



# THE ROADS TO BIRMINGHAM

BMW MOTORRAD DAYS AMERICAS 2024 OCTOBER 11-13, BIRMINGHAM, AL







## WELCOME TO THE ROADS TO BIRMINGHAM

The intent of this guidebook is to provide a detailed yet easy to navigate resource of routes for riders heading to BMW Motorrad Days Americas 2024 at Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama.

We've partnered with Butler Motorcycle Maps to produce a variety of routes for riders to choose from – a collection of the most scenic two-lane roads and highways designed specifically for your motorcycling enjoyment.

For the most ambitious of riders, we've created multi-day, transcontinental routes from all corners of the US directly to Birmingham. A bit closer in to the event we've curated five main routes originating near the cities of Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee, Blairsville and Valdosta, Georgia as well as Jackson, Mississippi. We believe these routes to be the best segments of paved roadway within the Southern Appalachia and Southern Gulf State region. Don't live in one of these cities? No problem, we've also designed routes that cover a radius around the Birmingham region.

To add to the adventure, we have included an exciting scavenger hunt. Riders can gather points along the way and redeem a prize at the event. See page 30 for more details.

#### Thanks for riding with us; we look forward to seeing you there!

- Your friends from BMW Motorrad USA and Butler Maps

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#### **MAP ICON GUIDE**



# NAVIGATE WITH GPS TRACKS

Following a route on a paper map alone can be challenging at times, so we have created a .gpx file containing tracks of all the routes for you to navigate with.

Simply scan the QR code on this page and follow instructions to download the .gpx file to your computer. From there you can either upload the file to your preferred smartphone navigation app or connect your Navigation Device to your computer and upload it directly to the unit.



Uploading processes vary between specific navigation devices as well as the many smartphone apps available. Consult your owner's manual or applicable website for exact procedures.

By using this guidebook as a reference while you follow the GPS tracks, you'll have more than enough information to not only get there but also have an unforgettable experience en route!



## **FUEL YOUR RIDE**

Long days in the saddle mean absolute focus and sheer determination. We've got you covered with recommendations on these ambitious trans-continental routes. The provided GPS file is full of waypoints of great coffee shops along the way for you to stop and refuel. Simply select any of the waypoints along the way and navigate directly to them.



## **GPS TRACK GUIDE**

LABEL	TRACK NAME	MILEAGE
Α	Route A: Nashville, TN to Barber	271 miles
В	Route B: Blairsville, GA to Barber	303 miles
С	Route C: Valdosta, GA to Barber	365 miles
D	Route D: Jackson, MS to Barber	356 miles
E	Route E: Memphis, TN to Barber	381 miles
AB	Connector AB	47 miles
BC1	Connector BC1	63 miles
BC2	Connector BC2	165 miles
CD	Connector CD	158 miles
DE	Connector DE	129 miles
AE1	Connector AE1	84 miles
AE2	Connector AE2	172 miles
R1	Radius - Blairsville-Nashville	215 miles
R2	Radius - Valdosta-Blairsville	368 miles
R3	Radius - Jackson-Valdosta	661 miles
R4	Radius - Memphis-Jackson	246 miles
R5	Radius - Nashville-Memphis	234 miles
SM1	Smoky Mountain Discovery Loop	395 miles
SM2	Blue Ridge Parkway Connector	19 miles
SM3	Tail of the Dragon Connector	75 miles
SM4	BMW Perf. Center to Smoky Loop	81 miles
NW	US-Northwest	1664 miles
SW	US-Southwest	1405 miles
CN	US-Central	1092 miles
NE	US-Northeast	1439 miles
SE	US-Southeast	644 miles

## ROUTES TO BARBER FROM SURROUNDING AREAS

We've highlighted the best routes in the surrounding area to take you straight to Barber. Each of the five main routes provide a full-day ride to the event. Start from the beginning of a main route, explore the Smoky Mountains, or take a series of connectors to extend your ride into multiple days.



