

APPALACHIAN RALLY UPDATE



Update...Update...Update...Update...Update...

Details of the rally have been published in previous newsletters and on the Club's website. The itemised points below are current updates to that information:

1. START/FINISH DATES - The rally will start on Sunday 23rd September 2018 and finish - Tuesday 25th October 2018 inclusive, making a duration of 33-days.
2. COST - Due to the unknown exchange rate at the time of booking and inflation it is very difficult to predict an accurate price, but as always it will be at cost.
3. EXTRA DAY - Because of the Columbus Day Weekend, we have to add an extra day in Gettysburg as the hotel is insisting we stay for three days.
4. HOTELS - All hotels are subject to availability. All hotels will be booked B&B and there is to be a Welcome Dinner and a Farewell Dinner plus a few other dinners where it will not be easy to find anywhere else.
5. SHIPPING - Shipping will be by container rather than Ro-Ro
6. COMMITMENT - We will need to have definite numbers **now** to enable us to secure hotels. **A deposit of £1,000 is required by 14th December.**

If you have any questions please contact me, Sheila Carpenter at wortleylodge.bighton@gmail.com.

Please send your deposits to the club's account: -

Account name: [REDACTED]

Account No: [REDACTED]

Sort Code: [REDACTED]

Reference: Your name/Membership number/Appalachian

Would you please also notify our treasurer, Guy when you have done this and at the same time sign and return the disclaimer on [page-7](#).

It would a good idea at this point to check that your travel insurance is fully up to date.

We have previously had expressions of interest from eight couples. Hopefully now we will have a few more.

To catch the fall colours, we will need to start around the end of September (Sunday 23rd). Travelling south we should catch the colours as we go. The peak of the fall colours starts north and moves south and also starts in the west and heads east and is impossible to predict. I have tried to incorporate as many of the scenic highways and byways as possible and we will drive for most of the route on the quieter two-lane highways. The route south will shadow the famous Appalachian Trail along the Appalachian Mountains, a hiking trail that only about 200 hardy souls manage to complete each year. Not only will it take us through almost continuous natural beauty, but it will take us to some fascinating towns and places of historic interest. Our route north will take us along the Atlantic coast if not always in sight of the sea within earshot of it! It will take us through iconic towns and cities and through quirky seaside towns; timeless old fishing villages interspersed with huge swathes of wetlands, beaches and woodlands that have hardly changed since the first explorers laid eyes on them some four centuries ago.



The route takes us through 16-states and will cover roughly 3500 miles and will take 33 days. Daily mileages in most cases do not exceed 200, except for a couple where it is necessary/or there is the opportunity to take a scenic, longer option – although there will always be a quicker although not always a shorter route. I have done a costing for hotels from their web-sites at rack rates and it comes to \$13200 including a small amount for contingency but excluding shipping, insurances and flights. I need to book by mid December 2017 to ensure we get the hotels we want as we are going at a very popular time and along some of the most

dramatic “leaf peeping” routes!

We will have the cars shipped by container to the Port of New Jersey, (New York). We will spend three nights collecting the cars and sightseeing. I have found a hotel with views of the Statue of Liberty on the Jersey City side – www.jerseycity.hyatt.com It also



has a restaurant overlooking the Manhattan skyline and it has a car park. There are good transport links to places of interest. The port area is only 3 ½ miles from Newark Airport. This area of New York should need no introduction.

We will then drive the length of Long Island catching the Cross Sound Ferry to Rhode Island/Cape Cod; we will stay here for two nights in Newport – www.hotelviking.com to enable us to then drive the Old King’s Highway and spend some time sightseeing and maybe eat some sea food!

We will continue north to our next two-day stop in Boston at the Lenox Hotel www.lenoxhotel.com which is centrally located and has an underground car park. Boston also needs no introduction!

