

East Tennessee Crossing

This route follows the original path of the Cherokee Warriors Path, the Wilderness Road across the Clinch Mountain and the Cumberland Gap, the Dixie Highway of the Civil War period and Thunder Road of moonshining lore.



Length: 83 miles / 132.8 km

Local Information

We do not have contact information for this Byway.

Visitor Services



Accessibility

Each of our visitors centers, museums and information centers is ADA compliant. In addition, there are several ADA compliant experiences on the byway including a well-designed boardwalk trail in the Town of Cumberland Gap that leads to a nearby National Park Interpretive facility. The Cumberland Gap National Park and the Town of Harrogate have an extensive paved walking and cycling path. The vista from Pinnacle Rock in Cumberland Gap National Park is boardwalked.



Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

Most of the route has wide paved shoulders that easily and safely accommodate bicycles. There are also 12 scenic and heritage tours and most of those routes are designed to encourage bicycle travel.



Camping

Camping is available along the byway.



Food

There is dining in Historic Dandridge and In Cumberland Gap. There is a restaurant at the Clinch Mountain Overlook. There are also restaurants in Morristown.



Information

* Cumberland Gap NHP Center, open daily from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., offers a staffed information desk, restrooms, tours, and an informational movie. * Abraham Lincoln Museum, in Harrogate, open Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m.-4 p.m., offers a staffed info desk, restrooms, and tours. * Wilderness Rd State Park, open 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., grounds 8 a.m.-dusk, offers a staffed information desk, restrooms, tours, and an informational movie. * Morristown Chamber of Commerce, open Monday-

Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., offers a staffed information desk and restrooms. * Jefferson County Chamber, in Dandridge, open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., offers a staffed information desk and restrooms. * Cocke County Tourism in Newport, open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., offers a staffed information desk and restrooms.

Lodging



There are lodging opportunities available in Morristown and Cumberland Gap.

Restrooms



There are restrooms available at the Cumberland Gap NHP.

Retail



There are gift shops in Historic Dandridge. There are antique and gift shops in Cumberland Gap. There are shops in Morristown.

Special Considerations

The entire route is a US highway and the full length is paved with paved or hard packed two to four foot shoulders.

Restrictions

The only restriction to vehicles is the prohibition of trucks carrying explosive or toxic materials. This is due to the archeological and geological qualities of the cave system at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and the fact that 25E passes through a tunnel at that location.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

The historic qualities exist throughout the year, but the background of fall colors makes autumn preferable.

Fall

Fall is the preferred season for travel on this byway.

High Season

Summer is the peak season for national park visitation and for lake recreation.

Summer

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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

- The byway begins at the North Carolina/Tennessee border. Travel northwest on US-25 to Del Rio.

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- In Del Rio, continue northwest through the town of Newport.
- Pass through Newport and continue on US-25 E through the town of White Pine.
- Continue heading northwest on US-25 E, and pass through the town of Cumberland Gap.
- The byway ends at the Kentucky/Tennessee border. Here, you can travel through Kentucky on the Wilderness Road Heritage Highway.

Getting to the Byway

Directions to East Tennessee Crossing are unavailable at this time.

Road Trip: Exploring the Wilderness Road of Tennessee

Departure: Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Kentucky

Destination: Morristown, Tennessee

Time to allow: 1 day

This itinerary offers the traveler more depth into the Wilderness Road and is a perfect complement to the activities available along the Kentucky portion of this route. Enjoy the rich history and beauty of Tennessee on this exciting route along the East Tennessee Crossing Byway.

Day 1

- **Start: Cumberland Gap National Historical Park**

Visiting Cumberland Gap National Historical Park provides visitors with an excellent overview of the Gap and the Wilderness Road and the role it played for animals, Native Americans and settlers. The recently-renovated Park Service visitors center offers a quality review of the Gap and the Wilderness Road, the geology of the Park and professionally-produced film on Daniel Boone. Drive up to the Pinnacle Rock overlook and see the vistas of the Cumberlands in both Kentucky and Tennessee. Interpretation is installed on both the history and physiography of the Park. Trails extend from the points along the drive and the top. Trails also run throughout the Park and can be accessed from the Visitors Center or from entry points in the Town of Cumberland Gap. Tours are given of Cujo's Cave and driving tours are offered to the historic settlement school on the Park property. Finally, walk on the original path of the Wilderness Road as it rises from Tennessee to the Gap and into Kentucky.

