

APPENDIX A
PROMOTIONAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

STATE ROUTE 32 (US-321)
From State Route 73 to North of Wilton Springs Road
Cocke County, Tennessee
TDOT PIN 101422.00



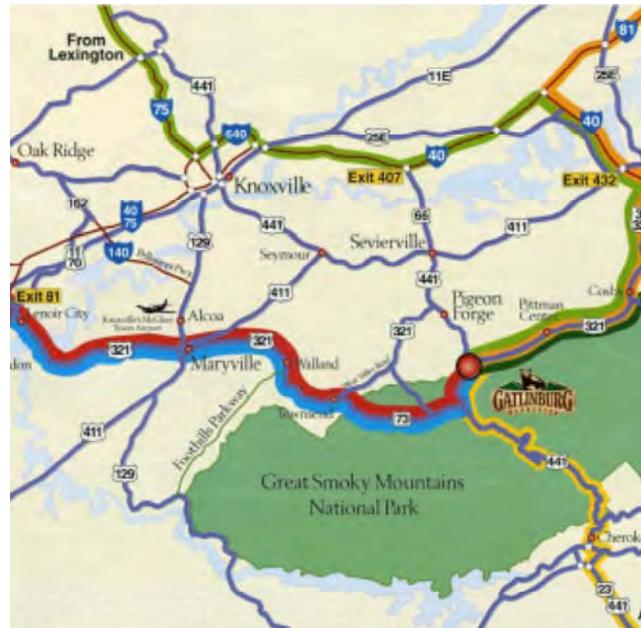
Many Roads To Gatlinburg: Alternative Routes For Busy Holiday Weekend

DATE JULY 1, 2015

AUTHOR ANGELA CARATHERS

The holiday weekend is quickly approaching, and visitors are heading to the Smokies for a weekend full of Independence Day festivities in Gatlinburg. July 4th weekend is one of the busiest of the year in Sevier County and navigating alternative routes can make for a more scenic and enjoyable holiday commute. The following routes are recommended:

The holiday weekend is quickly approaching, and visitors are heading to the Smokies for a weekend full of Independence Day festivities in Gatlinburg. July 4th weekend is one of the busiest of the year in Sevier County and navigating alternative routes can make for a more scenic and enjoyable holiday commute. The following routes are recommended:



Those driving north through the Chattanooga area on I-75 North can take Exit 81, and follow Highway 321 North through Maryville and Townsend. Highway 321 connects with Highway 73, which winds through Great Smoky Mountains National park into Gatlinburg.

Motorists driving east from the Nashville area can take I-75 South to Exit 81, and follow Highway 321 North through Maryville and Townsend. 321 North connects to Highway 73 and winds through the National Park to Gatlinburg.

Those coming from Virginia can take I-81 South to I-40 East. From there, exit 435 will connect drivers to Highway 321 South, leading directly into downtown Gatlinburg.

Drivers coming south from Kentucky through the Lexington area can take I-75 South to I-640 East, connecting to I-40 East. From I-40 East, drivers can take Exit 435 and follow Highway 321 South into Gatlinburg.

Motorists coming from the Asheville area can take I-40 West to Exit 443 and follow the Foothills Parkway to Highway 321 South into Gatlinburg.

Drivers coming from Atlanta can take I-85 North to I-985 North to US 23. From Highway 23, take Highway 74/441 through Cherokee, North Carolina into Gatlinburg.

Knoxville motorists can take Highway 321 North through Maryville and Townsend, or access Highway 441 (Chapman Highway) through Sevierville and Pigeon Forge and into Gatlinburg.



AVOID PIGEON FORGE TRAFFIC – PIGEON FORGE BACKROADS, TIPS, & ALTERNATE ROUTES



The traffic on the way into Pigeon Forge can be daunting. There are many ways to avoid the Pigeon Forge traffic that shows up during major holidays, summer time, and Friday afternoons during the year. Some are more straight forward and some are a little more tricky. Whatever you do, it's best to try and **avoid the Pigeon Forge traffic** if you can. We've heard horror stories of families who have waited hours just to move a few miles down the parkway. We don't want you waiting in that so we've compiled a list of some of our most helpful hints on **avoiding the Pigeon Forge traffic** including some of the local secret Pigeon Forge backroads.

