

North Lawrence Scenic Driving Tour

A driving tour of northern **Lawrence County** takes you through some of the beautiful hill country of southern Middle Tennessee and includes stops where visitors to this rural setting can see glimpses of a time gone by.

This is especially true of the trip's first segment through **Amish Country** in the **Ethridge** area where several hundred **Old Order Amish** continue to live a lifestyle right out of the 19th century- no electricity and no motorized vehicles. Farming is done the old-fashioned way with a mule and a plow. A great brochure mapping out Amish products and where to buy them can be found at the **Chamber of Commerce** across from Kroger on Hwy. 43 in **Lawrenceburg**.

The drive continues north through the once thriving and historic communities of **Summertown** and **Henryville**, then southwest to the **Laurel Hill Wildlife Management** area where you'll visit a pair of beautiful lakes. After a quick jaunt on and off the **Natchez Trace Parkway**- including a swing onto the Old Trace- the drive heads back toward Lawrenceburg toward **David Crockett State Park** via scenic-designated Hwy. 64.

This self-guided drive totals just over 80 miles. The following description will allow you to set your own pace and make rest stops at the many country markets/delis and gas stations along the way. There are plenty of great places for a picnic or to drop a line in a good fishing hole.

START THE TOUR...

Check your trip odometer and begin at the northernmost stop light in Lawrenceburg on **Highway 43** in front of **Wal-Mart**. Head north on 43 toward the **Ethridge** community and your tour through **Amish Country**. 3.5 miles out you'll see **Marshall's Grocery** on your right and ¼ mile further North on your left is Rick's Bar-B-Q, first of many great places to gas up or get picnic items if you didn't already stock up in Lawrenceburg.

Another 1.1 miles brings you to your first turn left on **Brewer Road**. In this area are many Amish-related businesses although none of these commercial ventures are owned and operated by the Amish themselves. But you can get Amish crafts, information and other goods at businesses such as **Amish Country Galleries, Dutch Country Bakery, Country Mill restaurant**, etc.

Take Brewer Road west .8 mile and turn right onto **Brace Road**. You'll see your first Amish farm ½ mile on your right. Amish families welcome visitors to stop and buy their crafts, food items including their ever-popular sorghum molasses and animals. Proper etiquette dictates that **no photographs** be taken of the Amish themselves or any of their properties and that no business transactions take place on **Sundays** or other **Holy Days**. Signs are posted at the driveways of those families with goods to sell.

Just beyond the first Amish farm bear to the left and cross the railroad track. Head due west past several Amish farms. One mile beyond the railroad tracks where **McDowell Road** intersects from the left, look to your right and you will see an **Amish schoolhouse** on the right of the driveway leading to a large farmhouse. There are several of these one-room schools in the community for the children's convenience since they typically walk to and from school.

Another .6 mile past the schoolhouse, a 90-degree turn puts you on **Yoder (a typical Amish name) Road** headed north. Another .9 mile and Yoder Road ends. Turn left on **Bud Taylor Road** and go west .8 mile to the **Buffalo Road**.

Turn left on Buffalo Road and you'll see **Oaks Market (Amoco)** on your right. You'll be on the Buffalo Road for 1.8 miles before turning left onto **Indiana Ave.** Follow Indiana Ave. for 2.4 miles and turn left on the Brace Road, then .2 mile to a right turn back on Brewer Road. Another .8 mile brings you back to Highway 43 where you first entered Amish Country.

Turn left on 43 and get into the right lane for a quick turn right on **Campbellsville Road**. Drive past more Amish farms for 2.9 miles before bearing left at the sign pointing to the **Mt. Horeb Baptist Church**. In just .3 mile you'll see the church on your right but turn left at this point on the **East Edan Road**. Two miles will take you back to Highway 43 where you'll see the last two Amish farms before reaching 43.

Turn right on Highway 43 and head north. **Three Oaks Market** is .8 mile on your left. Another 3.1 miles will bring you to a bridge over the **North Fork of the Little Buffalo River**, a tributary to the scenic **Buffalo River** that has its origins in Lawrence County and drains most of the county's northern half.

Turn left on **Highway 20** just 1.4 miles farther north. **Johnson Mini-Market and Garden Shop** is on the right as you turn onto Hwy. 20. Go exactly one mile and bear left past the historic **L.O. Crane veteran's monument**.

Summertown was once a popular resort area in the late 1800's, boasting six hotels and a freestone spring that bubbled over blue rock and was said to have healthful qualities. There are no longer any remnants of this era but Summertown continues to thrive as an unincorporated community with its own elementary and high schools.

