

## **Thunder Road Ride** (Recommended two-day ride)

Prohibition (1920 – 1933) was a sad time for many Americans.

Up north, they had 'bath-tub' gin. (Doesn't that sound disgusting?)

Luckily, hidden deep in the hills of the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee and Kentucky, there was an alternative to bath-tub gin that was tastier and certainly safer to drink. The good folks in Appalachia were more than ready, willing, and able to help their suffering brethren find relief from the oppressions of prohibition by sharing their illegally distilled bounty. How was it that Appalachia was able to help the rest of America during these dark days?

Moonshine! But, you already knew that.

The demand was real and the supply was also real. So, the only question remaining was, how to get the supply from the mountains to meet with the demand in the cities?

The business of transporting moonshine that began in the 1920's with Prohibition and continued through to the 50's to avoid paying taxes was risky. In an effort to avoid the law, fast cars, fearless drivers, and back-woods mountain roads that lead to the cities and towns created an American legend – Thunder Road.

This ride covers just under two hundred miles of scenic roads that saw regular traffic with cars heavily modified to go fast and carry hundreds of gallons of moonshine. During the time when the moon shiners were running these roads, many were unpaved and guardrails at the turns were unheard of. We're happy to report that over the years, all of these country roads are now up to modern standards and present motorcycle enthusiasts with an enjoyable tour through the hills and mountains of Appalachia.

At the north end of this ride lays London, Kentucky. London is about 125 miles north of Maryville, Tennessee by way of I75 and US 129 and has several motels where you can spend the night. London is also the home of Wildcat Harley-Davidson, the newest dealership in the Smoky Mountain Harley-Davidson family of dealerships.

While in London, stop in and visit awhile and take a look at an authentic moonshine still that was moved from its original mountain home to the dealership's Rider's Lounge area. Smoky Mountain Harley-Davidson hospitality can now be found at Wildcat H-D in London, Kentucky.

Ride safe.

## Thunder Road Ride

## Ride Summary

Start: **1820 W Lamar Alexander Pkwy, Maryville, TN, 37801-3754**  
 End: **575 E Hal Rogers Pkwy, London, KY, 40741-2716**  
 Drive Total: **183.1 mi** (about 3 h 57 mins)

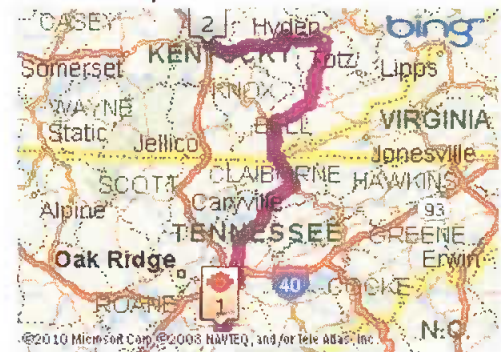
## Directions

Depart From: **1820 W Lamar Alexander Pkwy  
 Maryville, TN, 37801-3754**

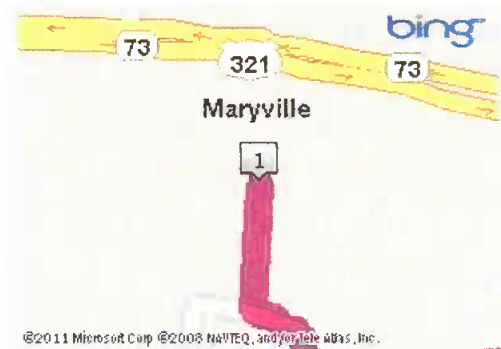
Drive: **183.1 mi** (about 3 h 57 mins)

