



Conclave 2025 | Branson MO

NEWSLETTER #14

HOW TO USE YOUR TOUR BOOK

Navigators, please take a careful note.

Overview

Soon you will be receiving your **Tour Books**. Needless to say, a lot of blood, sweat and tears went into compiling these. Lessons learned from past trips have helped refine and improve the layout and information. Those of you who have been on earlier trips hopefully will notice the improvements. Of course, if you don't read this material, it's all for naught (and you may become lost and frustrated).

First let's look at the layout for a typical day:

#1: The first thing you see are a few pages of Narrative About Our Day. You will recognize this information from the earlier published Tour Book, however it has been updated to match our actual plan, so it is worth reading again.

#2: Next you will find the Turn-by-Turn Directions section for that day. These pages are explained below.

#3: Next you may find Supplemental Information. These may include a "SUGGESTED WALKING TOUR" or "RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS", etc. These pages are intended to be torn out of your Tour Book and taken with you as you tour on foot.

How to Use the Turn-by-Turn Directions

Now, let's look at the format used for the beginning of the Turn-by-Turn Directions for each day, starting with the typical information at the top. (*This illustration is purely for illustration purposes only, not actual directions*)

DAY 4: Tuesday, May 6

NASHVILLE TO CHATTANOOGA JACK DANIEL'S DISTILLERY TOUR AND LUNCH LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, RUBY FALLS, ROCK CITY

DRIVING TIME/DISTANCE: 3:30 Hours, 172 miles

*Today we will venture south through rural Tennessee, firstly to Jack **Daniel's Distillery** where we have booked a tour and tasting (included), followed by a real "Boarding House" lunch at **Miss Mary Bobo's** (included). Then we are off the Chattanooga and **Lookout Mountain** for some spectacular views and possible side trips (see below). For the sake of time, we will use I-24 for some of our trip, but these sections are particularly scenic.*

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

6:00 - 7:30 Breakfast at the Hotel or Cracker-Barrel next door
8:00 Depart in Flights for Jack Daniel's Distillery, Lynchburg, TN
9:45- 10:00 Arrive Jack Daniels
10:30 BLACK AND BLUE FLIGHTS Tour of the Distillery
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch at Miss Mary Bobo's in Lynchburg
14:15 Depart for Chattanooga
Dinner on your own, see below

Note on Fuel: We will be driving 172 miles today, but there is no scheduled fuel stop. Please be sure you have a full tank before departure.

SELECT:

GARMIN ROUTE # 04 - Nashville to Chattanooga

Top of Page: Day, Date and Name of the Route, Mileage and Drive Time

Green Box: The Green boxes contain information about our day's **Plan**, and when shown later in the directions, perhaps information about what you are seeing, historical information, etc. They appear frequently during our Tour and the navigator may want to read them to the driver.

Orange Box: The Orange box always shows the day's **Schedule**. *I suggest you always check the **next day's** schedule before you retire for the night, so you know the breakfast and departure times.*

Yellow box: Yellow ALWAYS means “**warning**”. Essential information about fuel stops, parking, tricky parts of the Route, etc. is shown in yellow boxes. Red type means “double warning”.

Garmin Route #: This is the ROUTE you want to select at the beginning of the day (and later in the directions if necessary). You will find the ROUTES under Saved Trips in your Garmin menu. They may not always be in numerical order. See the Garmin Newsletter (later) for how to select and start a Route.

Special Note for Solo Drivers: *Since you won't be able to drive and read the Turn-by-Turn directions, it is important for you to familiarize yourself with this information prior to departure each day, so you know what to expect. If you have a good general understanding of how the day is planned, your Garmin directions will make more sense.*

NOW LET'S LOOK AT THE BODY OF THE DIRECTIONS: *(sample data)*

DISTANCE from last direction	TURN	DIRECTION	TOD approx. time of day
	DEPART	Exit hotel onto McGavock, back toward Hwy 155 / Briley Parkway	8:00
300 feet	MERGE	Use two right lanes to merge onto Hwy 155 toward I-40 <i>Green sign "South to 155 I-40 -->"</i>	
5.2 miles	EXIT	Take exit 6A-B for I-40 West toward Nashville <i>Green sign "EXITS 6A-B, 40 East, Airport, Knoxville"</i>	
0.7 miles	MERGE	Onto I-40	
2.3 miles	RIGHT	Into Jack Daniel's Distillery Parking Lot <i>Brown sign "Jack Daniel's Distillery Visitors Parking"</i>	9:45

PARK

JACK DANIEL'S DISTILLERY TOUR

The Distillery is directly across the street from the parking lot. Group up in front of the Visitor's Center. Our group is broken up into three tours, 10:30, 10:40 and 10:50, roughly 18 people in each. **Please see your Tour time on your Ticket.** The tour and tasting are about 90 minutes. There is a fair bit of walking and some stairs, but the docents will give you options if necessary. Much of it is outside, so be warm if the weather is cool.

