

# American Auto Trail Tennessee Highway 11: A Journey Through Time and Nature

Prepare to embark on an unforgettable journey along Tennessee Highway 11, a historic American Auto Trail brimming with charm, history, and breathtaking natural beauty. This comprehensive guide will lead you through the heart of the Volunteer State, from the vibrant city of Chattanooga to the rolling hills of East Tennessee.



## American Auto Trail-Tennessee's U.S. Highway 11

by Lyn Wilkerson

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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## A Rich Tapestry of History

Highway 11 traces the path of one of the nation's first transcontinental highways, the Dixie Overland Highway. Established in 1915, this road served as a vital link between the Midwest and the Southeast. As you drive along Highway 11, you'll encounter remnants of this historic era, including old roadside inns, gas stations, and bridges.

The highway also played a significant role in the Civil War. Several battles were fought along its route, and you can still visit historic sites like the Battle of Lookout Mountain and the Chickamauga Battlefield.

### **Scenic Drives and Natural Wonders**

Highway 11 offers a feast for the eyes, with stunning mountain views, cascading waterfalls, and sparkling rivers. One of the highlights is the Lookout Mountain Parkway, a 33-mile scenic drive that winds through the Cumberland Plateau. Along the way, you'll be rewarded with breathtaking vistas of the Tennessee River Valley.

Other must-see natural attractions include the Cumberland Falls, known as the "Niagara of the South," and the Fall Creek Falls State Park, home to one of the highest waterfalls east of the Mississippi River.

### **Charming Towns and Cultural Heritage**

Nestled along Highway 11 are a string of charming towns, each with its unique character and history. Chattanooga, the starting point of the highway, is a vibrant city with a thriving arts and culture scene. Further east, you'll find historic towns like Cleveland, Athens, and Morristown, where you can explore antebellum homes, quaint shops, and local museums.

The region is also rich in musical heritage. Bristol, known as the "Birthplace of Country Music," is home to the Birthplace of Country Music Museum. Along the highway, you'll also find historic music venues and festivals celebrating the region's musical roots.

### **Planning Your Journey**

Planning your road trip along Tennessee Highway 11 is easy. The highway is well-maintained and offers plenty of opportunities for stops along the way. Here are a few tips to help you plan your adventure:

- **Plan for a multi-day trip:** Highway 11 is over 400 miles long, so it's best to allow yourself several days to explore all that it offers.
- **Book accommodations in advance:** Especially during peak season, it's a good idea to book your hotel or campground reservations ahead of time.
- **Pack for all types of weather:** Tennessee's weather can be unpredictable, so be sure to pack for rain, sunshine, and everything in between.
- **Bring a camera:** You'll want to capture the stunning scenery and historic landmarks along the way.
- **Allow time for detours:** There are many worthwhile attractions and side trips along Highway 11, so be sure to leave some time for spontaneous exploration.

Tennessee Highway 11 is an American Auto Trail that offers a unique blend of history, nature, and culture. Whether you're a history buff, a nature enthusiast, or simply looking for a scenic road trip, this highway has something to offer everyone. So, pack your bags, hit the open road, and embark on an unforgettable journey through the heart of the South.

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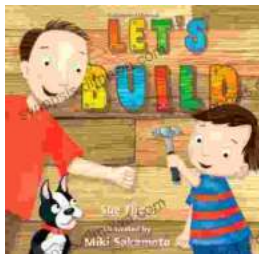


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