

Model A Delmarva Trip
OBSERVE BRIDGES AND CONQUER

Mar. 4, 2022–Mar. 12, 2022

Introduction

Hello. Welcome to the trip. It is your job to drive places, see things, observe and document bridges, and have fun. This informational booklet will contain some minor notes about the things you might see along your way and the things that you should generally consider doing.

Although the guide is prescriptive, it is not mandatory, and you are free to throw it out the window of the A at any point in time (this could be inadvisable, however).

Before we go any further, it's important for our safety to establish several important points to keep in mind at all times:

- **Look** at the car before you drive it.
- Don't **listen** to Chad.
- **Leave** Chad behind whenever you can.
- **Drop** off Chad in places that he didn't intend to go.
- **Roll** slowly over Chad's feet while he isn't looking.
- **Fall** to your death off the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

Don't forget those six important items! The acronym is LLLDRF, which is easily pronounceable for the sake of memory.

Day 0: Durham, NC to Virginia Beach, VA

Mileage: 216.6mi

Only idiots do anything on this day. In some sense, this is before the beginning of the trip, as idiots will take the A a record distance of 215 miles out towards Virginia Beach. Non-idiots should consider having a nice, leisurely day in the Durham area, and wandering on over towards Virginia Beach whenever it seems like a good idea.

Via normal car, the trip should take probably 3 hours. In the A, the trip is expected to take 27 hours and three trips through interdimensional wormholes.

Route notes

You will pass through very few interesting places. You will drive near Dismal Swamp State Park. You will pass through no interesting towns of any size whatsoever.

It could be advisable to try and find fast food along the way beforehand, because it's very unlikely there will be anything else worthwhile.

Bridges

There is only one bridge on this particular day.

- **Humble Little Bridge**

Chesapeake, VA

No details are known about this bridge and it is not documented on BridgeHunter.

Lodging

You will be staying at this place:

- **Beach Country Barn**

2233 Indian River Road, Virginia Beach, VA, 23456

To access the house, get to the driveway and keep driving along the long driveway.

Door code for the front door is 2009

Network: BCB; password: `ihatemosquitoes`

Checkin time: unclear, but probably early afternoon

Checkout time: 11am

Day 1: Virginia Beach, VA to Salisbury, MD

Mileage: 158.4mi

Now that the entire trip group is assembled, it's time to spend your day along the side of the road, or, alternately, at the bottom of the Chesapeake Bay.

Route notes

The morning begins with a trip through downtown Virginia Beach. Feel free to stop along the boardwalk and check it out, although, hopefully you have gotten moving early enough that not much is open yet. Looking directly out towards the east-north-east, the next landmass that you would see if you went straight would likely be far northern Norway.

Leaving the downtown area, you will have a 'warmup' along US-60. This is a fairly fast road that was not avoidable. Make sure you have cash ready for the toll bridge (see bridges below).

Once you are on the eastern shore of Virginia (i.e. on the Delmarva peninsula), pull off immediately for a nice view of the bridge itself. Slightly up the road is Kiptopeke State Park. If you drive out to the water's edge, you can see decaying concrete hull boats. These are 9 of the 24 concrete ships contracted by the U.S. Maritime Commission during World War II.

The route now continues north along smaller roads (not US-13). It will be a very rural drive. You will likely need to get lunch in the middle of nowhere, and it's likely to suck.

Once you finally reach Maryland, you'll get to the next bridge in Pocomoke City (which is only barely a city, if even). Afterwards, a quick pass through Princess Anne (that is meant as the name of a place here), you will find yourself at the Upper Ferry. You may rock back and forth at this time. Only two cars on the ferry at a time.

Bridges

- **Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel**

Northampton County, VA

Northbound lanes built 1964; southbound built 1995–1999

This was originally planned to be a bridge entirely, but the U.S. Navy objected as a collapse could pin the fleet at Naval Station Norfolk; it is thus a bridge-tunnel.

This bridge is 17.6 miles long.

Consider stopping at each pre-tunnel plaza!

- **Market Street Bridge**

Pocomoke City, MD

Built 1921; reconstructed 1989

Bascule bridge (i.e. drawbridge)

- **Upper Ferry**

Salisbury, MD

Free

Has been operating "hundreds of years"

Lodging

You will be staying at this place:

- **Johnna's House**

132 East Cedar Lane, Fruitland, MD 21826

No checkin details yet at the time of this writing.

Day 2: Salisbury, MD to Capitol Heights, MD

Mileage (option 2): 157.2mi

If you did not die yesterday, you will die today, because the route is not able to avoid some larger roads, including the 200-ft high Chesapeake Bay Bridge which is heavily trafficked and the traffic does not move slowly.

