

# Ridin' Scenic Raystown Lake

*Tour Southern Alleghenies Motorcycle Routes  
Provide Tranquil Fall Escape*

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When it comes to motorcycle touring, Tour Southern Alleghenies (Tour SA), located in Southcentral Pennsylvania, is an area that attracts avid motorcyclists. One motorcyclist, Jason Kaplitz, refers to the Southern Alleghenies motorcycle tours as “exceptional.” Kaplitz is the President of the Johnstown (Pennsylvania) BMW Motorcycle Group, who has ridden his motorcycle “everywhere” including Europe, for more than 20 years.

Kaplitz said most of the Tour SA routes are on secondary highways with less traffic, which allows riders to “just enjoy the natural beauty of the area.”

Another motorcyclist, Darlene Wising, said, she and her spouse “are always looking for scenic tours and Pennsylvania certainly has many enjoyable rides. The sights, sounds and smells of the Southern Alleghenies are wonderful on a motorcycle.”

With cool fall days approaching, now is the perfect opportunity to plan a trip to the region. Mountain vistas and winding roads lead to historical sites and picturesque views of the fall foliage along the way. All seven of the Tour SA rides start at a regional welcome center, here riders can check in and receive a signature pin for the Southern Alleghenies Region. Riders can pick up additional site pins at historic attractions along the routes, adding to their regional pin collection. Wising likes the pins and said most motorcyclists have quite an impressive collection.

Kaplitz said the fact that all the tours are mapped out by motorcyclists makes for quality destinations. Riders have more motivation to get up and go if they have a destination in mind and know where to stay and eat, without having to spend hours planning a trip. “The tours give riders a great excuse to go for a ride. If riders don’t have a plan,



*Early morning sunrise at Raystown Lake is a refreshing start for a motorcycle tour of the area.*

or a reason to ride, it’s usually easier to stay at home and cut the grass,” Kaplitz said.

“Tour SA has the potential to make the area a destination for year-round cycling,” said Kaplitz. The routes provide excitement for riders any time of year, particularly during fall foliage and serve as a fun excursion in addition to the annual rallies held throughout the year. The area is best known for the Thunder in the Valley Run in June, as well as the Pennsylvania State Harley Owners Group Rally in mid-August, both held in Johnstown.

So if you’re convinced and ready to start your adventure in the Southern Alleghenies but aren’t sure where to begin, Kaplitz offers a few of his favorite routes.

Kaplitz encourages riders to check out the “Red Route” which is commonly referred to as the Allegheny Mountains Tour. The tour begins at the Allegheny Mountains Convention and Visitors Bureau and includes many heritage sites along the way. Kaplitz says he enjoys the Johnstown 1889 Flood Memorial and the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic sites. The memorial park commemorates the story of the Johnstown Flood, which killed more than 2,000 people and destroyed most of the city. The park preserves the remains of the South Fork Dam and the lakebed behind the dam. The Allegheny Portage Railroad served to carry passengers and freight over the rugged mountains between Johnstown and Hollidaysburg through a fascinating system of incline planes and levels.

If you’re still unsure of where to begin, why not stop at the Central Pennsylvania Convention and Visitor’s Bureau and jump start your ride with the Tour, Roar, Explore...More! Run. The tour takes you along a scenic



waterway and offers tours of mansions and museums. The William E. Swigart Jr. Automobile Museum, which houses a collection of antique cars, is one spot you'll want to check out. The collection includes Herbie "The Love Bug" and two Tucker automobiles. Another interesting site is the Columbus Chapel and Boal Mansion Museum. Many of the items in the museum, including the chapel, Columbus' admiral's desk, and two pieces of the True Cross, were imported from Spain. The museum also contains original art, furnishings, tools and many weapons. Along the way, outdoor adventures can be found at Canoe Creek State Park where motorcyclists can enjoy a canoe ride or cast a line into Lake Canoe. In addition, the park offers modern cabins, if you need somewhere to recharge for the next day's adventure.



*Top photo: Friends riding together stop for a lake side rest. Above (small photos): One of many stops on the lake is Seven Points Marina and Seven Points Visitor Center.*



*Enjoying Raystown Lake by motorcycle or boat is a great getaway. Below: The region is graced with well-maintained cruising roads.*

When it's time to choose your next ride, take a trip to Raystown Lake Visitor Center, then enjoy your ride overlooking Pennsylvania's largest inbound lake. If you're lucky, you might see a Bald Eagle soaring through the sky or poised in its nest. When you're ready to fly away to your own haven, you can explore the antique railroad and trolley museums along the way. The East Broad Top Railroad is the oldest narrow gauge railroad system in the country, which remains in its original location with all of its original equipment. The United States Department of the Interior designated the railroad as a National Historic Landmark in 1964. At the Rockhill Trolley Museum you will have the opportunity to ride a vintage electric trolley to Blacklog Narrows and back.

Whether you're an avid motorcyclist or new to the sport, Tour SA provides the adventure you're looking for. Take it from Kaplitz, who said he has "been more places, met more people and done more things all because of [his] motorcycle."



*For more information about motorcycle touring in the Southern Allegheny region, visit [www.cyclesa.com/toursa](http://www.cyclesa.com/toursa). The website includes information about historic sites, tour routes, regional maps, visitor services and amenities, and contact information. Tour SA is comprised of seven self-guided motorcycle routes that encompass the Southcentral region of Pennsylvania, just north of the Maryland border.*