Exactly 1.4 miles from the L.O. Crane monument bear left at the fork in the road where the **Summertown Market** is located and head down **Highway 240**, known locally as the **Turnpike**. A half-mile out the Turnpike is the **Summertown Cemetery** on your right and another .6 mile brings you to the Buffalo Road where golfers might take a break from the tour and play the scenic **Dixie Oaks Golf Course** two miles away.

If you remain on the Turnpike, two miles out is **Foxfire Hunting and Fishing Supplies** on the right. Another 2.2 miles brings you to bridge over the Buffalo River and another .4 mile puts you in **Henryville**, believed to be the first settlement in Lawrence County.

Originally named **Pennington**, this community's most legendary citizen was **James J. Pennington** who was awarded a patent in 1877 for an airplane he successfully tested in 1872. Legend has it his plans were sold by Pennington's widow to two mysterious visitors shortly after her husband died in 1884. Many Lawrence Countians believe these young men were the **Wright brothers**.

You're in Henryville for only one-half mile and you'll see **Clark's Grocery** on your right next to the community center. A great stop in Henryville is Dan and Debbie Eiser's **Blueberries on the Buffalo**. Turn right just past Clark's Grocery onto Cemetery Road and go eight-tenths of a mile to their farm on the right. Blueberries are in season from mid-May until mid-September. After returning to the Turnpike, continue to **Brock's Market** in 4.1 miles and then you'll reach **Highway 64** in another 5.4 miles.

Turn right on 64 at **Self's Market** and go west 1.6 miles to turn right again on the **Brush Creek Road** leading to **Laurel Hill Lake**. The old brick building on your left as you approach this turn is the former **County Line Elementary School**, a remnant of a half-century ago when there were as many as 70 small schools scattered across the county. One-and-a-half miles down Brush Creek Road bear right at the bait shop on the left and go another .3 mile before entering the lake property by turning right on **Peter Cave Road**.

About a quarter-mile into the property you'll come to a **Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA)** station where you can get refreshments and there are restrooms on your left. It's possible to drive just beyond the restrooms to your left and take a narrow road along the lake front for several hundred yards. This is an especially beautiful drive during the fall.

Upon leaving the lake area turn right back onto the Brush Creek Road and drive 1.6 miles before bearing left to get onto the **Natchez Trace Parkway**. Turn right onto the Parkway and head toward Nashville. This federal parkway carries a strictly enforced **speed limit of 50 MPH!** Also, watch out for wildlife on the Trace.

In 3.2 miles you'll see kiosks with an entrance onto the **Old Trace** and information in general about the Natchez Trace's history, it's early 19th century travelers and the hazards of travel of those days. There's also a stone historical marker erected by the **Buffalo River Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution**.

The Old Trace is more indicative of the route traveled in days gone by and has three places to stop for scenic overlooks. The Old Trace is 2.5 miles before looping back under the Trace to get back on the Parkway. Turn left toward Nashville and go .3 mile to a stop called **Jack's Branch** that has a great picnic spot and restrooms.

Another .9 mile brings you to the **Napier Road** exit. Turn left and loop to your right under the Trace and follow the paved road back to the southeast toward Lawrenceburg again. One-half mile brings you to the **Natchez Market** on your left followed by the **NACO and Thousand Trails** camping areas.

The next stop is 5.3 miles beyond the market where you turn right into the **VFW Lake**. Go .6 mile down **VFW Road** and bear left into the lake area. You can drive all the way around this scenic lake by bearing right at the office and taking the 2.4-mile lake road. You can also buy a fishing permit or boating permit on the honors system at the kiosk near the entrance. Fishing is \$3.00 and boating \$5.49.

Retrace your path back to the Napier Road and turn right heading southeast for 1.2 miles before you reach the Turnpike once again. Turn left onto Hwy. 240 and go just .3 mile and turn right onto **Hwy. 241** at **Brock's Market**.

You'll soon see on your left another old elementary school building that used to serve the **Center community** until about 35 years ago. A spring-fed catfish farm is on your left another 2.5 miles down 241. Beyond the catfish farm 2.6 miles you intersect again with Highway 64 at the **Amoco Food Shop**. Turn left and head back east toward Lawrenceburg.

A half-mile along Highway 64 is the entrance to the **Lawrenceburg Golf & Country Club** via the **Glen Springs Road**. Another .4 mile and you reach the entrance to **David Crockett State Park** on your left. At the second traffic light from here is Military Street where the **South Lawrence Scenic Driving Tour** begins.