From here we will continue on Scenic Coast Road 1/1A to Portsmouth, where we can have lunch and then we continue along Scenic New Hampshire Route-153 to our next two-day stop in North Conway at the Eastern Slope Inn www.easternslopeinn.com. From here we can drive the Mount Washington Auto Road – weather permitting - to New England’s highest peak the 6288-foot



summit of Mount Washington. We can also drive the White Mountain Trail in the heart of New Hampshire’s Presidential Range.



We leave North Conway on one of the most incredible riverside drives through the White Mountains along the Kancamagus Highway. The route then winds through Vermont’s Green Mountains then along the Vermont Highway-100, taking in the idyllic charms of rural New England. We enter the Berkshires where the rich and prosperous have long had their summer homes.

Here we will stay in Lenox for two nights in one of the converted opulent “cottages” – www.hamptonterrace.com. From here we can visit the Hancock Shaker Village at Pittsfield.



We then duck down through the Hudson Valley crossing the Hudson River passing Bear Mountain State Park and the Harriman State Park and then through the Delaware Water Gap. This is a natural chasm some 150-miles long; a deep cleft carved through the rock of the Kittatinny Mountains by the river. We will stay in Easton for one night at the Lafayette Inn – www.lafayetteinn.com. The hotel is within easy walking distance of the historic centre with various museums. The mileage is short the next day to allow time to explore Historic Easton <http://www.eastonmainstreet.org/about-downtown/history/>.

South of the Delaware Water Gap our route will take us along the Delaware River until its confluence with the Lehigh River. Here suddenly we come across a historic industrial region with numerous museums showing glimpses of its past. Further south industry gives way to the traditional agricultural area of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. Continuing south west we cross the Susquehanna River following the route of the old Lincoln Highway through historic York, early capital of the United States and now home to the Harley-Davidson motorcycle assembly plant and museum. The last stop on the Pennsylvania leg takes us through the route of the Civil War battlefields to Gettysburg, just shy of the Maryland border. We will stay in



Gettysburg for three nights to enable us to visit some of the places dedicated to the Civil War and to visit the home of Abraham Lincoln. Our hotel here will be the Brickhouse Inn www.brickhouseinn.com which is well located and has a car park to the rear. The weekend of our stay will coincide with the Apple Harvest Festival. It is also about an hours drive to Hershey, home of the famous classic car show/auction, which is unfortunately the following weekend but there is the AACA Museum to visit <http://www.aacamuseum.org/visit/other-auto-attractions/> . Don't get excited the dates for the car show on the web-site are wrong!

We continue into Maryland through the Maryland Panhandle, a narrow strip of land that stretches for about 75 miles between the mountains of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. From here can be made a detour to visit the battlefields of Antietam, the well-preserved site of the worst carnage of the Civil War. We continue through an area steeped in Civil War history, on to Harper's Ferry – protected since 1963 as a National Park its many wooden, stone and brick buildings are reminders of early American enterprise. Besides having the country's first large factory, first canal and first railroad, scenic Harper's Ferry saw abolitionist John Brown's 1859 rebellion against slavery and it was a strategic point during the Civil War. We continue to the Shenandoah National Park where we pick up the start of Skyline Drive, a scenic route that stretches south along the Appalachian Mountains for some 100 miles. Today will be Columbus Day so there is an alternative route should the traffic be bad - <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/byways/byways/2343> - for those of you more interested in history.



We will continue along either of these route until we reach Charlottesville. Here we will stay for two nights at the Omni Hotel www.omnihotels.com/charlottesville to enable us to visit the home of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. The hotel is in the Historic Downtown Mall and has a car park.

We continue on the Blue Ridge Parkway, which is 469-miles long all told. We pass Natural Bridge, a site sacred to the Monacan Indians. The 215-foot-high bridge has a 90-foot span that bridges Cedar Creek and is listed as

one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. We will stay for one night at the Primland Hotel in the mountains – www.primland.com.