Pigeon Forge Traffic Tips:

1. Don't come to town when everyone else

does. This is difficult, but there are times when Pigeon Forge is less busy than others. We don't have nearly as much traffic during September as we do in July. So, if you can, try to book your Pigeon Forge vacation during a time when we're not quite as packed.

2. Travel at odd hours. This may be hard to avoid, but hear us out. Traffic is worst in the afternoons and early evenings. If you can come to Pigeon Forge in the morning or late evening you're more likely to avoid the hectic Pigeon Forge traffic.

2. Avoid weekend arrivals. Again, this is another one that is practically unavoidable. But, if you have the option, come to town on a less popular day and hour. Traffic in Pigeon Forge is at it's worst during the weekends! If you can come in on Monday you'll hit less traffic than if you come in on Friday.

3. Plan on walking. When you are in town, try to walk as much as possible. There's lots to do on the Parkway and families can be tempted to take a car but that means facing the Pigeon Forge traffic. Instead, consider parking in a central location and walking to your destination. The perk about this option is you'll burn off some of the calories from our home cooking.

Okay, so now that we've given you the tips for **avoiding Pigeon Forge traffic** we're going to give you a great back road that can help knock some time off of your trip. There is a road in Pigeon Forge called Veterans Boulevard. This road connects the Parkway at traffic light #8 in Pigeon Forge, and Dolly Parton Parkway. That means that you skip 7 lights in Pigeon Forge and the Outlet Mall traffic in Sevierville when you take it. This is a great way to get to Pigeon Forge from Sevierville or to get out of Pigeon Forge without having to hit all of the traffic.

Pigeon Forge Alternate Routes:

FROM ASHEVILLE

From I-40 take Exit 443. Take Foothills Parkway to Highway 321 South which will take you into Gatlinburg. Take a right on the Parkway and follow to Pigeon Forge.

FROM CHATTANOOGA

Take Exit 81 on I-75 North. Then follow Highway 321 through Townsend. Then take Highway 73 to Gatlinburg. Take the Parkway to Pigeon Forge.

FROM NASHVILLE

From I-40 take I-75 South to Exit 81. Take Highway 321 Townsend. Next take Highway 73 to Gatlinburg. Turn right on the Parkway and follow to Pigeon Forge.

FROM VIRGINIA

Take I-81 South to I-40 East to Exit 435. Then follow Hwy 321 South to Gatlinburg. Turn right on the Parkway and follow into Pigeon Forge.

You may also enjoy this post:

[How to Rent a Pigeon Forge Cabin](#)

More Advice & Tips:

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Things to Do ▾

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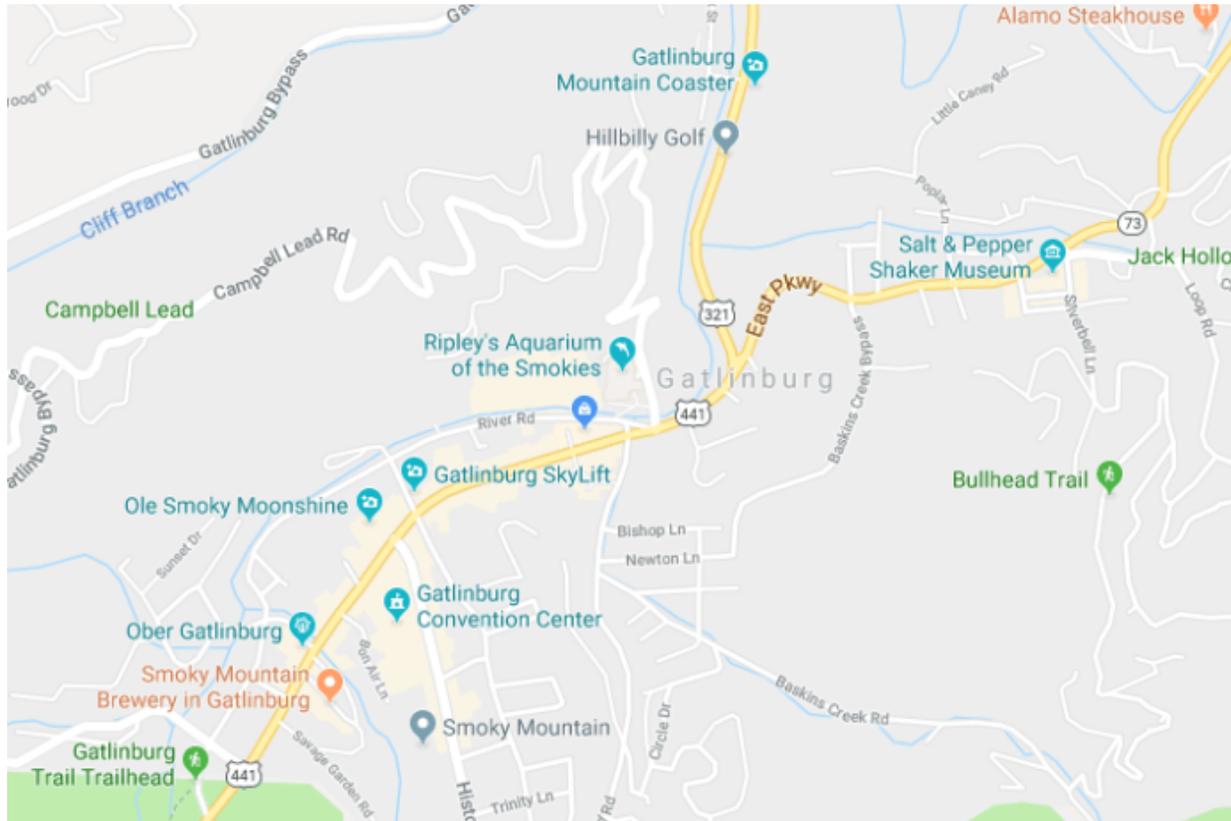
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Best Ways to Get to Gatlinburg



