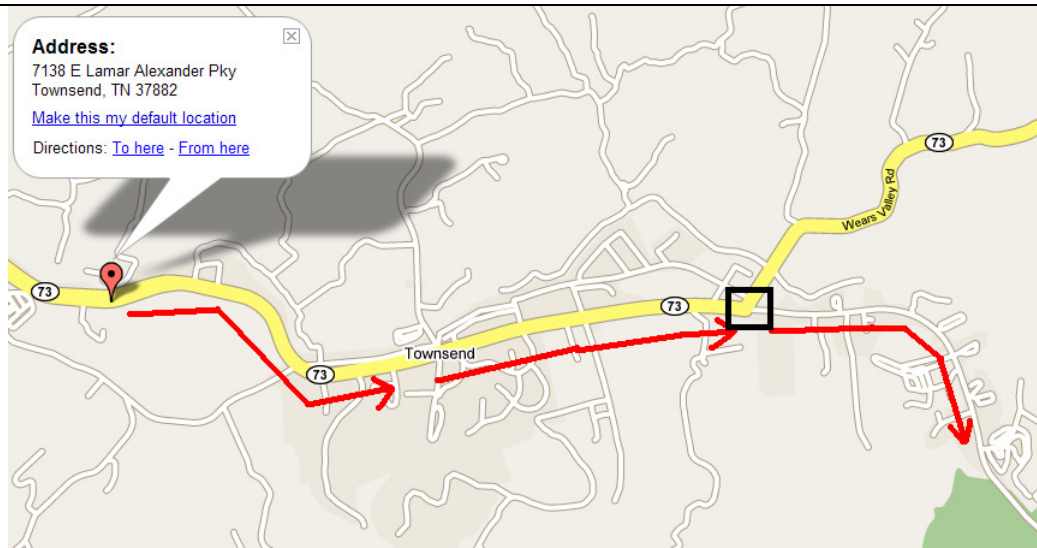


Miles	Map	Directions
		<p>1: Depart the staging area at the base of Fontana Dam.</p>
<p>0 Miles on trip 7.7 to next turn</p>		<p>2: TURN RIGHT onto 28 towards the Tail of the Dragon – Reset your trip meter as you make this turn to match the numbers to the left.</p>
<p>7.6 Miles on trip 14.9 to next turn</p>		<p>3: TURN RIGHT onto US 129 (State 115) at Deals Gap</p>
<p>22.4 Miles on trip 16.8 to next turn</p>		<p>4: TURN RIGHT onto Foothills Parkway</p>
<p>25.9 & 37.7 Miles</p>	<p>These two stops will easily hold 45 cars</p>	<p>Scenic Overlook</p>

<p>39.1 Miles on trip</p> <p>6.9 to next turn</p>		<p>5: At the end of the Parkway, TURN RIGHT onto US 321 (State 73), AKA The Smoky Mountain Highway</p>
<p>45.7 Miles on trip</p>		<p>6: If we were coming by here at lunch, we'd stop at the Apple Valley Kitchen on the Right... nice food and a good gift shop. We will stop at a BP Gas Station on the left in another 2.2 miles.</p>
<p>45.7 Miles on trip</p> <p>0.6 to next (non) turn</p>	 <p>If you are coming back by here, the Apple Valley Kitchen is a nice place to stop for lunch.</p>	<p>7: 15 minute Stop for Gas, Breakfast and Bathrooms.</p> <p>TURN LEFT out of driveway and continue on US 321 (State 73)</p>