Our series of connector tracks are a great way to extend your journey on the road to Birmingham. These can also be used for day rides during the event and are a great way to gather additional scavenger hunt points. All together we've mapped nearly 5,000 miles of great riding just hours from BMW Motorrad Days.



# **SMOKY MOUNTAIN LOOP**

395 MILES 🛛 🛣 🚣 🗀 💵 🎿 🗯 🖍 🖌 🛃 🗮 🕊





This loop quite possibly contains all of the best motorcycle roads in the Southeast. We've thrown in the kitchen sink of famous roads and stitched them together into an impressive 396 mile loop. Get ready to tick rides like the Moonshiner 28, Indian Lakes Scenic Byway and Tail of the Dragon off of your bucket list. We've even included a short but sweet segment of the Blue Ridge Parkway so you can take in the vistas within the Pisgah National Forest.

#### DON'T MISS

- Fontana Lake Dam (480 feet-highest dam East of the Rockies)
- Deals Gap Motorcycle Resort at the start of the Tail of the Dragon
- Wheels Through Time motorcycle museum near Maggie Valley

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### CONNECTORS

Looking to create your own loop in the area surrounding the Barber Museum? Look no further than these great connector tracks. Use these to extend your ride to and from the event, gather additional scavenger hunt points, or fashion your own custom day ride during the weekend.









# **ROUTE A**

### NASHVILLE, TN TO BMW MOTORRAD DAYS 271 MILES



Riders opting to ride this route into Birmingham will enjoy a day of rhythmic sweepers and gentle grades up and over some of the many escarpments that make up the Western foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The journey south brings you into more mountainous terrain with thick canopies of trees to make you feel like you're running the gauntlet. The southern section leads riders to the Tennessee River and lower Tennessee River basin, known for having over 174 species of fish and 85 different types of mussels. Be sure to stop in Scottsboro, Alabama as this charming riverside town can showcase some of the diverse seafood found in the area-a true gastronomer paradise!

#### DON'T MISS

- Stones River National Battlefield near Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- Russell Cave National Monument
   slightly off route but well worth a visit (near Stevenson, Alabama)
- Cathedral Caverns State Park near Scottsboro, Alabama





### **ROUTE B** BLAIRSVILLE, GA TO BMW MOTORRAD DAYS 303 MILES A A M M A A A A



If the idea of a long day in the saddle chock full of the twistiest ribbons of tarmac as well as the most amazing scenery fills your bucket, then this is a must-do ride en route to the BMW Motorrad event at Barber Motorsports Park. From the start, you'll quickly get into some of North Georgia's best of the best. Much of the first part of this route follows a famous series of roads called the Six-Gap figure eight–a name born from the inordinate amount of times you crest and descend dramatically steep summits and numerous hairpin turn sweepers. About the time you've gotten a break from the mountainous splendor of this part of the Peach State, you cross the line into Alabama and soon jump right back into the action within the Talladega National Forest and Cheaha State Park which also serves as the highest point in Alabama at 2,407 feet.











#### DON'T MISS

- Talladega Speedway near Talladega, Alabama
- Dahlonega birthplace of Nascar and a really cool town (slightly off-route)
- Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest's recreation sites

## **ROUTE C** VALDOSTA, GA TO BMW MOTORRAD DAYS - A 🗠 💧 🗠 🐜 🛋

365 MILES



Georgia, once viewed primarily as a cotton state, is now one of the nation's largest producers of pecans, tobacco, blueberries and peaches. This 365 mile journey to Birmingham will be accentuated by miles upon miles of bucolic vegetable plantations, verdant orchard fields as well as groves of cotton and tobacco. Northwestern Georgia paves the way for more drama-infused riding as you traverse from the Southern Georgia low country into the foothills of the Southern Appalachians.

This part of the U.S., especially Georgia, is particularly rich in history. Make sure you spend a bit of time looking into the historical timeline by way of the numerous roadside historical markers which tell the story of the Movement in Georgia by guiding people to the sites where history happened.