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The Great Smoky Mountains of eastern Tennessee draws throngs of visitors to Gatlinburg. What's great about the beautiful southern city is that it is easily accessible by less than a day's drive for more than half of the country's population. On a good day, you can get there by taking I-40 to Exit 407 and going south through Sevierville and Pigeon Forge. For alternative routes consider the following:

-If coming by way of **Virginia**, consider a drive via I-81 South to I-40 East and get off at Newport (Exit 435). Then, follow Highway 321 South into Gatlinburg.

-For those coming from **Lexington**, Tennessee, take I-75 North and follow Highway 321 to I-40 East to Exit 435.

-From **Chattanooga**, Tennessee, take Exit 81 on I-75 North, following Highway 321 North to Gatlinburg through Maryville and Townsend. Expect to be on 321 North for approximately an hour and ten minutes.

-**Nashville** dwellers, you will take I-75 South and follow the same directions as if you were coming from Chattanooga.

-Those arriving from **Asheville**, North Carolina can take I-40 West to Exit 440 and follow Highway 321 South to Gatlinburg.

-**Atlanta** residents can take a leisurely road trip along I-85 North to I-985 North to US 23. Take US 23 to Highway 23/441, changing to Highway 74/441 through Cherokee, North Carolina. It will take you about 4 hours and ten minutes. This will allow for maximum sight-seeing potential along the drive!

For those who may balk at taking a road trip but still want to take in the unique fun and foods of Gatlinburg, consider flying into Knoxville. McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS) is 55 miles north of Gatlinburg. Most major airlines fly there daily and once you are on the ground, renting a car is quite easy for maximum enjoyment of the trip. Hop in the car, turn up the radio, and be prepared to enjoy some good ole southern hospitality! Gatlinburg is waiting with open arms.

Related

Frequently Asked Questions about visiting Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge and Great Smoky Mountain Cabins (<https://patriotgetaways.com/blog/frequently-asked-questions-smoky-mountain-cabins/>)
January 29, 2013
In "All Posts"

Planning the Perfect Day in Gatlinburg: Visit The Great Smoky Mountains National Park (<https://patriotgetaways.com/blog/gatlinburg/>)
January 28, 2019
In "All Posts"

The 10 Best Smoky Mountains Towns You Need to Visit (<https://patriotgetaways.com/blog/10-best-smoky-mountains-towns-need-visit/>)
February 5, 2019
In "All Posts"



(<https://www.cabinsusagatlinburg.com>)

How To Avoid Gatlinburg Traffic

Blog Home (<https://www.cabinsusagatlinburg.com/smoky-mountains-blog/index.php>) : Category Posts

(<https://www.cabinsusagatlinburg.com/smoky-mountains-blog/category/6/vacation-tips.php>) : How To Avoid Gatlinburg Traffic

Gatlinburg and the Great Smoky Mountains are an incredibly popular vacation spot that draws millions of visitors every year. But, as with anyplace that becomes this popular, you can count on the roads getting crowded from time to time.

