



Conclave 2025 | Branson MO

NEWSLETTER #17

INSTRUCTIONS, TIPS, TRICKS AND PITFALLS FOR USING YOUR GARMIN

Disclaimer #1

We have used this technology on six previous Tours. It is not perfect. I have employed a well-known Garmin expert to review our Routes and create the Route files and Waypoints you have downloaded. Anyone can make mistakes and Garmin's are notorious for generating "anomalies". Sometimes they are too smart for their own good and try to reroute you when you don't want to be rerouted. Batteries die. Roads change, or are under repair. Road signs fall down or are blocked by foliage. The Tour Book remains our most essential guide and must be utilized. But when working right, the Garmin makes a huge difference as it gives you an audio and visual reference of what is ahead.

Disclaimer #2

Using any electronic device while driving can be distracting. Please drive carefully when using your Garmin. Having your navigator as an active participant, by keeping up with the route in the Tour Book and calling out turns, signs, caution points, stops, etc. is essential to safe and sane driving.

First let's discuss the definition and use of Routes vs. Waypoints

-**ROUTES** (called **SAVED ROUTES** or **SAVED TRIPS** in Garmin-speak) are the turn-by-turn directions for our trip. They are numbered by day and sequence in the day, such as “**GARMIN ROUTE # 04 - Nashville to Chattanooga**”.

There may be more than one Route for a given day if there are multiple stages. For example, 2A and 2B on day 2. Start 2A, run to the end of it, then start 2B to finish the Tour.

When we start off for the day you will select the Route for that day as listed in the Tour Book in red type: **GARMIN ROUTE # 04 - Nashville to Chattanooga**

I will explain how to do this below.

Garmin Pitfall: You must be at the starting point of the Route before you take off. The Starting Point is indicated by a **Green Flag**. The Garmin will say something like, “*Please proceed to the starting point and your directions will start*”. Sometimes this might just mean driving to the other side of the parking lot, sometimes the Green Flag may be 100 meters down the road. **FAILURE TO DRIVE TO AND THROUGH THE STARTING POINT MAY CAUSE YOUR GARMIN TO FAIL TO START THE ROUTE AND IT WILL GO CRAZY TRYING TO GET YOU TO TURNAROUND AND GO BACK TO THE STARTING POINT.**

Garmin Tip: If you fail to trip the Start function, you can still see the magenta line indicating our Route. You just won't have the audio prompting you to turn, etc. Eventually the Garmin will give up trying to route you back to the **Green Flag**.

Garmin Tip: Some of the newer Garmin models have a pop up when you go off route or fail to pass the Start point. The pop up offers you the option to “*return to the Route by the most direct way*”. If offered this option, select it.

Garmin Tip: Some of the newer Garmin models have clever features that assist with navigation, like photos of upcoming exits (usually on highways) and lane selection instructions. Most of all newer Garmin's can be programmed to synch with your phone and with earbuds. I find it almost impossible to hear my Garmin when driving, so I rely on the visuals (and my navigator).

-**WAYPOINTS** (called **SAVED** or **SAVED PLACES** in Garmin-speak) are your “get out of jail free” choices. Selecting a Waypoint will get you to the next stop (lunch, gas, hotel, etc.) but **maybe NOT** via the Route we selected, but by a route Garmin selects. Usually this will be the fastest way and may involve freeways. Use Waypoints when you are hopelessly lost, tired, or just want to go directly to a particular place. Waypoints are numbered and are cross referenced in the Tour Book. Just look down the page to find our next stop and its Waypoint number will be shown. ***GARMIN WAYPOINT #14 - Hampton Inn, Chattanooga***

Again, I will tell you how to select these later.

Garmin Tip: Occasionally the “Book” will tell you to select a WAYPOINT instead of a ROUTE. For example, to get back to the Hotel from a particular site. That is because the Garmin way is the easiest way and there is no need for Turn-by-Turn Directions.

USING THE ROUTES ON OUR TRIP

Please open your Tour Book to Day 4 of the driving directions (you should all have your books now, if not email me ASAP).

Note the red instruction just below the green, orange and yellow boxes:

GARMIN ROUTE # 04 - Nashville to Chattanooga

This is telling you to turn on your Garmin and load Route 04.

To select a **ROUTE**:

- Turn on you Garmin
- Hit **Agree**
- Hit **Apps (Routes are always in the Apps area)**
- Hit **Route Planner (or similar)**
- Hit **Saved Routes (some models just go directly to the Saved Routes)**
- Scroll to find **04- Nashville to Chattanooga**
- Hit **GO**.

Your Garmin will (should) calculate the Route using our turn-by-turn directions and give you your first instruction (which may be “Proceed to the Highlighted Route” which is the start point for this segment) **Green Flag**. You should be on your way.

NOTE: You can only select a Route if you are at or near the starting point of the Route as indicated in the Route book.

Garmin Pitfall: Due to a glitch in the Garmin system, the Routes are not displayed in numerical order. Just scroll around to find the one you want.

Garmin Pitfall: Every model Garmin, and sometimes even the same model, seems to have slightly different menu options and displays. Therefore, my instructions are, by necessity, generic. Just remember that Routes are found from the main menu under the “APPS” selection, while Waypoints are found under the “Where To” selection.

