Pioneering Industry Route
Touring Montgomery, Pulaski, and Wythe Counties.
Start Point: Christiansburg
End Point: Rural Retreat
Distance: +/- 80 miles, 5/6 day ride
Ride Time: +/- 3 hours
Terrain: Mostly rolling farm country threading together historic towns centers
Overall History: The boom and bust of the Virginia Iron industry
Highlights: Five Points, Snowsville, Foster Falls, New River Trail State Park, Wytheville Cultural Fish Station, Raven Cliff Furnace, Carpenter’s Greene (old general store), and small “lost” communities.

Cumulative Mileage Directions Distance To Next Points
Begin L-81 Exit 114, Christiansburg 0.0
6.9 Left 677/Route 76 0.4
7.3 Left 669 0.1
7.4 Cross Route 8 & continue on 669 4.6
10.6 Left 693/Children Rd at T-intersection 2.3
12.3 Left ever bridge (Still 693) onto Lead Mines Rd. 2.4
14.7 Right 704/Cove Hollow Road 0.2
14.9 Left 611/Peace Road 0.7
15.6 Bear left 651/5/little River Dam Rd. 1.6
17.2 Right 693/Lead Mines Rd. 3.0
20.2 Continue straight on 695 (now Julia Simpkins Rd.) 7.3
27.5 Right 607/Boone Furnace Rd. 2.0
29.5 Continue straight (road becomes 608) 2.5
32.0 Left Route 100/‘Wyor Pwy’ 1.6
33.6 * Right 607/Confidence Rd. 5.2
38.8 Right US Route 52 1.3
40.0 Right 608/Foster Falls Rd. 1.8
41.9 * Left Orphanage Rd/Route 623 0.2
42.1 Return to Route 52 2.0
44.1 Right US Route 52 2.0
44.6 Left 610/As八十ville Rd. 6.7
52.8 Cross over Route 94/1anahoo Rd. 4.7
57.5 Left 610/Deavenport Road (to a Raven Cliff entrance) 1.2
Return to L-81 619
58.5 Right 619 1.2
59.5 Left 643/Male Hall Rd 0.1
60.2 Bear left on 693/Slate Spring Branch Rd. 6.9
67.1 Cross US Route 21/Grayson Tpk 2.0
69.1 Bear right 625 1.1
70.2 Left 674/Ridge Ave
( Becomes Rte 674/Ridgeway Ave/Rt 1112 at the end) 4.9
75.1 * Right 74/Man Sr/Sr 90 2.6
77.1 Intersection L-81 at Exit 60

Cumulative Mileage Directions Distance To Next Points
Begin L-81 Exit 60, Rural Retreat 0.0
6.4 Road turns into 749 6.6
7.8 Right 614 7.7
14.7 Left 695 0.6
15.3 Left Route 16 South 18.5
23.8 Right 16 South 3.9
37.7 Right 725 (carry) 4.2
41.9 Left 741 0.1
42.0 Right 725 0.8
42.8 Left 38 West (no road sign) 8.5
51.3 Left 754/turns into 755 after 1/2 mile (not marked) 2.0
53.3 Bear right/straight 726 1.5
54.8 Left 38 West (no road sign) 1.4
57.0 Left 600 [Depot and VA Creeper Trail] 0.4
56.2 Get back on 600 to return to 58 0.4
57.0 Left 58 4.2
61.3 Right 603 (exit) 1.0
62.3 *Right Are on Road 520 [Local Grocery/Gas] 0.3
62.6 Right 603/Bicycle Rd 76 (shortly after BP station 11.0
73.9 Left 1676 16.9
90.8 Intersection L-81 at Exit 45 Marion

* Possible sites or stops along the way

Use the Delorme “Virginia Atlas & Gazetteer” to reference local roads, as many routes are not included in maps such as the Virginia Department of Transportation Map State.

This brochure is an introduction to a forthcoming guidebook that seeks to bring to life the past and present characters of Virginia’s “Lost” Communities by providing the traveler with a historical sketch of each community written in the words of its residents. Accented by a general narrative of the trends and motions of Virginia and U.S. history, the book will highlight those moments in time that make each community a unique part of our shared American story. For more information see http://edcar.arch.vcu.edu or call the Community Design Assistance Center at 540-231-5644.

Grayson Highlands Route
Touring: Wythe, Grayson, Smyth, and Washington Counties
Start Point: Rural Retreat
End Point: Marion
Distance: +/- 100 miles, 1/6 day ride
Ride Time: +/- 4 hours
Terrain: Ascending and descending ridges and valleys on Virginia’s highest plateaus.
Overall History: The boom and bust of the Virginia Iron industry
Highlights: Mount Rogers National Recreation Area; Grayson Highlands State Park, Mouth of Wilson, old train depot, and small “Lost” communities.