

A Weekend In Coal Country | Suggested Itinerary for Trail Riders

Friday

Arrive in Williamson late afternoon/early evening and get checked in to your lodging facility. (If you need lodging recommendations go to: visitcoalcountry.org)



Bonus: If you're up for a quick evening ride before sunset (30 Mins. Or so), head to the Trail #10 Entrance of the Hatfield McCoy Trail in Downtown. Ride until you reached a paved road crossing. At this point, make a right turn, go 2 Miles and you'll be back in downtown Williamson in 5-7 Minutes.

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! Your weekend on the Hatfield McCoy Trails in Coal Country is just getting started!

Saturday Day (Please See the Two Options Below)

Option 1 (Williamson to Matewan), Less Advanced Ride, Not as Intense, 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 and grab some lunch at either Mi Pueblito or Wingo's Grill (as featured on Dirt Trax TV!). Both are located on Mate Street, Matewan's "main street". 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 #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.

Option 2 (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.

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.

Sunday

Wake up and head to Tudor's Biscuit World for breakfast in South Williamson. Then, jump back in the car 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.

For dinner, head to Sazon Mexican Restaurant on Prichard Street to close out your trail riding adventure weekend in Coal Country...be sure to have their fried ice cream for dessert!