To help you enjoy your Gatlinburg vacation without getting stuck in a traffic jam, we've made this handy **guide on how to avoid Gatlinburg Traffic!**

First, we'll let you know when you can expect to run into traffic in Gatlinburg and show you some alternate routes to help you get around Pigeon Forge. Finally, we'll let you in on some tips to get around Downtown Gatlinburg when the roads are crowded.



When Is Traffic The Worst in Gatlinburg?

As a rule, traffic in the Smoky Mountains and Gatlinburg isn't bad at all. It's only during specific times that the roads can become quite busy.

So when can you expect to run into traffic on main roads in Gatlinburg?

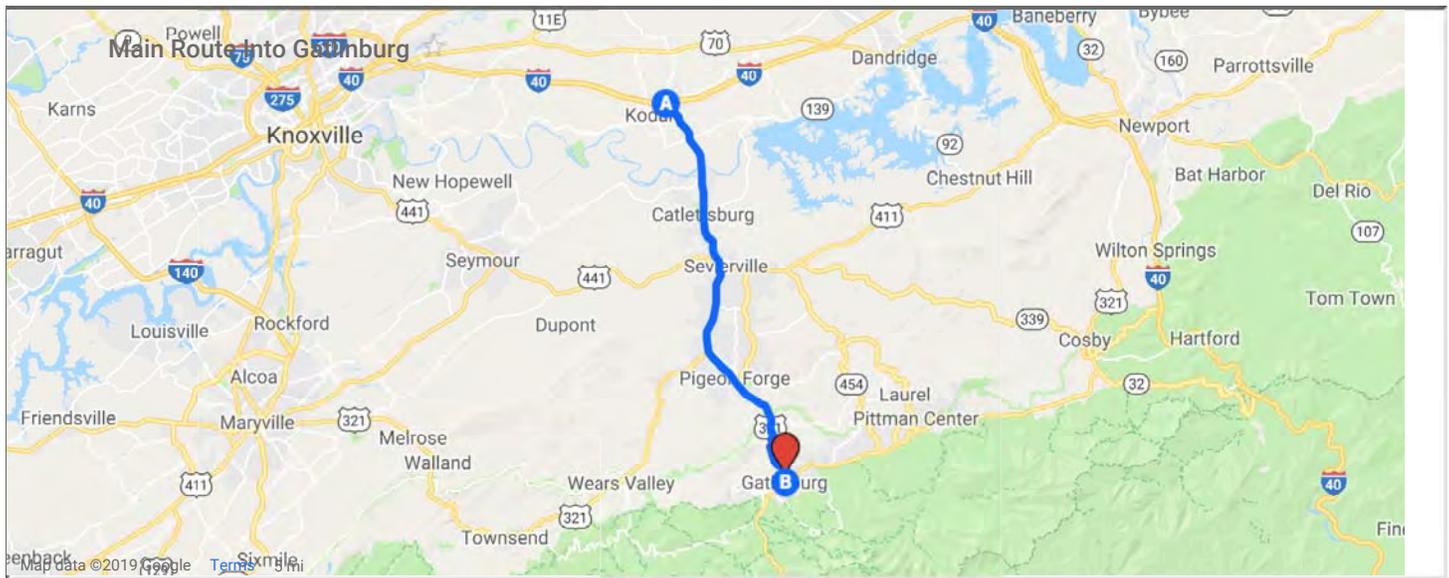
- Seasonal Changes – Generally speaking, summer and fall are the busiest seasons in the Smoky Mountains. Thanksgiving, Christmas and other major holidays also create more traffic on roadways.
- Check In and Check Out Times – Since most vacationers visit the Smoky Mountains during the weekend, it's often possible to predict when the roads will be most crowded. As a result, after 3PM on Fridays and Sunday Afternoons are busy times to drive in the Smoky Mountains.
- Major Events – Major festivals, parades, and conventions often bring more traffic to the Smokies. If you're visiting during a major car show weekend like Shades of the Past, the Fall Rod Run, or the Spring Rod Run, you'll want to plan your trips very carefully.

Insider Tip: By choosing to travel on weekdays or traveling early in the day, you can often dodge the worst of the traffic.

