



AMERICAN DRIVING VACATIONS  
PRESENTS:

## Heart of West Virginia Driving Tour 3: The Civil War in western Virginia

### Drive One

Depart Elkins going north US-33 (S Randolph Ave)  
Bear right onto US-250 and SR-92  
Turn right onto US-119, 250 and go to **Grafton**.  
Return south on US-119  
Continue on US-119, 250 to **Philippi**.  
From Philippi travel south on US-250 to **Belington**.  
From Belington travel south on US-250, SR-92 to US-33, 250 and SR-92.  
Turn left and travel east to Elkins.

### Drive Two

Depart Elkins traveling south on US-219 and travel 24 miles to **Elkwater**, site of Camp Elkwater.  
Continue travel south on US-219 for 54 miles past **Marlinton** to Spice.  
Turn right on CR-24 and enter **Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park**.  
Return north on US-219 to Edray.  
Turn right on CR-1 (Back Mountain Rd) Road name changes to Laurel Run Rd At SR-28, turn left.  
SR-28 becomes SR-28,92.  
Pass Green Bank and Arbovale.  
Turn right on CR-4 (Greenbank Rd) and follow to Top of Allegheny and **Camp Allegheny**.  
Take CR-3 north till it joins US-250, SR-28,92. Turn left on US-250 and soon you are in **Bartow, site of Camp Bartow**.  
From Bartow continue on US-250, SR-92 past Durbin to Cheat Bridge. At Cheat bridge turn left onto CR-250 and go to **Cheat Summit Fort**.  
Return on CR-250 to US-250, SR-92 and turn left.  
Follow US-250, SR-92 to Huttonsville.  
Turn right at US-219,250 and SR-55, 92 and travel to **Beverly**.  
At Beverly, turn left onto Bridge St.  
Road name changes to CR-37 (Files Creek Rd)  
Bear right onto CR-21 (Georgetown Rd)  
Stay on CR-37 to **Rich Mountain Battlefield**.  
Retrace your route back to US-219, 250 and SR-55, 92.  
Turn left and return to Elkins.

Virginia is well known for having had the most Civil War battles on its soil of any state. Included in that total should be the battle sites in now West Virginia, that were in western Virginia when the battles occurred. In fact, the first land battle of the Civil War occurred in the Heart of West Virginia, 25 miles up the road from Elkins.



Philippi, now in West Virginia, was the site of the first major troop engagement intended to gain control the Staunton Parkersburg Turnpike, the main route of commerce and trade through western Virginia. Control of this route would deliver control of all of western Virginia, which Union troops achieved, holding the territory for the majority of the war. Phillippi was short compared to the later Battle of Rich Mountain, about a month later, which ended in a Union victory.

Since the Civil War action in western Virginia was concentrated in the area that is now the Heart of West Virginia, it is quite easy to tour the battle sites in a day or two.

Plan to arrive in Elkins the afternoon before you take the Civil War driving tour to give yourself plenty of time to get a fresh start in the morning.

### Drive One

From Elkins, so as to not backtrack, you'll be traveling north through Belington to Grafton, site of the Grafton National Cemetery and General McClellan's Headquarters (located in the home of the founder of Mother's Day!). South of Grafton, you'll reach Philippi, where the first land battle occurred. While there, also admire the 1854 covered bridge, the only covered bridge in use on a Federal highway. Just south of Philippi, the battle of Laurel Hill, witnessed General Garnett's demise at Corrick's Ford, the first General to be killed in battle in the War.

### Drive Two

As you proceed south from Elkins on the Staunton Parkersburg Turnpike, you'll reach Huttonsville and Camp Elkwater, which



served as the headquarters of Confederate forces in early 1861. Later as the war progressed south, General McClellan also made his headquarters here.

From there, the war ultimately moved south to Marlinton and the battle of Droop Mountain, site of the largest Civil War battle in western Virginia. About 1,700 Confederate troops engaged between 3,000 and 4,000 Union soldiers. After this massive battle, which pushed Confederate forces further south in western Virginia, resistance in western Virginia ceased and the territory was held by Union troops for the duration of the war.

Working to keep control of the Staunton Parkersburg Turnpike, a down the road reveals Camp Allegheny, Camp Bartow and Cheat Summit Fort, all camps and fortifications established overlooking the road.

Control by Union troops enabled the counties of western Virginia to meet and form a government that ultimately led to the formation of the new state of West Virginia in 1863.

Traveling north now on the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike takes you to Beverly, where the Rich Mountain Battlefield is located on its outskirts. Right in town, the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation Visitors Center can answer any questions you might have about the battles in the area. Once up on Rich Mountain, it is easy why control of the Staunton Parkersburg Turnpike was so important.



## Drive One





## Drive Two