Route notes

Today you will leave Salisbury (maybe grab some coffee on your way out?) and make a short diversion into Delaware. It's a small state, so, not worth spending much time in. Consider committing some crimes while you're there.

You'll travel through Laurel, DE, stopping for a couple bridges, then continuing on through Blades (cool name) and Seaford, before cutting back west into Maryland.

Before you get to the Choptank River (which is a fun river name to say), you will pull off the road you are on to encounter an abandoned bridge on Back Landing Road. Exploration and inspection is advisable.

Crossing over the Choptank River, you'll pass through Easton and then continue on out a peninsula to St. Michaels, Maryland. This would be a good place for lunch, and if it looks like time permits, check out the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. They have exhibits about the sea and water and other interesting things like that, and they also have a bridge in their parking lot.

You will have to retrace your steps when leaving St. Michaels to get to US-50, which you will have to take for several miles. This will not be fun driving, but, there are basically no alternate routes.

You will get to take a breather as you get closer to the actual Bay Bridge itself, and when you're finally ready go across. Just past the bridge, hang right to go to Sandy Point State Park and drive out to the shoreline parking lot to get a nice view of the bridge and of the Chesapeake Bay itself.

Next, you are entering Ryan's ancestral homeland and will cut through a number of roads that he knows quite well and on some of these he has traveled 120mph. It is inadvisable to do the same now.

A couple of bridges are encountered on the way to the Airbnb, which is right next to the Addison Road station. Just before you get there you'll pass by FedEx Field, which is where the Washington Not Controversial Names play football.

Bridges

Not all of these bridges will be worth a photo op. (Not all of them will have the possibility of a photo op.)

- **Central Avenue Bridge**

Laurel, DE

Built 1923; rehabilitated 1992

- **Poplar Avenue Bridge**

Laurel, DE

Built 1915; rehabilitated 1996

No longer used as a movable bridge

- **High Street Bridge**

Seaford, DE

Built 1941

It's high up

- **Back Landing Road Bridge**

Dorchester County, MD

Built 1941; rehabilitated 1953

Closed to traffic; no replacement or repair expected

Do not drive over the bridge

- **Dover Bridge**

Tanyard, MD

Replacement bridge built in 2018; old truss bridge remains as fishing pier

Built 1932

- **Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Bridge**

St. Michaels, MD

Built 1934 at Knapps Narrows, relocated 1998

In the parking lot of the museum

- **Kent Narrows Bridge**

Kent Narrows, MD

Built 1951; rehabilitated 1982

Bascule bridge

- **Chesapeake Bay Bridge**

Annapolis, MD

You are going to die

Built 1952 (eastbound), 1973 (westbound)

4.35 miles long

Maximum height 379ft; bridge clearance maximum 186ft

- **Central Avenue Bridge**

Davidsonville, MD

Built 1935; rehabilitated 2007

Not likely possible to stop and document

- **Queen Anne Bridge**

Anne Arundel County, MD

Abandoned, closed, and locked up

Lodging

You will be staying at this place:

- **Spacious Home Close To DC**

2 Cindy Lane, Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Note that the garage is not on Cindy Lane; it's behind the house

Check-in instructions and more information not available at the time of this writing

Days 3–4: Washington, DC

You're on your own!

Day 5: Capitol Heights, MD to Harrisonburg, VA

Mileage: 181.3mi

You have now seen patriotic things and ingested knowledge and good food. Are you ready to see awful things and inhale shit food in redneckville? Let's do it.

Route notes

You will start by driving to Cedar Hill Cemetery, which has two interesting bridges. You could always skip that if you're not feeling it, and head straight down Pennsylvania Avenue into DC.

You'll drive by the Capitol Building, the White House, and the Abraham Lincoln Invention Site where he sits and invents freedom eternally. The route passes Arlington Cemetery, and you could go in if you like, but don't spend long because you have a long way to go today.

Next, you will enter the awful northern Virginia DC suburbs. This is actually near where Mike Imamura grew up, and it sucks. Enjoy your stroads and traffic lights. I did my best to keep it from being as bad as possible, but it's still bad.

There is yet one light in the burbs though: and that's a bridge where an American double agent would drop secrets to the Russians. Wander around and see if you can find any printouts of Ukraine maps under that bridge or anything.

As you're almost out of the burbs, you'll hit Stone Bridge in Manassas National Battlefield Park, which may not be interesting other than for the fact that it's a break from the big road that you had to take to get there.

Next is Waterloo Bridge which should be extremely cool and dates to 1885, and then we are getting into the hills. If you are running WAY behind at this point, consider rerouting to avoid the next steps.