USING THE WAYPOINTS ON OUR TRIP

Now go back to your Tour Book, Day 4, near the end. You will see the name and address of our hotel and then:

GARMIN WAYPOINT #14 - Hampton Inn, Chattanooga

That is the Waypoint for our hotel for the night. Let’s say you got lost at some point or just decided to leave the Route and your Garmin is no longer routing you (or doing so logically). Or you went to dinner and can’t quite remember how to get back. You just want to go to the hotel. That’s when you use this Waypoint.

In some cases, there are optional tours that have several stops, these stops may also have Waypoints. Maybe you don’t want to do the whole tour but just go to one or two of the stops, then back to the hotel. You can use Waypoints to do this. There are over 30 of them, again, not necessarily in numerical order.

To select a **WAYPOINT**

- Turn on your Garmin
- Hit **Agree**
- Hit **Where To**
- Hit **Saved** (there may be a Heart icon, or it may say SAVED PLACES or FAVORITES)
- Scroll down to find the Waypoint # you want and **select it**
- Hit **GO** and follow the directions.

NOTE: You can select a Waypoint from anywhere. A Waypoint is just an ending destination and will create a Route for you from anywhere you are.

Garmin Tip: WAYPOINTS are always listed for our hotels. Go to the bottom of each day's Turn-by-Turn directions and you will see the WAYPOINT under the Hotel name and address. WAYPOINTS are also available for other important locations (such as our Lunch stop, gas stop or Museum). If you get lost, read down the Turn-by-Turn directions to find the next WAYPOINT (always in **RED**).

NOTE: IF YOU TRY TO "TEST" THE ROUTES OR WAYPOINTS FROM HOME YOU WILL LIKELY GET CRAZY RESULTS SINCE YOU ARE NOT IN THE VICINITY OF OUR TOUR, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS. I SUGGEST YOU DO NOT MESS AROUND WITH YOUR ROUTES AND WAYPOINTS AS IT IS EASY TO CORRUPT THEM (AND YOU WILL NEVER KNOW UNTIL THE GARMIN TAKES YOU TO SOME CRAZY LOCATION).

MORE TIPS, TRICKS AND PITFALL

Garmin Pitfall: -Firstly, remember your Garmin is a “dumb” computer. It does not know where you are going, it only knows the geographical location of all the turns and the end point. The Tour Book tells you where you are going. Using Day 4 as an example, the Tour Book tells you that Route 04 takes you to the Jack Daniels Distillery, then on to Lookout Mountain and finally to our hotel. The Garmin has no idea why it is guiding you as it is.

Garmin Pitfall -In some cases, the Garmin may tell you to exit the road at a particular place for no obvious reason. The Tour Book tells you our next stop is a Gas Station, so the turn direction makes sense.

Garmin Pitfall – The Garmin is not 100% accurate all the time. It has a limited range of accuracy, so might not get you EXACTLY where we intend. For example, the Garmin may be programmed to take you to a parking lot, but not necessarily the exact location of the parking lot **entrance**. If you follow the BOOK and know where you are going, making the necessary adjustments should be easy.

Garmin Pitfall -The Garmin takes a few seconds to load the next turn info after making a turn. Sometimes your next turn may be in 50 yards and Garmin will not recalculate fast enough. These areas of caution are marked in red with a yellow background in the Tour Book.

Garmin Pitfall -The Garmin only knows the Route we are taking and not why. For example, at one point we are taking a scenic detour off the main highway, then rejoining the highway later. If you didn't know better you would think the Garmin has gone bonkers, but the Tour Book will tell you WHY we are making the turn, and you will expect it.

Garmin Tip: In most cases your Garmin Routes have been programmed to take you to a (specific) parking lot. So, for example, when we drive to some hotels, you can see the hotel, but the Garmin is telling you to continue on because we are going to a parking lot, not the hotel front. See the Book!

The bottom line is that your navigator should be following the drive in the Tour Book and alerting the driver to all these things. This is essential to keep in mind, otherwise the Garmin will just be driving you around with no obvious purpose. Also, technology can fail. This is an untried “adventure”. We may have to fall back on the old manual system at any time and you need to be prepared by knowing where we are in the Tour Book. Please stress this to the navigators. They remain an essential part of the process.

FOR OUR SOLO DRIVERS

By now you are probably thinking that there is no way you can navigate our Tour without a Co-Pilot, using the Garmin alone. Not true. Here are some tips.

1. Every morning at breakfast, read through the Turn-by-Turn directions to familiarize yourself with the general plan of the day. There is a lot of information (like refueling instructions) that you need to know.
2. Leave the book open to the first page of the Turn-by-Turn directions so you can see the orange “Today’s Schedule” at a glance.
3. Give yourself plenty of time to get your Garmin up and programmed for the day before we start off.
4. Embed yourself between the Flight Leader and the Tail End Charlie so that, as much as possible, you are following the leader. Please maintain a safe distance between cars, don’t tailgate, but don’t fall too far back either. Your Flight Leader must be able to see all his Flight in his rearview mirror.