46.3
Miles
on trip

2.3 to
next
turn

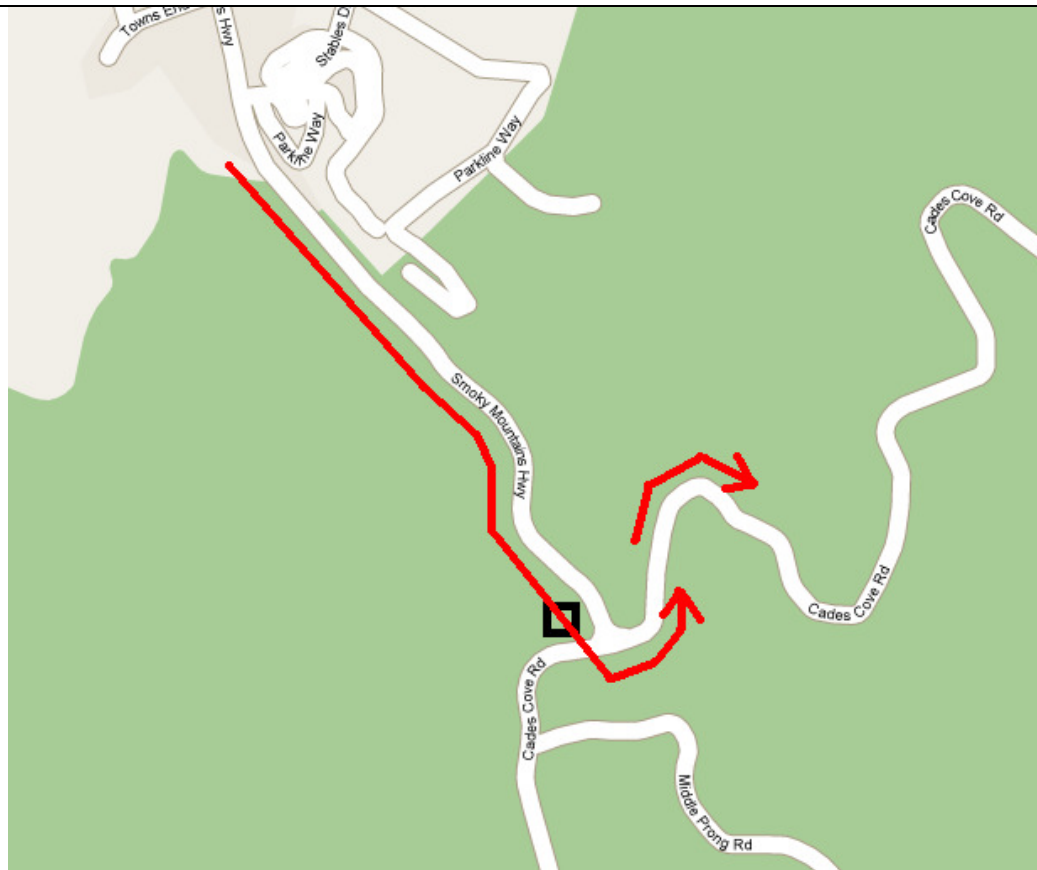


8: Continue
STRAIGHT
through the
lights in
Townsend and
Bethel.

**DO NOT
TURN LEFT
with TN 73**

48.5
Miles
on trip

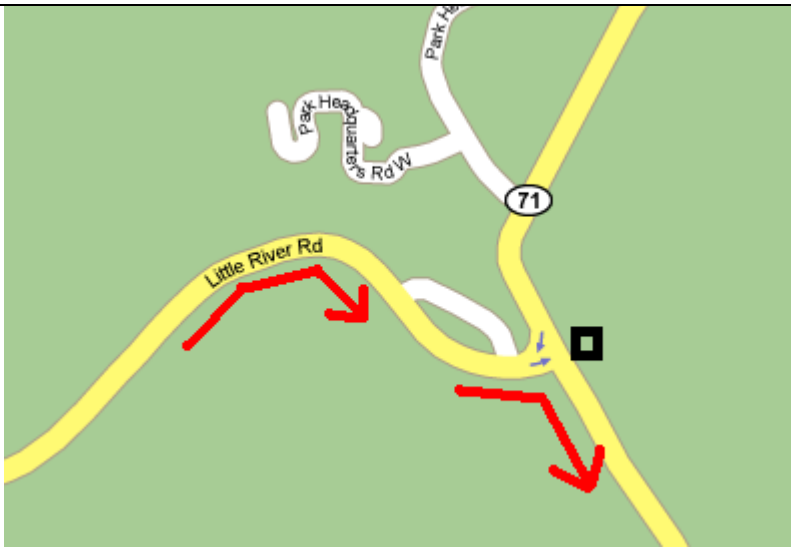
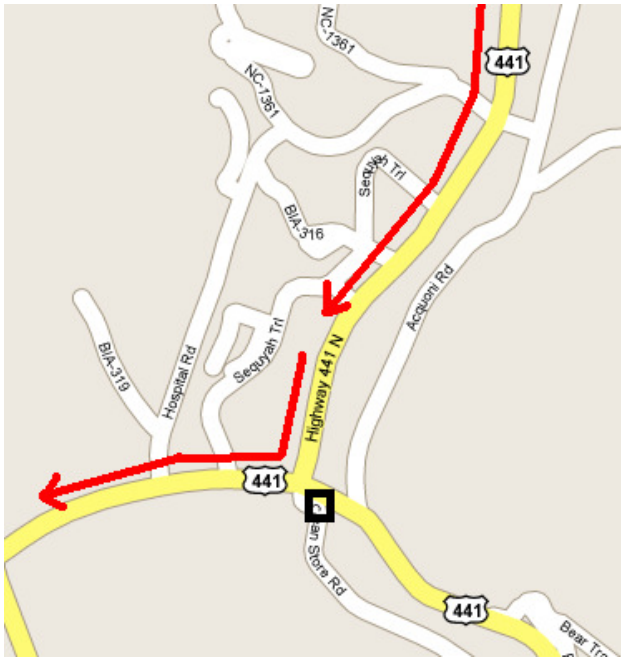
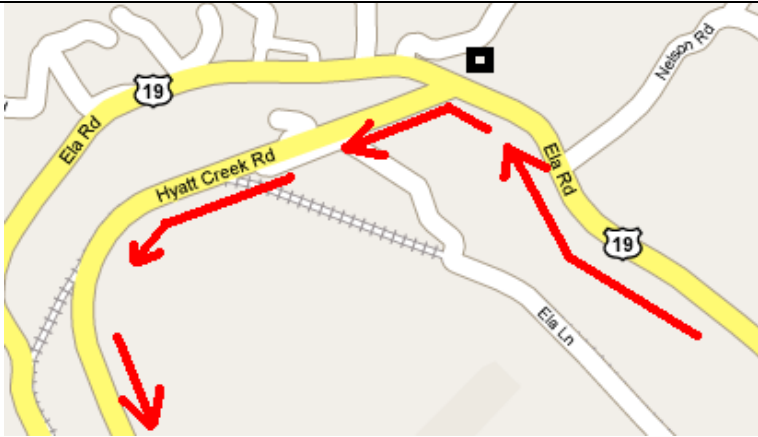
17.4
miles
to next
turn





