

Brandonville / Aurora Pike to Thomas

General Description - Mostly narrow 2-lane with no center line. Paved, but some sections are moderately rough and require you to slow to 25MPH. Some patches of chip-seal gravel, but easily manageable with any street bike. No gas stations on Pike - must detour. Fill your tank in Bruceton Mills before starting.

1. Beginning in Brandonville, near Bruceton Mills, Exit 23 off I-68.
2. At Brandonville United Methodist Church, turn south on Brandonville Pike - CR3. You will cross over I-68 and pass by a horse farm before seeing more trees.
3. Just after the Preston County 4-H Camp sign, watch for a small bridge crossing over the Cheat River. Don't stop on the bridge (like I did the first time) since it is narrow and large trucks come flying by.
4. Soon the trees make way to open fields with nice views in all directions.
5. At the town of Lenox, stop by the general store and say hi to Janice (pronounced "juh-neese"). This store is a trip back in time to a simpler life.
6. Continue past old homesteads to Terra Alta. When you come to the main road (Rt 7) bear slightly left and then immediately turn right on Aurora Pike CR53 to the right. After crossing the railroad tracks, keep straight and continue south.
7. Continue south on Aurora Pike for about 10 miles. Watch for Fox Road and bear right. This will take you to the junction with Rt 50. If you miss it and end up on Rt 50, turn right (west) 1 mile to Donna Jean's Diner.
8. At Donna Jean's Diner, you will continue straight south on Stemple Ridge Road. After about 1 mile, watch for an interesting old piece of machinery on your left. It's an old planer used to cut boards out of rough timber. More information is listed on my ride report.
9. About 7 miles south of Rt 50, the road splits. You can continue straight as the road name changes to Limestone Road, or you can bear left onto Location Road. Both roads end up joining about 6 or 8 miles south of here in St George. If you're only going through here on a 1-way trip, I prefer the scenery on Limestone Road.
10. At St George, look for Holly Meadows Road. It will take you by an old white school building. (If you cross a new bridge and end up on Rt 72, you went the wrong direction - turn around.)
11. Follow Holly Meadows Road as it winds along the banks of the Cheat River. After just 2 or 3 miles, watch for Sugarlands Road to turn off to the right. Follow Sugarlands Road along a peaceful stream with lots of small waterfalls. After about 5 miles, you will end up at the foot of several large wind-powered generators. Stop and marvel at the size of these wonders! At the main road (Rt 219) turn left and head a few miles down to Thomas (Purple Fiddle Restaurant and gas stations) and just past that to Davis (Blackwater Falls).