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 1  | <b>Start out going EAST on W LAMAR ALEXANDER PKWY/LAMAR ALEX PKWY W/US-321 N/TN-73 E toward HAMPSHIRE DR.</b>                | <b>1.4 mi</b><br><small>2 mins</small>   |
| 2  | <b>Turn LEFT onto FOOTHILLS MALL DR.</b>   | <b>0.3 mi</b>                            |
| 3  | <b>Turn LEFT onto US-129 N/TN-115 N.</b>   | <b>15.4 mi</b><br><small>29 mins</small> |
| 4  | <b>Merge onto I-40 E toward I-275 N/ASHEVILLE/LEXINGTON.</b>   | <b>2.3 mi</b><br><small>3 mins</small>   |
| 5  | <b>Take the HALL OF FAME DR exit, EXIT 389, toward US-441 N/BROADWAY.</b>  | <b>0.2 mi</b>                            |
| 6  | <b>Take the ramp toward US-441 N/BROADWAY.</b>   | <b>0.0 mi</b>                            |
| 7  | <b>Turn LEFT onto HALL OF FAME DR NE.</b>  | <b>0.5 mi</b>                            |
| 8  | <b>Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto N BROADWAY NE/US-441/TN-33.</b>  | <b>0.9 mi</b><br><small>2 mins</small>   |
| 9  | <b>Start out going NORTH on N BROADWAY NE/US-441 N/TN-33 N toward CLAIBORNE PL. Continue to follow US-441 N/TN-33 N.</b>     | <b>6.0 mi</b><br><small>11 mins</small>  |
| 10 | <b>Start out going NORTH on MAYNARDVILLE PIKE NE/US-441 N/TN-33 N toward NORRIS FWY/TN-71 N. Continue to follow TN-33 N.</b> | <b>12.8 mi</b><br><small>18 mins</small> |
| 11 | <b>Start out going NORTHEAST on TN-33/TN-61/MAIN ST toward PINE ST. Continue to follow TN-33.</b>                            | <b>24.1 mi</b><br><small>33 mins</small> |
| 12 | <b>Turn RIGHT onto US-25E/TN-32/TN-33.</b>   | <b>0.2 mi</b>                            |
| 13 | <b>Start out going NORTHWEST on US-25E/TN-32/TN-33 toward N BROAD ST.</b>  | <b>0.2 mi</b>                            |
| 14 | <b>Turn RIGHT onto US-25E N/TN-32 N. Continue to follow US-25E N (Crossing into KENTUCKY).</b>                               | <b>25.6 mi</b><br><small>31 mins</small> |
| 15 | <b>Turn RIGHT onto KY-66/PINE ST. Continue to follow KY-66.</b>  | <b>17.9 mi</b><br><small>24 mins</small> |
| 16 | <b>Turn LEFT to stay on KY-66.</b>   | <b>7.4 mi</b><br><small>10 mins</small>  |
| 17 | <b>Turn RIGHT onto KY-406.</b>   | <b>13.5 mi</b><br><small>18 mins</small> |
| 18 | <b>Turn LEFT onto US-421.</b>  | <b>6.7 mi</b><br><small>9 mins</small>   |

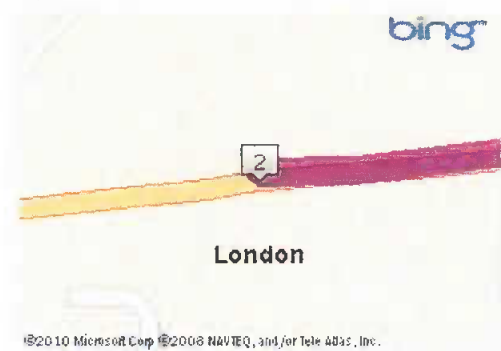
## Overview Map



## Start



## End



- |    |  |                                   |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|
| 19 | Turn LEFT onto OAK ST.   | 0.0 mi                            |
| 20 | Start out going NORTHEAST on OAK ST toward US-421/KY-80/KY-80 E/E KY-80/MAIN ST. | 0.0 mi                            |
| 21 | Turn LEFT onto US-421/KY-80/KY-80 E/E KY-80/MAIN ST.                             | 0.6 mi<br><small>1 min</small>    |
| 22 | Turn RIGHT onto KY-118.  | 3.5 mi<br><small>4 mins</small>   |
| 23 | Turn LEFT onto HAL ROGERS PKWY.  | 43.6 mi<br><small>45 mins</small> |

Arrive At: **575 E Hal Rogers Pkwy**  
**London, KY, 40741-2716**

**Harley-Davidson Dealers**

Within 5 mile radius

**Smoky Mountain Harley-Davidson**  
1 1820 W. Lamar Alexander Parkway  
Maryville, TN, 37801, USA  
(865) 977-1669  
Visit our Web site:  
<http://www.smokymountainh-d.com>

Services:

H.O.G. Chapter:  
**Dragon Chapter Maryville Tn**  
<http://www.dragonhog.com>