Additionally, visiting in the off-season in late winter and early spring is a terrific time to enjoy Gatlinburg without the crowds.

Before you can start enjoying your trip to Gatlinburg, you have to get there. Unfortunately, there are thousands of other visitors planning to do exactly the same thing. For most vacationers to Gatlinburg, they typically take the interstate and other major highways by way of Pigeon Forge.

The Main Route: I-40 Exit 407 To TN 66



When the roads aren't busy, there's nothing wrong with driving straight through Pigeon Forge to get to Gatlinburg.

This road takes you along The Pigeon Forge Parkway, the main drag in downtown with lots of restaurants, shops, and attractions. While there's a lot to do and see in Pigeon Forge and Sevierville, sometimes you just want to get to Gatlinburg for a check in time.

Traffic can be particularly fierce here, so if you're just trying to reach Gatlinburg or the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, we recommend trying another path.

By timing your trip correctly, it's often possible to dodge traffic on this road.

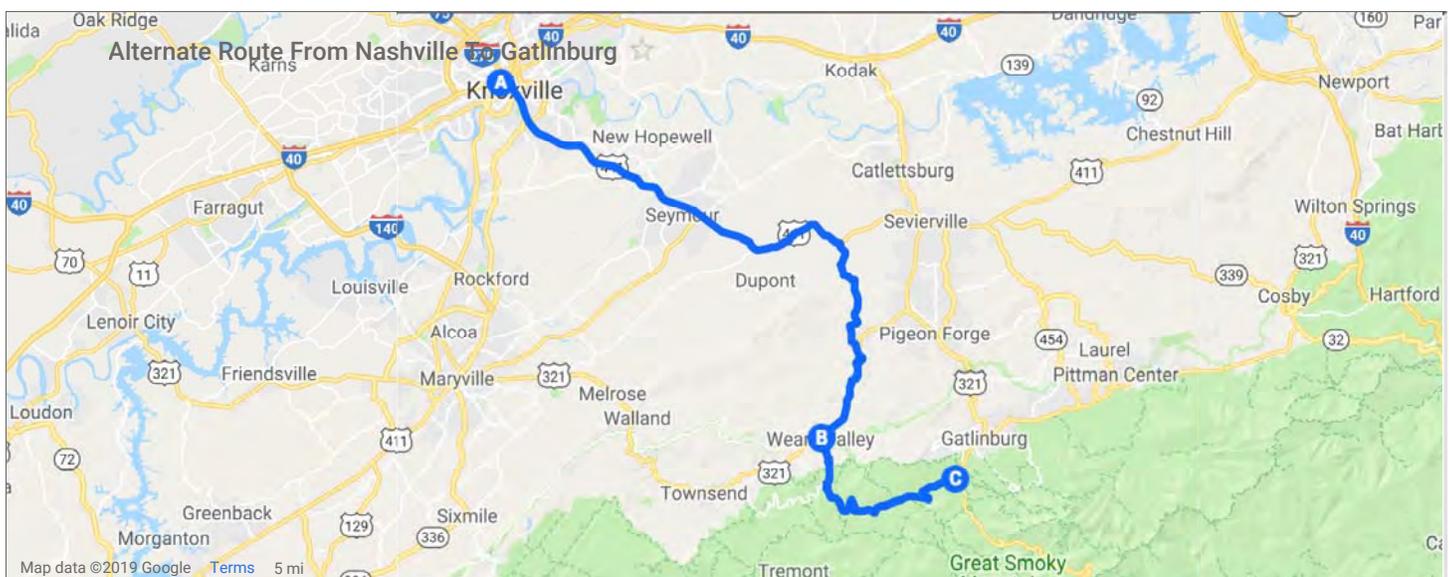
Alternate Routes To Get Around Pigeon Forge

Motorists should know that it's not always necessary to take alternate routes when driving to and from Gatlinburg. But, when the roadways are congested, taking the path less traveled is a good way to save yourself time and stress.

Depending on what direction your coming from, these routes might be just the right option to start enjoying your vacation faster!

