

Chincoteague Island and the Wallops Launch Facility

Saturday & Sunday September 19th & 20th

500 miles in 2 days

A long, long time ago motorcycles, and life perhaps, were simpler. Unlike many bikes of the 21st century it was up to the rider to avoid locking the brakes. There was no GPS or electronic fuel injection. One needed to be in touch with the machine to know when to use the choke. You had to turn the fuel valve on and off. Sometimes the shifter would be on the right side, and sometimes you pulled it up to downshift! Some motorcycles had no electric start, and some leaked oil. Still, they offered a riding experience that immersed the rider in the moment, necessitating becoming one with the machine, while still offering enough performance to keep things interesting. Travel was done on surface roads as opposed to today's superhighways which allowed for taking in the surroundings and interacting with other travelers and local folks.

***You are invited to experience 2 days of classic touring on this eclectic mix of machines.
A piece of rolling history from the 1970's and 80's:***

1971 BSA A65 Lightning
1972 BMW R60/5
1973 Norton Commando 750
1977 Yamaha XS650D twin

1977 Harley Davidson XLCR
1977 Yamaha XS750 triple
1979 Suzuki GS1000L
1984 Moto Guzzi V65SP

We will get acquainted with one another and with the bikes right after an early breakfast served here. Bring your bathing suit too; one never knows exactly what the weather may bring. Remember that there is no chase vehicle, so pack light. Each bike will have a large tank bag fitted and some have luggage racks as well.



We'll head south on Delaware Route 9 which is remarkable for its Delaware River scenery and utter lack of traffic. Downstate we'll stop for a tour of the Dover Air Base Air Transport Museum. It's free and there are some very cool displays including WWII combat gliders. After a lunch stop where typical Chesapeake Bay Cuisine may be sampled (the crabs are the best) we'll cross the scenic DelMarVa Peninsula and navigate The Olde Route to Virginia on tiny back roads with several short ferry hops. Finally, we'll cross a long bridge connecting the mainland to rustic Chincoteague Island where our motel rooms are ready, including an outdoor pool: just the thing after a 250 mile day. A top notch restaurant is a short walk away and yes, they also serve adult beverages.



On Sunday morning we'll leave late enough to catch the nearby Wallops Launch Facility Visitor Center just as it opens, then head north on the shore route. This will allow a stop at Assateague Island where wild horses roam empty white beaches that stretch to the horizon. Next, we pass through 'Babylon' AKA Ocean City, MD where gambling casinos and high rise hotels seem to flaunt Mother Nature. Finally, a twisty route through Delaware and Maryland farm country brings us again to Pennsylvania where a hot meal is waiting.

Join this ride and see what Margaritaville in Virginia is all about while fully experiencing vintage motorcycling.

