

S12 SOUTHERN DOZEN

JOHNSON CITY TENNESSEE

New Signature Ride

THE FOUNDERS' RIDE

About 36 Miles

Sure you could finish the new signature ride, Founder's Ride for Johnson City's Southern Dozen in an hour if you didn't stop. But stopping is half the fun when there are so many things to see and do along the way.

Starting at the Holiday Inn northeast of downtown, riders head west towards the stomping grounds of frontiersman Daniel Boone through what's called Boones Creek where the early pioneer carved that he "kilt a bar" on a tree there in the 1700s.

The ride continues through the small town of Gray and past the Gray Fossil site where road construction led to a previously unknown cache of hundreds of fossils from the Miocene era including the world's largest tapir fossil find and an ancient rhinoceros. The East Tennessee State University Natural History Museum with interactive activities and active dig site await.



Enjoy the scenery of the beautiful Tennessee countryside as you head towards the Jonesborough, the oldest town in Tennessee. Visit one of the quaint antique shops, an old-fashioned ice cream parlor, historical homes, or one of the delicious eateries in the walkable downtown area before heading east back towards Johnson City on highway IIE.

You'll travel past East Tennessee State University into the revitalized downtown area. Along the way you'll notice several pieces of art that's part of the city's Public Art Corridor that includes 16 sculptures commissioned by the Johnson City Public Art Committee.



Once downtown you'll find upscale eateries like Portico or The Label, regional favorites like Tupelo Honey or the authentic German favorite, Freiberg's. If you're lucky you'll be in town for a "Founder's After Five" concert at the new Founder's Park, a 5-acre greenway surrounding Brush Creek. Nearby on select days there's an amazing selection of fresh foods at the Farmer's Market.

You may want to sample some of the craft beers that are plentiful at the stops along the Brewly Noted Craft Beer Trail. Participants near downtown include JRH Brewing, Yee-Haw Brewing Company, Atlantic Ale House and The Jonson City Brewing Company. Downtown also includes live music venues such as the popular and well-known Down Home or the Willow Tree, as well as night-life hot spots, art studios and plenty of charming shops.

The ride leaves downtown traveling through some of Johnson City's oldest neighborhoods of stately homes and finishes back at the Holiday Inn.

Visit SouthernDozen.com for more info.



THE SOUTHERN DOZEN

1 - THE SNAKE RIDE

About 138 Miles

Snake through the Tennessee mountains, through Stoney Creek and across into the pastoral Shady Valley. From there, it's on up to the extraordinary Backbone Rock, with outcroppings, hiking trails, and beautiful photo ops. Continue into Damascus, home of the Virginia Creeper Trail, and return through peaceful Mountain City, beside the beautiful Watauga Lake.

2 - TOP OF THE ROAN

About 106 Miles

This ride takes you through historic Elizabethton, to the top of Roan Mountain—home of East Tennessee's grandest scenery. Roan Mountain is also home to the world's largest natural stand of Catawba Rhododendron. It's the perfect place to feel the cleansing cool breeze, smell the fragrant wildflowers, and let your mind wander back to a simpler time.

3 - PLACES OF THE PAST

About 33 Miles

Northeast Tennessee has an epic history—from the "volunteers" who saved the American Revolution, to the homes of legendary pioneers, statesmen, and even a U.S. President. This route takes you along cobblestone streets to the birthplace of Davy Crockett, past extraordinary museums and a farm preserved since 1791.

4 - 8TH WONDER OF THE WORLD

About 43 Miles

Called the "8th Wonder of the World" by William Jennings Bryan, Natural Tunnel is more than one million years old and has been attracting visitors for more than two centuries. Ride the chairlift down to hiking trails, picnic tables, and, of course, the incredible tunnel itself.

5 - MUSIC TO YOUR EARS

About 44 Miles

Northeast Tennessee is famous for its music. As the home of the legendary Carter Family and the Birthplace of Country Music, this area laid the foundation for America's modern music scene. See the burger joint where Hank Williams was last seen alive, visit the auditorium that June Carter and Johnny Cash called home, and where the first "country" recordings were made in 1927.

6 - SPELUNKER TOUR

About 30 Miles

In the early days of colonization, settlers were often confronted by Indians—who seemed to attack and then disappear into thin air. Later, colonists discovered a majestic underground river, which they used as a hiding place during the Civil War. On this ride, you'll see this unique cave, now called Bristol Caverns, as well as Appalachian Caverns—an underground labyrinth more than one million years old.

7 - THE LONG DAM RIDE

About 138 Miles

It's no secret—the geography and landscape of Northeast Tennessee wouldn't be the same without several man-made lakes. This tour takes you through rugged gorges, past rocky cliffs, mountain streams, tranquil lakes, unique sites, spectacular formations, and miles of roller-coaster dips and rural charm.

8 - VINEGAR PIE

About 134 Miles

This ride, from Johnson City to Clinch Mountain, is as sweet as the "Vinegar Pie" at the Lookout Restaurant. It takes you through some of East Tennessee's oldest communities, on the trails blazed by Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett.

Get a panoramic view of Norris Lake and the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. It's truly a feast for the eyes!

9 - MOUNTAIN RIBBONS

About 151 Miles

The highways of East Tennessee flow through our crown of glory, the Appalachian Mountains. Prepare to have your breath taken away as you snake across the lakes, rivers, and streams of one of the world's oldest mountain ranges. Ultimately, the ride leads to one of the greatest rides in the whole world—the Blue Ridge Parkway. Visit the Moses Cone House, the Linn Cove Viaduct, or the various overlooks of Grandfather Mountain.

10 - HOWLING WOLVES, STARS AND HISTORY

About 57 Miles

Bays Mountain Park is known for its noisiest inhabitants: the wolves. And on this ride, your tires will howl just as loud as they do. Just a few twists of the throttle will take you to a land isolated from noise and urban life—a land where deer, wild turkeys, and otters thrive alongside owls, beavers, and falcons.

11 - EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY TOUR

About 31 Miles

Explore the scenic roads leading to the historical Rocky Mount and Tipton-Haynes sites, the Sycamore Shoals Fort, and Carter's Mansion—the oldest mansion in East Tennessee, dating back to 1775. At the Doe River, you'll see one of the country's last remaining covered bridges, which dates back to the early 1800s.

12 - TWO RIVERS, ONE MOUNTAIN, AND TEN MILLION TROUT EGGS

About 78 Miles

Feast your eyes on some of the nation's largest breeding trout, then ascend into the famed Cherokee National Forest. This ride goes up and way back into the Tennessee and North Carolina mountains, where the cool rivers flow lazily along. As you ride further away from civilization, you'll find yourself in a notorious land formerly known for its whiskey makers and moonshine runners.

