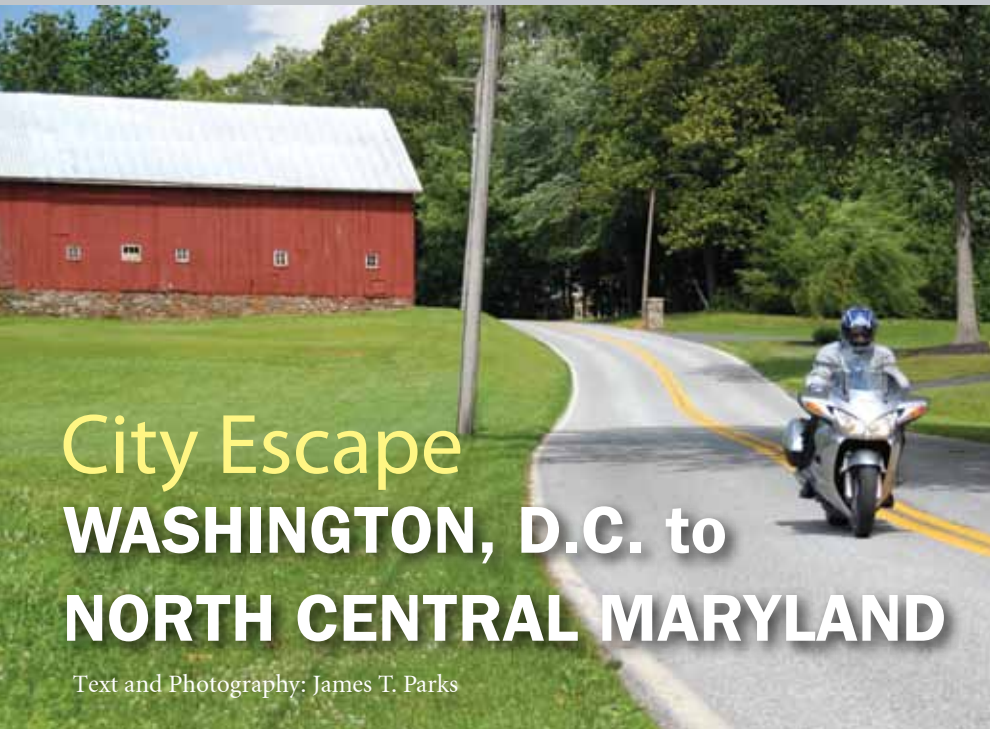


City Escape

WASHINGTON, D.C. to NORTH CENTRAL MARYLAND

Text and Photography: James T. Parks



Attractions

- Westminster, MD:**
Charming college town.
- Uniontown, MD:**
Historic one-street village.
- Union Bridge, MD:**
Western Maryland Railway Historical Society.
- Loys Station Covered Bridge:**
near Creagerstown, MD.
- Pen Mar High Rock Park, MD:**
Sweeping vista of Cumberland Valley.
- South Mountain Creamery:**
West on U.S. 40A from Middletown, MD. Tasty homemade ice cream.
- Middletown Valley Overlook:**
near Jefferson, MD.

Overview

A relaxing ramble through rolling Maryland farm-lands and the Blue Ridge Mountains with challenging curves and scenic vistas. The best times to go on this loop are May, June, September, and October.

Length

Approximately 186 miles.

Meet-up spot

Starbucks at 14941 Shady Grove Rd (Fallsgrove Shopping Center across from Shady Grove Hospital), Rockville, MD.

Lunch stop

Buffet style home cooking. The Cozy Country Inn, 103 Frederick Rd., Thurmont, MD, (301) 271-4301.