- **Stop 1: Town of Cumberland Gap**



From previous stop: 5 minutes / 2 mi (3.2 km)

Directions: Drive south along US-25E from the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and veer right at the sign for US-58 to Virginia. Turn left at either South Cumberland Drive or North Cumberland Drive to enter the village. The northern entrance passes a recent interpretive installation on the Wilderness Road and those who passed over this route. The installation includes sculpture and audio clips to enhance the experience.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

This historic village is located at the base of Pinnacle Rock. It offers lodging, antique and gift shops and Webbs Country Kitchen a well-known local eatery and music venue. The village is adjacent to Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and its trails and interpretive installations are located within walking distance of the village.

This would be a good stop for a meal following a visit to the National Park.

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



From previous stop: 10 minutes / 5 mi (8.0 km)

Directions: Drive five miles from the Town of Cumberland Gap along US-58. The park is on the left.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Wilderness Road State Park gives the visitor a great experience of what a Wilderness Road outpost and trading post was like. The movie is excellent and the landscape is beautiful.

- **Stop 3: Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum of Lincoln Memorial University**



From previous stop: 15 minutes / 7 mi (11.2 km)

Directions: Travel west along US-58 to the junction with US-25E, head south and turn right into Abraham Lincoln Memorial University. The museum is immediately on the right.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

This museum provides a good background on another aspect of the Wilderness Road, its role as the Dixie Highway during the Civil War, the battles for Cumberland Gap and Lincoln's perspective on the importance of Eastern Tennessee.

- **Stop 4: Tazewell**



From previous stop: 18 minutes / 12 mi (19.2 km)

Directions: Drive south for 12 miles through the farmland of Claiborne County.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

This is the next stop south of the Museum, the Gap and Harrogate. The town offers a brief Civil War driving tour and a historic Gulf gas station which was featured in the movie, "Thunder Road."

This would be a good location to grab a snack before heading south. There are numerous eateries coming into Tazewell or immediately after the byway turns south.

- **Stop 5: Clinch Mountain Winery**



From previous stop: 20 minutes / 15 mi (24.0 km)

Directions: Drive south on US-25E for about 10 miles to the bridge crossing the Clinch River. Go another 2.5 miles and look for Bullen Valley Road on the right. Drive about 1 mile to the winery. See signs. Winery on left.

To visit Petticoat Junction General Store, continue on down same road to junction and turn right on TN-131. Go 4 miles to hamlet containing Petticoat Junction General Store.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

This winery is located immediately off the byway on Bullen Valley Road, as one climbs up Clinch Mountain. Tastings and a gift shop make for a nice 1/2 hour experience. The winery produces over 20 different wines and is housed in an old barn on an old farm.

Down the road another 5 miles is the Petticoat Junction General Store. This store literally has a contingent of local gentlemen who gather daily to whittle and chew the fat with anyone that comes buy. Have a coke (i.e., a soda pop or soft drink), kick back and enjoy the meadows and hillsides from the front porch.

- **Stop 6: Clinch Mountain Overlook**



From previous stop: 5 minutes / 2 mi (3.2 km)

Directions: Drive 2 miles up to the top of Clinch Mountain and stop just on the southern side of the ridge.

Suggested time at this stop: 45 minutes

This short stop provides some interpretive signage and a wonderful view of the byway and landscape to the south. Local musicians often play at the nearby restaurant.

- **End: Morristown**



From previous stop: 25 minutes / 18 mi (28.8 km)

stop:

Directions: Follow the byway south to the intersection with US-11E, East Morris Blvd.

Morristown is a logical way to end this day. Visit Crockett's Tavern Museum, where you can learn about Davy Crockett's life and ways of living from the late 18th Century. If time allows, take the downtown stained glass walking tour.

The next morning drive around Cherokee Lake, take a trip into Grainger County, visit pristine Panther Creek State Park or follow the Bridge to Bridge Civil War Tour.

You can find lodging near here or to the west of town. Restaurants are located along the byway and along East Morris Blvd.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 61 miles / 97.6 km

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 38 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 7 hours 15 minutes