Photography is OK, but no backpacks, camera cases, etc. **Bring your ID.**
Established in 1886, Jack Daniels is the oldest registered distillery in the US

DON'T FORGET YOUR TOUR TICKET AND YOUR LUNCH TICKET!

32.2 miles	FORK RIGHT	At stoplight and T, Right onto N Jackson St. / Hwy 41A <i>White sign " 41A / 55/ 130 -->"</i> Note: There is a Speedway gas station here if you are low.	13:30
1.6 miles	RIGHT	Onto Star View Lane <i>Monument sign "Hampton Inn -->"</i> <i>MAPCO gas station on corner</i>	
0.2 miles	ARRIVE	Hampton Inn at the top of the hill <i>Behind the Fairfield Inn</i>	15:40

As you can see, there are four self-explanatory columns:

DISTANCE from last direction, **TURN, DIRECTION** and **TOD** (time of day)

As an example, you would read the 3rd direction as *“Drive 5.2 miles, then take Exit 6A/B for I-40 West toward Nashville, watch for a green sign which says “Exits 6A/B, 40 East, Airport, Knoxville”.*

Top Tip: Whenever there is a **long interval** like the one above of 32.2 miles (maybe 10 miles or more), it's good idea for the Navigator to ask the Pilot what the current odometer reading is, add the upcoming distance and write in the book the estimated odometer reading when that turn will be reached. It's much easier than trying to remember it.

Example: If the odometer reading at the last turn was 67.7 miles, then you would write 99.9 next to the 32.2 miles in the book. That would tell you and the Pilot that you should be looking for the next turn when the odometer gets to about 99.9 miles

Further down is a typical **STOP FOR GAS** instruction. In this case an optional stop.

The Time-of-Day column gives you an idea of when we will arrive or depart from various stops. We use military (24 hour) time. You can set your Garmin (and your phone and smart watch) to display military time.

NOW LET'S DEFINE SOME OF THE TERMS USED IN THE DIRECTIONS:

RIGHT and LEFT indicate turns of approximately 90 degrees.

SHARP RIGHT and SHARP LEFT indicate turns of more than 90 degrees.

SLIGHT RIGHT and SLIGHT LEFT indicate turns of less than 90 degrees.

BEND LEFT and BEND RIGHT indicate that the main road you are on bends one way or the other

FORK LEFT and FORK RIGHT indicate that the main road forks into two roughly equal roads and you should take the fork as indicated.

KEEP LEFT and KEEP RIGHT are similar to BEND LEFT and BEND RIGHT but indicate a more minor road may present an opportunity to mess up.

ROUNDAABOUT.... a circular intersection with multiple outlets. Replaces a stop light.

EXIT means get off the main road (usually a highway) at the indicated exit, usually described by number and name and perhaps also a “sign” name.

MERGE means to continue in the same direction which will merge with another road (usually a highway) at the end on an on ramp.

AT T means the road you are on will come to a T intersection and then you turn right or left as noted.

GREEN STREET SIGN usually means a typical street name sign that you see on a corner. GREEN SIGN usually means a larger, free-standing sign like a freeway sign.

WHITE signs are usually pole mounted signs indicating Highway numbers.

BROWN signs are usually informational signs for tourist attractions, etc.

TOP TIP: *In as many cases as possible I have tried to give you a “sign” direction, such as “Brown Sign “Jack Daniel’s Distillery Parking””. Road names are usually not well signed unless they are highways and are not very helpful for navigating. Having a sign reference is much more reassuring.*

Within this main body, which may go on for several pages, you may find additional yellow and/or green boxes. The yellow boxes will usually contain “heads up” information, like detours, gas stops, tricky sections, etc. The green boxes may contain information about the area we are driving through, lunch stops, historical notes, etc.

NOW LET'S LOOK AT A TYPICAL "END OF DAY" SECTION

Arrived

Hampton Inn
74 Starview Lane
Chattanooga, TN 37419
423 602-5350

15:40

FREE WI-FI AND HOT BREAKFAST

GARMIN WAYPOINT #14 - Hampton Inn, Chattanooga



The hotel has no bar or restaurant, but a nice area to socialize. BYOB. There are several restaurants nearby, including:

In the Walmart Supercenter across the highway:

Logan's Roadhouse (beef, fish, bar)
Lemongrass Thai
Los 3 Amigos Mexican
Jack's Family Restaurant

NOTE ON GAS: BE SURE TO FILL UP TONIGHT OR EARLY TOMORROW. FULL TANK AT DEPARTURE.

From the **ARRIVED** line you can see that we arrive at the hotel about 15:40. The directions will always tell you where to park unless there is just a simple parking lot in front of the hotel.

The Hotel name, address, website and phone number are next.

