

Wilderness Road Heritage Highway

The Wilderness Road Heritage Highway is an important historic route and was crucial in the West's settlement and during the Civil War. Today places like Cumberland Gap National Historic Park preserve that history. The route also leads to Renfro Valley, the famous country music venue, as well as Berea, Kentucky's crafts capitol.

Length: 93.8 miles / 150.1 km

Time Two hours to drive or two to days to visit places along Allow: the way



Local Information

Southern & Eastern KY Tourism Development Association
606-677-6095

Visitor Services



Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

US 25 East is not conducive to pedestrians or bicycles due to rumble strips along its length and high traffic speeds. KY 229 has narrow shoulders (two feet) and curves, and thus is not conducive to bicycles or pedestrians, although there are many places to pull off the road and take short walks.



Camping

There are places to camp along this byway.



Food

There are places to buy food along this byway.



Gasoline

Gasoline is available.



Information

There is an authoritative information center along this byway.



Lodging

There is overnight lodging along this byway.



Phone

Public phones are available along this byway.



Restrooms

There are toilet facilities along this byway.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Summer/Fall

Fall

During the fall, the mountains are bright with fall colors.

High Season

Summer

Map and Directions



Legend:

Point of Interest	Campground	Featured Byway	Water	State Border
Park	Picnic/Rest Area	America's Byways	Wildlife Refuge	Urban Area
Mountain	Interstate	Other Byway	Wilderness Area	Tribal Nation
City	U.S. Highway	Other Road	Other Federal Lands	Military Base
Capital	State Highway	Trail	Other State Lands	

Driving Directions

- Begin at the Tennessee/Kentucky border on US25E southeast of Middlesboro, KY.

- Drive northeast on US25E.
- Follow US25E for 30 miles through Middlesboro and Pineville until the junction with KY229 just north of Barbourville.
- Drive north on KY229 for 21 miles to the junction with US25 in London.
- Go north on US25 through Laurel and Rockcastle counties until reaching Berea in Madison County.
- The byway ends at the intersection of US25 and Boone St. in Berea, KY.

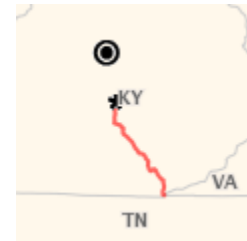
Getting to the Byway



Nearby cities

Lexington, KY (38 miles / 61.16 km, 36 minutes)

- Start:** ⊙ I-75 southbound, Lexington, KY
 N 38.079° W 84.458° [?]
- Directions:** • Take I-75 south to Berea.
 • Get on KY-21 and go east to
 US-25 where the byway begins.
- Junction
with byway:** * Intersection of KY-21 and US-25
 N 37.568° W 84.306° [?]



Road Trip: Nature and culture in southern Kentucky

Departure: Middlesboro, Kentucky

Destination: Berea, Kentucky

Time to allow: 2 days

Travel the Wilderness Road Heritage Highway and enjoy scenery, wildlife, and arts and crafts.

Day 1

- **Start: Middlesboro**

Middlesboro offers an appealing, pedestrian oriented architectural heritage and interesting sites like the Canal Walk and county museum.

- **Stop 1: Pineville**

From previous stop: 15 minutes / 10 mi (16.0 km)

Directions: Take 25E and head north to Pineville.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

Pineville is a pedestrian friendly and relaxing town along the Wilderness Heritage Highway.

- **Stop 2: Pine Mountain State Resort Park**

From previous stop: 15 minutes / 10 mi (16.0 km)

Directions: Return to Pineville. From Pineville, take I-75 to exit 29 at Corbin onto US 25E.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Pine Mountain State Resort Park is the first park in the state system, and it offers outstanding views from atop Pine Mountain in the lodge.

- **End: Barbourville**

From previous stop: 28 minutes / 17 mi (27.2 km)

Directions: Continue on 25E and head northwest.

Barbourville is home to Union College. With plenty of lodging opportunities, it's a good spot to spend the evening.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 37 miles / 59.2 km

Total Travel Time: 58 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 3 hours

Day 2

- **Stop 1: Dr. Thomas Walker State Historical Site**

From previous stop: 5 minutes / 2.5 mi (4.0 km)

Directions: Take Exit 29 from I-75 and drive south on US 25E to Barbourville.

Suggested time at this stop: 15 minutes

Cabin and site of Dr. Walker's early homestead in Kentucky. Dr. Walker was the first pioneer to find the Gap and then explore Kentucky.

- **Stop 2: Levi Jackson Wilderness Road State Park**

From previous stop: 25 minutes / 15 mi (24.0 km)

Directions: Take US 25 from the Byway.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

The Mountain Life Museum provides costumed interpretation of a settlement village. Hiking trails also invite you to spend some extra time here.

- **Stop 3: Camp Wildcat**

From previous stop: 15 minutes / 10 mi (16.0 km)

Directions: Located just off of Wilderness Road on the east side of the Byway.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

Camp Wildcat is the site of the first Civil War engagement in Kentucky. Participate in activities to get a close look at Civil War history.

- **Stop 4: Renfro Valley Entertainment Center**

From previous stop: 25 minutes / 15 mi (24.0 km)

Directions: Located within Renfro Valley, just off of the Byway.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

History and culture come alive at Renfro Valley. Catch some concerts at one of many legendary venues, whether at a bluegrass festival or a gospel revival show.

- **End: Berea**

From previous stop: same location

Enjoy some culture through the many options in Berea.

Totals for Day 2

Total Distance Traveled: 42.5 miles / 68.0 km

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 5 hours 15 minutes