From Nashville Driving I-40 East

Take Exit 388 To Chapman Highway (US - Hwy 411)



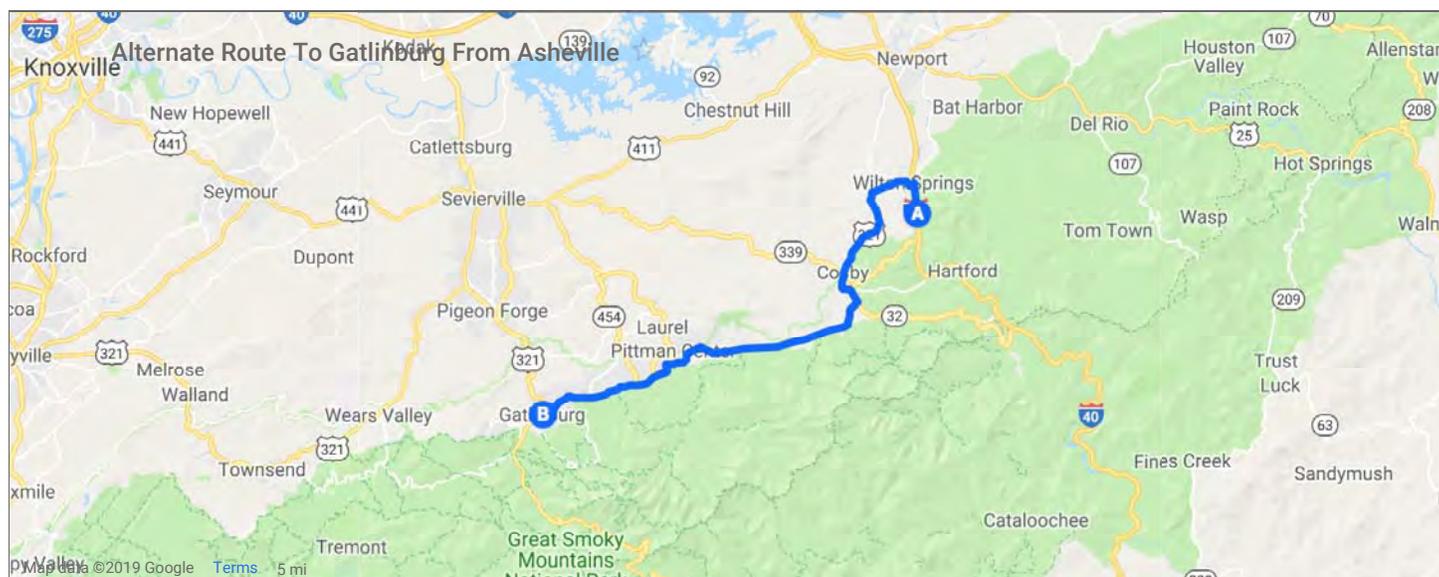
This route takes visitors through Knoxville and Seymour. If you stay on Chapman Highway, this road will eventually deliver you to Sevierville, TN and Downtown Pigeon Forge.

Once you arrive in Wears Valley, you can take the Metcalf Bottoms entrance into the national park and drive the Little River Gorge Road. On your way, you'll pass by Elkmont and the Sugarlands Visitor center (<https://www.cabinsusagatlinburg.com/smoky-mountains-information/post/0/48/188/sugarlands-visitor-center-in-gatlinburg.php>).

Though the route is longer, it is far less stressful than getting caught in traffic. Visitors from Ohio, Illinois, and Kentucky may find this route helpful.

From Asheville Driving I-40 West

I-40 Exit 440 To Hwy 321 S.