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#### DON'T MISS

- Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in Tuskegee, Alabama
- The Peach growing communities near Claton, Alabama
- Lake Martin area as well as the Coosa River
- Lake Eufaula, famous for it's largemouth bass fishing



## ROUTE D JACKSON, MS TO BMW MOTORRAD DAYS 356 MILES A AL M A A A A A



Just because Louisiana is famous for its Cajun food doesn't mean you can't enjoy Mississippi's Cajun and Creole-influenced take on this Southern Americana cuisine. Bring a big appetite as this ride circuitously stitches a trail through the state's rolling hill region while delivering on endless servings of Collard Greens, Jambalaya, Crawfish Étouffée and let's surely not forget, Mud Pie! After a belly full of the local offerings, there's no need to rush, riders can enjoy a relaxed pace of rural riding that brings them through a colorful mixture of farmland as well as dense forests of oak, longleaf-slash pine and hickory trees en route to Birmingham.









#### **DON'T MISS**

- Natchez Trace National Parkway (route crosses nearby Jackson, MS)
- Historical town of Selma, Alabama
- Famous Mississippi Mud Pie!
- Numerous Cajun and Creoleinfluenced food options along the way

# **ROUTE E**

### MEMPHIS, TN TO BMW MOTORRAD DAYS

### 381 MILES 🔥 🖍 🖍 🔝



As you travel Southeast from Memphis toward Alabama, you'll be greeted by a wide array of different terrain. From mellow county roads that ebb and flow across an agrarian countryside to pastoral forests and mountain vistas that tell the tales of times long gone by. Envision yourself stepping back through time when the woodmill, gristmill and woodworking shop were part of your daily life. This ride will immerse you in the moments you spend encountering the region's history, culture and traditions or craft, music and agricultural heritage.













#### DON'T MISS

- Elvis Presley Birthplace in Tupelo, Mississippi
- Trace State Park former stomping grounds of early American pioneer Davy Crockett
- Bankhead National Forest and Bankhead Lake for the amazing waterfalls



## RADIUS ROUTES AROUND BIRMINGHAM



These fantastic connectors form a radius of great riding around the region and can be used to connect with any of the five main routes. No matter which path you choose on the Roads to Birmingham, rest assured we've got tracks to take you there.

LABEL	TRACK NAME	MILEAGE
R1	Radius - Blairsville-Nashville	215 miles
R2	Radius - Valdosta-Blairsville	368 miles
R3	Radius - Jackson-Valdosta	661 miles
R4	Radius - Memphis-Jackson	246 miles
R5	Radius - Nashville-Memphis	234 miles



## **RADIUS ROUTES**



If you're looking to expand your journey, forge your own path by connecting between main routes and this outer radius for the ultimate selection of Roads to Birmingham.



#### DON'T MISS:

- Epic State Parks with ocean views and expansive wilderness
- Access to the incredible roads in the Smoky Mountains
- Numerous Wildlife Management Areas and National Forests

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## TRANS-CONTINENTAL ROUTES

For those taking the long haul, we've crafted a selection of incredible routes from across the USA to bring you straight to the event. These epic crosscountry escapades feature the best paved two-lane roads and highways through the most interesting terrain available. No matter where you're coming from, connect to one of these routes and ride all the way to Birmingham.



### LABEL TRACK NAME

#### MILEAGE

NW	US-Northwest	1664 miles
SW	US-Southwest	1405 miles
CN	US-Central	1092 miles
NE	US-Northeast	1439 miles
SE	US-Southeast	644 miles

## WESTERN U.S.









#### **DON'T MISS:**

- Visit Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks
- Carve endless mountain passes through western Colorado

## **CENTRAL U.S.**



#### DON'T MISS:

- Experience the ultimate thrill as you twist and turn through the Ozarks
- Make stop to see the majestic Buffalo National River
- Visit the charming town of Eureka Springs, AR

## **EASTERN & SOUTHERN U.S.**





#### DON'T MISS:

- Summit Mt. Washington before criss-crossing the Appalachian Mountains
- Ride the top-rated roads in Wisconsin and through Land Between the Lakes in Kentucky on your way south
- Experience the Florida Keys and make your way along the Gulf of Mexico

## **TRAVEL NOTES**






# SCAVENGER HUNT

Looking for some added challenge on your ride to the event? We've created an exciting scavenger hunt with items that can be found along your journey to the event, or during day loops in the surrounding area. Some are specific, some are arbitrary. Pay special attention along the way and have some fun on your ride to BMW Motorrad Days!