Then there is the **GARMIN WAYPOINT**. This is your get-out-of-jail card. If you become hopelessly lost, you can reset your Garmin to this Waypoint and it will take you directly to the hotel (probably not by our route, but the shortest way, just like the GPS in your car). WAYPOINTS are different than ROUTES, but we will talk more about this in a later newsletter.

There may be a photo if helpful.

Next, there may be a green box with information about our hotel and other local items that may be of interest to you.

Finally, there may be a yellow box, typically with fuel up information for tomorrow.

FINALLY, LET'S TALK ABOUT SOME "BEST PRACTICES"

Mutual Reliance: The Garmin and the Turn-by-Turn Directions are designed to be used *together* to make a **complete navigation package**. Neither alone is optimal, nor is either of them infallible. The role of the Co-Pilot/Navigator is of paramount importance.

Tips for the Navigator: It is very useful to have a couple of colored markers, a pen or pencil and some Post-it notes on hand. The markers can be used like the green and yellow boxes to mark areas you don't want to miss. Use the pen to check off turns as they are made and to note the odometer readings on long stretches as noted in the Top Tip above. The Post-its come in handy to keep your place in the book and mark upcoming things you don't want to forget.

Read Ahead: I strongly suggest that the Navigator make a point to do two things every day. First, before retiring for the night, check the next day's schedule so you are sure to be up on time for breakfast and ready to depart on schedule. *We cannot wait for laggards!* There are 54 people on this Tour. A delay by one person of 10 minutes costs the group TEN HOURS!

Second, during breakfast, read through the day's material, including scanning the Turn-by-Turn directions for things of interest and checking to see if there is any Supplemental Information for that day. Everything becomes much clearer when you know what to expect.

Tear it up: The Tour Book is intended to be used and abused. The Supplemental Information in particular is meant to be torn out and taken with you for Walking Tours, etc. If you want a pristine book as a souvenir, I can send you the files so you can print your own copy.

PILOTS! READ AND FOLLOW THE FUEL INFORMATION! Fuel stops have been carefully planned so that we never have to drive more than 170 miles between fuel stops (usually much less) and to correspond to our need to take a break after 60-90 minutes on the road. Some days require that you fill up on your own at the end of the day's run. *I suggest you do not put it off until the next morning as you don't know when that gas station may open. We cannot wait for laggards, and we cannot stop before our appointed refueling stop because somebody "forgot" to read the Fueling Instructions.*

Be flexible and be prepared to adjust: Things never go exactly to plan. I have tried to build a reasonable leeway so that we are not always scrambling to meet a deadline. This is supposed to be a fun trip, not a grind. So be prepared for the occasional "adjustment" to the target times. Adjustments will be announced in person and via the Group Chat function.

Be thoughtful, courteous and ON TIME: As mentioned above, a minor delay by one person results in a big delay for the group. Get up early, finish your coffee and breakfast early, allow time to prep your car for the day and warm it up. Remember that 50 of us will be ordering breakfast and paying our incidental bills at the same time, don't expect instant service, allow a little extra time. Settle

your incidental bill the night before if possible. BE SURE YOU READ ANY REFUELING INSTRUCTIONS!

Feel free to leave the Group and go Solo: Some people like this more than being in the group all the time. Feel Free. You don't have to drive every route, visit every museum, attend every group dinner, etc. *JUST PLEASE LET ME (and your Flight Leader) KNOW WHEN YOU ARE GOING SOLO SO WE DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOU AND WE DON'T WASTE TIME LOOKING FOR YOU.*

Flights: We cannot hope to always stay together, therefore we will be travelling in five "Flights" or groups of six or seven cars. Each flight has a color which is denoted by the colored dot on your Tour Book cover. Each Flight has a Flight Leader whose job it is to keep his Flight together. Find your Flight leader each morning. He will have a flag with your flight color. Try to park together and group up at gas and food stops so that you can all depart together.

Flights are welcome to "take off" when they are assembled and do not have to wait for other flights. This is particularly important at gas stations which can be congested and involve delays.

Be courteous to your flight mates and don't "get lost" when we stop for breaks, gas, meals, etc. Agree on a departure time with your Flight Leader and stick to it.

MOST OF ALL, HAVE FUN!

*Disclaimer: These Turn-by-Turn directions are compiled from detailed Google Maps routes I have designed. Each driving direction must be manually transcribed. There are over 1000 of them! What are the chances that I transcribed them all perfectly? Slim and none. I may have written RIGHT instead of LEFT. Or a new ROUNDABOUT may have been created since I mapped the Route, or there is road work or detours, or a sign has fallen down or is covered by recent growth. That's why using the **Garmin** WITH the **Turn-by-Turn directions** is*

so important. Even so, likely we will get lost a time or two. It is only normal to get occasionally frustrated or apprehensive. Don't take it out on your Co-Pilot (note to self). Relax, hit the next Waypoint and soldier on.