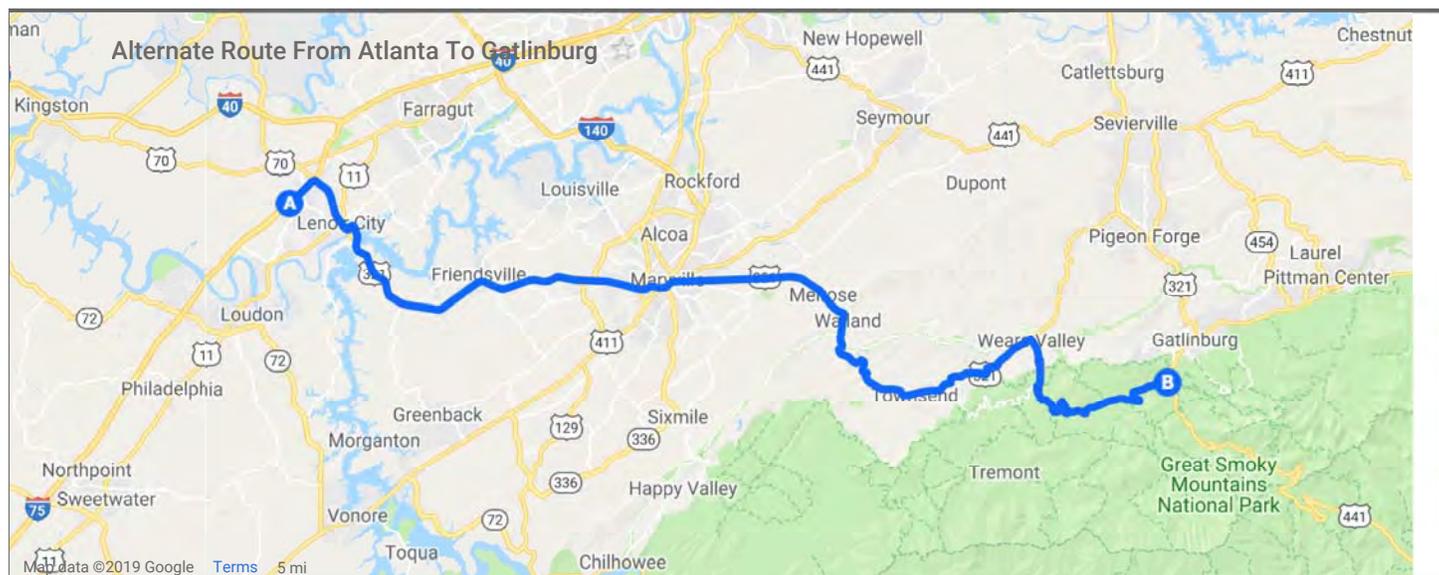


Taking this exit on I-40 allows motorists to travel to Gatlinburg through Cosby and Pittman Center.

This route is also quite scenic and features views of tall peaks in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Best of all, this quiet highway delivers vacationers right into Downtown Gatlinburg.

From Atlanta Driving I-75 North

I-75 Exit 81 To Highway 321



If your travelling from Georgia, Alabama, or Florida, you'll likely take I-75 N towards Knoxville. However, you have the option to get off I-75 before it merges with I-40 to enjoy a more scenic drive to the Smoky Mountains.

This route passes through Lenoir City, Maryville, Townsend, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Once you arrive at the Townsend entrance to the national park, you can continue left on the Little River Gorge Road towards Sugarlands Visitor Center in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Once you arrive here, you're only a couple miles from the heart of Gatlinburg.

Best Ways To Get Around Gatlinburg

If you find yourself in Gatlinburg during a busy weekend, there are still some great ways to get around traffic.

How To Bypass Pigeon Forge and Avoid Gatlinburg Traffic

(<http://www.gatlinburgtrolley.org/>) that can bring visitors to great attractions like the national park, Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, and more! You can access the trolley by parking at a city lot in downtown or you can park at the Gatlinburg Visitors center on the Spur road.

- Park And Walk – Even if you don't want to use the trolley, Gatlinburg is an exceptionally pedestrian friendly town with wide sidewalks. There is mostly paid parking in Gatlinburg, but the city lots only charge a \$6 maximum for a day of parking.
- The Gatlinburg Bypass - If you need to get from one side of town to the other, its hard to beat the appeal of the Gatlinburg Bypass. This scenic route connects the Sugarlands Entrance of the national park to the Spur road that leads to Pigeon Forge.
- River Road – Much of the traffic in Downtown Gatlinburg is concentrated on the main drag. So if you want to avoid some stoplights and pedestrian traffic, try taking River Rd that runs parallel to the primary road through downtown.

Closing Thoughts

As you plan your trip, we recommend exploring backroads and other alternate routes to enjoy on your trip. Though travelling this way may add some time to your trip, they're often incredibly beautiful and feature unique restaurants and attractions.

If you truly want to enjoy the beauty of the Smoky Mountains while staying away from the crowds, you may want to consider booking a secluded cabin in Gatlinburg.

Often times, these cabins make it easy to access top local attractions, while also featuring private, forested locations or a great spot with a beautiful mountain view.

So start planning a great getaway to Gatlinburg and dodge traffic during your stay!

Written by Hayden Brown (<https://plus.google.com/107941802916407637425>)

Recent Articles

A History of Tourism in Gatlinburg (<https://www.cabinsusagatlinburg.com/smoky-mountains-blog/post/342/a-history-of-tourism-in-gatlinburg.php>)

Ever wondered when and why people started vacationing to Gatlinburg? This blog post details the 100 year history of tourism in and around this mountain town, from its humble beginnings as a logging town to today.