### **HOW TO PARTICIPATE:**

Check off each box Take a photo at each you gather and keep scavenger hunt item track of your progress. you find. Be sure and include yourself and/or your motorcycle in the photo. Check 5 or more Don't forget to boxes and stop by

the BMW Fan Zone, show your photos, and get a prize!

Prizes are available first come first served while supplies last.

share your photos on Instagram and use the hashtag:

**#BMWMotorradDaysAmericas @BMWMotorradUSA** 



### TAKE A PHOTO AND CHECK THE BOX

SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISCOVERY LOOP	
In front of the tree of parts at Deals Gap	Next to or under a covered bridge
Next to a Tail of the Dragon sign	Next to a vintage BMW motorcycle not at the museum
At the BMW Performance Center	With someone dressed in a
Next to a Blue Ridge Parkway sign	costume next to your bike
<ul> <li>Next to a Great Smoky Mountains National Park sign</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Your bike parked in front of a BMW Motorcycle Dealership</li> </ul>
-	Your bike parked on a lake shore
ROUTE STARTING LOCATIONS	Your bike parked near an airstrip
At the start of Route A – Nashville, TN	Your bike parked next to an airplane
At the start of Route B – Blairsville GA	Your bike with any animal
At the start of Route C – Valdosta, GA	Next at an old drive-in movie theater
At the start of Route D – Jackson, MS	Next to an old train car or
At the start of Route E – Memphis, TN	locomotive
CONNECTOR LOOPS	Next to a road number sign that matches your age
At Horseshoe Bend National Military Park (BC1)	At a "Welcome to Alabama" sign
<ul> <li>In front of a Wind Creek</li> <li>State Park sign (BC1)</li> </ul>	Your bike next to a "Welcome to Birmingham" sign
<ul> <li>At the bridge over Lake Harding (BC2)</li> </ul>	You helping another rider on his or her journey to Barber
At Fort Tyler (BC2)	With a friendly police officer or firefighter
At the Howell Heflin Lock and Dam (DE)	Sitting in a motorcycle sidecar seat
At Camden Ferry Landing (CD)	Someone you don't know sitting on your motorcycle
Near the J. Lee Long Bridge over the Alabama River (CD)	At an abandoned gas station
In downtown Oneonta, AL (AE1)	Next to a large tourist
Parked in front of the Little Old Rock	attraction display (think largest cow sculpture in USA)
building in Double Springs, AL (AE2)	Your bike parked next to a
Battle of Day's Gap sign in Double Springs, AL (AE2)	military vehicle
BARBER MUSEUM	TOTAL PHOTOS
The oldest BMW motorcycle in the museum	COLLECTED
Your bike next to the Barber Museum entrance sign	
A friendly Barber staff member	
In front of the BMW Motorrad Days sign	Congratulations!
Your bike parked next to the exact same model and color	31

#### ABOUT BUTLER

Butler Maps is a company of motorcycle enthusiasts dedicated to making motorcycle journeys as good as possible. The founders of Butler Maps ride cruisers, sport bikes, dirt bikes, adventure bikes and anything else that has two wheels and a throttle. Every road that is recommended on a Butler Map has been ridden and rated by an owner or employee of the company. We do this so that we know with certainty that if we recommend a road it is worthy of your time.

#### USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

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Riding motorcycles is dangerous. This guide is for informational purposes only. It is your responsibility to evaluate the condition of yourself and your machine and to independently determine whether to perform, use or adapt any of the information on this guide. By voluntarily undertaking any action displayed on this map, you assume the risk of any resulting injury.

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