Scenery

Charming villages, expansive vistas from mountain ridges, historic sites, museums, and more. ★★★★★

Traffic

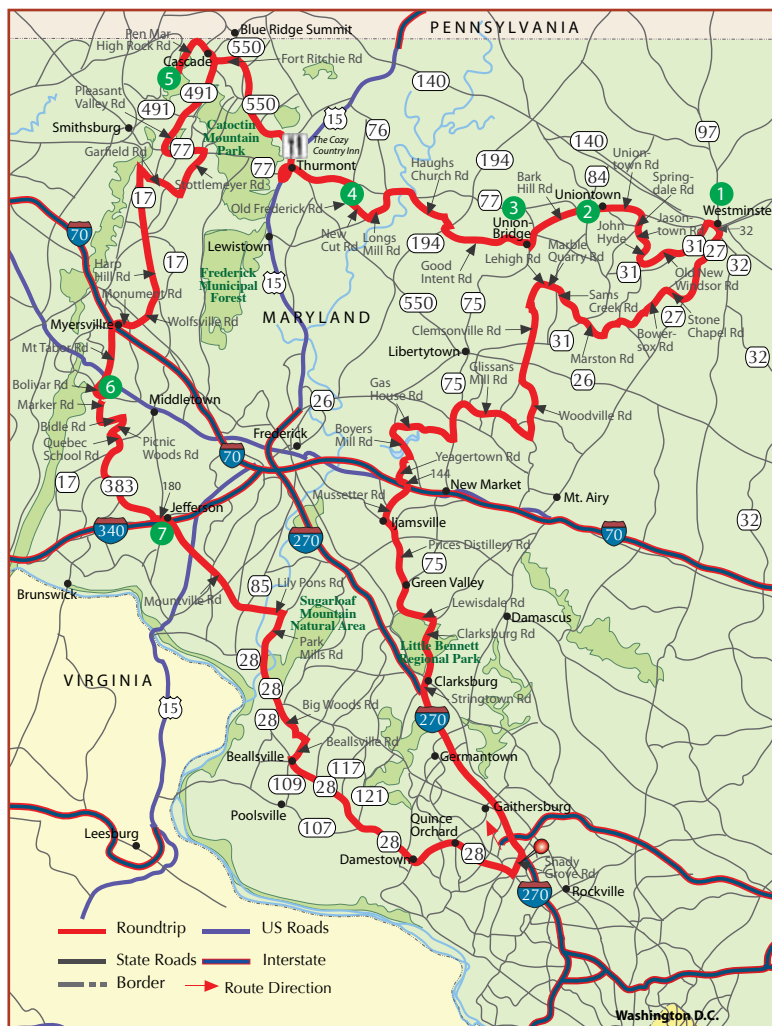
Generally light. ★★★★★

Difficulty

Frequent route changes, some limited sightlines and tight curves, and numerous elevation changes. ★★★★★

Road conditions

Mostly well-paved, two-lane, secondary roads, some narrow, unmarked pavement. ★★★★★



GPS files and maps are available for free download under the "City Escapes" category at www.roadrunner.travel.

RoadRUNNER City Escapes

Author Guidelines

Overview (50 words max)

Brief intro, what makes this route/area special, when is the best time to ride

Length (City Escapes are 1-day rides)

Approximately XXX miles

Meet-up spot (10-20 words)

Select a nice place a group could meet up for this ride. (ample parking, convenient location, etc)

Scenery (10-20 words)

Rate the scenery along the route from 1-5, 1 being the worst.

Give a brief description of what the scenery is like

Traffic (10-20 words)

Rate the traffic along the route from 1-5, 1 being the worst.

Briefly explain what kind of traffic will likely be encountered along the route

Difficulty (10-20 words)

Rate the difficulty of the route from 1-5, 1 being the easiest, 5 the most difficult.

Briefly explain your reason for your rating

Road Conditions (10-20 words)

Rate the road conditions along the route from 1-5, 1 being the worst.

Give a brief description of the road conditions along the route

Lunch stop (10-20 words)

Select a special lunch stop that would be a great place for small groups to eat lunch at along the route.

Include what kind of food is served, atmosphere, address, phone #, and website if available.

Attractions

List 2-5 notable places, sites, and/or things to do along the route

Include name of attraction, city, and website

Photography:

Submit 3-5 photos (unaltered, original files that represent this tour well)

Map/GPS

Submit GPS file or google map of the route, or a paper map that clearly outlines the route.

(Try not to over-complicate the route w/ constant turns, unless it is unavoidable)