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(<https://www.cabinsusagatlinburg.com/smoky-mountains-blog/post/342/a-history-of-tourism-in-gatlinburg.php>)

Guide to the Best Mini Golf in Gatlinburg - Cabins USA Gatlinburg (<https://www.cabinsusagatlinburg.com/smoky-mountains-blog/post/340/guide-to-the-best-mini-golf-in-gatlinburg-cabins-usa-gatlinburg.php>)

What is the best mini-golf in Gatlinburg? It can be difficult to decide with each course offering its own unique pros and cons. Luckily, Cabins USA is here to give you the details on all the options for mini-golf in Gatlinburg to help you choose.

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Romantic Dinners in Gatlinburg TN 2019 Guide

(<https://www.cabinsusagatlinburg.com/smoky-mountains-blog/post/338/romantic-dinners-in-gatlinburg-tn-2019-guide.php>)

Whether you're looking for steaks or one of a kind dishes off the beaten path, there are plenty of romantic dinners in Gatlinburg, TN to take your sweetheart out for a romantic meal on your Smoky Mountain vacation. Here's our guide.



(<https://www.cabinsusagatlinburg.com/smoky-mountains-blog/post/338/romantic-dinners-in-gatlinburg-tn-2019-guide.php>)

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Blog for Zipline Attractions in the Smoky Mountains

Located in Pigeon Forge, TN and near Gatlinburg and Sevierville.

5 Alternate Ways to Get to the Smokies, Part II

By [Ross Bodhi Ogle](#)

Posted on July 12, 2016



Last week, we gave you some helpful hints for driving to the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. Instead of coming into Sevierville on Tenn. Hwy. 66 from Interstate 40, we showed you three alternate routes for getting to the communities of Sevierville, Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.

Two of those routes are especially helpful if you're looking for a more scenic or, in some cases, a less congested way to get to downtown Sevierville via Knoxville or Newport, Tennessee. The third, U.S. Hwy. 321 takes you directly into Pigeon Forge, which is where [Smoky Mountain Ziplines](#) is located. And personally, we think that if you're planning on doing some [ziplining, Sevierville, Tennessee](#) courses simply don't stack up to what we have to offer vacationers in search of family zipline fun.

This week, however, we're going to show you two more alternatives for getting into the Smokies, and these focus more on the south end of Sevier County and accessing the area through Gatlinburg.

4. U.S. 441 from Cherokee, NC

Lots of folks like to work a visit to Cherokee, North Carolina, into their Smoky Mountain travel plans. There's a lot to do in Cherokee, not to mention experiencing the national park from the North Carolina perspective. If you're coming from Cherokee, you simply get on U.S. 441 and head north toward Gatlinburg.

This is very scenic drive, which takes you exclusively through the national park. You'll see rolling mountains stretching out toward the horizon, and there are multiple pullovers where you can stop for a few minutes and take some pics or just gaze in awe at the impressive landscape. Once you leave park property, you'll essentially be at the south end of Gatlinburg on the Parkway, which is the main drag that runs north-south through town.

5. U.S. 321 from Interstate 40

U.S. 321 is another option for scenic driving, and it brings you into Gatlinburg from the east side of town. In fact, as you approach, the road becomes East Parkway and eventually intersects with Parkway in the heart of downtown Gatlinburg.

To get on U.S. 321, however, you have a couple of options. If you're headed east on I-40 from Knoxville or the Tri Cities area, take the Wilton Springs exit (exit 440), which puts you directly onto U.S. 321. Easy peasy.

But if you're headed west on I-40 from Asheville, NC, you actually have a much more fun option. Take exit 443 onto Tenn. Hwy. 339, otherwise known as Foothills Parkway. This is another super scenic highway that winds its way through the national park. It's a two-lane road, so traffic doesn't exactly fly, but it's one of the prettiest routes in the region, and honestly, if you're coming in from Asheville, it's as quick as any other route you might take. Like U.S. 441 from Cherokee to Gatlinburg, Foothills Parkway has many traffic pullover for admiring the mountains and the valleys. The route intersects U.S. 321 in Cosby, Tennessee, and from there, you head southwest toward Gatlinburg.

