

TEJ DRIVES - MY TRIP FILES

Tail of the Dragon Trip Files

The cleaned, one-packet version of the actual files used for the drive.

Home -> Fontana Village -> US-129 / Tail of the Dragon -> Deals Gap -> Fontana -> Asheville

Trip Files

Merged

Route Type

Tow + Drive

Trip overview

This packet merges the Tail of the Dragon files into one clean document. The duplicate route pages were removed, Fayetteville was replaced with **Home**, and the actual **US-129 / Tail of the Dragon** drive is now called out as its own route step.

Leg	Route	Purpose
1	Home -> Bryson City -> Fontana Village Resort	Safe tow-in route. Forces the approach through Bryson City and NC-28 instead of the Dragon.
2	Fontana Village -> Fontana Dam -> US-129 / Tail of the Dragon -> Deals Gap -> Fontana	Main drive route. Early, smooth, in-lane run with a stop at Deals Gap before returning.
3	Fontana Village Resort -> Bryson City -> Asheville	Safe tow-out route. Avoids US-129 / Deals Gap with trailer.

Simple rule: tow around the Dragon, drive the Dragon without the trailer, then tow out safely.

Public-use note

For anyone trying to follow the drive, set your own starting point as **Home**. Do not use a personal address from any file or video. Verify roads, closures, traffic, weather, and trailer restrictions before you go.

Leg 1 - Tow route: Home to Fontana

Goal: get the car and trailer to Fontana safely. This is transport time, not content-driving time.

Main route: Home -> Bryson City, NC -> NC-28 N -> Fontana Village Resort

Avoid: US-129 N / Tail of the Dragon / Deals Gap while towing. If the route mentions Deals Gap, 318 curves, or Tail of the Dragon signs, reject it and re-route through Bryson City.

#	GPS stop / landmark	Search in Maps	Use
1	Home	Home / your starting point	Start tow route. Confirm trailer, straps, ramps, tire pressure, and fuel.
2	Bryson City, NC	Bryson City, NC	Force the safe approach before the final mountain stretch.
3	Fontana Village Resort	Fontana Village Resort, Fontana Dam, NC	Final destination/base. Confirm the final stretch uses NC-28 N, not US-129.

Tow-in checklist

<input type="checkbox"/> Trailer straps secure <input type="checkbox"/> Boards/ramps stored <input type="checkbox"/> Tire pressures checked <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel before mountain stretch
<input type="checkbox"/> GPS stop set to Bryson City first <input type="checkbox"/> Second route set to Fontana <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid US-129 confirmed
<input type="checkbox"/> No cover on car while towing <input type="checkbox"/> Unload only after arrival is settled

Leg 2 - The drive: US-129 / Tail of the Dragon

Goal: clean first run. Stay in lane, stay smooth, bring the car home.

Main route: Fontana Village Resort -> Fontana Dam -> US-129 / Tail of the Dragon -> Deals Gap Motorcycle Resort -> Fontana Village Resort

Best window: run early, roughly 7-10 AM. Let tires and brakes warm up calmly. Do not chase anyone. Let faster traffic pass.

#	GPS stop / landmark	Search in Maps	Use
1	Fontana Village Resort	Fontana Village Resort, Fontana Dam, NC	Start point / base.
2	Fontana Dam	Fontana Dam, NC	Scenic/content stop before the Dragon.
3	Tail of the Dragon - US-129	Tail of the Dragon, US-129, Deals Gap, NC/TN	Main road segment. Proof shot / route confirmation before the run.
4	Deals Gap Motorcycle Resort	17548 Tapoco Rd, Robbinsville, NC 28771	Dragon destination. Park, rest, photos, car check, brake cooldown.
5	Fontana Village Resort	Fontana Village Resort, Fontana Dam, NC	Return run back to base.

Drive flow

Start	Leave Fontana early. Warm tires and brakes calmly.
Outbound	Fontana -> Fontana Dam -> US-129 / Tail of the Dragon -> Deals Gap.
At Deals Gap	Park, rest, check car, take photos, and let brakes cool before returning.
Return	Set GPS back to Fontana Village Resort and return the same way.
After run	Cool down, check tire/brake smell, review footage, and note any issues.

Content checklist

Use this to keep the drive focused and make sure the route can be understood by viewers later.

Cold start / leaving Fontana Fontana Dam scenic stop Dragon entrance / US-129 proof shot

Insta360 driving footage Deals Gap parked shots Car check / brake cooldown

Return run clip Outro back at Fontana Quick notes on what worked / what broke

Leg 3 - Tow route: Fontana to Asheville

Goal: leave Fontana safely with the trailer and avoid Deals Gap / US-129.

Main route: Fontana Village Resort -> NC-28 S -> Bryson City -> US-74 E -> I-40 E -> Asheville, NC

#	GPS stop / landmark	Search in Maps	Use
1	Fontana Village Resort	Fontana Village Resort, Fontana Dam, NC	Start point with trailer.
2	Bryson City, NC	Bryson City, NC	Add this stop to force the US-74 route.
3	Asheville, NC	Asheville, NC	Destination. Confirm route uses US-74 and I-40.

Tow-out notes

- NC-28 is manageable, but it is still a mountain road. Take it slowly with the trailer.
- Use engine braking downhill. Do not ride the brakes.
- Keep highway speed controlled while towing.
- If you see Deals Gap or Tail of the Dragon signs while towing, turn back and re-route.

Quick reference sheet

Print this page separately or keep it open before leaving.

Stage	Enter this first	Then enter this	Do not do this
Tow in	Bryson City, NC	Fontana Village Resort	Do not tow through US-129 / Deals Gap.
Dragon run	Fontana Dam	Tail of the Dragon / Deals Gap Motorcycle Resort	Do not chase traffic or cross the lane.
Return run	Fontana Village Resort	Base / parking / cooldown	Do not leave before brakes cool.
Tow out	Bryson City, NC	Asheville, NC	Do not let GPS send trailer through US-129.

Driving rules

- Stay in your lane.
- Stay smooth.
- Let faster cars pass.
- Cool the brakes before the return run.
- Treat tow legs as transport, not content-driving.
- Verify the route before driving. Roads, closures, traffic, and weather can change.

Website note

This is the single download file for the Tail of the Dragon trip on the **My Trip Files** page. The public button can say: **Download Dragon Files**.