We cut through Front Royal, which is where Skyline Drive starts, but this route will not take us down Skyline drive. Instead we head a bit further west and climb onto a ridge. Cutting down a small gravel/dirt road, we will find ourselves walking distance from Woodstock Tower, a fire tower that should yield nice views.

At the bottom of the hill when you're done with that, you'll encounter a swinging pedestrian footbridge, and then you'll drive through the hills to get to the Airbnb. You will be near (but will not go by) a supposedly active volcano (Mole Hill). Somehow, Ryan and Emily have driven by it before. I think multiple times.

Bridges

- **Fallen Tree Footbridge**

Hillcrest Heights, MD

Built 1937

- **Bridge Of Life**

Hillcrest Heights, MD

Built 1937

- **Foxstone Park Bridge**

Vienna, VA

FBI agent Robert Phillip Hanssen sold information to the Soviet Union here, via dead drop under the footbridge.

The fact that a drop was ready was indicated by a piece of tape on the entrance sign of the park.

Hanssen was finally arrested in 2001.

There is a small trail marker with a QR code that leads to more information about Hanssen and his arrest.

- **Stone Bridge**

Manassas, VA

Built 1825, destroyed 1862, rebuilt 1886

Blown up by the Confederates on March 9, 1862 when they withdrew from the region

- **Waterloo Bridge**

Waterloo, VA

Built 1879; approaches rebuilt 1919; reopened 2019

Definitely worth exploring and visiting

- **Lupton Rd. Swinging Footbridge**

Woodstock, VA

Wire suspension footbridge over North Fork Shenandoah River

Lodging

You will be staying at this location:

- **Serenity By The Stream**

10065 Briery Branch Road, Dayton, VA 22821

No other information is available quite yet

Day 6: Harrisonburg, VA

You're on your own! Maybe go check out Luray Caverns.

Day 7: Harrisonburg, VA to Bedford, VA

Mileage: 141 mi

Hopefully you've even made it this far in the trip. Today will take you through the Appalachian foothills and should be a pretty drive; a lot of it will be on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Route notes

The route starts by cutting over towards Fort Defiance to hit a few bridges. If you're not feeling it, you can save some time by taking VA-42 southwest, instead of staying on VA-646, and then linking back up with the route.

You'll pass by Goshen Scout Reservation, and there is a bridge there; you'll head down the mountains to get to the B&O Tunnel (it is on a gravel road), and the next part of the trip may be a slightly ugly drive near and next to I-81. Unfortunately there were no alternatives in order to get to Natural Bridge.

Leaving Natural Bridge, there were also no alternatives to get to Buchanan, so enjoy your frontage road.

Fortunately, leaving Buchanan, you will now take the Blue Ridge Parkway. Stop at the overlooks! Take your time! It's pretty!

Bridges

- **Knightly Bridge**

Fort Defiance, VA

Built 1915

- **Kerr's Crossing Bridge**

New Hope, VA

Built 1899; closed to traffic 2010

- **Goshen Land Company Bridge**

Goshen, VA

Built 1890; rehabilitated 2001–2002

- **B&O Tunnel**

Timber Ridge, VA

- **Natural Bridge**

Natural Bridge, VA

Built c.150,000,000 BCE

Horizontal limestone strata remains as the roof of the arch

- **Buchanan Swinging Bridge**

Buchanan, VA

Portions of the bridge date back to 1851 (stone supports)

A covered bridge here was burned in 1864 by the Confederates

The bridge was rebuilt, but washed away in 1877

That bridge was replaced in 1897 with a steel bridge

That bridge was replaced in 1938 by the current bridges

Lodging

You will be staying at:

- **The Cottage At Misty Hollow**

1358 Middlemont Lane, Bedford, VA, 24523

No other information is available at this time

Day 8: Bedford, VA to Durham, NC

Mileage: 181 mi

Today is the last day. Hopefully you had fun and are still breathing.

Route notes

Today's route is meant to be a pretty straightforward shot from the Airbnb to Durham. There isn't too much interesting other than perhaps Martinsville, which is an important NASCAR town. Most roads are two-lane medium-size roads.

Bridges

- **Hales Ford Bridge**

Smith Mountain Lake, VA

The old bridge was inundated in 1963

- **Iron Ridge Road Bridge**

Wirtz, VA

This was still in use by tractor trailers in 2018!

Built 1906

- **Smith River Bridge**

Martinsville, VA

Built 1927

Not really any good place for a picture

- **Morgan Ford Bridge**

Henry County, VA

Center through span was built in 1887 and moved to this location in 1953

- **Mebane Bridge**

Eden, NC

Built 1924–1925

Closed to all traffic

We may have visited this bridge before

Conclusion

Congratulations! You made it to the end. Good job at that.