We continue on, still on the Blue Ridge Parkway for another 170-miles until we reach Asheville. We will stay two nights in the Aloft Hotel www.starwoodhotels.com/alofthotels to enable us to explore the Art Deco mountain town which has always been a retreat from the summer heat and humidity of the Deep South. We can also visit the Biltmore Estate, summer home of the Vanderbilt family. Or for those of you that have “The Tail of the Dragon” as a “must do” you could



head off for the day to the Great Smokey Mountains to drive that!

<http://tailofthedragon.com/>.

Now we are almost at the end of the Blue Ridge Parkway and we head off towards Augusta. We continue on, along part of the Cherokee Foothills Scenic byway, South Carolina-107 Scenic Byway and the Savannah



River Scenic Byway until we reach Augusta where we will stay for one night in The Partridge Inn www.partridgeinn.com. They have parking and on a Saturday, they have live music.



Savannah on the east coast is our next port of call where we will stay for two days. A short drive of just 140-miles to enable us to have a look around Augusta before we leave. Savannah is apparently “the most beautiful city in North America” having many historical buildings and magical oak trees festooned with tendrils

of Spanish moss. We will stay in the Andaz Hotel which is well located and has underground parking <https://savannah.andaz.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>. From Savannah, we will head north mainly on The Ocean Highway, Route-17. On the way, we can stop off at Charleston for coffee. We will stay at Mansfield Plantation; a restored antebellum plantation near Georgetown for one night – www.mansfieldplantation.com.

We continue, still on Route-17 until we get to historic Beaufort, North Carolina. We will stay here at the Inlet Inn – www.inlet-inn.com for one night to enable us to get the morning ferry across to the North Carolina Outer Banks (OBX). The OBX are a series of barrier islands stretching for about 200 miles along the coast of

North Carolina. Our journey will involve driving a major part of it which involves taking two ferries. The most northerly part of which, The Cape Hatteras National Seashore is the most scenic part; it was from here that the Wright Brothers first proved that man could fly and there is a monument there to that effect. To be able to do this we would need good weather but hotels at each end will be chosen to enable us to drive to our next overnight stop at Kill Devil

Hills www.shuttersonthebanks.com on the Scenic Tidewater Route or on Route-17 if the weather prevents us from doing the OBX.

From Kill Devil Hills we will continue on still on Scenic Route 17 – The Tidewater to Virginia Beach from there we will take the Chesapeake Bay Bridge/Tunnel, a very impressive engineering feat – almost 18-miles long the structure consists of one high level bridge, two tunnels, four islands and many miles of causeway. And then on to the Delaware Peninsula to Chincoteague Island where we will stay for two nights at the Hampton Inn Waterfront <http://hamptoninnchincoteague.com/>, Here we can visit the NASA Flight Facility at Wallops Island.

Next, we head off to Washington DC along Scenic Route-50 over Bay Bridge, where we will stay for two days at the Lombardy Hotel www.hotellombardy.com. There is no need to describe all the places that we might visit there!

From Washington DC, we will retrace our steps over Bay Bridge (Route-50) and head towards Lewis to catch the Lewis to Cape May ferry. Cape May is well worth a visit as it is the oldest of the New Jersey beach towns and is full of historic buildings that go back to the last part of the 1800's. We will stay in Wildwood at the Starlux Motel <http://hotels.moreyspiers.com/starlux> for a bit of Do Wop! We will stay here for one night before heading off along the Garden State Parkway to our first hotel in Jersey City – our final destination. We stay for two nights to enable us to take the cars back to the shippers.

There is still a lot of work to do but many members have volunteered to undertake various jobs, Terry Unwin is booking the shipping, Norman Roper is doing the Road Book/Rally Plates, our treasurer, at the moment Guy Vinall but as you know we need a new one, will be arranging payments, Neil Carpenter is arranging the road insurances and Stephen Lindsay is looking into the places of interest along the route that will be included in the Road Book. Everything is done by the club members for club members and no one takes anything for doing it, so it makes for a very reasonably priced tour.



