

A Weekend In Coal Country | Suggested Itinerary for Trail Riders

Thursday Day

Arrive in Williamson by 12 Noon! The reason? 34:Ate on Pike Street is a local favorite and they're open 11AM-3PM Monday Thru Friday. They offer guests incredible lunch specials and is one of Williamson's most unique dining experiences.



After lunch, head back to your lodging facility and get geared up! You're here to ride and you'll be in for a nice "northern adventure" on the Buffalo Mountain System. All streets in Williamson are trail rider friendly, so head up to the Trail 10 Entrance.

You'll depart the city and climb up "Death Rock Mountain" on Trail #10. As you exit the city limits you'll be on Trail #11 which winds above the community of Chattaroy. You will cross US-52 and take Trail #12 to the East. Watch for Trail #15 and take a left at this point. You will be headed to the Buffalo Mountain Trailhead. Cross the road and take Trail #14 into the town of Delbarton.

Take a spin through town and then you'll begin your journey back toward Williamson. The trails you will take are: Trails #14, #15, #58, #55, #42, #12, #11 and #10.

Thursday Night

Once you're back in the city, you'll head to dinner at Sazon Mexican Restaurant in Downtown Williamson located at the northern end of 2nd Avenue. Be sure to get some fried ice cream! Get rested up after dinner though, your weekend on the Hatfield McCoy Trails in Coal Country is just getting started!

Friday Day

(Williamson to Matewan, Less Advanced Ride, 5-7 Hours Round Trip):

Wake up and get geared up! Fuel up your machines and pick up snacks at 7-Eleven/Marathon Gas right in the middle of Downtown Williamson.

You'll depart Williamson on Trail #10, an easy green trail, that climbs out of the City. As you exit the city limits, this trail becomes Trail #11. You will cross US-52 and keep right onto Trail #22. At the next 4-way intersection, you'll keep right on Trail #15 and come out at the old Lick Creek mine. This is a popular "rest stop" along the Buffalo Mountain Trail System and there's usually other riders hanging out. Introduce yourself and take some pictures!

Following your break, hop onto Trail #26 that dives to the right down underneath Trail #15. Take a quick trip up Trail #27 and Trail #28 to a spectacular view looking out over the mountains of West Virginia & Kentucky. Take some scenic photos and double back the way you came to Trail #26, BUT, turn right on Trail #26 and head east/southeast toward Matewan.

You will eventually cross over from the Buffalo Mountain Trail System to the Devil Anse Trail System at the end of Trail #26. At this point, your slow decent begins into Matewan! Take Trails #30, #23, and #21 into Mingo County's most historic town.

In Matewan, you'll want to cross the bridge into Kentucky to get gas at RC's Country Store. Then, come back in West Virginia and grab some lunch at either Mi Pueblito or Wingo's Grill (as featured on Dirt Trax TV!) on Mate Street, another option just outside of town is Giovanni's in North Matewan. Before you leave town, stop by the Matewan Depot Replica Museum, Matewan Massacre Site, and WV Mine Wars Museum.

For the trip back to Williamson, we'll take you back a different way to experience additional trails. You'll begin on Trail #21 but then, turn right onto Trail #18 which climbs toward the summit of Mary Taylor Mountain. At the end of Trail #18, you'll exit the Devil Anse Trail System and re-join the Buffalo Mountain Trail System. Take Trail #16 and you'll pass by Mushroom Rock, an excellent photo-op above the community of Taylorville.

You'll continue north-west on Trail #17 and then Trail #13 before you come back out at the old Lick Creek Mine you saw earlier in the day. Keep right though, this time, and take Trail #20 out to Trail #15 at the Buffalo Mountain Trail Head.

At the trail head, you can take a break at their picnic shelter and use their restrooms. To end the adventure, take Trail #15 to Trail #19, then Trail #42 to Trail #12. You'll cross US-52 near the community of Chattaroy and then be back onto Trail #11 and #10 down into the City of Williamson.

Friday Night

After getting back into town, you will have definitely worked up an appetite! For Dinner, check out The Steakhouse at the Southside Mall in South Williamson located just "up the hill" off US-119 across from Walmart. After dinner, get rested up...Saturday's ride is a BIG one, if you're up for the challenge!

Saturday Day

(***Williamson to Gilbert***, More Advanced Ride, More Distance Involved, 7-10 Hour Round-Trip) Wake up EARLY and get geared up! Fuel up your machines and pick up snacks at 7-Eleven/Marathon Gas right in the middle of Downtown Williamson. Depart no later than 8AM.

You'll depart Williamson on Trail #10, an easy green trail that climbs out of the City. As you exit the city limits, this trail becomes Trail #11. Look for Trail #24 (Blue Trail) on the right and turn onto it. Trail #24 eventually becomes Trail #25 when you cross US-52. Trail #25 features a creek crossing and (when the weather is right) a LOT of mud. Trail #25 climbs up "Lick Creek Mountain" and exits onto Trail #34. From Trail #34, take Trail #15 and you'll pass the old Lick Creek Mine. You may choose to take a break here and check out the entrance of the old mine. There are often other riders in this spot as it is one of the largest junctions on the trail system.

Following your break, turn right and down onto Trail #26 and head south-east. At the end of Trail #26, you'll exit the Buffalo Mtn. Trail System and enter the Devil Anse Trail System. Keep left at the intersection for Trail #18 and make sure you keep left when this trail splits with Trail #23 (you'll stay on #18). Turn left onto Trail #59 and you'll be on the abandoned Rt. 65 Highway for a few thousand yards on what is known as "Mary Taylor Mountain".

