Driving Directions

Day Two
Depart from Elkins going west on US-33&250, SR-92 (Randolph Ave)
Bear right (north) onto US-250, SR-92 and travel to **Philippi**.

From Philippi take US-219 south-west and travel to **Buckhannon**.

From Buckhannon take SR-20 south past Hoover Town. Turn left at CR-11 (Carter Rd) and travel past Alexander. Road changes to CR-46 (Helvetia-Adolph Rd). Continue towards Helvetia on CR-46. Turn right on CR-45 (Pickens-Helvetia Rd) and travel .2 miles to **Helvetia**.

Return on CR-45 to CR-46 and turn right and go 12.2 miles. At CR-42 (High Germany Rd) turn right and go 5.6 miles to CR-46 (Helvetia-Adolph Rd). Turn right on CR-46 and continue to US-219. Turn left on US-219 and travel north to **Beverly**. Travel north on US-219 to return to Elkins.

Day Three
Depart from Elkins going north on US-219 (Randolph Ave) and travel to **Thomas.**
From Thomas take SR-32 south-east and travel to **Davis.**

From Davis take SR-32 past Canaan Valley State Park and turn left on CR-45 (Jenningston-Lanesville Rd) which changes to Public Road 19. Turn left onto Public Road 75 and enjoy **Dolly Sods** Wilderness and **Bear Rocks**.

Come down the mountain on Public Road 75 till you reach SR-28 (Jordan Run Rd) and turn right. Go south on SR-28 till you meet SR-28,55 near Hopewell and turn left. Travel SR-28,55 to Petersburg and take US-220 south to **Franklin**.

From Franklin take US-33 west to US-33 and SR-28 and travel north to CR-33 (Briery Gap Rd). Turn left onto CR-33 and turn left again to stay on CR-33. Turn right on Public Road 112. Turn right at Public Road 104 and travel to top of **Spruce Knob** where there is an observation tower.

Retrace your route on Public Road 104, Public Road 112, and CR-33 back to US-

---

Heart of West Virginia Driving Tour 2: Historic Towns

Think of Elkins as the hub of the wheel surrounded by a ring of historic towns. Some date from the very founding of America. Others, like Elkins itself, didn't reach their prime until the later Antebellum and Victorian eras. Now, more than a century later, each town has developed its own individual personality wrapping around the distinctive history that occurred in each location.

Day One
Plan to come into the Heart of West Virginia the afternoon before you intend to take this driving tour of the historic towns to give yourself time to explore the history and heritage right in Elkins.

Day Two
Today, you'll loop through four historic West Virginia towns, including one very unique location that will look as if you have landed in Switzerland.

First on your itinerary is Phillipi, West Virginia, best known as the location of the first land battle of the Civil War. Settled around 1780, the town was first called Anglin's Ford and then Booth's Ferry, before being named Philippi in honour of the jurist Philip Pendleton Barbour in 1844. In 1852, Lemuel Chenoweth a well known Appalachian architect and carpenter built the covered bridge, the final link in the Beverly to Fairmont Turnpike, that stands at Phillipi today. Fully restored in 1989, the covered bridge is the only such structure to stand on a Federal highway.

Leaving Phillipi, you'll be headed for Buckhannon, location of the first permanent settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains. During the French and Indian War, two brothers abandoning their posts at Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) made their way to the now site of Buckhannon. Not reaching its peak until the Victorian era, most of the opulent homes here are richly detailed turn of the century editions.

Your next stop after Buckhannon, couldn't be more different for your previous two stops, or from anywhere in West Virginia for that matter. Upon reaching Helvetia, it will appear as though you have just dropped into the Swiss Alps. Settled by

33 and SR-28.Turn left and travel north on US-33 and SR-28 to **Seneca Rocks**. Travel west on US-33 and SR-55 back to Elkins.

hardy Swiss pioneers in 1869, the village hasn't changed much since it was built. Residents have been known to say, "We're all in favor of progress, as long as it doesn't require changes." With its fiercely independent residents, Helvetia has its own Ramp Festival as well as its own celebration of Mardi-Gras.

At this point, you will be looping back westward, to Beverly, the original county seat of Randolph County until Elkins took over the title in 1890. Like Buckhannon, Beverly was originally settled during the French and Indian War era, but not officially incorporated until 1790. A walking tour reveals a good sized collection of historic buildings for a town this size. And then, it's back to Elkins for the evening.

Day Three
This morning, you'll be traveling up and over the mountain in the opposite direction from yesterday. Your first destination, the historic towns of Thomas and Davis were established by two brothers, one in coal and the other in lumber. Davis was primarily built by Senator Henry Gassaway Davis, who owned the David Lumber company as housing for his workers. Thomas, on the other hand, was named after the Senator's brother Thomas, instrumental in the Davis Coal Company. Even today, the two towns have a different look and feel. Be sure not to miss Mountain Made in Thomas. You'll find some of the finest artistic creations in West Virginia.

From there, you'll be meandering through the Monongahela National Forest on more scenic roads for a little over 50 miles, to the town of Franklin. Along the way, you'll be passing through Dolly Sods Scenic Area and past Seneca Rocks. A one point along your journey, Spruce Knob, the highest point in West Virginia will tower over the road.

Day Two

Day Three