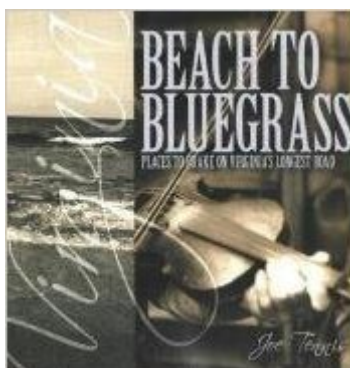


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Beach To Bluegrass: Places To Brake On Virginia's Longest Road



Synopsis

"Beach to Bluegrass: Places To Brake on Virginia's Longest Road" promises a journey with stories and photos of Virginia.

Book Information

Paperback: 200 pages

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Customer Reviews

As opposed to simply highlighting a slew of neat places to visit, Tennis includes stories with each locale. -- Tom Netherland, Bristol Herald Courier, November 2007
In Beach to Bluegrass, author Joe Tennis unlocks the hidden treasures of Virginia's version of Route 66. -- David McGee, Author of Bristol Dragway
Joe Tennis has an instinct for storytelling and a wonderful talent for uncovering fascinating, half-forgotten quirks of history. -- Cara Ellen Modisett, author of Blue Ridge Parkway Impressions
The book covers 58 points of interest along Route 58, from Virginia Beach in the east, to the Cumberland Gap in the west -- Clifford Jeffrey, Kingsport Times-News, November 2007
This book will bring much delight. The work makes Route 58 accessible by couch or by car. -- Gloria Oster, A! Magazine, December 2007

Beach to Bluegrass collects both famous and nearly-unknown tales of Virginia - from the shores of the Atlantic Ocean to the majestic mountains on the Kentucky border at Cumberland Gap's "Gateway to the West." Uniquely, all stories lie within a close proximity of U.S. 58, the longest road in Virginia. This multi-faceted highway leads from the main streets of Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Suffolk in the metropolitan Hampton Roads area to ultimately reach The Crooked Road, a bluegrass music trail in the Blue Ridge Mountains, linking the Blue Ridge Music Center at

Galax to Whitetop Mountain, Damascus, Bristol, and The Carter Fold near Hiltons. Subtitled "Places to Brake on Virginia's Longest Road," Beach to Bluegrass doubles as a motoring guide. The book also features more than 100 original photographs of Virginia landmarks, including the Virginia Beach Fishing Pier, Mabry Mill, Clinch River, Buggs Island Lake, New River, Grayson Highlands State Park, Virginia Creeper Trail, Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, Elizabeth River, Village View, Cape Henry, King Neptune on the Virginia Beach Boardwalk, and never-before-published images of Johnny Cash and June Carter on stage in Virginia in 2000. Stops in the Hampton Roads section include: Cape Henry lighthouses, First Landing State Park, The Cavalier Hotel, Virginia Beach Boardwalk, Francis Land House, Mount Trashmore Park, Witch Duck Point, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, MacArthur Memorial, Elizabeth River, Nauticus, Chrysler Museum, Commodore Theatre, Olde Towne Portsmouth, Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Riddick's Folly, Mr. Peanut statue, Barrett's Landing in Franklin, and the Southampton County Courthouse. Stops in the Piedmont section include: Village View, Brunswick County Museum, Fort Christanna, South Hill Depot, Boyd Tavern, Occoneechee State Park, Prestwoud Plantation, Buggs Island Lake, Buffalo Springs, Berry Hill, Danville Museum of Fine Arts, Old '97 Mural, Patrick Henry Monument near Martinsville, and the Old Henry County Courthouse. Stops in the Blue Ridge section include: Reynolds Homestead, Laurel Hill, Fairy Stone State Park, Meadows of Dan, Mabry Mill, Mayberry Trading Post, Old Carroll County Courthouse, New River Trail State Park, Mount Rogers, Whitetop Mountain, Virginia Creeper Trail, Whitetop Laurel Creek, and the Appalachian Trail. Stops in the Southwest section include: Martha Washington Inn, Barter Theatre, Moonlite Theatre, Sugar Hollow Park, State Street, Carter Fold, Clinch River, Rye Cove, Natural Tunnel State Park, Wilderness Road State Park, and the Cumberland Gap National Historical State Park.

Joe Tennis lives what he writes. This gives it an authenticity missing from many hit and run travel guides. Tennis grew up in Virginia Beach, and through school and writing for a living explored his way westward, following the path of the early settlers, and also returning to live from where his family had come. He shows that this history, the history of Virginia, is the history of America on its earliest way west. Tennis's book is a good one if you live in the area, or along the route 460 and hwy 56, anywhere from the Tidewater (beach) to Abingdon & the Cumberland Gap (the blue grass of the title). Or if you are visiting, or traveling along 460 as I find myself doing in trips south and west. I thoroughly enjoyed Tennis's earlier book, Southwest Virginia Crossroads, and this is of the same high quality writing. This book of course is more of a narrative that travels along with the road. A good weekend dashboard guide for driving with the kids and giving them (and yourself) a sense of

the place we call home.

I like Joe Tennis's style. He is thorough in his research and does an outstanding job of depicting the area pictorially. I grew up in the mountains of Southwest Virginia and now live in Virginia Beach, so I am familiar with the beginning and the terminus of this travel odyssey. I have traveled every one of the 508 miles of Highway 58 from the Oceanfront to the Kentucky border. This is a good representation of the diversity and beauty of that large expanse though there could be twice or three times as many interesting places that could have been included. If you like this book, I highly recommend his other book Southwest Virginia Crossroads.

My husband met the author of this wonderfully rich book at a Rotary Club meeting, so it was a no-brainer for Christmas. I have skimmed through it. We live on the road the book is about, and the charming stories with lush photos are very enjoyable.

I grew up along Route 58 in Virginia and really enjoyed the pictures and narrative about the small towns and points of interest along 58. In the 50's my husband was in the Navy at Norfolk and hitch hiked from Norfolk to South Boston every week end. He enjoyed it, too.

Gave many very interesting reviews on places to see along Route 58 in Virginia. Maybe one day we'll actually plan a trip all the way out there.

I enjoyed this book so much that I ordered two more to give as gifts to relatives. I was raised in Suffolk, Virginia and this book gives me a great history lesson of the area. I have also visited many of the places mentioned in the book, but I plan to travel Route 58 again to just visit specific places included in this informative book. My son attended college in Bristol, VA, home of the author, so this book ended on a journey that I have traveled. While my son was attending college in Bristol, he attended a book signing of Joe Tennis at the library in Bristol, VA. At this time he purchased a signed copy of, *The Marble*, another excellent book by this author. I highly recommend this author. If you have a interest in history and travel then you need to read books written by this excellent author, Joe Tennis.

This book was a gift for my husband and he couldn't put it down when he first opened it.

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