You'll cross Rt. 65 at the bottom and continue on Trail #59 past the community of Red Jacket. Trail #59 becomes Trail #54 as you approach the Devil Anse Tunnel. Pass through the tunnel (which takes you under the King Coal Highway) and you'll remain on Trail #52 & Trail #51 until you arrive onto old US-52. There, you'll take US-52 to the top of Horsepen Mountain.

If you need gas, stop at the Marathon Gas Station, but otherwise, turn left onto Rt. 44 and look for Trail #39 on the left. At the end of Trail 39, you'll cross Rt. 44 where you join the Rock House Trail System. Now, you'll take Trail #41, #26, #30, #19, #17, #37, #12, and #3 to Trail 12 BBQ for lunch. The food is absolutely awesome and so are the views! Enjoy this stop!

After lunch, you'll head back on Rockhouse Trails #3, #12, #37, #17, #19, #30, #26, and #41.

You'll cross Rt. 44 where you'll be back on the Devil Anse Trail System. Take Trail #39 to where it lets out on Rt. 44. Then you'll ride the road to the top of Horsepen Mountain. Turn right onto old US-52 and watch on your left for Trail #51. After some climbing on Trail #51, it becomes Trail #52 to the Devil Anse Tunnel on the King Coal Highway.

NOTE: If time is becoming an issue, exit the tunnel and turn immediately right to get up on a "local trail" that runs along the King Coal Highway, this trail can save you 25-30 minutes. If you select this route, ride to the end of the highway, turn left, and head to the bottom of the mountain and turn right onto Trail #59. Otherwise, you'll take Trails #54 and #59 back to the same point.

You'll then turn right onto Trail #18 of the Devil Anse Trail System before re-entering the Buffalo Mountain Trail System. Then, you'll take Trails #26, #15, #34, #25, #24, #11, and #10 to get back into Williamson.

Additional Note: ALL highways in Mingo County are Trail-Rider Friendly with the exception of US-119 in Williamson. You must obey all local traffic regulations and laws when driving on paved roads or streets. Be aware of other traffic and allow vehicles to pass when you are able.

Saturday Night

Once you return off the trails, head back to your lodging facility to get ready for dinner.

Saturday Night in Williamson means you'll be dining at Starter's Sports Bar & Grill, a local favorite and a "happening" place to be on Saturday Night. Be sure to have a Devil Anse beer while you're there and sometimes, there is live music performing. Often times fellow trail riders will be there and make sure you mention to the staff that you are in Williamson for the Hatfield McCoy Trails. They'll take your picture and add you to their "Riders Wall of Fame".

If you're lookin' to stay out, head to Delbarton's Opry House for a local country/bluegrass show that occurs every Saturday Night starting at 6PM. If you want to keep the night going, come back to Williamson and head to Dandy's or Borderline bars.

Sunday

After riding 2 ½ Days, we're willing to bet you're a little sore and ready to stay off the machines for a little bit of time. If you're one of the rare folks who wish to keep riding, pull out a Hatfield McCoy Trail Map and hit the remaining trails you haven't rode today. Otherwise, follow our itinerary below;

Wake up and head to Tudor's Biscuit World for breakfast in South Williamson in your car/truck. Then, jump back in your vehicle and visit the Hatfield McCoy Feud Sites! There's a driving tour map that you can print off on our website (visitcoalcountry.org). Departing from Williamson will take you by The McCoy Well, Hog Trial Cabin, and Paw Paw Tree Shooting site before arriving into Matewan.

Matewan is the epicenter of history in the area. Not only were Hatfield McCoy Feud occurrences right in its back-yard but so was the Matewan Massacre. As you cross the bridge into the town, turn left into the Matewan Depot Replica Museum. This is the best local museum to visit and houses some incredible historical artifacts.

When you're finished at the Depot, walk down Mate Street and visit the site where bullets are still lodged in the building from the Matewan Massacre. If you want to meet a real-life Hatfield, stop in at the Historic Matewan House Bed & Breakfast.

Once you're finished up in Matewan, head north on Rt. 65 to the King Coal Highway atop Mary Taylor Mountain. Turn right and enjoy Mingo County's most beautiful 9.5 Mile Drive. The King Coal Highway is the highest road you can drive on in our county and reaches nearly 2,200'. The views on both sides of the road are incredible.

Continue out the King Coal Highway and turn left at the intersection toward Horsepen Mountain. At the next intersection, head straight onto Rt. 44. You'll go 6 Miles and pull off the road at the Hatfield Family Cemetery. This is the burial site of Devil Anse and worth the short hike up the hill to see his Italian marble statue that stands over his gravesite. This is also a great photo-up and a common stop for visitors and trail riders alike.

After visiting Devil Anse, head back to Horsepen Mountain and take the King Coal Highway back to Rt. 65 North. You'll make your way back to Williamson then on US-52 thru Delbarton.

The final portion of this trip is the most important; Be sure to come back and see us! Each season presents a different environment around you. Each season is 100% unique on the trails! Winter and Early Spring can be special as views are at their best and the snow can be a special treat on the Hatfield McCoy Trails. Summer And Fall though are great trips as well, especially as the leaves begin to change in October. However, while the leaves change, our greatest resource, our people, don't! We look forward to seeing you on your next journey to Coal Country! Safe Travels to your home!