9: TURN
LEFT onto
Cades Cove
Road

(AKA Old TN
73 and Little
River Road)

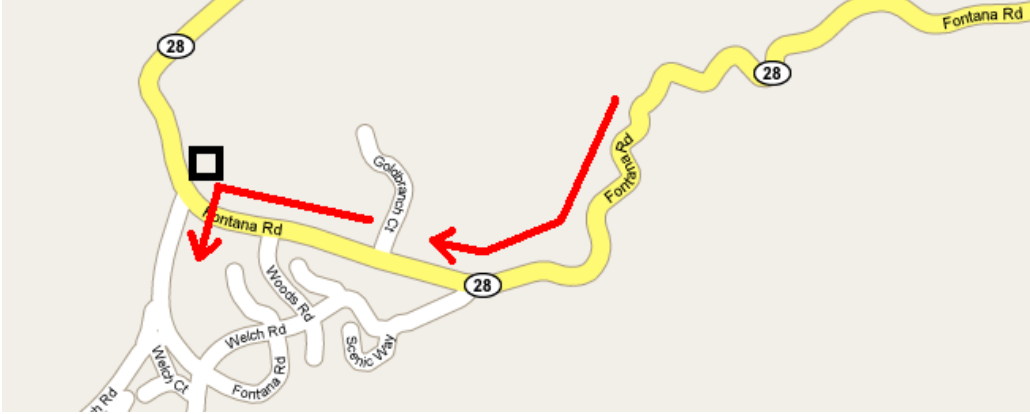
Follow sign
toward
Gatlinburg.

<p>65.7 Miles on trip</p> <p>31.5 to next turn</p>		<p>10: TURN RIGHT onto US 441</p> <p>(AKA TN 71)</p> <p>Follow Sign to Cherokee / New Found Gap</p>
<p>78.4 Miles on trip</p>	<p>15 minute stop – 30 cars are a tight squeeze!</p>	<p>Scenic Overlook</p>
<p>97.7 Miles on trip</p> <p>5.4 To next turn</p>		<p>11: TURN RIGHT onto US 19</p> <p>(AKA Ela Road)</p>
<p>103.0 Miles</p> <p>1.7 to next turn</p>		<p>12: TURN LEFT onto Hyatt Creek Road (a 45 degree left turn)</p>

<p>104.7 Miles on trip</p> <p>11 to next turn</p>		<p>13: TAKE US 74 West</p> <p>(AKA The Great Smokey Mountains Expy)</p> <p>It merges into NC 28 and Highway 19W</p>
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<p>115.4 Miles on trip</p> <p>22.4 to Fontana</p>		<p>14: BEAR RIGHT onto State 28 (AKA Fontana Road)</p>
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<p>135.4</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>TURN LEFT at stop sign.</p>
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<p>136.4 Miles on trip</p>		<p>15: Arrive back at Fontana Village</p>
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One Page Instructions for Scenic Drive around the Smoky Mountains – MOTD 2008

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 6.6 to next turn	At the end of the Foothills Parkway, TURN RIGHT onto US 321 (State 73), AKA The Smoky Mountain Highway
6	Trip: 45.7 mi	BP station on left for gas, bathroom break and food, if you wish. There is no gas for the next 1.5 hours and gas is cheaper here than at Fontana, so I'll be filling up.
7	Trip: 45.7 mi 0.6 to next marker	15 minute stop for gas, food, bathroom break. TURN LEFT 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 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.
	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