

## Driving Directions

Depart Elkins traveling west on US-33&250 and SR-92 [S Randolph Ave] ( **the Staunton Parkersburg Turnpike National Scenic Byway** ) to intersection with CR-250 at Harding before the intersection with US-250 and SR-92. Turn left on CR-250 [Junior-Philippi-Grafton Rd]

Take CR-250 south till it ends at CR-151. Turn right and follow CR-151 to Pumpkintown. At Pumpkintown, turn left on CR-53. This begins your travel on **Rich Mountain Backway**.

Turn right at CR-37 [Files Creek Rd] and go past Mabie to intersection of CR-37 [Files Creek Rd] and turn left. Follow the **Rich Mountain Backway** to top of Rich Mountain and **Rich Mountain Battlefield**.

Continue on CR-37 until you reach Beverly and US219&250 and State Roads 55&92, turn right. Continue on US219&250 and State Roads 55&92 until you reach Huttonsville and turn left on US 250, SR-92. Continue to Cheat Bridge, turn right at CR-250 and follow the **Cheat Mountain Backway to Cheat Summit Fort**. Return to US219&250 and turn right.

Before you reach Durbin, turn right on Back Mountain Rd and follow **Back Mountain Backway** to Grant Van Devender Rd and turn left. Return to US219&250 and turn right. Go past Bartow to intersection with SR-28/92 turn right then left on CR-3 which is **Camp Allegheny Backway**. Follow Backway to Civil War **Camp Allegheny** at the top of Allegheny Mountain. From Camp Allegheny follow CR-4 [Green Bank Rd] west to SR-28/92. turn left.

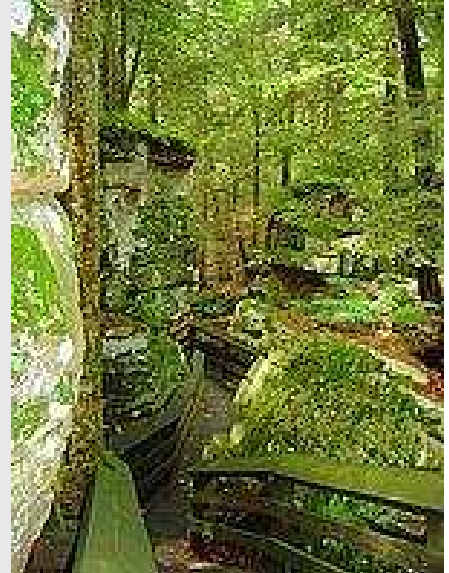
Go past Arbovale to Greenbank and look for **National Radio Astronomy Observatory** (NRAO) on the right. After a visit to the NRAO turn right on SR-28/92 and go south to SR-39. Turn right [west] and go to Marlinton and junction with US 219, SR-55. Turn left [south] and go south to Mill Point. Turn right onto SR-39&55 and go to junction with SR-150 and turn right. You are now on **Highland**



AMERICAN DRIVING VACATIONS  
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## Heart of West Virginia Driving Tour 1: Scenic Byways and Backways

West Virginia is blessed with some of the most scenic byways in the nation. Being up in the mountain landscapes in the Heart of West Virginia makes them especially beautiful. And better yet, if you only have two days to spend, you can cover the best of the best of the byways in the region. Plan to come in to Elkins the night before, to get a fresh start on the morning that you are driving the byway loop described below.



You'll be starting out from Elkins on US Route 250, the Staunton Parkersburg Turnpike National Scenic Byway. Before it became a Federal highway, this famous old road was the main route of commerce and trade from the east coast over the mountains of western Virginia. The route winds its way through the rugged terrain at the places of easiest passage, around and over the mountains. Plan to take your time and enjoy the road; freeway this isn't!

Traveling between Elkins and Durbin, you'll be able to travel four West Virginia Backways, just as the name says, roads that are in the back of the beyond. Rich Mountain Backway takes you to the Rich Mountain Battlefield, since of one of the first battles of the Civil War. After you pass through Beverly, you'll get to the Cheat Mountain Backway, a portion of the original Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike before it was straightened out a bit. Further on down, the Back Mountain Backway was also an original portion of the Turnpike. Camp Allegheny Backway leads you up the mountain to a Civil War encampment.

Just past Durbin, you have the option to take a slight diversion to visit the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, the world's largest steerable telescope, where you can "catch the wave." Between Durbin and Edray, you'll be on roads that are no less scenic than the others, just not officially designated Byways.

As you reach Marlinton, you'll be turning south on US Route 219, to ultimately catch the Highland Scenic Highway, a scenic route with views that are not to be missed. Winding through mostly undeveloped Monongahela National Forest lands, the landscape spreads out from the expansive mountain ridges.

**Scenic Highway.** Follow and enjoy the sights along the road until it joins US 219 and SR-55. You will pass Cranberry Glades, Cranberry Wilderness and other scenic areas of **The Monongahela National Forest.** You can now follow US 219 and SR-55 56.4 miles north to complete your return to Elkins.



Elevations on some portions of the Highway rise from 2,235 to 4,500 feet above sea level. Coming off the Highland Scenic Highway, you'll be back on US Route 219 North, traveling to Elkins.

Reaching Elkins, it will likely be time for dinner and to enjoy your evening. We know you'll have stories to tell about West Virginia's spectacular scenic roads.

