

JOHNSTOWN, PA & POINTS WEST

One goal for this ride is to keep daily mileage totals down to around 150 miles. We will accomplish this by using three different overnight accommodations, with the second at our turn around point: Johnstown, PA. The first day's journey will end in Landisburg, where we have reserved cabins at a remote campground. This campground once housed the dregs of society in ramshackle trailer homes but much to the delight of the local population, has recently been taken over by an enterprising couple who are rebuilding the site into a mini-vacation Mecca: modern comfortable cabins, a huge swimming pool, and a live music venue. Currently, it offers real peace and quiet, located deep in the wood of central PA.



Day two includes delightful back roads all the way to Johnstown. And what's so special about Johnstown? In May of 1889 2,200 people died in ten minutes as a man-made Tsunami washed Johnstown, a city of 30,000 off the map. The story is one to remind us of the impact we humans have upon the natural order of things, and the potential for catastrophic results. A quaint museum in Johnstown recounts the details. There is also a vertical railway, the steepest in the world; the ride up and down is thrilling, with amazing views and a fantastic restaurant at the top. We will stay in a comfortable motel within walking distance of the museum and restaurants.

On day three we plan to use a more southerly route to head east, with a large, remote house reserved near Thurmont, MD. First though we find our way to the Flight 93 Memorial where, on 09-11-2001 (has it really been 25 years?) one of at least 4 airplanes commandeered by terrorists plunged into an empty field. On that day, nearly 3,000 Americans perished, and this monument recalls the events

leading up to that fateful occurrence. We also have the option to instead explore Falling Waters, one of the great architectural achievements of Frank Lloyd Wright. Then we dip down into West Virginia enroute to Thurmont.



Finally, on the last day of our 4-day adventure, we make our way on curvy back roads, back to Kennett Square, where Lynn will have a hot meal ready for us. In all, we will have covered a bit more than 600 miles in four days, 95% of it on scenic back roads with little or no traffic, and not much more than 150 miles per day.

